

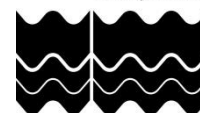
East Sussex County Council Schools Forum

Friday 15 January 2021

08.30

Remote Meeting

East Sussex
County Council



Agenda

Item	Heading	Paper	Lead	Item for
1.	Welcome and Apologies	N	Chair	Note
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 20 November 2020	Y	Chair	Approval
3.	Matters Arising and Declaration of Interests	N	Chair	Discussion
4.	DSG Budget 2021/22	Y	Ed Beale	Information and Approval
5.	Apprenticeship Levy	N	Kim Larkin	Information
	AOB			

Next Meeting: Friday 19 March 2021, 8.30am, Venue TBC (Remote or Wellshurst Golf and Country Club)

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EAST SUSSEX SCHOOLS' FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting of the Schools' Forum held remotely with Microsoft Teams on 20 November 2020

PRESENT

Hugh Hennebry - **Chair** (Uckfield College)
Sarah Pringle (Seahaven Academy)
Kate Owbridge (Ashdown Primary)
Gavin Bailey (Swale Academy Trust)
Mandy Watson (Diocese of Chichester)
Richard Blakeley (Harlands Primary School)
Richard Preece (Saxon Mount and Torfield)
Joanna Sanchez (Diocese of Arundel and Brighton)
Phil Clarke (Trade Union Representative)
Tom Scully (University of Brighton Academies Trust)
James Freeston (King Offa Primary Academy)
Susan Thompson (Ditchling Primary)
Jo Foulkes (Sabden Multi Academy Trust)

Cllr Bob Standley (Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability)
Stuart Gallimore (Director Children's Services)
Fiona Wright (Assistant Director Education & ISEND)
Mark Whiffin (Head of Finance)
Edward Beale (Schools Funding Manager)
Sarah Rice (Finance Manager – Schools)
Kirsten Coe (Principal Finance Officer)
Gary Langford (Place Planning manager)
Rawdon Phillips (Insurance Manager)

Rachel King (Clerk)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Hugh welcomed all and thanked everyone for their attendance. An additional welcome was made to Susan Thompson who is a new representative for maintained schools, primary phase head teachers and Jo Foulkes, the new Alternative Provision representative who has replaced Frank Stanford.
It was confirmed the meeting was quorate, recognising the apologies below.

- 1.2 Apologies received from:
- Emily Beer (Willingdon School)
 - Geoffry Lucas (Etchingam CE Primary School)

- Phil Matthews (Hailsham Community College Academy Trust)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

- 2.1 The minutes for the meeting held were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chair and scanned to Rachel King.

3. MATTERS ARISING AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest and there were no matters arising.

4. GROWTH FUND / FALLING ROLLS FUND (Approval – all school forum members)

- 4.1 Gary Langford introduced this paper and outlined the proposals. He then requested Schools' Forum approval for funding to be used as a Growth fund. Jo Foulkes asked in terms of the new school, are we able to know which school it is? Gary answered that it was the new primary school in Hailsham. The Chair thanked Jo for her question. This was voted on and the electronic 'hands up' used for ease of counting. Votes were as follows:

Number of Yes	Number of No
10	0

5. TTO UPDATE (Information)

- 5.1 Fiona gave a verbal update on the current TTO position. Phil Clarke asked if GMB and UNISON had been spoken to regarding this proposal, Fiona explained that the whole process that was proposed at Schools Forum was approved by GMB and UNISON. Tom Scully asked if the amount proposed per pupil would include academies as well as maintained. Fiona said yes, all the work in this process has been with all staff in academies and maintained schools. . This update had the broad support of Schools' Forum. Hugh also thanked East Sussex HR for managing the whole process so well.

6. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK 2021/22 (Approval – all school forum members)

- 6.1 Ed Beale outlined this paper that set out the line by line proposals. Like previous years, this was voting for the ongoing responsibilities and the historic commitments. Hugh thanked Ed for the clear report and then asked Schools' Forum to vote. Results were as follows:

Number of Yes	Number of No
9	1

7. ESCC FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION UPDATE (Information)

- 7.1 Ed Beale introduced this paper. It related to the outcome of the recent ESCC Funding Formula consultation. Hugh thanked Ed and said that it was interesting that there was such a strong consensus to all be working exactly as the NFF.

8. SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS (Approval – Maintained Schools Only)

- 8.1 Sarah Rice introduced this paper. There are some changes to the scheme (as indicated in the paper). The changes were approved by Schools' Forum.

