

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
DATE: 23 MARCH 2021

**LOCAL AUTHORITY PROPOSALS FOR THE 2021-22 EARLY YEARS
AND HIGH NEEDS BLOCK ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Executive Director: People

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Executive Member to set the 2020-21 Early Years and High Needs Block elements of the Schools Budget on the basis of recommendations made by the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The Executive Member has observer status on the Schools Forum, receiving all reports and entitled to attend meetings, and is therefore actively involved in the operation and deliberations of the Schools Forum.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.3 **That the Executive Member AGREES the budget proposals approved by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 11 March 2021, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of Appendix A and paragraph 3.1 of Appendix B.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the 2021-22 Schools Budget is set in accordance with the views of the Executive, schools, the Schools Forum and the statutory funding framework.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 These have been considered during the budget consultation stage and previous reports to the Schools Forum.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Whilst spending on the Schools Budget is funded by the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and therefore outside of the Council's funding responsibilities, Local Authorities (LA) retain a statutory duty to set the overall level of the Schools Budget before the start of each financial year. In deciding the relevant amount, LAs must plan to spend at least to the level of estimated DSG and can also take account of any accumulated under or overspending on the Schools Budget from previous years.
- 5.2 At its meeting of 15 December, the Executive agreed that the 2021-22 Schools Budget be set at the eventual level of grant income plus any accumulated balances and additional Council funding of up to £1m over the next 4 years to support the cost of new schools, with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning authorised to make amendments and agree budgets for schools and services centrally managed by the Council.

- 5.3 Appendix A presents the recommendations approved by the Schools Forum at its meeting of 11 March in respect of the Early Years elements of the DSG and Appendix B setting out the recommendations for the High Needs Block element of the DSG. These Appendices also contain links to the council's website where the full reports can be viewed which the Executive Member is now recommended to endorse.
- 5.4 Budget decisions taken by the Executive Member have always been in accordance with the wishes of the Schools Forum, and the recommendations on this paper maintain that position. Decisions around the Schools Block element of the Schools Budget were taken on 14 January.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the attached Appendix A and Appendix B.

Director of Finance

- 6.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out within the supporting information of Appendix A and Appendix B.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There are no specific impacts arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 These are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 People DMT, Schools Forum.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Written reports.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Where relevant, included in the reports.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner – People Directorate

4054

Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/Exec Member Reports/2021-22 EY and HN Block Elements of the Schools Budget.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/Exec_Member_Reports/2021-22_EY_and_HN_Block_Elements_of_the_Schools_Budget.docx)

Approved by Cllr Dr Gareth Barnard
Executive Member, Children, Young People
& Learning

Approved by Sonia Johnson
Interim Director of Children’s Services

Signature.....

Signature.....

Date: 23 March 2021

Date: 23 March 2021

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 11 MARCH 2021

**LOCAL AUTHORITY PROPOSALS FOR THE 2021-22 EARLY YEARS
BLOCK ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**
Executive Director: People

Report extract containing relevant budget recommendations for agreement by the Executive Member:

3.1 That for the 2021-22 financial year the Executive Member sets:

- 1. The Early Years DSG income budget be set at £7.74m (Table 3)**
- 2. The funding rates in the Early Years Funding Formula are as set out in Table 4**
- 3. The proposed budgets as set out in Annex 1**

The report can be viewed in full at:

[Agenda for Schools Forum on Thursday, 11 March 2021, 4.30 pm | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/Agenda-for-Schools-Forum-on-Thursday-11-March-2021-4.30-pm)

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 11 MARCH 2021

**BFC PROPOSALS FOR THE 2021-22
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET
Executive Director: People**

Report extract containing relevant budget recommendations for agreement by the Executive Member:

3.1 That the Executive Member:

- 1. sets the total initial Dedicated Schools Grant funded HNB budget at £18.998m,**
- 2. releases £0.143m of funds from the SEND Units Reserve to finance estimated start-up costs at the proposed Special Resource Provisions in BF schools**
- 3. confirms the changes set out in the supporting information (Table 1 and Annex 5) and relevant budgets are therefore updated to those summarised in Annex 6.**

The report can be viewed in full at:

[Agenda for Schools Forum on Thursday, 11 March 2021, 4.30 pm | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)