

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Monday 20th June 2022 at 5.00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

This meeting will be streamed live here: www.westberks.gov.uk/schoolsforumlive

Date of despatch of Agenda: Tuesday, 14th June 2022

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Jessica Bailiss on (01635) 503124
e-mail: jessica.bailiss@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk



Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday, 20 June 2022 (continued)

Forum Members: Reverend Mark Bennet, Dominic Boeck, Jonathon Chishick, Melissa Cliffe, Catie Colston, Paul Davey, Jacquie Davies, Emily Dawkins, Hand, Keith Harvey, Richard Hawthorne, Jon Hewitt, Caroline Johnson, Ross Mackinnon, Catherine McLeod, Maria Morgan, Gemma Piper, Chris Prosser, David Ramsden, Campbell Smith, Graham Spellman, Phil Spray and Charlotte Wilson

Agenda

Part I

Page No.

1	Apologies	
2	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2022/23	
3	Minutes of previous meeting dated 14th March 2022	1 - 8
4	Actions arising from previous meetings	9 - 10
5	Declarations of Interest	
6	Membership	

Items for Discussion

7	School Balances 2021/22 (Melanie Ellis)	11 - 16
---	--	---------

Items for Information

8	School Energy Bills (Adrian Slaughter/Melanie Ellis)	17 - 20
9	Briefing Note - DSG High Needs Block and the DfE 'Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme' (Ian Pearson)	21 - 24
10	Vulnerable Children's Fund - Annual Report for 2021/22 (Michelle Sancho)	25 - 30
11	Trade Union Facilities Time - Annual Report for 2021/22 (Richard Hand)	31 - 34
12	Therapies Contract (Jane Seymour)	35 - 36



Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday, 20 June 2022 (continued)

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 13 | DSG Outturn 2021/22 (Melanie Ellis) | 37 - 44 |
| 14 | Deficit Schools (Melanie Ellis) | 45 - 54 |
| 15 | Forward Plan | 55 - 56 |
| 16 | Date and format of the next meeting
<i>Monday 18th of July 2022 at 5pm</i>
<i>Location of meeting to be discussed.</i> | |

Part II

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 17 | Exclusion of the Press and Public
RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item.
Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution refers. | |
| 18 | Part II - Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids from Theale and Basildon Primary Schools (Melanie Ellis)
<i>(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)</i> | 57 - 64 |
| 19 | Part II - Engaging Potential Contract (Jane Seymour)
<i>(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)</i> | 65 - 72 |

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Stephen Chard on telephone (01635) 519462.

This page is intentionally left blank

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2022

Present: Reverend Mark Bennet (Church of England Diocese), Jonathan Chishick (Maintained Primary School Governor), Melissa Cliffe (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Jacquie Davies (Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher), Keith Harvey (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Richard Hawthorne (Academy School Headteacher), Jon Hewitt (Maintained Special School Headteacher), Caroline Johnson (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Councillor Ross Mackinnon, Maria Morgan (Maintained Nursery School Headteacher), Gemma Piper (Academy School Headteacher), Chris Prosser (Maintained Secondary School Headteacher), David Ramsden (Maintained Secondary School Headteacher), Campbell Smith (Academy School Governor), Graham Spellman (Roman Catholic Diocese), Phil Spray (Primary Governor Representative) and Charlotte Wilson (Academy School Headteacher)

Also Present: Avril Allenby (Early Years Service Manager), Melanie Ellis (Chief Accountant), Ian Pearson (Head of Education Services), Jane Seymour (Service Manager, SEN & Disabled Children's Team), Jessica Bailiss (Policy Officer (Executive Support)), Richard Hand (Trade Union) and Michelle Sancho (Principal EP & Service Manager)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Dominic Boeck, Catie Colston, Emily Dawkins and Catherine McLeod

PART I

82 Minutes of previous meeting dated 24th January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2022 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

83 Actions arising from previous meetings

Actions Jan22-Ac1, Ac2 and Ac5 were completed.

Jane Seymour referred to Jan22-Ac3 regarding the need to make it clearer the number of places being budgeted for, given that funding was not provided for the number of places needed. For special schools, 365 planned places were received and an additional 46 were having to be budgeted for at a cost of £460k per annum. Jane Seymour explained that for resourced provision they were not having to budget for extra places. At iCollege budgeting for extra places for students with EHCPs was needed and there were 18 students in total, at a cost of £180k.

Jane Seymour referred to Jan22-Ac3 regarding providing information on capacity of existing provision, so that pressure in the system could be judged. The 46 additional places being funded were the maximum places that could be catered for by special schools. Resourced provision was not over on numbers. To put this in context, Jane Seymour explained that there were 1170 EHCPs and planned place funding was not received for all of these. Funding was only received for places at special schools, resourced school, FE and iCollege.

84 Declarations of Interest

Michelle Harrison declared an interest in Agenda Item seven, and reported that, as her interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other registrable interest, she would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter.

85 Membership

Jessica Bailiss reported the following membership updates:

- An election had taken place for the academy governor vacancy however, no nominations were submitted. An election would be repeated later in the spring.
- There was also an academy headteacher vacancy on the forum, which academy heads had been consulting and was in hand.

86 Schools' Forum Work Programme 2022/23 (Jessica Bailiss)

Jess Bailiss reported that the work programme for 2022/23 largely followed the same pattern as previous years and it was subject to change throughout the year. There were some additional Heads Funding Group (HFG) dates scheduled and this was to accommodate bids to the Schools' in Financial Difficulty Fund. These meetings would only go ahead if too many bids were received to be able to add them to HFG meetings already scheduled.

The recommendation was for the work programme for 2022/23 to be agreed by the Forum. Keith Harvey proposed that the work programme be approved and this was seconded by David Ramsden. At the vote the motion was approved.

RESOLVED that: the work programme for 2022/23 was approved by the Schools' Forum.

87 Early Years Budget 2022/23 (Avril Allenby/Lisa Potts)

(It was agreed by the Chair that Agenda Item 10 could be considered next on the agenda before Item 7)

Avril Allenby introduced the report (Agenda Item 10), which aimed to set out the proposal for the Early Years budget 2022/23, which was based upon the recommendations of the Early Years Funding Group.

Avril Allenby reported that the purpose of the report was to update the Forum on deficit recovery progress and to propose what the budget should be going forward. This was challenging because the data from the annual census had only just been received and the information had needed to be analysed quickly.

Lisa Potts reported that in the current year they were looking at a forecast overspend against hours that were delegated to providers. There was a small saving on the centrally managed funds, which was through the Disability Access Fund. Lisa Potts drew attention to the table under section 4.6 and highlighted that £206k had needed to be returned to the DfE and there was an adjustment for the current year of £205k. It was noted that the two figures almost offset each other. There had been a delay in receiving the adjustment position for the last financial year and it had not been received until November 2021 when it was normally received in July. The paperwork had been updated to reflect these changes. Lisa Potts explained that whilst a budget overspend of £1.1m had been set for the current year, the forecast had now been reduced to £916k, which was an improved position. Lisa Potts stressed that this was still not the final outturn position however, a great amount of change was not expected.

SCHOOLS FORUM - 14 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

Lisa Potts moved on to provide details on the deficit recovery position, which was included under section five of the report. Lisa Potts drew attention to the table under section 5.2 and explained that the deficit recovery plan set out to save £123k in year one. The provisional figures were expected to be £129k, which was an over achievement of £6k. This was because the hours in the area of deprivation had increased. The deficit recovery position would continue to be monitored.

Lisa Potts reported that as a result of the Spending Review additional funding would be received for early year providers. When determining the local rates there were two factors that needed to be taken into consideration including the deficit recovery and the new funding from Government. The table under 6.2 of the report showed the local rates in the current financial year, the rates as per deficit recovery and the proposed rates when the new funding was applied using the local formula. The pass-through rate for 2022/23, which had been discussed with the Early Years Funding Group would be 99.7%.

Lisa Potts drew attention to the table under 6.6, which detailed the 2022/23 budget. It was important to note that the numbers of hours that this was based on fluctuated. It was hoped there would be an increase in hours. The indicative figure of £10m had been received from the DfE. There was a shortfall predicted for 2022/23 of just under £367k and Lisa Potts reported that work would take place to look in to what had caused this.

Avril Allenby commented that they had tried to carefully balance the deficit recovery position with being able to pass through additional funding from Government to providers. It was pointed out that the funding from Government would be over a three year period. Care had been taken to ensure each provider received a reasonable amount of uplift because the additional funding had been provided to support providers with rising costs such as salaries, national insurance and the impact of covid.

Keith Harvey proposed that the Forum agree the 2022/23 budgets as detailed in 6.6 of the report and this was seconded by Jon Hewitt. The Chair invited the Forum to vote and at the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum approved the 2022/23 budgets as detailed in 6.6 of the report.

88 Schools' in Financial Difficulty - Bids for Funding (Melanie Ellis)

(Michelle Harrison declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 by virtue of the fact that she was the School Business Manager at St Finian's RC Primary School which had submitted one of the bids due to be considered by the Forum. As her interest was personal and prejudicial and a disclosable pecuniary interest, she would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter and would take no part in the debate or voting on the matter.)

(Michelle Harrison left the meeting at 5.19pm.)

Melanie Ellis introduced the report (Agenda Item 7), which summarised the bids that had been received from schools to access funding from the 'Primary Schools in Financial Difficulty' de-delegated fund that were recommended for approval by the Heads Funding Group. There were four bids in total and the detail of the amounts each school was bidding for was included under 2.1 of the report.

Melanie Ellis drew attention to 2.2 of the report, which included a proposal for an additional criteria for allocating funding to schools, which had been supported by the HFG as follows:

SCHOOLS FORUM - 14 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

To allow extraordinary payments of up to £5k to be made if at the end of the maximum deficit recovery period of 5 years a school has a deficit balance of £5k or less and the school is able to submit a surplus budget for the following financial year.

Melanie Ellis drew attention to 2.3, which included a recommendation in line, with recommendation 2.2 above, to approve an extraordinary payment to St Finians RC Primary School of up to £5,000, to enable them to end their five year deficit.

Melanie Ellis provided information on each of the bids that had been received as detailed in sections four, five and six of the report.

Jonathan Chishick referred to the bid from St Finians in light of recommendation 2.3 and asked if the £5k would be in addition to the bid amount of £2,492 if approved. Melanie Ellis confirmed that the £5k would be in addition to the amount being bid for. The £2,492 was covering the reason for the bid and then in addition to this would be a payment of up to £5k depending on what the school's deficit was at the end of the five years.

Jonathan Chishick raised a further question regarding the bid from St Finian's. He noted that at period nine the forecast deficit was £4.4k and he queried if this would be the position if the bid was awarded. He queried why if the school's deficit position was £4.4k they were being awarded nearly £8k. Melanie Ellis reported that the forecast deficit was £4.4k and if the school was awarded the bid then the forecast deficit would be £1.9k. If £1.9k was the deficit position at the end of the year then this is what the school would be awarded to bring the balance to zero. If the bid was not awarded and the school had a closing deficit of £4.4k then the recommendation would be that this amount was awarded.

