



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 8th December 2020

Title: Contingency Panel Terms of Reference

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Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to agree a change to the Terms of Reference to the School Specific Contingency Fund.

1. Background

- 1.1. In Buckinghamshire, a contingency fund has been established, in accordance with current regulations, to assist maintained schools where, for a range of potential reasons they are experiencing financial difficulty to a degree likely to impact adversely on the education of pupils. This fund is known as the Schools Specific Contingency Fund (SSCF). The SSCF is a de-delegated service.
- 1.2. Schools are expected to take all reasonable issues into account when setting their financial plans and to ensure that they have capacity within their plans to deal with unforeseen eventualities. The Schools Specific Contingency Fund is necessarily very limited and is therefore allocated only in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.3. The Maintained Schools Sub-Committee met on 10th November to consider proposals for the de-delegation of funding in 2021-22. As part of that discussion 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 SSCF would need to be reviewed to ensure that the contingency fund would not be used to cover costs related to the pandemic.
- 1.4. The proposed amended terms of reference for the SSCF are attached at Appendix 1 to this report. Proposed changes are highlighted in red in the Appendix and are detailed as follows:

- 1) It is proposed include the following additional principle on page 2 of the document:

Please note that unforeseen additional expenditure or loss of income attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be eligible for support through the SSCF.

- 2) It is proposed to add the following item to the list of types of expenditure that are outside of the scope of the SSCF (page 4):

(vi) for funding that is attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic

2. Proposal

- 2.1. Schools Forum is asked to agree the proposed changes to the terms of reference to the School Specific Contingency Fund.