

Date Published: 29 March 2022



## **SCHOOLS FORUM**

**29 MARCH 2022**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

The following papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting.

These were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

Kevin Gibbs  
Executive Director: Delivery

	<b>Page No</b>
<b>4. 2022-23 PROPOSALS FOR THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET</b>	<b>3 - 4</b>
To seek comments on the detailed budget proposals for the High Needs Block element of the Schools Budget before the Executive Member makes the formal decision on the relevant matters.	

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## Revised Recommendations

### 3.1. That the Forum agrees that the Executive Member:

1. sets the HNB budget at £28.907m, and commits to the presentation of an ambitious medium term (5 year) plan at its meeting in November 2022, setting out options to balance annual expenditure to annual income. This plan should:
  - (a) include a significant increase in local, effective provision within Bracknell Forest; and
  - (b) be designed to meet the needs of our children and young people in a more cost effective and efficient way
2. releases £0.210m of funds from the SEND Units Reserve to finance ongoing diseconomy costs at the new Special Resource Provisions with the commitment to providing:
  - (a) clear data about the uptake of places at SRPs and progress towards meeting Key Performance Indicators; and
  - (b) a strategic approach to the transition of children from Primary SRPs to secondary education, in place from September 2023
3. confirms the changes set out in the supporting information at Table 1 and Annex 2 of Appendix 1 subject to the commitment outlined in paragraph 3.1.1 above
4. confirms relevant budgets to those summarised in Annex 3, Appendix 1.

### 3.2. The Forum notes the outcome of the recent LA SEND inspection and is of the view that appropriate arrangements are NOT in place for the education of pupils with SEN (paragraph 6.19). The Forum AGREES that:

- (a) whilst there are appropriate arrangements for the majority of children and young people accessing mainstream and specialist provision in Bracknell Forest, there is a shortage of specialist provision and support within the borough and therefore many children and young people are not having their needs appropriately met. This should be addressed in the plan outlined in paragraph 3.1.1 above; and
- (b) as part of the 'appropriate arrangements', the Forum supports and encourages continued rapid progress towards the improvement of local SEN systems and processes.

### 3.3. The Forum is of the view that appropriate arrangements are NOT in place for the use of pupil referral units and alternative provision. The Forum AGREES that:

- (a) whilst there are appropriate arrangements for the some of the children and young people accessing specialist provision within the borough, we note that there is a shortage of specialist provision and support within the borough and therefore many children and young people are not having their needs appropriately met. This should also be addressed in the plan outlined in paragraph 3.1.1 above; and
- (b) as part of the 'appropriate arrangements', the Forum supports and encourages continued rapid progress towards the improvement of local systems and processes for the provision of alternative provision.

### 3.4. The Forum notes the forecast financial position of the HNB Budget at Table 1, which shows a forecast £7.408m over spending in 2022-23 and a £36.371m cumulative deficit as at the end of March 2025.

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