Jonathan Chishick raised a question regarding the bid from Kintbury. The report stated that it was the first year that the school had operated with a deficit however, he recalled that the school had bid for £30,700 in 2019 and therefore presumably it was not the first year the school had operated with a deficit. He noted that the school's forecast deficit for the current year was £49k and he therefore queried why the school might potentially be awarded £58k. Melanie Ellis reported that the school was in the first year of the current deficit cycle. Ian Pearson explained that a school could return to deficit following a previous deficit that had been balanced. The previous award to the school in 2019 had been followed by a balanced budget. It was therefore the first year of the current deficit. Ian Pearson explained that Jonathan Chishick's second point related to the specific circumstances of the school in that it had put in two bids for two separate items. If bids for the two items were awarded then the sums would exceed the period nine forecast deficit of £49k. It therefore needed to be considered if the whole sum should be awarded or a sufficient amount to bring the school's budget back to a balanced position.

Ian Pearson further explained that there would be an issue in terms of accuracy regarding Kintbury because the period nine forecast might not be the final position. He drew attention to section 7.4 of the report, which showed that the budget that had been set for 2021/22 indicated a deficit of £62k but when re-assessed in period nine this had come down to £49k. It was suggested that rather than awarding a sum of funding relating to costs, that a lesser total amount be awarded that brought the school back in to balance.

Jonathan Chishick added that it would also depend if the school could set a balanced budget in the next financial year. Ian Pearson explained that the purpose of submitting a bid was not just to address a deficit in the year the bid related to, but to also to help the school become self-sustaining in balancing its budget in the years thereafter. Jonathan Chishick was uncertain about whether the full amount should be awarded currently or if the Forum should wait and award an amount sufficient to cover the deficit at the end of the year. If this was less than the school had asked for then he felt that the school's

SCHOOLS FORUM - 14 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

budget for next year would need to be considered. If the full amount was required to balance the schools budget at this point then he would be happy with this however, if this was not the case Jonathan Chishick stressed that due to limited funds, funding needed to be spent carefully.

Phil Spray queried how the Heads' Funding Group (HFG) had arrived at the figure of £5k in relation to recommendation 2.2. Ian Pearson explained that the proposal had arisen as the result of looking at the St Finian's position. If the bid from the school as it stood was awarded then at the end of a five year deficit recovery period, which was the maximum time permitted, the school would still likely be in deficit. It had been felt by the HFG that further support could be provided to schools approaching the end of a five year deficit recovering plan, that were very close to reaching a balanced position. Based on a limited pot, up to £5k had been felt to be a reasonable figure. There had been an empathetic understanding of the challenge faced by schools and a desire to see schools close deficits within the five year period.

Melissa Cliffe highlighted that Kintbury were currently trying to recruit a new headteacher and it was likely to be a first headteacher post. It had been discussed at the HFG that the school had already been through one unsuccessful selection process and it was felt that a new headteacher was less likely to take on the position if the school was in deficit. The HFG had felt the issue needed resolving so that the school could become financially sound and in a better position to recruit. If the school had to keep going out to selection then this would cost more money.

In light of Jonathan Chishick's comments and moving forward, Ian Pearson explained that the Forum could either consider the existing recommendations or they would need to be amended and then considered again.

The Chair invited the primary school representatives to vote on the recommendation under section two of the report. Jonathan Chishick stated that he was happy to vote in favour of the recommendations on the condition that funding was only awarded to the amount that would resolve the deficit. At the vote with maintained primary school members the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- The bids from St Finians, Beenham and Kintbury primary schools as set out in section 2.1 were approved.
- The additional criteria for allocating funding to schools as detailed in section 2.2 was approved.
- An extraordinary payment to St Finians RC Primary School of up to £5,000, to enable them to end their five year deficit as detailed in section 2.3 was approved.

89 iCollege Review (Jacquie Davies/Michelle Sancho)

(Michelle Harrison re-joined the meeting at 5.40pm)

Michelle Sancho introduced the report (Agenda Item 8), which reported back on proposals of the iCollege Financial Review task and finish group.

Michelle Sancho reported that a report to HFG on 23rd February 2021 identified key issues to be taken forward by a task and finish group in consultation with primary and secondary headteachers. These included addressing a lack of clarity around the roll status of students at iCollege; inconsistent practice and different financial arrangements in the funding of placements; clarity around admission procedures especially for primary schools.

SCHOOLS FORUM - 14 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

The proposals of the task and finish group were set out under section five of the report and Michelle Sancho provided detail on each one.

Richard Hawthorne asked for clarification on the proposal regarding short term places to be delivered in termly blocks (5.2). He queried if he was right in his assumption that if a school was in the middle of a term if it would be until the end of a term. Michelle Sancho confirmed that it would be possible to renew for a further block because the full block had not been received. This created an easier termly review process for placements.

Melissa Cliffe proposed that the Forum agree the proposals of the task and finish group set out in section five of the report and this was seconded by Richard Hawthorne. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum agreed the proposals of the task and finish group set out in section five of the report.

90 **High Needs Block - Use of funds transferred from Schools Block to HNB 2022-23 (Jane Seymour)**

Jane Seymour introduced the report (Agenda Item 9), which set out proposals for use of the funds which would be transferred from the Schools' Block to the HNB in 2022-23. It had been agreed that 0.25 percent of the Schools' Block would be transferred to the HNB (£320k). Initial proposals for use of the funding had been brought to the HFG in January 2022 and it had been requested that further detail be added to the report including potential savings and cost avoidance associated with the proposals.

Jane Seymour went through proposals one, two and five in detail and Michelle Sancho provided detail on proposals three and four under table one in section four of the report. All of the proposals were aimed at providing earlier intervention for children with SEND to remove the need for them to access more acute services including specialist SEND placements. It was reported that a more specific proposal had now been included for SEN in early years and was detailed under proposal number two.

Jacquie Davies asked if the funding going to schools for the purpose of EBSA would be available for the next financial year from April 2022 and it was confirmed by Jane Seymour that all funding was for 2022/23 as a one off amount.

Charlotte Wilson referred to proposal number three regarding the SEMH practitioner and asked if this would be a new post that was being created. Michelle Sancho reported that there was a member of staff who currently carried out some work that was funded through Support Families, which was very specific work and therefore they were not able to work with the broad range of pupils that needed support. Michelle Sancho confirmed that the new post would have to be recruited to.

Chris Prosser proposed that the Forum approve the recommendations under section two of the report and this was seconded by David Ramsden. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- The Schools' Forum agreed the use of funds transferred from the Schools Block to the HNB in the 2022-23 financial year as set out in table one under section four of the report.
- The Schools' Forum agreed that impact reports should be requested from Local Authority Officers in March 2023 on the projects funded from Schools Block Transfer.
- The Schools' Forum agreed that impact reports should be requested in October 2022 from secondary schools which have received funds from the HNB for EBSA.

91 Final High Needs Block Budget 2022/23 (Jane Seymour)

(Richard Hawthorne left the meeting at 5.57pm)

Jane Seymour introduced the report (Agenda Item 11), which set out the current financial position of the High Needs Block (HNB) budget for 2021/22 and the position as far as it can be predicted for 2022/23, including the likely shortfall. Jane Seymour reported that there were not many changes to the information since the Forum had last viewed the report in January. The main reason the report had been brought back to the Forum was because there had been an increase in the net shortfall in 2022/23 and in terms of the carried forward overspend.

Jane Seymour drew attention to section 3.7 of the report, which detailed that the net shortfall in the 2022-23 HNB budget was £5,980,129, this had previously been just under £5.2 million when the report was last brought to the Forum in January.

The reason for the increase was primarily because the Local Authority (LA) no longer received a separate grant for increases in teacher pay and pensions in special schools and PRUs. These costs now had to be absorbed by the HNB, which was not reflected in the previous figures and would be an impact going forward.

The increase in the next financial year compared to previous figures was just over £300k and the total increase including the impact on the current year's budget was about £780k. Apart from this no other significant changes were predicted.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum noted the report.

92 Deficit Schools (Melanie Ellis)

Melanie Ellis introduced the report (Agenda Item 12), which provided details of the two schools which ended the 2020/21 financial year with unlicensed deficit balances due to Covid-19; the five schools which submitted deficit budgets for 2021/22 and schools that had informed West Berkshire Council they now expected to end the 2021/22 financial year with an unlicensed deficit balance.

The two schools that had ended 2021 with an unlicensed deficit were both forecasting a worse financial position than budgeted. Once budgets had been submitted it would be known if these schools would be applying for a license or if outturn positions had improved.

Regarding licensed deficit schools, three schools were reporting a better position and two schools were in a worse position. This was summarised in section 4.2 of the report.

Two schools were expecting to have an unlicensed deficit including St Josephs Primary School and the Kite Federation. Melanie Ellis reported that these were the schools that had been in touch to inform the LA of their deficits and it was possible that more schools would get in touch before the year end.

Melanie Ellis reported that the whole position was summarised in 6.1 of the report within a table, as of the end of 2021/22.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum noted the report.

93 DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 10 (Ian Pearson)

(Reverend Mark Bennett joined the meeting at 6.05pm)

Ian Pearson introduced the report (Agenda Item 13), which aimed to report on the forecast financial position of the services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any under or over spends, and to highlight the cumulative deficit on the DSG.

SCHOOLS FORUM - 14 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

Ian Pearson highlighted that because the report included month 10 figures it should be reasonably accurate in terms of the end of year position. Key information was presented in the two tables under 5.1 and 5.5. The key narrative about the position was set out under 4.4, 5.2 and 5.3 of the report. Ian Pearson drew attention to forecast figures for the current year and 2023 under section 5.5 where it could be seen that the two main areas of concern were the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block, which were both showing significant deficits.

Gemma Piper raised a query regarding the HNB between the forecasts for Quarter Three and month 10. There was quite a large difference of £568k and she queried what had contributed to this. Ian Pearson was of the understanding that the majority of the figure referred to by Gemma Piper was a result of changes to pension costs as detailed as part of the previous HNB report. In previous years funding for this purpose had been received from Government as a separate grant however, in the current year with very little warning this had not been the case. This would need to be absorbed by the HNB and had added significant additional pressure to the block and would also be a pressure the following year. The other area of sustained continuous pressure was top-up funding. This was money needed by schools to support children with EHCPs. Neither of these areas would have been known at Quarter Three however, had since surfaced and it was important that this information was shared with the Forum at the earliest opportunity.

Jane Seymour was of the understanding that the pension costs had been added in Quarter Four and top up costs had been recalculated for EHCPs in mainstream schools and special schools, which constantly changed throughout the year.

Gemma Piper queried if further top-ups needed to be added going forward given a number of specialist private providers were popping up locally and these were often very costly.

Ian Pearson reported that going forward pension costs would need to be included in budget setting. The LA was due to meet with the DfE regarding the HNB and the matter of the additional pensions costs would be raised given the pressure the block was already under. Regarding top-up costs there were two elements to consider. Firstly as mentioned there were a number of new provisions in the area and this could result in placements that incurred additional costs. Secondly there were top-up rates, which were based on assumptions of levels of support. Ian Pearson stated that when work took place to build the budget for 2023/24 all issues would need to be taken in to account, which were also being compounded by increasing numbers. Ian Pearson reported that the budget for 2022/23 had already been set so they would have to manage within the funding available.

