

## **SCHOOLS BUDGET UPDATE**

### **Purpose of the Paper**

1. To report on the projected budget monitoring position for 2010/11.
2. To update Schools Forum on progress with budget setting for 2011/12.

### **Main Considerations**

#### ***Budget Monitoring 2010/11***

3. Appendix 1 shows expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011, the figures show a projected **underspend against DSG of £2.499 million**. Any variance against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will be carried forward in to the next financial year. Schools Forum have previously agreed that £1.536 million should be utilised to fund priorities in 2011/12.
4. Key pressures and potential underspends are detailed below.

#### **Maternity Costs**

5. Based on payroll data this budget is projected to overspend by £114,000.

#### **Special Educational Needs Services**

6. Underspends are projected against the Independent Special Schools (ISS) budget and the Special Recoupment budget which funds placements in other local authority maintained special schools. From 2011/12 it has been agreed that the ongoing effect of the underspend against these budgets will be released in to the delegated budget to increase the amount delegated to mainstream primary schools for SEN. This is a key component of the SEN review and has been agreed by Cabinet. Further detail is provided in the SEN Delegation update report to this meeting.
7. The Named Pupil Allowance (NPA) budget is not yet fully committed however it is expected that there will be further NPA allocations through the remainder of the year and it is therefore projected to be on target at this stage.

#### **Early Years Budgets**

8. Early Years budgets are projected to underspend by £1.8 million. Of this £1.5 million is against the Early Years Single Funding Formula. The projected spend on the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is based on actual take up of session to date and the projected profile of placements for the remainder of the year. This

projection is only based on one term's data for the extension of the free entitlement from 12.5 to 15 hours and is therefore an estimate at this stage and will be updated for the January pupil count when available.

### **Young Person's Support Service**

9. At the December meeting of Schools Forum it was agreed that £91,000 should be allocated from the projected underspend to fund cost pressures within the YPSS.

### ***Budget Update 2011/12***

10. Following the recommendation of the Schools Forum meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February the proposed schools budget has been considered by Cabinet and recommended to Council for consideration on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
11. Roadshows have been held for Head Teachers, Governors and schools finance staff to outline the main issues within the budget. These have been well attended.
12. Proposals for the variation of the minimum funding guarantee have been submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration. A separate report on the outcome of these submissions will be tabled at the Schools Forum meeting.
13. Data from the pupil census has now been collated and checked by the Research and Stats team and work has commenced on detailed budget calculations at school level.
14. The financial planning software has been updated for the provisional AWPU and other values and is now being tested by the Accounting & Budget Support Team prior to issuing to schools in early March.

### **Proposal**

15. School Forum is asked to note the revenue budget monitoring position for 2010/11 and the progress on finalising individual schools budgets for 2011/12.

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### **Background papers**

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:  
None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Budget Monitoring Summary

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