



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 22nd March 2022

Title: Report from the Schools Specific Contingency Panel

Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to:

- 1. Note the outcomes of the Schools Specific Contingency Panel meeting**
- 2. Approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for implementation in the 2022-23 financial year.**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report updates members of Schools Form on the decisions of the Schools Specific Contingency Panel at its meeting on 2nd March 2022 for the financial year 2021-22.

2. Contingency Fund Applications

- 2.1. The budget for 2021-22 is £288,573 based on the agreed de-delegation pupil rate of £7 per pupil for primary and £8.75 per pupil for secondary. A balance of £195,018 was unspent from the previous year, giving a total available budget of £483,591.
- 2.2. The group considered applications from 8 schools totalling £227,109. At the meeting the group agreed payments of £30,899. The group has requested further information to be submitted by one school and a final decision has still to be reached on that case. All other schools have been notified of the outcome of their requests. No appeal requests have been received to date and Schools Forum will be updated of the outcome of any appeals in due course.
- 2.3. Appendix 1 shows details of anonymised applications and payments agreed for this financial year.

2.4. Similar to previous years, successful bids included unforeseen staffing costs, pupil premium for traveller children and costs associated with additional pupils up to a maximum of 7/12 AWPU. Unsuccessful applications were those in which the case was not made according to the Terms of Reference.

3. Schools Specific Contingency Fund Terms of Reference

3.1. The Panel agreed that the terms of reference for the contingency fund should be reviewed to include

- a) Support for costs incurred after the date of the meeting to the remainder of the financial year will be considered in the next financial year claim if the school still meet the criteria for financial difficulty.
- b) Costs for long term absence of HLTA staff if they are deployed in a teaching role and the absence needs to be covered by a supply teacher.

3.2. The terms of reference have been further reviewed to update the membership and the criteria that will be considered for funding. The changes recommended are:

- 1) That representatives from the iSEND Service are not required to attend as applications for SEND funding are outside of the Terms of Reference for the contingency fund.
- 2) That the need to fund applications for funding in respect of incorrect application of the school funding formula or incorrect data should be removed as Buckinghamshire now mirrors the National Funding Formula and uses the national data set provided by the DfE.

3.3. Appendix 2 to this report shows the proposed revisions.



Appendix 1

| Table 1: Contingency Decisions 2021-22 | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Contingency bids for Financial Year 2021-22 | |
| Anonymised list of 8 schools | |
| Requested | Agreed 02/03/2022 |
| £13,959 | £4,770 |
| £15,128 | £0 |
| £147,210 | £0 |
| £7,220 | £7,220 |
| £3,516 | £1,758 |
| £25,760 | £7,443 |
| £4,845 | £238 |
| £9,470 | £9,470 |
| £227,108 | £30,899 |
| | |
| Budget 2021-22 | £288,573 |
| C/f from 2020-21 | £195,018 |
| Total Available | £483,591 |
| Balance for Unresolved Claim and Appeals | £452,692 |
| | |
| Note: Request 3 required further information and a decision is still to be made | |