RESOLVED that:

- Top-up rates and whether these were appropriate to support schools; new resources in the area and additional pension costs all needed to be taken in to consideration when setting the budget for 2023/24.
- The Schools' Forum noted the report.

94 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Schools' Forum would take place on 20th June 2022.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and closed at 6.12 pm)

CHAIR

Date of Signature

Actions from previous meeting

Ref No.	Date of meeting(s) raised	Item	Action	Responsible Officer	Comment / Update
Mar22-Ac1	14th March 2022	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 10	The following items to be taken in to consideration when setting the budget for 2023/24: - Top up rates and whether these were appropriate to support schools; - New resources opening up in the area; - Additional pension costs.	Ian Pearson/Melanie Ellis/Lisa Potts	These areas will be reviewed when budget setting for 2023/24 takes place.

This page is intentionally left blank

School Balances 2021/22

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Discussion **By:** All Maintained Schools Representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out for information purposes the year end balances for all maintained schools, highlighting those schools with a deficit or significant surplus.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To discuss the report and consider if further information is required on surplus balances.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction

3.1 This report provides an overview of school balances at the end of 2021/22. A separate report provides the detail for those schools either in deficit or ending the year with an unplanned deficit.

3.2 The Scheme for Financing Schools states: “In order to control surplus balances, the authority will report the balances held by each school at the end of the financial year to the Schools’ Forum (during the Summer term), alongside the actual balance for the previous three years and any other data deemed to be of relevance. The Schools’ Forum may request individual schools to provide further information and/or attend a meeting of the Heads Funding Group if the data reported raises any concerns regarding their financial management in respect of their balances.”

4. Overview of School Balances as at 31st March 2022

4.1 The schools’ accounts for 2021/22 have now been closed and the closing balances for each school determined.

4.2 Table 1 summarises the overall closing balances (all funds) of West Berkshire maintained schools compared to the previous year.

TABLE 1	As at 31st March 2021	As at 31st March 2022	Increase/(Decrease)	
Total Balances Summary	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Nursery Schools	237	196	(41)	(17.3%)
Primary Schools	4,182	4,637	456	10.9%
Secondary Schools	1,404	2,385	981	69.9%
Special Schools	1,611	3,102	1,491	92.6%
Pupil Referral Units	418	468	50	11.9%
Total for all Schools	7,852	10,788	2,937	37.4%

School Balances 2021/22

4.3 The school balances at 31st March 2022 total £10.8m, an increase of £2.9m from 2020/21. Nursery school balances have decreased, with the balances in the other school types increasing year on year. This is the second year with a significant increase in school reserves - an increase of 37% for all schools, 24% excluding the special schools/PRUs. The DfE reported an increase of 28% in the national total of academy reserves (Sept 2021) and colleagues in neighbouring authorities have mentioned increases around 30%.

4.4 Table 2 summarises the balances of West Berkshire maintained schools by fund.

2021/22 Balances by type of fund	Main School Budget £'000	Pupil Premium £'000	Revenue Sports Fund £'000	Resource Units £'000	Revenue Total £'000	Community (Before & After school clubs) £'000	Capital £'000	Total Balances £'000
Nursery Schools	141	0	0	0	141	4	51	196
Primary Schools	3,436	268	339	(28)	4,015	170	452	4,637
Secondary Schools	1,978	0	0	0	1,978	0	408	2,385
Special Schools	2,777	95	66	0	2,938	13	152	3,102
Pupil Referral Units	423	0	22	0	445	0	23	468
Total for all Schools	8,755	363	427	(28)	9,517	186	1,085	10,788
2020/21 Balance	6,222	356	466	(44)	7,000	109	743	7,852
Increase/(Decrease)	2,533	8	(39)	16	2,517	77	342	2,937
%	40.7%	2.1%	(8.4%)	37.0%	36.0%	70.1%	46.1%	37.4%

4.5 In addition to £9.5m being held in revenue balances, £186k is held in before and after school club funds and £1.1m in capital balances

- (1) Of the revenue balances £363k is unspent pupil premium grant (though note that not all schools account for this separately and include within the main school budget) and £427k is unspent sports premium grant. This grant is based on an academic year and all unspent funding must be spent by the end of the academic year 2021/22.
- (2) The deficit balance on the resource units has decreased by £16k.
- (3) The £186k balance in the before and after school clubs is a significant increase on the previous year, but still lower than the balance reported in 2018/19 (£252k) and 2019/20 (£246k)

4.6 Table 3 summarises the main school balances.

Main School Balances	As at 31st March 2021 £'000	As at 31st March 2022 £'000	Inc/(Dec) £'000	Balance as a % of funding
Nursery Schools	168	141	(27)	13%
Primary Schools	2,917	3,436	519	6%
Secondary Schools	1,378	1,978	600	8%
Special Schools	1,407	2,777	1,370	25%
Pupil Referral Units	353	423	70	15%
Total for all Schools	6,222	8,755	2,533	9%

- (1) Primary school balances have increased by £519k to £3,436k. This represents 6% of the main school funding. 30 primary schools have seen an increase in balances (£934k), 23 with a decrease (£415k). A detailed breakdown per school is shown in Appendix A

- (2) Two of the three of the maintained secondary schools have increased balances in 2021/22 totalling £637k, one a decrease of £37k.
- (3) The PRU's and special schools all have increased main school balances. The two special school balances have increased by £1.4m to £2.8m. Appendix B provides details of these.
- (4) Both maintained nursery schools have a reduction to their balance.

5. Schools with Significant Surpluses

The Schools' Forum previously agreed to remove the claw back scheme for schools with excess surplus balances with the understanding that information on high surplus balances would still be reviewed. Table 4 shows those schools with a main school surplus balance greater than 10% of their funding in 2021/22.

TABLE 4 Main School Surplus Balances	As at 31st March 2021	As at 31st March 2022	Percentage of Funding %	Balance in excess of 10%
<u>Nursery</u>				
Victoria Park Nursery	118,983	98,679	19%	45,351
<u>Primary</u>				
Aldermaston Primary	72,607	94,133	13%	21,556
Beedon Primary	28,605	49,431	12%	9,200
Chaddleworth & Shefford Fed	59,199	80,762	13%	16,203
Curridge Primary	60,163	82,835	16%	29,876
Englefield Primary	73,497	70,244	13%	17,852
Falkland Primary	273,962	329,663	17%	138,884
John Rankin Schools Fed	387,427	445,104	15%	157,366
Purley Infant School	54,329	64,326	11%	8,199
Robert Sandilands	177,063	170,993	14%	52,846
Springfield Primary	154,633	274,906	18%	121,519
St Paul's Primary	181,504	228,677	17%	90,286
<u>Special</u>				
Brookfields Special School	879,012	2,027,795	31%	1,383,504
The Castle School	527,828	749,418	16%	290,390
<u>Pupil Referral Units</u>				
icollege	352,757	423,079	15%	144,589

- 5.1 Covid-19 has continued to impact upon schools financially. Schools received just under £1.2m in grants related to Covid-19 from the DfE and for many schools some of this funding has been carried forward to support planned expenditure in 2022/23.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 This is the second year with a significant increase in school reserves, mirroring the national picture. The DfE have stated that “schools are required to plan their budgets over three years; it is particularly important that schools plan with a clear view of future cost pressures given the front-loading of funding increases in the latest settlement into FY 2022-23”. The impact of an increase to planned expenditure, future pay awards and a decrease in additional funding to support education recovery is likely to reduce the school reserves in future years.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Primary Schools

7.2 Appendix B – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Other Schools

School Balances 2021/22

Appendix A	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
	£	£	£	£	£
Primary Schools					
Aldermaston Church of England Primary School	36,601	29,263	72,607	94,133	21,526
Basildon Church of England Primary School	10,918	(6,040)	(3,831)	(23,004)	(19,173)
Beedon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School	35,048	19,149	28,605	49,431	20,826
Beenham Primary School	(40,676)	(33,847)	(363)	20,936	21,299
Birch Copse Primary School	51,130	501	18,018	26,569	8,551
Bradfield Church of England Primary School	19,157	(1,779)	11,100	12,596	1,496
Brightwalton Church of England Aided Primary School	16,577	33,336	17,760	42,967	25,208
Brimpton Church of England Primary School	11,053	15,396	21,845	11,308	(10,537)
Bucklebury Church of England Primary School	6,565	(20,418)	22,471	2,712	(19,759)
Burghfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School	34,333	34,627	40,061	43,292	3,231
Calcot Schools Federation	197,284	116,363	151,376	220,266	68,890
Chaddleworth Shefford Federation Cof E Primary School	38,077	47,900	59,199	80,762	21,563
Chieveley Primary School	34,848	31,702	49,504	59,104	9,600
Cold Ash St Mark's Church of England Primary School	50,414	11,915	12,464	17,698	5,233
Compton Church of England Primary School	37,270	(26,608)	59,055	68,759	9,704
Curridge Primary School	31,964	36,595	60,163	82,835	22,672
Downsway Primary School	44,558	25,049	54,571	26,948	(27,623)
Enborne Church of England Primary School	(3,167)	2,446	15,184	3,574	(11,610)
Englefield Church of England Primary School	36,071	48,436	73,497	70,244	(3,252)
Falkland Primary School	116,175	166,124	273,962	329,663	55,701
Garland Junior School	36,014	41,281	53,059	35,046	(18,012)
Hampstead Norreys & The Ilsleys	42,026	(3,825)	10,311	12,493	2,182
Hermitage Primary School	11,233	26,971	19,019	(7,151)	(26,170)
Hungerford Primary School	73,899	103,085	87,029	106,570	19,541
Inkpen Primary School	28,399	15,767	8,819	(17,964)	(26,784)
John Rankin Schools Federation	48,646	298,129	387,427	445,104	57,677
Kenet Valley Primary School	35,467	25,522	48,726	82,901	34,176
Kintbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School	16,372	47,570	30,085	18,523	(11,562)
Long Lane Primary School	3,459	26,597	13,849	10,279	(3,571)
Mortimer Federation	73,236	63,176	35,100	49,510	14,409
Mrs Bland's Infant School	17,275	(32,526)	(12,613)	98,099	110,712
Pangbourne Primary School	28,584	19,379	15,341	3,804	(11,537)
Parsons Down Schools Federation	5,673	58,879	88,012	101,146	13,134
Purley Church of England Infant School	63,249	40,562	54,329	64,326	9,997
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	82,041	125,878	177,063	170,993	(6,070)
Shaw-cum-Donnington Church of England Primary School	35,057	25,140	5,407	4,973	(434)
Springfield Primary School	89,060	81,296	154,633	274,906	120,274
Spurcroft Primary School	211,676	103,681	(40,624)	(79,302)	(38,678)
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	(56,722)	(40,599)	(20,657)	0	20,657
St John the Evangelist Cof E Infant and Nursery School	3,462	487	27,893	22,669	(5,224)
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	9,730	7,606	11,678	(7,173)	(18,850)
St Nicolas Church of England Junior School	43,776	45,825	38,218	51,614	13,396
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	91,767	93,651	181,504	228,677	47,173
Streatley Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	87,502	32,757	31,501	13,960	(17,541)
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CofE VA Primary School	2,944	10,525	13,630	16,993	3,363
Thatcham Park Church of England Primary School	79,123	41,932	81,345	150,148	68,803
The Kite Federation	(39,106)	6,467	59,369	(37,097)	(96,466)
The Willows Primary School	37,892	154,239	138,622	232,354	93,732
The Winchcombe School	71,213	95,590	40,408	21,573	(18,835)
Theale Church of England Primary School	23,669	5,747	38,018	37,384	(634)
Westwood Farm Schools Federation	(26,786)	6,502	62,307	44,253	(18,054)
Woolhampton Church of England Primary School	6,809	1,588	13,505	23,094	9,589
Yattendon Church of England Primary School	20,205	18,877	27,037	22,423	(4,614)
Total Primary Schools	2,021,041	2,077,868	2,916,597	3,435,921	519,324

