

# 2017-18 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget and Forward Look

## Schools Forum

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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Author:	Head of Finance – Education
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Schools Forum meeting on 28th March 2017 received a report on the 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement and Budget. This report provides members with an update on various budget issues that remained unresolved after that meeting. This report addresses:
- High Needs Top-up for PD SRP unit
  - High Needs review
  - Special School Support
  - Oakfield Pre Exclusion Unit
  - New Schools Affecting Swindon's Mainstream Budget
  - Apprenticeship Levy
  - Nyland Campus Outreach Team (NCOT)
- 1.2 These proposals contribute towards delivering the Council Vision Priority "Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places."

### 2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the update relating to Robert Le Kyng PD SRP as detailed in Para. 3.1
- 2.2 Note the current state of the High Needs review as detailed in Para. 3.3.
- 2.3 Approve the use of £22k of reserves to support St Luke's school as detailed in Para. 3.4 – 3.5.
- 2.4 Note that the LA is looking for a sustainable financial model for the Oakfield project as detailed in Para. 3.6 – 3.9.
- 2.5 Note the forecasts of required pupil growth funding that will need to be considered as part of future budget setting processes as detailed in Para. 3.10 – 3.11.
- 2.6 Note the current review of the apprenticeship levy arrangements for maintained schools as detailed in Para. 3.12.

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- 2.7 Discuss the views of SAPH in relation to the Nylands Campus Outreach Team as detailed in Para. 3.13 -3.14.

### 3. Detail

#### High Needs Top-up for PD SRP unit

- 3.1 At the March meeting of this forum members requested that the Head of Education review the Special Resource Provision ('SRP') provision (Physical Disabilities (PD)) at Robert Le Kyng School to ascertain why the SRP funding currently provided was not sufficient to meet the running costs of the SRP.
- 3.2 The Head of Education visited the school and met with the headteacher to review running costs. As has previously been reported, the key reason for the higher costs is that the school uses skilled support staff (HLTAs, known at the school as STAs) as opposed to less skilled teaching assistants. The school has explored restructuring the provision but removing the roles is not an option, as the roles would still remain largely the same (as advised by Schools HR). Reducing staffing was also explored but this would cause a safety risk for some pupils who cannot be left unattended due to their medical needs. Many of the pupils, have considerable additional needs to their PD requirements.
- 3.3 As noted in the Actual Year End School Balances report elsewhere in the agenda, the school have continued to push through efficiencies in the SRP budget. They have also reviewed the SRP support and appointed entry level TAs as STAs leave, this is one of the school's long term strategies to reduce the staff costs in the SRP. Including the additional £40k of funding, the draft SRP budget currently shows a deficit balance of £64k in 2017/18. The mainstream budget has to be at least £64k in surplus to enable the school to continue to pay salaries and for cash flow purposes.

#### **Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Note the update relating to Robert Le Kyng SRP.**

#### High Needs review

#### **Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Note the current state of the High Needs review.**

- 3.4 A verbal update will be provided at the meeting by the Head of Education

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### Special School Support

- 3.5 Members will be aware that St Luke's school is facing severe financial hardship and a number of measures have been put in place to support the school. The school has reviewed how it educates students, in order to address a number of safeguarding issues the school has started to use an offsite education facility. This is a short term arrangement whilst more permanent changes are made in the way the school is organised, this additional facility has left the school facing an additional one off cost of £22k this year
- 3.6 The alternative to this approach would have been to close the school which would have resulted in the need to relocate the pupils to alternative provisions, many of which would have been out of borough. Schools Forum are requested

#### **Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Approve the use of £22k of reserves to support St Luke's school.**

to approve the use of reserves to meet this one off cost.

