

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

8th March 2016

ITEM NO 3

BUDGET UPDATE 2015/16

Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum regarding the 2015/16 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) position.

Background

2. School Forum were presented with an expenditure budget of £27,522,480 at their January 2016 meeting, there has been no change to the budget since.

Updates

3. Appendix 1 shows the current projected year end position regarding the 2015/16 budget. As the year end is rapidly approaching the majority of the projections will be close to the final outturn figures, however the budgets that are dependent on pupil numbers will still be subject to change as the projections are based on the pupil numbers at the start of the spring term, which may change during the term itself. The following paragraphs highlight any significant changes to variances in the budget position which have not been previously reported.
4. School Transport. It is projected that this budget will underspend by a further £40,000 on previous projections. The majority of the underspend results from underspend that was brought forward from 2014/15. At the time of writing the costs of pupil transport for the autumn and spring terms have not been received, therefore there is potential for this projection to change.
5. Pupil Referral Unit Place Plus. This budget is projected to overspend by £38,000 (no previous projected variance noted to Forum), which results from additional children being placed in the college above the number commissioned at the start of the year.
6. Beaumont Hill Place Plus. This budget is projected to be underspent by £165,000, a decrease in underspend of £49,000 on that previously reported. This decrease in underspend results from additional pupils being placed during the autumn and spring terms and the requirement to fund a number of additional support packages for specialist placements.
7. Marchbank Place Plus. Is projected that this budget will be overspent by £28,000 on the budget set. This increase arises as additional children have been placed in the autumn and spring terms.

8. Out of Area placements. This budget is projected to be less overspent by £44,000 on that previously reported to Forum. The decrease in spend results from the ending of one high cost placement.
9. 3 & 4 year old nursery placements is projected to be underspent by a further £33,000 on that previously reported. This budget area is subject to change, as at the time of writing the early years census has not been received for the spring term, therefore an assumption has had to be made regarding the number of children funded during the spring term. The majority of the underspend on this budget has already been committed in 2016/17, to maintain the 3 & 4 year old nursery hourly rate in 2016/17 at the 2015/16 level (rather than being reduced).
10. The overall budget position for 2015/16 is an expected year end underspend position of £841,307, an increase of £10,912 on that reported to Forum in January. Of this projected underspend, £458,407 is from 2 year old brought forward funding which Forum have allocated to two year old hourly rates in future years (see agenda item 5). Therefore the “real” in year projected underspend is £382,395.
11. Of this projected underspend, £84,718 has already been agreed to be used in 2016/17 to contribute towards 3 & 4 year old nursery rate, therefore there is approximately £300,000 of potential underspend to allocate in 16/17.
12. The final year end position will be presented to Forum at their May meeting, at which point the allocation of any underspend can be determined.

Recommendations

13. That Forum notes the current budget position.

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