School Balances 2021/22

Appendix B

Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
£	£	£	£	£

Nursery Schools

Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families	17,765	43,514	48,209	42,439	(5,769)
Victoria Park Nursery School	71,006	118,983	119,985	98,679	(21,305)
Total Nursery Schools	88,772	162,498	168,193	141,119	(27,075)

Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	

Secondary Schools

The Downs School	173,786	30,622	151,869	662,609	510,740
Little Heath School	354,518	340,875	644,072	607,454	(36,618)
The Willink School	(151,086)	95,498	581,741	707,494	125,753
Total Secondary Schools	377,217	466,994	1,377,682	1,977,557	599,875

Special Schools

Brookfields Special School	117,903	425,991	879,012	2,027,795	1,148,783
The Castle School	335,535	366,436	527,828	749,418	221,590
Total Special Schools	453,438	792,427	1,406,840	2,777,213	1,370,373

Pupil Referall Units

iCollege Alternative Provision	53,871	106,385	352,757	423,079	70,321
Total PRUs	53,871	106,385	352,757	423,079	70,321

Total for all Schools	2,994,339	3,606,172	6,222,070	8,754,889	2,532,819
------------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

Central Energy Contract Energy Costs 2022/23

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Adrian Slaughter

Item for: Please select: **By:** Please select:

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide schools with an update on 2022/23 Energy Costs through the Council's Central Energy Contract for electricity and gas.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 For schools to note the contents of this report.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 The Council's Central Energy Contract is currently let through Crown Commercial Services (CCS) and, in order to reduce budget uncertainty, is a 12 month 'Fixed' price product.
- 3.2 The way in which the Council's central energy contract for electricity and gas currently works is that the Energy broker team at CCS start buying the energy requirements for the upcoming financial year from the 1st October, and will spread the buying over the next 6 months to try and take advantage of dips and troughs in the energy market.
- 3.3 Throughout this period, CCS provide regular updates on predicted energy costs, based on what they have bought so far and how the market is behaving.
- 3.4 An email update on energy costs was provided to all schools in March using the very latest information provided by CCS, which at the time predicted a 64% increase in the electricity commodity prices, and a 200% increase in the gas commodity prices (what is seen as pence per kWh on the energy bill).
- 3.5 What has only recently come to light is that there have also been regulatory changes impacting the non-commodity Standing Charges. Network operators for the electricity and gas grids are now able to vary their charges on an individual meter by meter basis. Previously, meters were grouped into specific categories depending on a number of factors and then charged a set 'fee'. This is a developing situation but it would appear that the network operators have applied 'polluter pays' principles so that the sites with larger electricity and gas consumption are seeing the biggest increases in their standing charges.
- 3.6 Looking forward into 2023/24 and beyond is difficult due to the issues on the international stage, an extremely volatile market, which in turn came on top of an

already volatile market that had been seeing extraordinary price increases for nearly 12 months.

- 3.7 The market is not expected to settle any time soon – even if the Eastern European situation improved tomorrow it would take time for the markets to settle. This has prompted CCS to propose starting a future year review (e.g. for 2023 onwards) for budget purposes earlier than has previously been the case. Representatives from the Council are due to meet with CCS at the beginning of July and more will be known after that point.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 High level analysis of currently available data for electricity and gas consumption, the latest energy contract prices, and available budgets taken from Agresso has been undertaken in order to provide a general picture of the current situation across the schools portfolio.

Predicted Spend for Electricity in 22/23	£1,123,000
Predicted spend for Gas in 22/23	£520,000
Currently assigned Electricity budget for 22/23	£1,305,000
Currently assigned Gas budget for 22/23	£647,000

- 4.2 The above analysis is subject to the following caveats:

- (1) Predicted spend only refers to those schools who are part of the Central Energy Contract. The Energy & Carbon Team do not have access to data for those schools outside of this contract.
- (2) 22/23 consumption predictions are estimated based on supplier provided data relating to the billed consumption for each site in 21/22. Actual consumption in 22/23 for each site could be higher or lower based on a number of variable factors such as use of ‘estimated’ meter readings rather than ‘actual’, weather, changes in operation, building extensions, and changes in energy meters.
- (3) It is specifically worth mentioning the potential impacts of the COVID pandemic as 22/23 will be the first full financial year without the tighter control measures. It is not clear what impact this will have on energy consumption for the year ahead.
- (4) The above figures reflect a total taken across the school portfolio and potentially hides site specific issues. Results for individual sites may be very different and it is recommended that schools contact the Energy & Carbon Team to discuss any concerns.

- 4.3 More detailed analysis on a site by site basis is required but the figures in the table above indicate that schools, as a whole, have provisionally set their energy budgets

at a level that would cover the predicted energy spend for 22/23. This is subject to the caveats identified in 4.2 above.

- 4.4 In respect of any potential energy cost pressures that may be realised in the current financial year, the Energy Team have been made aware by the Council's Finance Team of the DfE Supplementary Grant that all schools have received. The Supplementary Grant is new for 2022/23 and for West Berkshire Schools, totals £3.5m. The grant is aimed to cover both the Health and Social Care Levy and wider cost pressures. The DfE has advised that schools have the flexibility to prioritise their spending to best support the needs of their pupil and to address cost pressures. Any budget pressures over and above this will need to be brought to the attention of the Schools Finance Team.
- 4.5 With regards the day to day practicalities, the Council are in the process of rationalising our electricity meter portfolio under one Meter Operator, an email explaining this process was also sent out to all schools in March. This should centrally give us greater oversight of our consumption data on a day+1 basis.
- 4.6 There is also currently in place, and available to sites, cloud based monitoring and targeting software where electricity and gas consumption data is uploaded. Individual sites can log in to review their specific profile, compare with previous financial years and set alerts that result in emails being sent to the site should consumption appear to be happening outside of the 'norm'. If a school is interested in using this tool then please do contact the Energy & Carbon team.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Energy prices are a continually developing situation. The Energy & Carbon Team will communicate any updates, as and when more is known, via emails to the appointed school contacts. In the interim, the DfE Supplementary Grant is available should schools need it to supplement their 22/23 Energy budgets.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 Chief Management Accountant

This page is intentionally left blank

Briefing Note – DSG High Needs Block and the DfE ‘Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme’

Produced for:	Schools’ Forum
Requested by:	Schools’ Forum
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Dominic Boeck
Head of Service:	Ian Pearson
Date Prepared:	8 th June 2022
Briefing Author:	Ian Pearson

1 Purpose of the Briefing

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Dedicated Schools’ Grant, High Needs Block overspend and West Berkshire Council being invited to join the DfE’s ‘Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND Programme’

2 Background

- 2.1 As previously reported to Corporate Board and Budget Board in September 2021 and February 2021, West Berkshire, along with many other local authorities, has seen significant pressure on the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 2.2 These pressures have arisen as a consequence of authorities needing to meet their statutory duties for children with SEND, which are open ended in that all children who have a certain level of need that meets the education, health and care plan (EHCP) threshold have to have their needs met, regardless of budgetary constraints.
- 2.3 While we have robust systems in place, numbers have continued to rise, by 14.5% between 2017 and 2020 (nationally across the same period this was 33%). The increase in numbers is compounded by increased levels of complexity, requiring increased support and more (expensive) specialist placements.
- 2.4 An extensive review of West Berkshire SEND provision and services took place in 2018, with full involvement of stakeholders, including schools and parents. The result was a new co-produced 5 year SEND strategy and delivery plan, which was approved by West Berkshire Council and the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group in November 2018. The strategy seeks to improve provision and address rising costs through:
 - Increasing capacity in mainstream schools

- Expanding local specialist provision
- Improving post-16 opportunities
- Improving preparation for adulthood
- Improving access to Health Services

3 Current Status

- 3.1 The net shortfall in the 2021-22 HNB budget is £3.6m, with a predicted net position at the end of 2022-23 of circa £5.3m.
- 3.2 The government have recognised that this is a national problem on a significant scale and are seeking to address some of the fundamental pressure points through the proposals set out in the current SEND Green Paper consultation: [SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#)
- 3.3 In addition, they have set aside funds to work with local authorities to make SEND provision fit within the cost envelope. Two schemes have been introduced. One for local authorities with the biggest deficits called the 'Safety Valve Programme' and a second scheme they are just launching for LAs with substantial, but less severe deficits. This is called the 'Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND Programme'
- 3.4 The DfE wrote to West Berkshire on 17th February outlining the DBV Programme and inviting key officers to attend a briefing about it on 21st March 2022. This meeting was held virtually and chaired by Tony McArdle, Chair of the DfE SEND Leadership Board and former Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council.
- 3.5 The DBV Programme is open to invited authorities and aims to deliver local transformation over a three year period from the point of entry.

4 Implications and Impact

- 4.1 Entry to DBV is by invitation, voluntary and at no cost, though it does require commitment of time to work with the DfE delivery partner, SEND and Finance advisers.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 We have been enrolled into the Programme and been assigned on entry point. There will be three entry tranches, starting in June with LAs who have the highest deficits (below the Safety Valve Programme threshold). Tranche 2 will enter in the autumn and Tranche 3 will join in spring 2023. West Berkshire sits in Tranche 3.
- 5.2 An outline of the DBV Programme has been set out by the DfE as below:
 - Pre-engagement strategy meeting: West Berkshire to meet with DfE to discuss the programme in detail, the nature of support the Department would be providing and how West Berkshire will best work with the Department to drive and achieve the objectives of the programme. This meeting may involve two or three other LAs.

- Phase 1- 6 months: The Department will provide project management and change management capacity, alongside SEND financial and practice advisers, to support West Berkshire in engaging with its key stakeholders and conducting a comprehensive diagnostic process to identify the underlying cost drivers of its high needs system and potential reforms to manage/mitigate these cost drivers more effectively
- Phase 2 – 30 months: The Department will work with West Berkshire to determine which identified reforms to fund, and will provide grants directly to West Berkshire to enable you implement and embed these reforms, with ongoing support and challenge by DfE officials.
- The Secretary of State and DfE Ministers will be updated quarterly on the progress of these reforms for the 55 local authorities involved

5.3 A further report will be provided in the Spring to update officers and members on progress, including identifying any pressures this review may create

6 Supporting Information (if required)

None

7 Conclusion

7.1 It would be beneficial to participate in this programme, which will provide external review, transformational expertise and potential additional investment to delivery change.

