

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

10th June 2014

ITEM NO 5

BUDGET UPDATE 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum regarding the 2014/15 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) position.

Background

2. School Forum was presented with an updated budget position of £26,491,130 at their April meeting. This budget included carry forward of £141,822 from 2014/15.
3. Forum had previously agreed to carry forward allocations totalling £567,483 and agreed at their April meeting to allocate £40,908 of carry forward.

Updates

4. As per agenda item 4 the final underspend budget position from 2013/14 was £2,029,132. This underspend has been carried forward into 2014/15 and allocated as per previous decisions, with the balance being allocated as per agenda item 4.
5. As notified at agenda item 2 the additional funding allocated to the Music Service (£14,958) at the April meeting has been added back into the unallocated budget. Appendix 1 gives the revised budget position.
6. When the budget was originally set, the number of places initially commissioned at Marchbank School was 14 places for 2014/15, however this figure was later revised to 18 places. The budget was not increased to reflect this, therefore the budget is incorrect. It is proposed therefore to move £48,000 from the high needs contingency budget to cover this shortfall.
7. Appendix 1 shows the current projected year end position regarding the 2014/15 budget.
8. At this early stage of the financial year a number of budgets have limited expenditure against them, therefore the projected year end budget position for a number of services are shown as been on target. Budgets with a variance are detailed in the following paragraphs. Forum members should note that a number of these projections are based on initial pupil number estimates and are therefore subject to change throughout the financial year.
9. School Nurseries, this budget is projected to be underspent by £15,000 which is the value of the contingency allocated at the beginning of the year. At the time of writing the summer term school census data is not available therefore no adjustments have been

made to projected expenditure for the actual number of pupils funded in this term. As a result the budget has been shown as set at the beginning of the year.

10. The following Top Up budgets (PRU, BHA, Marchbank and Resource Bases) are all projected based on the number of pupils in the establishment at the start of the summer term and assuming full occupancy for the remaining two terms of the financial year. These projections are all subject to change as the establishments are paid top ups based on the **actual** occupancy each term.
11. Pupil Referral Unit Top Ups, this budget is projected to be underspent based lower occupancy at the start of the summer term.
12. Specialist Placements BHA Top Ups, this budget is projected to be overspent based on additional pupils being placed over the number of commissioned places at the beginning of the summer term.
13. Marchbank School Top Ups, this budget is projected to be overspent resulting from additional children being placed at the school over the 18 commissioned places.
14. Heathfield and Northwood Resource Base Top Ups, these budgets are projected to be underspent based lower occupancy at the start of the summer term.
15. Post 16 top up placements, this budget is projected to be underspent based on the number of children funded in the summer term. Again the actual expenditure will fluctuate dependent on the number of places occupied following the commencement of the new academic year.
16. High Needs Contingency, this budget is shown as unspent as it offsets pressures in other budget lines.
17. Nursery Funding (PVI), as with school nurseries this budget is showing an underspend based on the contingency at the start of the year. This variance will be subject to change throughout the year following the census.
18. Individually Assigned Resources, top up payments are made at the beginning of the year for children in school with additional SEN needs. The budget is overspent resulting from additional children being assessed between the budget being set (January) and the start of the summer term.
19. At this point of the year excluding the unallocated carry forward (budget to be distributed to within the 2015/16 formula) it is projected that there will be underspend in the year of approximately £206,000. Although this is subject to change, the projected underspend in year means that it is not expected that there are any required calls on the 2013/14 carry forward during 2014/15. The carry forward therefore should be available in full for distributing through the 2015/16 formula.
20. Forum will be presented with updates on the budget position at all their meetings.

Recommendations

21. That Forum agrees
 - That the previously allocated budget of £14,958 be added back into the unallocated budget
 - That £48,000 be moved from the High Needs contingency to cover the budget setting shortfall
 - The distribution of unallocated brought forward budget

22. That Forum note the revised budget as detailed in appendix 1

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