9. RPA (Information)

- 9.1 Rawdon Phillips led on this paper and gave an insurance update. Jo Foulkes asked if there was an idea of what other schools in other counties have done, if they have gone with RPA. Rawdon said he works closely with most County Councils in the South East and as far as he is aware and, with particular reference to neighbouring counties, schools have stayed within the LA arrangement and this has not been pursued as a de-delegation item. He asked for a recommendation to be agreed on as follows:

- **agree that de-delegation for insurance is not pursued at this time**
- **note that it is recommended that ESCC schools remain within the existing ESCC Corporate insurance arrangements and do not opt to join the RPA scheme.**

It was agreed that the de-delegation for insurance is not pursued at this time and the recommendation noted. This will be revisited in September and November and then annually. In favour of the proposal (whole school forum vote):

Number of Yes	Number of No
4	1

It was raised that, as this was a de-delegation question, this should just be a vote for maintained schools and it was agreed to retake the vote with maintained schools only. Kate Owbridge stated that she believed Insurance options needed to be investigated fully, but now was not the time to take the decisions, so supported the recommendation. Susan Thompson asked what the impact on schools remaining in the ESCC insurance scheme would be if some schools joined the RPA. Rawdon explained in detail the reasons for the recommendation and explained that ESCC are legally required to go to the market for tender to ensure value for money. He raised concerns around the lack of clarity and impact on administration of the RPA would be if a large number of maintained schools moved over to it as a group. There was also wider concerns around the impact on the insurance market for schools and longer term impact on premiums. James Freeston said they as an academy opted for RPA as it was best value for money. Gavin Bailey said he insures through Zurich which matches the RPA price. Rawdon agreed that the RPA had developed for the academy market in order to give an affordable option for academies and served it well, however maintained schools already have the corporate option that worked well for them and has the benefit of a local team administering claims on behalf of schools.

Hugh asked just maintained schools to vote in favour of the proposal:

Number of Yes	Number of No
2	0

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Fiona Wright addressed the forum to say there has been a recognition in the Council that during this time schools are facing financial pressures. The services across the Council have been looking at ways to support school budgets and a number of budgets had been identified that could provide rebates to schools now rather than carrying forward underspent funds for next year's budget. These could be released before Christmas to support school planning for the final quarter of the financial year. A budget for consideration is the de-delegated contingency fund. Normally 30% of unspent contingency is distributed back to maintained schools, but given the current exceptional circumstances, 55% is being distributed to Primary Phase and 75% to the Secondary Phase and this will occur this month instead. Hugh said schools are hugely grateful for the consideration when we know that within the LA there are massive pressures dealing with the pandemic, with other accountability's and responsibilities beyond school, so thank you. Hugh asked if the detail of the budget rebates could be provided for each individual school. Fiona Wright agreed to distribute the information to all schools next week.
- 10.2 In recognition of Fiona Wright's last Schools Forum meeting, Hugh expressed his well wishes on behalf of School's Forum and all the heads over the years who have been on the forum representing schools.

Meeting concluded at 09:56 am

Next meeting – Friday 15 January 2021 08:30am. Location TBC - Wellshurst Golf and Country Club or Microsoft Teams.

Report to: East Sussex Schools Forum

Date: 15 January 2021

Title of report: Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of report: Provide Schools Forum information on the 2021/22 Schools DSG Budget and High Needs DSG Budget (Information).

Confirm (as agreed at Schools Forum 20/11/20) the CSSB 2021/22 Budget (Information).

Request Approval of the 2021/22 Early Years Budget

1. Background

1.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2021/22 is, like last year, allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) into four blocks. Each block is subject to separate regulations as to eligible expenditure and the use of the four blocks is outlined below.

- **The Schools Block** comprises the funding which must be delegated to schools and academies through the Funding Formula. Maintained schools can agree to de-delegate budgets and these are spent on their behalf by the local authority. Subject to Schools Forum approval, there are a limited number of exceptions, the Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund, which enable local authorities to hold this funding centrally. The funding for these funds goes to eligible schools and academies.
- **The Central School Services Block (CSSB)** is a block of funding that provides funding for Local Authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. LA's (Local Authorities) ' CSSB is split into funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing responsibilities.
- **The High Needs Block** provides funding to support the provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 24. This includes provision in maintained schools, academies, alternative provision, FE colleges and Independent providers, as well as supporting central spending on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities from their early years to age 24.
- **The Early Years Block** funds payments to early years providers in settings and schools and supports central spending on early years pupils.

1.2 Please note that regulations stipulate that Schools Forum approval is required for the CSSB (Approved 20 Nov '20) and the Early Years Block only. The other blocks are presented for information.

2. Appendices

2.1 The appendices below provide a breakdown of the DSG allocations:

- Appendix A - DSG Summary
- Appendix B - Schools Block DSG
- Appendix C – Central School Services Block DSG
- Appendix D - High Needs Block DSG
- Appendix E – Early Years Block DSG

3. Schools Block Funding

3.1 The Schools Block for 2021/22 is based on the October 2020 pupil census data and equates to £320.1m.

3.2 The DfE have allocated £25m more to the Schools Block compared to 2020/21. There are three reasons for this:

1. £13.5m relates to funding that used to be the separate Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employers Contribution Grant.
2. £11.2m relates to an increase in funding rates.
3. £0.3m relates to a change in NOR between the Primary and Secondary Phase.