8 Appendices

None

This page is intentionally left blank

Vulnerable Children’s Grant 2021-2022

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Michelle Sancho

Item for: Information **By:** All Forum members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 Review of Vulnerable Children’s Fund 2021/2022

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That forum members accept this report.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

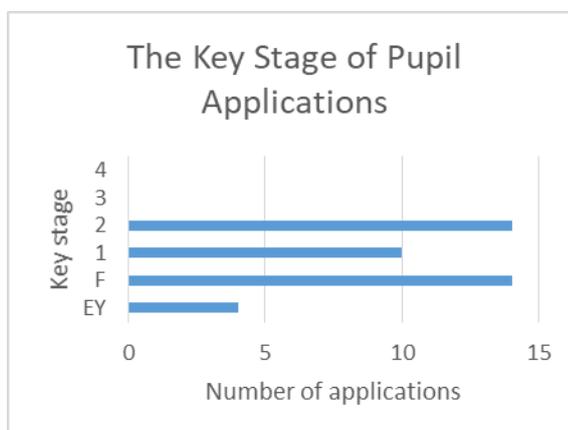
3. Introduction/Background

3.1 The Vulnerable Children’s Grant (VCG) is a highly appreciated, relatively small fund, for schools who have unexpected additional financial pressures due to in-year admissions of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or for children whose needs suddenly change. It is specifically devised to promote social inclusion, reduce exclusions and reduce the pressure on SEN budgets by providing temporary funding.

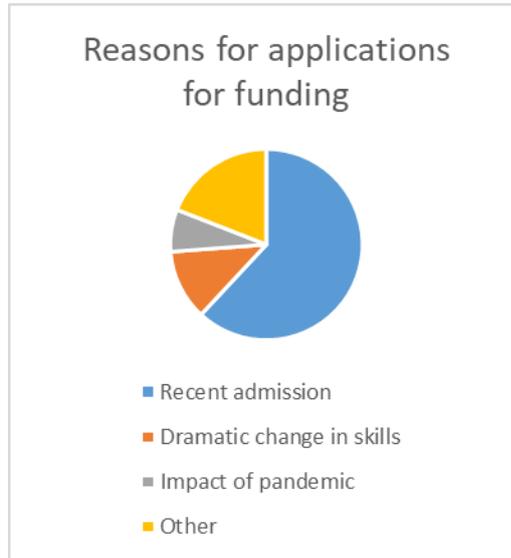
4. Supporting Information

4.1 The VCG budget for 2021-2022 was £50,000

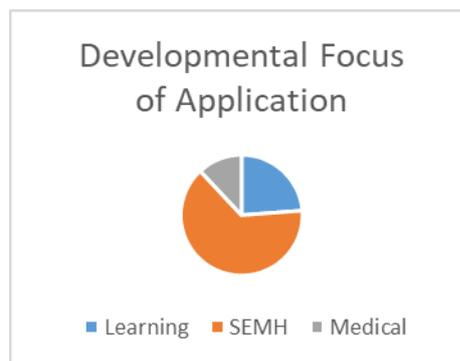
4.2 26 settings applied for VCG funding for 52 pupils. All successful applications were received from primary schools, though a few applications were received from early years settings:



Most of the applications received were for support for pupils who had arrived as an in-year admission, and the remaining 38% were due to a dramatic change in pupil need, the impact of the pandemic, or an 'other' reason, e.g. holiday clubs:

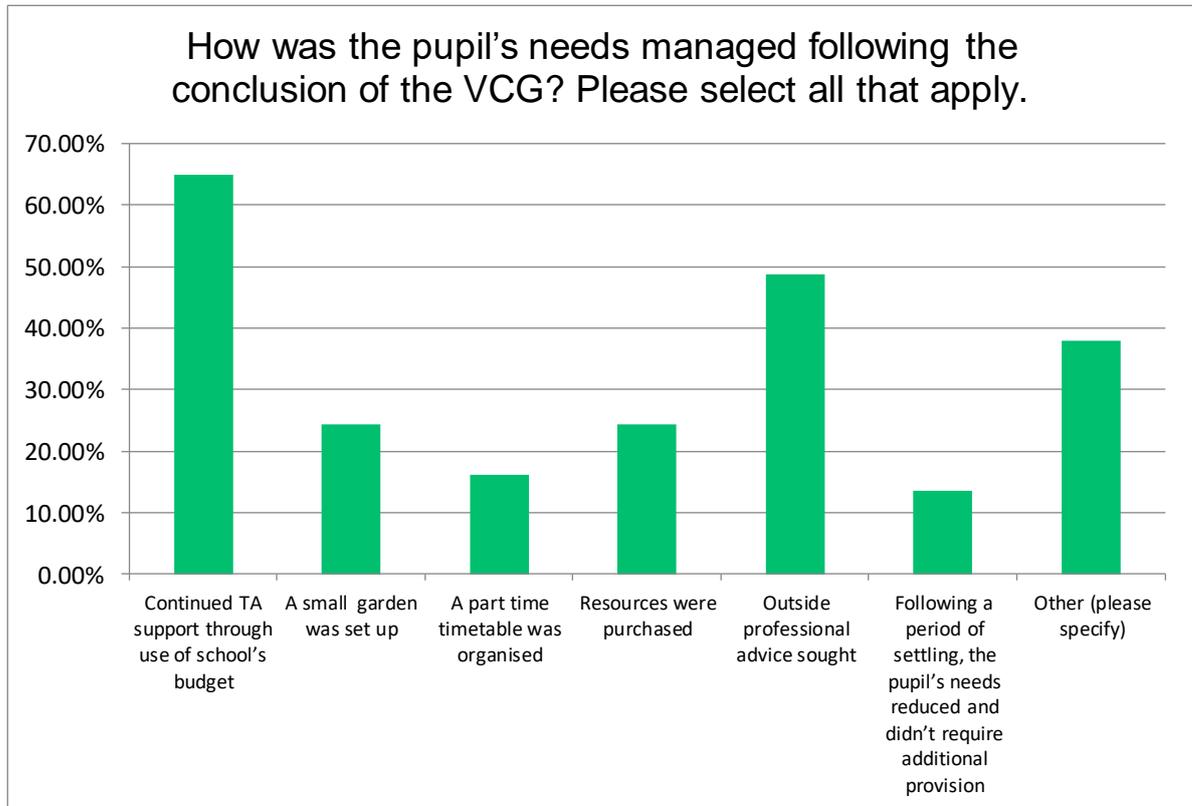


Most applications were to support a pupil's Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, with the remaining 35% requiring learning or medical support:

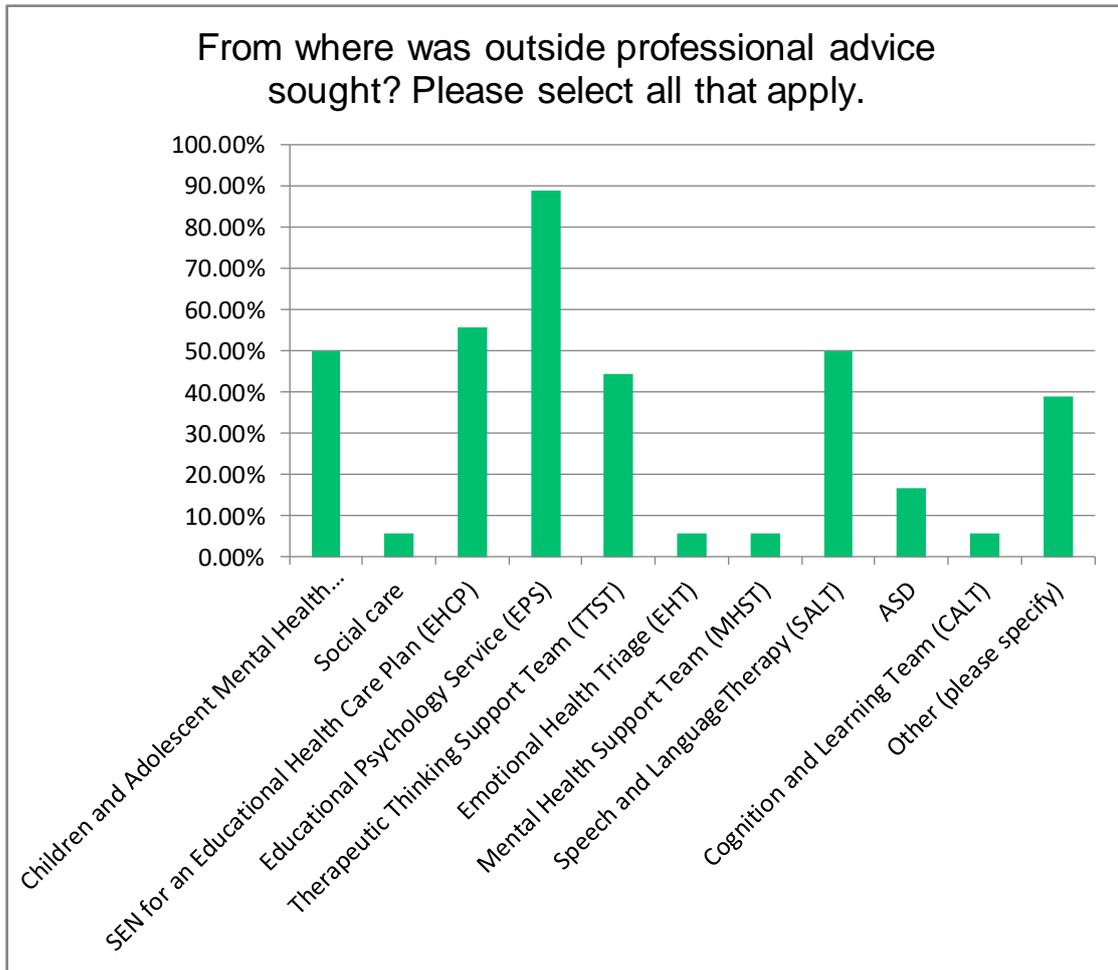


92% of applications requested funding for additional TA support. When schools were surveyed in April 2022, responses indicated that the TA support was predominantly used to support a pupil's SEMH needs and inclusion in school by providing additional support in class, or in a differentiated learning provision (a 'small garden').

