

# 2017-18 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget and Forward Look

**Schools Forum**

**Date: 3rd October 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:

- Admissions Update
- 2 Year olds update
- 30 hours of provision update
- Education Support Grant and Education Function Charge
- De-delegation
- New Schools Affecting Swindon's Mainstream Budget
- National Fair Funding update
- Oakfield Project update

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 from the admissions team as detailed in Para. 3.1.
- 2.2 Note the update of arrangements for 2 year old education as detailed in Para. 3.4.
- 2.3 Note the update relating to 30 hours of provision for 3 & 4 year olds as detailed in Para. 3.8.
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Burbidge on 01793 464384 or [iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk)

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- 2.4 Note the LA's cost of £0.991m for discharging the statutory duties that it provides for all pupils, and consult with their head teacher associations about these charges before the January Schools Forum as detailed in Para. 3.13
  - 2.5 Maintained schools forum members are to note the cost of providing the statutory duties that the LA provides for them for the 2017/18, and to consult with colleagues about these costs before the January Schools Forum, as detailed in Para. 3.15
  - 2.6 Consult with their relevant head teacher associations so that they can vote on this issue in January as detailed in Para. 3.18.
  - 2.7 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. 3.21
  - 2.8 Note the intention to consult with schools in November on the local formula for funding schools 2018/19 as per the conditions of the National Fair Funding Formula as detailed in Para. 3.22.
  - 2.9 Agree to an extraordinary Schools Forum meeting in December
  - 2.10 Note the update on the Oakfield Project.

## **3. Detail**

### Admissions Update

- 3.1 Staff recruitment has been undertaken in the school admissions team to remedy the staffing shortages that occurred during 2016/17. The team will have 6 Admissions Officers from the end of September 2017. The net cost to the Dedicated Schools Grant will not change from the £0.231m budget agreed by Schools Forum in January.
- 3.2 The admissions team has started the first process period for In Year Coordination and published all the necessary information on the Council's website. The new process includes the new in year form and process period dates available for parents to help manage their expectations. This will give them a clear picture of when they can expect their application to be processed and an offer of a school place to be made. There will be 3 process periods during the autumn term to enable the summer backlog to be cleared (approximately 1,100 applications for the first process period) and for all applications to be offered a place before the October Census.
- 3.3 For further information please contact Gareth Cheal on 07823 525378 or [gcheal@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:gcheal@swindon.gov.uk)

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

- **Note the update from the admissions team**

2 year olds update

- 3.4 During the summer 2017 term 637 2-year-old children accessed early education (taking up either some of their entitlement or the full 15 hours); this is equivalent to 602.4 15 hour part time equivalent ('PTE') places. The 637 pupils represents 95% of the 2 year olds identified as being eligible by the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP), and is the LA's highest ever recorded percentage level of take up. This is significantly above the national average of 72%. However, working with local birth data, the LA believe that the target figure set by the DWP is likely to be an under-estimate of the number of children actually eligible. It is therefore important that the LA continue its efforts to engage effectively with parents.
- 3.5 Work has been undertaken internally to ensure that the importance of early education is understood by other Service Heads within the authority, this will ensure information is being appropriately shared and joint working initiatives used. Cross-referencing of data is also important, in order to make sure that the name and address information we hold is as accurate as possible.
- 3.6 The target families do not typically respond well to traditional forms of communication. A complete review of the marketing strategy has recently been conducted, with the introduction of personalised birthday cards and postcards. Going forward it is intended to increase the use of social media to inform residents of their potential entitlement. Following analysis of the other languages commonly spoken within Swindon, translated materials will be made available, thus ensuring that a parent not speaking English does not become a barrier to their children accessing this important benefit.
- 3.7 For further information please contact Gareth Cheal on 07823 525378 or [gcheal@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:gcheal@swindon.gov.uk)

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

- **Note the update of arrangements for 2 year old education**

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## 30 Hours provision

- 3.8 As of 1st September 2017, working families are entitled to 30 hours per week of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds. Both parents (if applicable) must be earning the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage per week and not individually earn more than £100,000 per year to qualify. Swindon was one of eight local authorities involved in early implementation work from September 2016 which saw 415 families benefit from the 30 hours offer a year early. This was funded through a separate grant payment from the Department for Education (DfE). Swindon's experience has influenced the roll out of the national policy based on research conducted with the LA, parents, providers and employers.
- 3.9 The DfE have forecast a figure of 1,400 eligible children in Swindon over the first academic year of roll out. This figure is significantly lower than the figure forecast by the early years place planning team of 2,328 eligible children. The DfE have been in dialogue with SBC and now accept the figure they have produced is likely to be lower than actual number of eligible families in the borough. The Department has provided funding up front for 522 children for the autumn term.
- 3.10 Applications for the 30 hours childcare are made through HMRC via an online system, parents are issued a code which then must be verified by the local authority at regular intervals throughout the year. As of 30th August 2017, 1,060 applications had been made to HMRC and confirmed as eligible, of which 628 codes have been verified and a place taken up during Autumn Term. However, the number of codes verified and places taken are expected to rise once data is available at headcount (October half term). This is due to many applications being made over the summer when a proportion of settings are closed and places could not be confirmed for eligible families.
- 3.11 For further information please contact Gareth Cheal on 07823 525378 or [gcheal@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:gcheal@swindon.gov.uk)

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

- **Note the update relating to 30 hours of provision for 3 & 4 year olds**

## Education Services Grant and Education Function Charge

- 3.12 Members will remember that at the January meeting they were advised of changes to the Education Services Grant (ESG). The element of the ESG that funded the LA's statutory responsibilities for all pupils has been incorporated into the DSG Schools Block.. Officers committed to provide Schools Forum with

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further details on the statutory responsibilities and what they mean in practice and the cost of providing these services.