3.3 Growth and Falling Rolls Fund proposals were presented to Schools Forum at the November '20 Schools Forum whereby a request was made for the continuation of support for maintained schools and academies in respect of Key Stage 1 top up, additional classes, pre opening costs and dis-economies of scale costs for new schools. No additional funds were requested for the falling rolls fund as funds are to be brought forward from 2020/21.

4. Central School Services Block (CSSB) Funding

4.1 At the Nov '20 Schools Forum meeting, the indicative CSSB funding of £6.026m was discussed and approval was obtained by Schools Forum for the Local Authority's planned use of funding, which was to use £2.498m (£422k historic commitments and £2.076m on-going responsibilities) of this, and to transfer remaining funds of £3.528m to Schools/ Academies.

4.2 The DfE have confirmed that £6.16m has been allocated to the local authority. (£3.949m to Historic Commitments and £2.211m to on-going responsibilities). This is £134k more than originally indicated in November. This increase relates to funding that was previously a separate ring-fenced fund to support employer contribution costs for Centrally Managed Staff, i.e. specific staff types employed by the LA, which the DfE have now added into the CSSB.

4.3 The charge that the DfE make to the LA in relation to the CLA (Copyright) Licenses has reduced by £3k, meaning that the amount to be transferred to schools will increase by £3k. In total, £3.531m will therefore be transferred to Schools/ Academies from this block in April '21 which equates to £52.59 per pupil.

5. High Needs Block (HNB)

5.1 The DfE have stated that special schools/ academies and alternative providers will continue to receive place funding at £10,000 per agreed place. Like previous years, the Local Authority has realigned agreed places at some schools and academies to more effectively reflect need.

5.2 For facilities, as per DfE regulations, the place funding will continue to be £6,000 for every occupied place and £10,000 for an unoccupied place. (Funding for occupied places is £6,000 per place because these pupils are also funded via the school's budget share.)

5.3 Funding of £800k for the previously separate Teachers Pay (TP) and Teachers Pension Employers contribution Grant (TPECG) has now been included in the HNB.

5.4 The total High Needs Block funding is calculated by the DfE and for 2021/22 is £65.9m, which is an increase of £6.7m compared to 2020/21.

6. Early Years Block

6.1 Funding for **3/ 4-year olds** is based on a national formula calculated by the DfE. ESCC currently receives £4.38 per hour for every eligible 3/ 4-year-old x 15hrs x 38 weeks. Local Authorities must pass through at least 95% of this funding directly to Early Years providers.

6.2 For 2021/22, the DfE are increasing the rate from £4.38 per hour to £4.44 per hour. ESCC are therefore proposing to pass this 6 pence increase onto providers and increase the rate paid to them from the existing rate of £4.10 per hour to £4.16 per hour. ESCC will ensure that at least 95% of funding continues to be passported to Early Years providers.

6.3 For eligible **two-year olds**, the DfE currently fund ESCC at £5.28 per hour. 100% of this funding is passported to providers. The DfE are increasing the rate to £5.36 in 2021/22 and the rate paid to providers by ESCC will also increase to £5.36.

6.4 The Early Years **Pupil Premium** is additional funding for Early Years pre-school settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3- and 4-year olds. This is funded by the DfE at £0.53 per eligible child (up to a maximum 570 hours).

6.5 The **Disability Access Funding** is for Early Years providers to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It aids access to Early Years places by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. The DfE fund this at £615 per eligible child per year.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Forum are asked to:

a) **note** the Schools, Central School Services, and High Needs DSG budgets for 2021/22.

b) **approve** the Early Years budget for 2021/22.

Contact

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Email: Edward.beale@Eastsussex.gov.uk

Appendix A

DSG Summary 2021/22	Schools	Central School Services	High Needs	Early Years	Total
Total DSG including Academies	£320,104,900	£6,159,600	£65,931,400	£22,651,400	£414,847,300
2 Year Old Funding	£0	£0	£0	£3,567,000	£3,567,000
Interblock transfer	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total Funding Available	£320,104,900	£6,159,600	£65,931,400	£26,218,400	£418,414,300

Schools Block 2021/22	£	£	Comments
Schools Block DfE notification		320,104,900	
Adjusted Schools Block Total 2021/22		320,104,900	
Distribution of Funding at LA Level			
Growth Fund			
Key Stage 1 top up	958,800		Approved by Schools Forum 20th Nov '20
Additional Classes	639,500		
New Schools - Dis-economies of scale funding	84,000		
		1,682,300	
Falling Rolls Fund		0	Unspent funds being carried forward from 2020/21. (As per Nov '20 School Forum Paper)
Funds allocated to Schools & Academies		318,422,600	
Total		320,104,900	

