

To: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning
Date: 7 November 2023

2023-24 Arrangements for additional financial support to schools
Executive Director: People
Executive Director: Resources

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek agreement from the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning in respect of proposals for additional financial support to schools, in particular, approval of new or amended applications for licensed deficit arrangements, as recommended by the Schools Forum.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive Member agrees the recommendations proposed for the 2023-24 arrangements for additional financial support to schools as set out in paragraph 3.1 of Annex A.**

3 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that appropriate medium term support is provided to schools through the approved policies and procedures.

4 Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Options for arrangements to be made to support schools experiencing financial difficulties have previously been discussed and agreed by the Schools Forum.

5 Supporting information

- 5.1 There are circumstances where schools may experience budget difficulties and in order for the school to continue to function effectively, a temporary overspend of budget allocation may be desirable. The Scheme for Financing Schools has provisions to allow for this through licensed deficit and loan arrangements which provide for additional short-term funding so that schools have sufficient time to manage expenditure reductions or receive additional income that demonstrates the ability to fully repay any over spending within an agreed period. Both the Schools Forum and Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning need to agree requests.
- 5.2 At its meeting of 14 September 2023, the Schools Forum agreed a number of proposals for 2023-24 financial year, the details of which were set out in the report which is references as Annex A.
- 5.3 The Executive Member is now requested to agree those same recommendations.

6 Advice from statutory and other officers

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the relevant Schools Forum reports.

Director of Finance

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information of Annex A. The difficulties being experienced by a small number of schools in producing balance medium-term recovery plan indicates the need for ongoing advice and monitoring to ensure schools can meet their financial obligations.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are strategic risks around ensuring all schools remain financially viable whilst delivering appropriate standards and effectiveness.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.5 This report is not expected to have any direct impact on emissions of carbon dioxide as they relate to funding allocations to schools and will not impact on climate change.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Leaders of schools in financial difficulty, Assistant Director: Education and Learning, People Directorate Management Team and the Schools Forum.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Correspondence and meetings.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Incorporated into the report.

Background Papers None.

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner - People

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Doc. Ref

Doc. Ref [https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/Exec Member Reports/2023-24 arrangements for additional financial support to schools.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools%20Forum/Exec%20Member%20Reports/2023-24%20arrangements%20for%20additional%20financial%20support%20to%20schools.docx)

Approved by Cllr Roy Bailey
Executive Member, Children, Young
People and Learning

Approved by Grainne Siggins
Executive Director: People

Signature

Signature.....

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Approved by Stuart McKellar
Executive Director: Resources

Signature

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Extract from Schools Forum

To: Schools Forum
Date: 14 September 2023

2023-24 Arrangements for additional financial support to schools
Executive Director of People

3 Recommendations

2.2 That subject to the school governors confirming the relevant financing schedule and compliance with the associated terms and conditions of the deficit scheme the Schools Forum AGREES the following deficit limits for 2023-24:

- i. Ascot Heath Primary School £0.500m;**
- ii. Cranbourne Primary School £0.080m;**
- iii. The Pines Primary Schools £0.035m;**
- iv. Winkfield St Mary's Primary School £0.160m;**
- v. St Michael's Easthampstead Primary School £0.040m.**

The full paper can be viewed under item 8 of:

[Agenda for Schools Forum on Thursday, 14 September 2023, 4.30 pm | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)