## **Duties carried out on behalf of all schools and academies**

- 3.13 **Appendix 1** provides details of the statutory services that the LA provides for all pupils in Swindon, the total annual cost of these services is £0.991m. In 2017/18 the Government allocated £0.498m of funding within the Schools Block of the DSG. Appendix 1 provides the information received from Service Managers who are responsible for carrying out the statutory functions. The total cost incurred by the LA in providing the statutory responsibilities for all pupils is £0.991m, which is in excess of the funding provided by the Government.
- 3.14 At the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 meeting Schools Forum will be requested to allow the LA to retain the sum included in the 2018/19 DSG funding settlement to continue to fund the statutory responsibilities for all pupils in 2018/19. Schools Forum reps are asked to consult with their respective Head Teacher associations so that a vote can be taken on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Duties carried out on behalf of maintained schools**

- 3.15 Members will remember that the Government provided a transitional grant of £0.398m for the period April to August 2017 to help to fund the and maintained schools agreed a one off contribution of £22.50 per pupil for mainstream schools and £33.75 for pupils in special schools and alternative provision. This was subject to the LA undertaking a full review of the services and providing revised pricing to this meeting.
- 3.16 **Appendix 2** provides more details of the statutory services that the LA carries out for maintained schools this support costs £0.183m per annum.
- 3.17 The LA intends to bring a proposal to January Schools Forum to fund the statutory services provided to maintained schools for 2018/19, maintained schools reps are asked to consult with colleagues before this meeting

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

- **Note the LA's cost of £0.991m for discharging the statutory duties that it provides for all schools, and consult with their head teacher associations about these charges before the January Schools Forum (Para. 3.13)**
- **Maintained schools forum members are to note the cost of providing the statutory duties that the LA provides for them for the 2017/18, and to consult with colleagues about these costs before the January Schools Forum. (Para 3.15)**

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## De-delegation

- 3.18 At its January 2018 meeting the Schools Forum will be asked to approve the continuation of the de-delegation for the following services:-
- FSM Eligibility
  - Trade Union
  - Nylands Campus Outreach Team
- 3.19 Schools Forum Maintained school members will be asked whether their respective Head teacher associations agree to continue the current de-delegation arrangements for these services. Schools Forum maintained members have already indicated that they wish to continue the de-delegation for the Nylands Outreach service.
- 3.20 School Forum maintained school members are requested to seek the views of their respective head teacher associations to enable this to be voted on at the January 2018 forum.

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

- **Consult with their relevant head teacher associations so that they can vote on this issue in January**

## New Schools Affecting Swindon's Mainstream Budget

- 3.21 As reported in July there are a number of new schools that are due to open over the next two years. The current expectation is that Badbury Park (Primary – 1 Form of Entry) and The Great Western Academy (Secondary - 5 Forms of Entry) are likely to open in September 2018. Officers are liaising with the DfE project team to confirm the anticipated opening time of these schools. These new schools will need to be included on the 2018/19 Authority Proforma Toolkit ('APT') returns and will need to be funded from the central support block of the Dedicated Schools Grant ('DSG') budget. These additional costs will need to be taken into account when setting the 2018/19 funding formula, the table below provides the anticipated costs based on the 2017/18 funding formula, however the costs will be based on the 2018/19 formula to be agreed with Schools Forum.

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School	Forms of Entry	Year of opening	No of pupils	Places funded @ 7/12	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Existing commitment					£0.580	£0.389	£0.273
Badbury Park	1	2018	30	17.5		£0.124	£0.124
Great Western	5	2018	150	87.5		£0.534	£0.534
Abbey Farm	2	2019	60	35			£0.184
The Deanery	7	2019	210	122.5			£0.671
Tadpole 2	2	2019	60	35			£0.272
Tadpole 2 – setup funding							£0.100
					<b>£0.580</b>	<b>£1.047</b>	<b>£2.158</b>

**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.**

## National Fair Funding Formula

- 3.22 The Government have announced the local authority level and school level National Fair Funding (NFF) allocations. The DfE have also released updated technical guidance on the NFF formula. The local authority will now work through the values and begin the 2018/19 budget modelling. The DfE NFF formula allocations are expected to be refined in late autumn following ratification of the October 2017 school census data. As in previous years the Finance Manager Education will contact all schools and academies in early October to gain an insight into the latest pupil numbers to aid the 2018/19 budget modelling process.
- 3.23 The NFF seeks to fund all schools based on the characteristics of their pupils, regardless of where the pupil lives. In setting the 2018/19 and 2019/20 individual school budgets (ISB) the LA has the option to either use NFF formula school funding allocations or to agree a local formula with Schools Forum to enable the LA to deal with local issues, subject to consultation with schools and academies.
- 3.24 The LA will arrange a consultation event for all schools and academies to be held in November (provisional date is 28<sup>th</sup> November in the Council Chambers). The LA would like to arrange an extraordinary Schools Forum meeting in December

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to agree the formula and principles that will be applied to the funding allocated to Swindon for 2018/19.

## Oakfield Project

- 3.25 The Head of Education will provide a verbal update relating to the Oakfield Project.

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

- **Note the update on the Oakfield Project.**

## **4. Alternative Options**

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

## **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.



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## **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