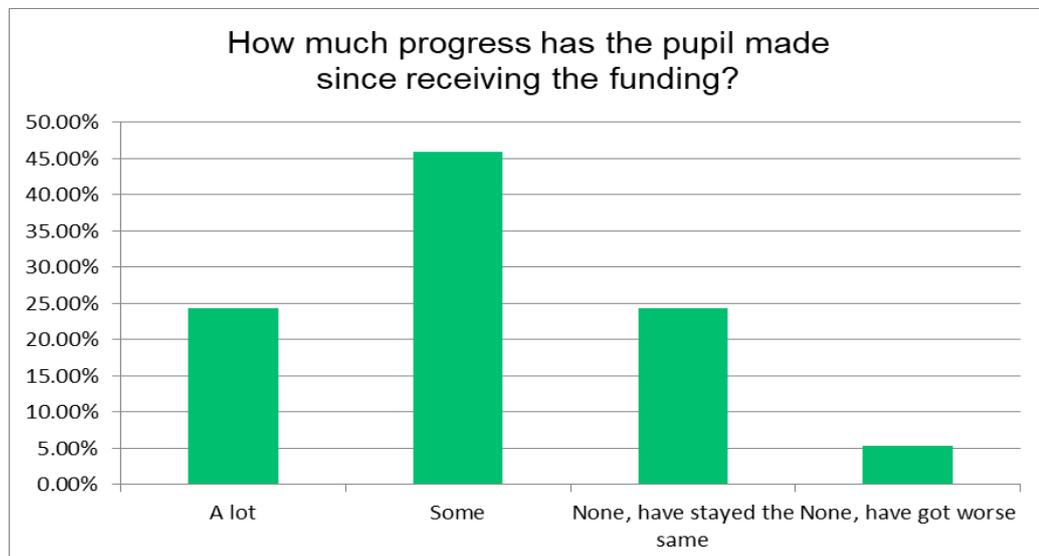
Although 13% of pupils didn’t require additional support after the conclusion of the VCG, the vast majority did. Schools used their own budgets to continue to provide TA support, as well as supporting in other ways, e.g. purchasing resources.



The survey suggests that pupils in receipt of VCG had significant needs as Educational Psychology involvement was sought for 88% of pupils, and 55% of pupils applied to the SEN team for an EHCP assessment.



Schools were clear that the VCG is an effective use of funds. 70% of pupils were said to have made a lot or some progress since receiving funding:



Schools were grateful to receive funding as some of the quotes below illustrate:

"The VCG enabled us to put additional support in place for XX which gave us clear evidence of the impact of very focused adult support. This helped when we applied for an EHC assessment."

"... a fantastic use of funds that enabled a successful transition into starting school for a young child. It was good to be able to meet his needs straight away rather than having to react afterwards."

"The funding has been vital to us being able to support new pupils when an immediate and unpredictable need has occurred. The funding has allowed a move that has had a positive impact on the whole family."

9 applications were refused funding, mainly due to needs already being known by schools.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The VCG aims to be fair, equitable and simple to request. Feedback from schools indicates that it is valued and has significant impact. If schools, particularly smaller primary schools, cannot access this support in the future it could lead to increased movement between schools, higher exclusion figures and increased pressure on the capacity of specialist support services.

5.2

6. Consultation and Engagement

Please set out here those people/key stakeholders/organisations that have been consulted in the preparation of your report.

6.1 All schools that used the VCG were surveyed.

This page is intentionally left blank

Education Unions: Facility Time Report

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Richard Hand

Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform members about the activities of the teaching trade unions

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Schools' Forum note the report

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction/Background

3.1

This year has continued to pose many challenges. Whilst the contact from members and the issues they have experienced pre-covid continue at similar volume, the impact of covid on the education sector has added to the pre-existing issues and increased the level of case work considerably.

Trade union membership in the sector has increased significantly, and therefore so too has the level of casework. The work of a trade union is not confined to collective issues or individual difficulties alone. Good relationships between the unions and employers are shown to ease relationships between the school and staff and help ensure orderly transitions with regards to policies and in many cases allow issues and concerns to be dealt with before formal processes are necessary. This has taken a large amount of facilities time and continues to highlight its importance

The teaching unions enjoy a constructive and positive relationship with the LA and representatives have appreciated the constructive manner in which employers have engaged with our advice and our members. The unions are grateful to the LA particularly through this difficult period for their support via KIT meetings and have noted that, in comparison to difficulties experienced by some of our union colleagues in other authorities, staff have felt well supported through Risk Assessments and advice disseminated to schools from the LA's Health and Safety Executive.

Adequate time off for training to ensure the smooth running of operations and to assist members both collectively and individually is essential. It is important to point out that where facilities time is not used on collective and individual issues, this is reflective of time spent on building positive relations between our members and their employers. Employers where facilities time is lacking have found that it can be more time consuming and costly in dealing with member concerns and issues.

3.2 Individual Issues

Union officers continue to spend most of the facilities time dealing with members individually. There has been a large increase in the numbers of members contacting us about sickness absence management as a result of covid/long covid, the stress caused by covid and the combination of these factors on workload, especially when there is such a great emphasis on helping students to catch up. Teachers in West Berkshire schools are able to contact their union representative directly by email or telephone but there is increasing use of online platforms for both meetings and briefings. Local representatives have taken a lead role on behalf of unions in ensuring members are well informed on both union advice and employer's initiatives. Referrals to union representatives continue to be dealt with, as much as possible, on an informal basis in order to prevent escalation to more formal and time consuming interventions. This is testament to the hard work unions and the LA have put in together in ensuring that good communication takes place between employers and members before formal processes are triggered. This can be equally as time consuming for a union officer but certainly aids more harmonious industrial relations. Some of our work is received from members once they have received formal notification of capability; disciplinary; grievance; or consultation on change to contracts, pay and conditions including redundancy but in many cases these members have not engaged fully with us previously and usually haven't engaged with the employer, clearly pointing to the fact that full engagement at an early process improves relations between all parties.

During informal contact we give advice on how the member can try to resolve the matter for themselves. This is often successful, where local officers know schools and heads well we are able to advise teacher members how they can deal with a problem informally.

It is worth noting that rep coverage in West Berkshire is about 25%. This means that only a quarter of schools have a member of staff who is willing to act as a representative for the union. Union officials would encourage head teachers to try and make sure that there is at least one union representative for each of the unions in their school. It is often a good thing if two members agree to share the role. It means that there is an in situ rep who can accompany members to meetings (being accompanied is a legal entitlement for many of the issues that emerge) at much shorter notice. This in turn means that there need not be a wait for local branch secretaries to accompany members unless the issue is more complex and needs to be escalated. Many members feel that if they volunteer to become a union rep they are perceived as being in an adversarial relationship with the leadership, but this is far from the truth in the experience of union officials in West Berkshire. We see that schools with an active and supportive rep have far fewer issues than where none exists. Heads, for the most part, see having a union rep as a positive thing, if for no other reason than it can often help expedite meetings far more efficiently. Where there is no rep and the school does not contribute to facility time, meetings can only be conducted with branch secretaries outside school working hours and inevitably postponements are required. Regional, paid representatives can be called upon, but they are extremely busy, cover large areas and this leads to even longer delays when it is always best for both employers and employees to have matters dealt with as promptly as possible.

3.2.1 Capability

Informal processes often negate the need for an escalation to full capability. However, processes for supporting colleagues through the informal part of performance management have been clearly strengthened with fewer instances of cases reaching any

formal action. There has, however, been an increase in the number of settlement agreements which obviate the need for formal processes.

Appraisal systems continue to be used well. Teachers are entitled to be supported by a trade union representative throughout this 'support through appraisal' process. As suggested above, where employers engage with the union during this process return to work or moving colleagues on is a much smoother process.

3.2.2 Appraisal

Constructive appraisal is vital for our members to know exactly where they stand with regard to their CPD needs; here this is provided and policy is well negotiated, we find our time is spent more on working with employers to review policy and process rather than firefighting capability or disciplinary issues. We do find that members have often not been given clear notice of problems at the mid-way appraisal point. This is embedded in policy and makes issues with appraisal only being raised towards the end of the cycle problematic.

3.2.3 Disciplinary

As with other processes, where disciplinary matters have arisen, thorough investigation and good communication between all parties has been maintained. Cases in the last year have often resulted in a first warning rather than final warning letter, and this is a positive development.

3.2.4 Contracts, Pay and Conditions

In September, members usually become more aware of their pay, and usually sees a high volume of member contact. We have supported members to maintain constructive conversations on this and in most cases have avoided resorting to formal appeal. A common feature of these discussions revolves around teachers not crossing the threshold onto, or within the UPS pay range. Given the cost of living crisis, the probable below inflation and therefore real term pay cut of only 5% for experienced teachers over 2 years, it is to be hoped that this will not be an ongoing issue.

3.2.5 Grievance

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of grievances that have been lodged by members in the last year. Union officials always endeavour to encourage members to use informal mechanisms before they escalate to formal grievance as they are time consuming and normally result in less than satisfactory outcomes for both parties.

3.2.6 Settlements

Where the relationship between an employer and an employee has broken down beyond repair, we are seeing an increasing amount of settlement agreements being arrived at. These may not be fully realised formal agreements, although these have been negotiated this year, but are often early release from contractual employment dates and/or gardening leave.

3.3 Collective issues

The main collective issue was the triggering of article 44 in January 2021 in relation to COVID. There have not been any since, but the teaching unions are campaigning for better pay from September to make up for historically low increases in the last dozen years. This will undoubtedly be an issue over the next 2 years, especially in the current climate.

3.4 LA Policies and guidance

We have continued to work within LA guidance and have engaged fully in conversations with the LA on any changes to this, we have ensured that guidance is adhered to, which has positively been the case between all parties.

Given the COVID hiatus, there are a considerable number of policies which are up for review. At the most recent ECM meeting, prioritising which documents are the most urgent was discussed and a strategy for dealing with them, possibly with extra numerary meetings was agreed. Reading, re-drafting and improving policies and model guidance takes up a considerable amount of facility time.

4 Funding 2021-2022

Union	Total for Year 21/22	Approx. No of days
NEU*	£37,187.54	71 each
NAHT	£4,031.70	11
ASCL	£3,310.93	8

Union	Proportion for April-Aug	Proportion for Sept-March	Total for Year 21/22	No of days
NEU	£12,799.16	£26,895.78	£39,694.94	143
NAHT	£1,501.82	£2,793.08	£4,294.90	11
ASCL	£1,256.22	£2,269.11	£3,525.33	8
Totals	£23,250.04	£31,957.98	£55,208.02	

5 Consultation and Engagement

Secretaries of the recognised teacher trade unions (Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Association of School and College Leaders, National Association of Headteachers, National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, National Union of Teachers)

Contract for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for children with EHCPs			
Report being considered by:	Schools Forum on 20th June 2022		
Report Author:	Ian Pearson, Jane Seymour		
Item for:	Information	By:	All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This purpose of this report is to inform the Schools Forum about re commissioning of the therapy service for children who have speech and language therapy, occupational therapy or physiotherapy written in to their Education, Health and Care Plans as an educational need.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the information in this report.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction

3.1 West Berkshire Council commissions speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for children who have one or more of these therapies stipulated in their Education, Health and Care Plan as an educational need. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide these therapies to children where they are written in to an EHCP as an educational need.

3.2 WBC only commissions therapy services which it has a statutory duty to provide. Provision of speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for children who do not have an EHCP is the responsibility of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in Health. Therapy assessments carried out as part of an Education, Health and Care assessment are also the responsibility of the CCG. The Local Authority becomes responsible for therapy provision at the point at which an EHCP stipulating one of these therapies as an educational need is finalised.