### Oakfield Pre Exclusion Unit

- 3.7 Members may be aware that a consortium of secondary schools have been running the Oakfield project for year 10 & 11 pupils for the last few years. There is a recognition amongst secondary schools that the service provides a good educational outcome for pupils, and it is a good alternative to a permanent exclusion.
- 3.8 The project accommodates pupils from secondary schools in Swindon; the member schools provided a commitment before each academic year to fund a guaranteed number of places, any additional places were offered to non-members at a higher cost per place. This model has become difficult to sustain given the financial pressure that schools are facing, and currently there are only two member schools who feel they are able to sustain their historic level of support.
- 3.9 As members will also be aware there is a review currently being undertaken of all of the alternative provision and the way in which the exclusion process works going forward. The educational view is that the Oakfield project is an important part of the alternative provision within Swindon, however a sustainable financial model is required for the project in to future years.

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- 3.10 The Head of Education is currently exploring alternative arrangements to sustain this project over the next year so that its future can be considered as part of the alternative provision review.

### Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to:

- Note that the LA is looking for a sustainable financial model for the Oakfield project.

### New Schools Affecting Swindon's Mainstream Budget

- 3.11 As members will be aware the LA has been successful in securing two new primary free schools at Badbury Park and Abbey Farm. There are also two new secondary free schools at The Great Western Academy (North Swindon) and The Deanery (Wichelstowe). The LA also requires another 2 Form of Entry ('FE') primary school in the vicinity of Tadpole Garden village. These new schools will need to be included on future years Authority Proforma Toolkit ('APT') returns and will need to be funded from the central support section of the Dedicated Schools Grant ('DSG') budget.
- 3.12 Current guidance from the Department for Education ('DfE') is not clear how funding for growth will be provided after 2017/18. The assumption in the DfE model assumes that the pupils will move within the LA area and therefore no additional funding is required for the LA. However as the schools noted above are all in new build areas the pupils that will be attending them are new to the Swindon area, and it is not clear how this will be reflected in Swindon's funding formula. In addition if the LA is required to build the new Tadpole school then setup costs will also be payable. The table below sets out the potential growth funding budget required in the next two years, members will see that the forecast shows that the budget rises from the current £580k to £3.68m in 2019/20.

School	Forms of Entry	Year of opening	No of pupils	Places funded @ 7/12	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Existing commitment					£579,910	£389,432	£273,357
Abbey Farm	2	2018	60	35		£183,735	£517,766
Badbury Park	1	2018	30	17.5		£124,419	£316,834
Great Western	5	2018	150	87.5		£533,835	£1,631,700
The Deanery	7	2019	210	122.5			£670,546
Tadpole 2	2	2019	60	35			£271,761
					£579,910	£1,231,421	£3,681,964

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**Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Note the forecasts of required pupil growth funding that will need to be considered as part of future budget setting processes.**

### Apprenticeship Levy

- 3.13 Members will be aware that if a school is required to pay apprenticeship levy then these will have commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Maintained schools payroll providers have been making these deductions and payments to HMRC. The LA is currently working to ensure that these payments are correctly reflected in the LA's payment record and is reviewing the processes for schools to access the levy fund to support their apprentice training.

**Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Note the current review of the apprenticeship levy arrangements for maintained schools.**

### Nyland Campus Outreach Team (NCOT)

- 3.14 The October 2014 Forum agreed that this service provided by the White Horse Federation from the Nylands campus should be delegated to schools from 2016/17. The Primary Age Weighted Pupil Unit ('AWPU') rate was uplifted by £12.33 per pupil. In order to provide this service centrally the charge for 2017/18 remained at £12.33 per pupil.
- 3.15 This service was originally agreed to be supported for 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, Swindon Association of Primary Head teachers ('SAPH') have discussed the service and wish to update members of this forum of their views on retaining this service beyond 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:**

- **Discuss the views of SAPH in relation to the Nylands Campus Outreach Team.**

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members of the Forum may provide alternatives in the course of the meeting.

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## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Various financial implications are included in this report relating to management of the retained DSG budget.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human rights implications have been taken into account in preparing this report. It is considered that the recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No additional implications were raised in the preparation of this report.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 The proposals within this report are designed to allocate funding targeted at disadvantaged pupils and at pupils with low prior attainment and / or special education needs in order to narrow the attainment gap between these and other pupils.

### Risk Management

- 5.5 Any specific risk management implications are highlighted in the body of the report.

## 6. Consultees

- 6.1 Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1 None