Appendix B

Schools Block 2020/21	£	£
Schools Block DfE notification		295,071,000
Transfer from CSSB		797,200
Adjusted Schools Block Total 2020/21		295,868,200
Distribution of Funding at LA Level		
Growth Fund		
Key Stage 1 top up	831,800	
Additional Classes	600,200	
New Schools - Dis-economies of scale funding	140,000	
Less unspent 19/20 growth fund	-17,900	1,554,100
Falling Rolls Fund		0
Funds allocated to Schools & Academies		294,314,100
Total		295,868,200

Appendix C

Central School Services Block 2021/22	£	Comments
Central Schools Services Block notification	6,159,600	
Adjusted Central School Services Block Total 2021/22	6,159,600	
Historic Commitments (HC)	422,000	Approved by Schools Forum 20th Nov '20
Funds to transfer to Schools & Academies (Apr)	3,526,900	Approved by Schools Forum 20th Nov '20
Additional Funds to transfer to Schools & Academies (Apr)	3,100	(See paragraph 4.3)
On-going Responsibilities	2,073,200	Approved by Schools Forum 20th Nov '20
Additional on-going responsibilities	134,400	(See paragraph 4.2)
Total	6,159,600	

Central School Services Block 2020/21	£
Central School Services Block notification	6,947,800
Transfer to Schools Block	-797,200
	6,150,600
Historic Commitments (HC)	422,000
TTO Funding	3,778,000
On-going Responsibilities	1,939,900
Additional on-going responsibilities (CLA Licenses)	10,700
	6,150,600

Appendix D

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2021/2022	£	£
Block total (From DfE)	65,931,400	
Distribution of Funding at LA Level		65,931,400
Funding for Commissioned Places		
Special Academy place funding (Pre 16)	8,744,200	
Maintained Special School place funding (Pre 16)	940,000	
Academy Special Facilities place funding (Pre 16)	661,500	
Maintained Special Facilities place funding (Pre 16)	446,000	
Maintained Special Schools place funding (Post 16)	210,000	
Special Academy place funding (Post 16)	650,000	
Post 16 FE Places	1,086,000	
Alternative Provision	1,400,000	14,137,700
Other High Needs Budgets		
Top up funding Pre 16	24,157,600	
Top up funding Post 16	2,753,000	
Fees for pupils at independent schools	13,248,500	
Education out of School	2,677,300	
SEN support	8,957,300	51,793,700
Total		65,931,400

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2020/2021	£	£
Block total (From DfE)	59,176,400	
Distribution of Funding at LA Level		59,176,400
Funding for Commissioned Places		
Special Academy place funding (Pre 16)	7,972,600	
Maintained Special School place funding (Pre 16)	860,000	
Academy Special Facilities place funding (Pre 16)	631,800	
Maintained Special Facilities place funding (Pre 16)	268,000	
Maintained Special Schools place funding (Post 16)	210,000	
Special Academy place funding (Post 16)	650,000	
Post 16 FE Places	1,052,000	
Alternative Provision	1,400,000	13,044,400
Other High Needs Budgets		
Top up funding Pre 16	20,475,100	
Top up funding Post 16	2,273,700	
Fees for pupils at independent schools	12,748,500	
Education out of School	2,177,400	
SEN support	8,457,300	46,132,000
Total		59,176,400

Early Years Block 2021/22	£	£
Initial Early Years Block DfE notification	22,285,900	
Initial 2 Year old funding	3,567,000	
Initial Pupil Premium funding	244,300	
Disability Access Fund	121,200	
Early Years block total 2021/22		26,218,400
Distribution of Funding at LA Level		
**Early Years Formula Funding (3 / 4 Year Olds) -Payments to PVI's and Schools	21,741,100	
Early Years Formula Funding (2 Year Olds) -Payments to PVI's and Schools	3,567,000	
Early Years Training including moderation	353,900	
Early Years Team	556,400	
Total		26,218,400

**Includes Funding Pupil Premium and Disability Access Funding.

Early Years Block 2020/21	£	£
Early Years Block DfE notification	21,549,800	
2 Year old funding	3,827,000	
Pupil Premium funding	229,400	
Disability Access Fund	103,300	
Early Years block total 2020/21		25,709,500
Distribution of Funding at LA Level		
**Early Years Formula Funding (3 / 4 Year Olds) -Payments to PVI's and Schools	20,972,200	
Early Years Formula Funding (2 Year Olds) -Payments to PVI's and Schools	3,827,000	
Early Years Training including moderation	353,900	
Early Years Team	556,400	
Total		25,709,500