



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 30th June 2020

Title: Contingency Group 2019-20 Update, Mainstream Maintained Schools (Dedelegation)

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Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) **Note the report detailing the decisions of the Contingency Group**
- b) **Agree changes to the to the Contingency Group’s Terms of Reference as set out in 3.4 and 3.5.**

Reason for decision: to update Schools Forum on the allocation of contingency funding for 2019-20 and to ensure the terms of reference can be updated.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report updates members of Schools Form on the decisions of the Contingency Group at its meeting on 25th February 2020 for the financial year 2019-20. The report also outlines the recommendations by the Contingency Group to further clarify their Terms of Reference.

2. Update from Contingency Group

- 2.1. The group considered applications from 26 primary schools and 2 secondary schools, totalling £966,646. At the meeting the group agreed payments of £349,924. The budget for 2019-20 is £ 428,171 based on the agreed dedelegation pupil rate of Primary: £10 per pupil and Secondary: £12.50 per pupil. This leaves a balance in this year’s funding of £78,247 to meet the costs of any appeals. Appeal requests are yet to be received and Schools Forum will be updated of the outcome in due course. Appendix 1 shows details of anonymised applications and payments agreed by the group.

- 2.2. Last year in 2018-19, the Group received applications from 24 primary schools requesting £816,746. The panel agreed to allocate £228,926 at the meeting and subsequently allocated a further £17,336 on appeal.
- 2.3. Similar to last year, 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 included bids where the case was not made according to the Terms of Reference and bids for SEN related provision.
- 2.4. As part of the review of applications, the Group agreed to strengthen their Terms of Reference with reference to 'appropriate insurance' – i.e. Headteacher cover should be at the higher teacher rate rather than at the lower administration staff rate. Schools Forum are recommend to agree the following wording :
- “Long term absence of teachers through sickness/maternity leave etc. where it has proved necessary to engage agency staff (N.B. the School Specific Contingency Group (SSCG) will require valid reasons if no **appropriate** insurance has been arranged)”*
- 2.5. As part of the review of applications, the Group agreed to strengthen the Terms of Reference with reference to 'a school's decision to increase pupil numbers/classes' Schools Forum are recommend to add the following wording:
- “Costs incurred where a school expands and increases its pupil numbers without Local Authority support – are not eligible for contingency funding.”*

Appendix 1

Update - Contingency Group 2019-20 - Maintained Schools in Financial Difficulties

Contingency bids for Financial Year 2019-20	
Anonymised list of 28 schools	
Requested	Agreed 25.02.20
£1,913	£0
£9,943	£0
£15,917	£7,959
£4,394	£0
£40,935	£11,053
£31,716	£15,858
£16,439	£4,493
£9,279	£4,640
£31,148	£5,205
£13,873	£1,936
£40,017	£6,853
£25,776	£8,940
£4,510	£2,255
£55,000	£0
£1,565	£782
£4,099	£2,050
£74,425	£32,251
£77,730	£28,603
£80,578	£36,794
£33,867	£11,819
£41,656	£440
£15,077	£6,854
£30,111	£0
£27,199	£0
£156,334	£124,188
£6,272	£3,514
£50,000	£0
£66,875	£33,437
£966,646	£349,924
Budget 2019-20	£428,171
Balance for Appeals	£78,247