3.3 The Council's contract for therapy services for children with EHCPs is currently held by the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT). BHFT also have a contract with the CCG to deliver therapy services which are the responsibility of the CCG.

3.4 The therapy service commissioned by WBC delivers speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy to mainstream, resourced and

(maintained) special schools in West Berkshire. Most children with therapy in their EHCP have a therapy programme which is delivered by school staff and monitored and overseen by a therapist. Some children may receive direct therapy either individually or in a small group; this would usually be delivered as a block of therapy over a specified time period. The service also provides training to staff in schools.

3.5 The current contract cost is £323,820 per annum which is funded from the HNB. The contract expires on 31st August 2022.

4. Joint Commissioning of therapy services

4.1 It was agreed in 2021 by the Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership Children's Programme Board that therapies should in future be commissioned on a Berkshire West footprint as a joint arrangement involving West Berkshire Council, Brighter Futures for Children (Reading) and Wokingham Borough Council, with Wokingham as the lead authority.

4.2 The three Local Authorities have agreed a new service specification for the joint service, based on existing service specifications. The contract was advertised in February 2022 with a submission date of 29th April 2022.

4.3 Tenders are currently being evaluated by a panel with representation from all three areas.

4.4 The new contract, when awarded, will commence in September 2022. Each Local Authority will purchase an agreed amount of therapy to meet its own needs within the overall contract.

4.5 Due to procurement regulations it is not possible to share any more details of the process at this stage. However, it is likely that the cost of the new contract will be higher than the current cost due to inflationary and salary increases.

4.6 The final outcome of the tendering process will be reported to the Schools Forum when a decision has been made and when it is possible to make the outcome of the process public.

Appendices

None

2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant: Year End Outturn Report

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outturn of the services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any under or over spends, and to highlight the cumulative deficit at 31 March 2022.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Background

- 3.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced specific grant which can only be spent on school/pupil activity as set out in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018. There are four DSG funding blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services.
- 3.2 The Local Authority and Schools' Forum are responsible for ensuring that the DSG is deployed correctly according to the Regulations. Monitoring of spend against the grant needs to take place regularly to enable decision making on deficits and surpluses and to inform future year budget requirements.
- 3.3 The way in which local authorities account for DSG deficits has been altered by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2020, made by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This requires DSG deficits to be held in a separate reserve in local authorities' accounts. However, the way in which local authorities should plan their management of DSG and report to DfE remains governed by the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022.

4. Year End Outturn

Table 1 - DSG Block outturn 2021/22	2021/22								Deficit/ (surplus)
	Original Budget	Budget Changes	Final Budget	Quarter 1 Forecast	Quarter 2 Forecast	Quarter 3 Forecast	Outturn Actual		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Total Expenditure	104,290	(548)	103,742	105,553	105,450	105,523	105,016	1,274	
Total Income	(104,290)	551	(103,739)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(103,737)	2	
Net In-year Deficit	0	3	3	1,263	1,160	1,233	1,279	1,276	
Deficit Balance in reserves	1,461		1,461	1,461	1,461	1,845	1,688	1,688	
Cumulative Deficit	1,461	3	1,464	2,724	2,621	3,077	2,967	2,964	

4.1 From previous years, there was a cumulative deficit of £1.46m. The deficit increased to £1.69m during 2021/22 as surplus balances from the Schools Block were spent.

4.2 The 2021/22 DSG expenditure budget was set £1.6m higher than available funding, and this was treated as an in-year deficit against the High Needs block.

4.3 Overall DSG spend for 2021/22 was £327k less than budgeted, helping to reduce the in-year deficit to £1.27m.

4.4 The 2021/22 outturn position has increased the cumulative deficit position to £2.96m. This will be held in a separate reserve in the local authority accounts.

4.5 The year end position by block is shown in the chart below:

Table 1 - DSG Block outturn 2021/22	2021/22								
	Original Budget	Budget Changes	Final Budget	Quarter 1 Forecast	Quarter 2 Forecast	Quarter 3 Forecast	Month 10 Forecast	Outturn Actual	Deficit/ (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure:									
Schools Block (inc ISB)	70,293	3	70,295	70,293	70,295	70,298	70,298	70,288	(8)
Early Years Block	10,359	(525)	9,834	10,359	10,359	10,359	10,050	9,899	65
Central School Services Block	1,009		1,009	1,011	1,014	1,007	1,004	1,001	(8)
High Needs Block	23,892	312	24,204	23,891	23,782	23,860	24,428	23,827	(377)
High Needs Block In-Year deficit recovery	(1,263)	(339)	(1,601)	0	0	0	0	0	1,601
Total Expenditure	104,290	(548)	103,742	105,553	105,450	105,523	105,780	105,016	1,274
DSG Grant Income:									
Schools Block	(70,293)		(70,293)	(70,293)	(70,293)	(70,293)	(70,293)	(70,293)	0
Early Years Block	(10,360)	525	(9,836)	(10,360)	(10,360)	(10,360)	(9,834)	(9,834)	2
Central School Services Block	(1,009)		(1,009)	(1,009)	(1,009)	(1,009)	(1,009)	(1,009)	0
High Needs Block	(22,628)	27	(22,601)	(22,628)	(22,628)	(22,628)	(22,601)	(22,601)	0
Total DSG Income	(104,290)	551	(103,739)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(103,737)	(103,737)	2
In-year adjustments									
Total Income	(104,290)	551	(103,739)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(104,290)	(103,737)	(103,737)	2
In year net deficit/(surplus):									
Schools Block	(0)	3	3	(0)	3	5	5	(5)	(8)
Early Years Block	(2)	0	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	216	65	67
Central School Services Block	0	0	0	1	5	(2)	(6)	(8)	(8)
High Needs Block	2	0	2	1,263	1,154	1,232	1,828	1,227	1,225
Net In-year Deficit	0	3	3	1,263	1,160	1,233	2,044	1,279	1,276
Deficit Balance in reserves	1,461		1,461	1,461	1,461	1,845	1,845	1,688	1,688
Cumulative Deficit	1,461	3	1,464	2,724	2,621	3,077	3,888	2,967	2,964

5. Schools Block

- 5.1 The 2021/22 budget was funded from DSG grant of £70m. The Schools Block ended the year with an £8k underspend. De-delegated budgets were underspent by £49k, which will transfer to reduce the future cost of services.
- 5.2 £304k from the Schools Block reserve has been spent in year, leaving a surplus balance of £1.6m. A breakdown is provided below:

Schools Block Reserve (surplus)/deficit	1.4.2021	change in reserves	Actual Outturn	31.3.2022 Est
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Growth Fund	(1,501)	218	0	(1,283)
Schools in Financial Difficulty	(170)	75	0	(95)
School Improvement	(41)	0	0	(41)
EMTAS	(96)	0	0	(96)
Therapeutic Thinking	(27)	14	0	(13)
CLEAPPS	(1)	1	0	0
Trade Union	4	(4)	0	(0)
Schools (re rates adj)	(80)	0	(8)	(88)
Total Surplus Balance	(1,912)	304	(8)	(1,616)

6. Early Years Block

- 6.1 Early Years Expenditure was overspent by £67k.
- 6.2 The Early Years Block is difficult to predict due to the volatile nature of both the funding and payments to providers (payments are made according to actual number of hours of provision each term). For 2021/22 only, grant funding was based on termly uptake of hours, as this was deemed a fairer method of funding following the uncertainty of the pandemic.
- 6.3 A deficit recovery programme is in place to reduce the current deficit over a 5 year period, starting from April 2021. In the first year, the targeted savings were £123k. Based on the number of hours taken, we have saved £129k during this period. This will continue to be monitored.
- 6.4 The cumulative deficit on this block at the end of 2021/22 is £914k.

7. Central Schools Services Block

- 7.1 At year end, overall DSG funding received for the Central Schools Services Block was on budget and expenditure was underspent by £8k.
- 7.2 The cumulative deficit on this block at the end of 2021/22 is £64k. Options will be explored to continue to reduce this deficit when setting the 2023/24 budget.

8. High Needs Block

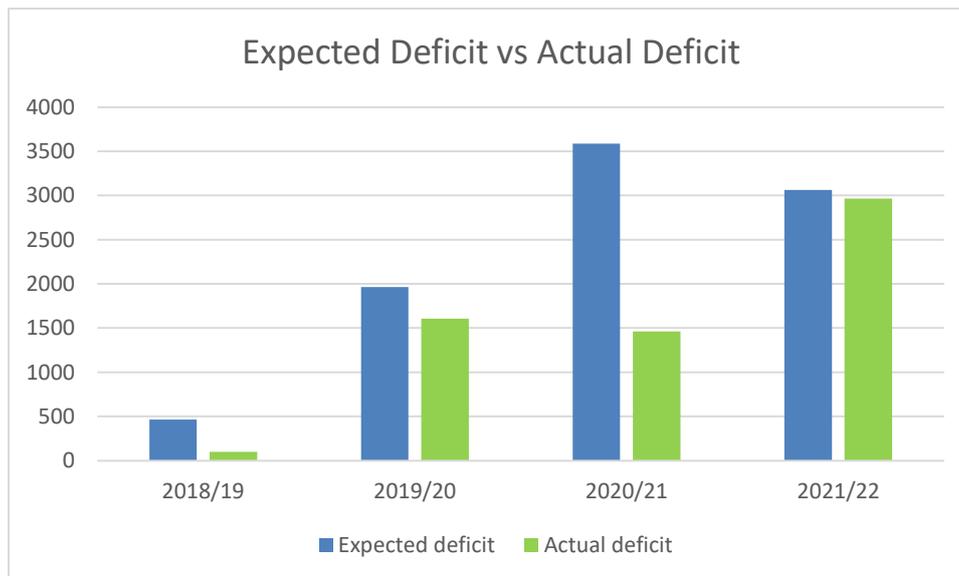
- 8.1 At year end, overall DSG funding received was £27k higher than budget due to a higher than predicted import export adjustment.
- 8.2 The 2021/22 budget was set with a £1.6m deficit recovery target. The block made expenditure savings of £377k, leaving an in-year deficit of £1.22m. The main variances against expenditure are as follows:
- £463k saving on Independent Special Schools have off-set pressure in mainstream schools of £326k as children are being placed in mainstream and local specialist provision.
 - £76k saving on ASD Teachers as the posts that were temporarily funded by the Schools Block transfer have now been made permanent, funding from prior years is no longer required.
 - £262k savings on the Further Education Top Up Funding.
- 8.3 The cumulative deficit against this block is now £3.6m at the end of 2021/22.
- 8.4 The graph below shows the cumulative deficit position that was forecast during the budget setting period, compared to the actual deficit cumulative position at the end of the financial year.

9. Total Reserve Balance and cumulative deficit

- 9.1 The DSG now has a cumulative deficit of £2.96m. The High Needs Block deficit has increased by £1.2m to £3.6m. Early Years has reduced their deficit to £0.9m. A £1.6m surplus in the schools block is reducing the overall total for the authority.

