



Notes of the Maintained Schools Sub-Committee

Date: 10th November 2020

Present: Janice Freeman (Chair) - Kings Wood School, David Hood – Cressex School, Eileen Stewart – Stoke Mandeville Combined School, Kathryn Tamlyn – Cheddington Combined School, Julia Antrobus – Newtown School, Jane Young – Buckingham School, Ian Garner – Burford School, Rebecca Campbell – Holmer Green Junior School, Liz Williams, Head of Finance – Children’s Services.

Apologies: Howard Beveridge – The Grange School

1. Contingency Fund

- 1.1. The sub-committee considered the potential impact of covid-19 on the levels of contingency that may be required in 2021-22. It was recommended that the terms of reference for the Contingency Panel would need to be reviewed to ensure that the contingency fund would not be used to cover costs related to the pandemic.
- 1.2. It was agreed that, given the constraints on school budgets arising from covid-19, the approach for de-delegation should be to maximise the amount of money retained by schools where possible.
- 1.3. It was agreed that Option 1 should be recommended to Schools Forum, maintaining the same per pupil rates as 2020-21 (£7 per primary pupil, £8.75 per secondary pupil)

2. Contingency – deficits for closing schools

- 2.1. It was agreed that Option 1 should be recommended to Schools Forum with no de-delegation of funds for deficits in closing schools in 2021-22. It was agreed that this should be reviewed on an annual basis based on risk.

3. Trade Union Facilities

- 3.1. The sub-committee recognised the importance of facilitating union involvement to support staff across maintained schools. Expenditure in previous years had been lower than budget and it was noted that there was no spend to date in the current year. It was agreed that the carry forward from previous years could be expected to cover costs in 2020-21 and 2021-22. It was therefore agreed to recommend that there should be no further de-delegation in 2021-22. It was also agreed that this

should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that a level of funding could be maintained.

4. Cover for small schools

- 4.1. Expenditure in previous years was reviewed and it was agreed to recommend to Schools Forum that funding is de-delegated at 20p per pupil across both primary and secondary. This is a reduction of 10p per pupil compared with previous years however it was estimated that this would still be sufficient to cover expenditure.

5. Finance Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties

- 5.1. The sub-committee requested that the Service Offer is further developed to provide more detail on the support that schools receive and to flesh out the Monitoring and Quality Assurance section in the document. **Action: Liz Williams**
- 5.2. It was agreed to recommend de-delegation at the same rates as 2020-21 (£2.50 per pupil primary and secondary/ £10 per place Special and PRU)

6. Educational Visits

- 6.1. It was agreed to recommend that de-delegation for the Educational Visits Service remain at the same rates as 2020-21 (£1 per pupil for primary and secondary/ £4 per pupil Special and PRU).

7. AOB

- 7.1. The sub-committee discussed the impact of covid-19 on school budgets in the current financial year and whether there was any intelligence on the overall position in Buckinghamshire. It was noted that the NAHT have recently circulated some data and a template for schools to lobby their MPs. The F40 Group have also gathered information and lobbied the DfE – **Action Liz Williams to circulate the most recent letter from F40.** *(update – this will now be included as a separate paper to Schools Forum on 8th December)*