Reserve Balances (surplus)/deficit	1.4.2021 Actual	Change in reserves	In-year Deficit/ (Surplus)	31.3.2022 Forecast
Schools Block De-delegated	(331)	86	0	(245)
Schools Block - growth fund	(1,501)	218	0	(1,283)
Schools Block - other	(80)	0	(8)	(88)
Early Years Block	970	(122)	65	914
Central School Services Block	72	0	(8)	64
High Needs Block	2,327	45	1,224	3,597
Grant changes	3	0	2	6
Total Deficit Balance	1,461	227	1,276	2,964

- 9.2 The chart below shows the cumulative expected deficit compared to the actual deficit over the last four years.



9.3 The Department for Education has invited West Berkshire to be part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme which will start in June.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The cumulative deficit on the DSG blocks now totals £2.96m. Over spends in the High Needs Block are the most significant with a total deficit against this block of £3.6m and this will remain the area of focus going in 2022/23 and beyond.

11. Appendices

Appendix A – DSG 2021/22 Budget Monitoring Report: Outturn

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2021/2022 Budget Monitoring Outturn

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2021/22	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2021/22	Outturn	Variance	Comments
90020	Primary Schools (excluding nursery funding)	51,721,830		51,721,830	51,716,310	-5,520	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Primary	0		0	0	0	
90025	Secondary Schools (excluding 6th form funding)	17,880,470		17,880,470	17,895,943	15,473	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Secondary	0		0	0	0	
90230	DD - Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary schools)	27,500		27,500	27,501	1	
90113	DD - Trade Union Costs	49,480		49,480	54,939	5,459	
90255	DD - Support to Ethnic minority & bilingual Learners	197,500		197,500	158,364	-39,136	
90349	DD - Behaviour Support Services	204,340	2,880	207,220	197,001	-10,219	
90424	DD - CLEAPSS	3,070		3,070	2,573	-497	
90470	DD - School Improvement	0		0	0	0	
90423	DD - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	176,180		176,180	171,680	-4,500	
90235	School Contingency - Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	0		0	-1	-1	
90054	Efficiency Target	-31,200		-31,200	0	31,200	
	SSR	63,373		63,373	63,373	0	
	Schools Block Total	70,292,543	2,880	70,295,423	70,287,683	-7,740	
90583	National Copyright Licences	150,490		150,490	150,494	4	
90019	Servicing of Schools Forum	45,290		45,290	44,111	-1,179	
90743	School Admissions	179,920		179,920	173,963	-5,957	
90354	ESG - Education Welfare	159,820		159,820	148,848	-10,972	One post partially vacant; £2k saving on lease costs and mileage savings during the year
90460	ESG - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	357,310		357,310	360,695	3,385	
90054	Efficiency Target	-6,860		-6,860	0	6,860	
	SSR	123,324		123,324	123,324	0	
	Central School Services Block DSG	1,009,294	0	1,009,294	1,001,435	-7,859	
90010	Early Years Funding - Nursery Schools	854,520		854,520	857,913	3,393	
90037	Early Years Funding - Maintained Schools	1,561,780		1,561,780	1,834,780	273,000	
90036	Early Years Funding - PVI Sector	6,251,270		6,251,270	5,902,804	-348,466	
90052	Early Years PPG & Deprivation Funding	200,350		200,350	242,624	42,274	
90053	Disability Access Fund	23,370		23,370	15,375	-7,995	
90018	2 year old funding	635,550		635,550	709,305	73,755	
90017	Central Expenditure on Children under 5	270,770		270,770	270,874	104	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	58,375		58,375	57,817	-558	
90238	Early Years Inclusion Fund	90,000		90,000	89,110	-890	
90054	Early Years adjustment re grant funding	344,120	-524,556	-180,436	-149,658	30,778	
	SSR	68,513		68,513	68,513	0	
	Early Years Block Total	10,358,618	-524,556	9,834,062	9,899,456	65,394	

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2021/2022 Budget Monitoring Outturn

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2021/22	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2021/22	Outturn	Variance	Comments
90026	Academy Schools RU Top Ups	1,113,300		1,113,300	930,495	-182,805	
90539	Special Schools - Top Up Funding	4,403,120		4,403,120	4,985,051	581,931	
90548	Non WBC Special Schools - Top Up Funding	1,324,500		1,324,500	955,003	-369,497	
90575	Non LEA Special School (OofA)	1,007,880		1,007,880	851,541	-156,339	
90579	Independent Special School Place & Top Up	3,535,280		3,535,280	3,072,415	-462,865	
90580	Further Education Colleges Top Up	1,437,800		1,437,800	1,175,012	-262,788	
90617	Resourced Units top up Funding maintained	314,000		314,000	321,587	7,587	
90618	Non WBC Resourced Units - Top Up Funding	170,540		170,540	207,271	36,731	
90621	Mainstream - Top Up Funding maintained	818,660		818,660	974,686	156,026	
90622	Mainstream - Top Up Funding Academies	423,560		423,560	580,039	156,479	
90624	Non WBC Mainstream - Top Up Funding	160,510		160,510	174,581	14,071	
90625	Pupil Referral Units - Top Up Funding	821,920		821,920	861,561	39,641	
90627	Disproportionate No: of HN Pupils NEW	40,000		40,000	51,609	11,609	
90628	EHCP PRU Placement	571,450		571,450	755,402	183,952	
	High Needs Block: Top Up Funding Total	16,142,520	0	16,142,520	15,896,253	-246,267	
90320	Pupil Referral Units	660,000		660,000	660,000	0	
90540	Special Schools	2,860,000		2,860,000	2,860,000	0	
90546	Special Schools - Place Funding Post 16	790,000		790,000	790,000	0	
90551	Mainstream Maintained - post 16 SEN places	0		0	34,000	34,000	
90552	Special Schools and PRU Teachers Pay and Pension	0	312,050	312,050	312,046	-4	
90584	Resourced Units - Place Funding	242,000		242,000	226,000	-16,000	
	High Needs Block: Place Funding Total	4,552,000	312,050	4,864,050	4,882,046	17,996	
90240	Applied Behaviour Analysis	150,470		150,470	196,912	46,442	
90280	Special Needs Support Team	328,100		328,100	324,416	-3,684	
90281	SEND Strategy (DSG)	68,700		68,700	51,381	-17,319	
90282	Medical Home Tuition	172,730		172,730	151,500	-21,230	Sept - Dec lower than normal demand and therefore lower tutor costs, plus a tutor resigned
90237	High Needs Contingency	110,930	-11,070	99,860	99,585	-275	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	58,375		58,375	57,817	-558	
90288	Elective Home Education Monitoring	28,240		28,240	21,889	-6,351	
90290	Sensory Impairment	247,860		247,860	229,972	-17,888	
90295	Therapy Services	314,500		314,500	335,164	20,664	

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2021/2022 Budget Monitoring Outturn

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2021/22	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2021/22	Outturn	Variance	Comments
90372	Therapeutic Thinking	54,300		54,300	53,272	-1,028	
90373	Emotional Based School Avoiders (EBSA)	110,660	11,070	121,730	65,623	-56,107	
90555	LAL Funding	122,000		122,000	122,000	0	
90565	Equipment For SEN Pupils	15,000		15,000	8,090	-6,910	
90577	SEN Commissioned Provision	584,480		584,480	572,815	-11,665	
90582	PRU Outreach	61,200		61,200	61,200	0	
90585	HN Outreach Special Schools	50,000		50,000	50,000	0	
90610	Hospital Tuition	39,280		39,280	53,847	14,567	2nd child funded during the year
90830	ASD Teachers	282,660		282,660	206,627	-76,033	Surplus funds on TA posts 20/21 and 21/22, to be funded as permanent posts in 22/23 and therefore take this as a saving
90961	Vulnerable Children	179,400		179,400	168,232	-11,168	
90581	Dingleys Promise	30,000		30,000	30,000	0	
	High Needs Block: Non Top Up or Place Funding	3,008,885	0	3,008,885	2,860,341	-148,544	
90054	Efficiency Target	-1,262,500	-338,717	-1,601,217		1,601,217	
	SSR	188,790		188,790	188,790	0	
	High Needs Block Total	22,629,695	-26,667	22,603,028	23,827,430	1,224,402	
	TOTAL DSG EXPENDITURE	104,290,150	-548,343	103,741,807	105,016,003	1,274,196	
90030	DSG Grant Account	-104,290,150	551,223	-103,738,927	-103,737,127	1,800	
	Net In-year Deficit	0	2,880	2,880	1,278,876	1,275,996	
	Deficit Balance brought forward	1,461,000		1,461,000	227,519	1,688,519	
	Cumulative Deficit	1,461,000	2,880	1,463,880	1,506,395	2,964,515	

Schools: Deficit Recovery

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 20th June 2022

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information **By:** All Maintained Schools Representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outturn position of the two schools that set a deficit budget in 2021/22 and three schools that planned to repay their deficits by the end of 2021/22.
- 1.2 To report on four schools closing 2021/22 with an unlicensed deficit.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Schools are permitted to set a deficit budget if they meet certain conditions. This is termed a licensed deficit. The conditions of a licensed deficit are set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools (the legal contract the Council has with schools) and include the following statement, “The recommended length over which schools may repay the deficit, i.e. reach at least a zero balance, with appropriate mechanism to ensure that the deficit is not simply extended indefinitely, is three years. The maximum length of repayment is five years.”
- 3.2 If the conditions are not met by the school, the Council has the power to issue a Notice of Concern, which ultimately could mean removal of a school’s delegation.
- 3.3 This report provides details of two schools which set a deficit budget for 2021/22 and three which planned to repay their deficits by the close of 2021/22. There are an additional four schools that ended 2021/22 with unlicensed deficits.
- 3.4 Two schools set a licensed deficit budget for 2021/22 totalling £77k deficit. Three other schools operated with licensed deficit budgets in 2021/22 but set a recovered budget for the year, forecasting a year end surplus of £28.3k surplus. During 2021/22 these schools were supported as if operating with a licensed deficit, as were two of the five schools that ended 2021/22 with unlicensed deficits.

4. West Berkshire Strategy for Schools in Deficit

- 4.1 The Council has adopted a strategy aimed to minimise the number and size of deficits. It is in two parts:

- (1) Procedures to support schools to reduce/eliminate or avoid a deficit
- (2) Intervention for schools not meeting their deficit recovery plan.

4.2 Approval of a licensed deficit requires the school to do the following:

- (1) Submit monthly budget monitoring reports (M3 and then M6 to M11 inclusive)
- (2) Submit a copy of draft and final governor meeting minutes (including Part 2) where the budget is discussed
- (3) To attend meetings with the local authority when requested to address any budget concerns
- (4) Submit deficit recovery progress reports when requested.
- (5) Submit five year detailed deficit recovery plan.
- (6) Take part in:
 - a) any review the Local Authority commissions on the school's budget deficit position and recovery plan, including a Schools Resource Management Advisor deployment and,
 - b) the introduction and use of any additional analysis and data tools deemed appropriate including Integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP)

4.3 The Council's Schools Finance team includes a dedicated resource to work with the schools that are operating in a deficit and to offer support to those who are likely to enter a deficit position.

5. 2021/22 Outturn Position - Licensed Deficit Schools

5.1 Two schools had a Main School Budget (MSB) licensed deficit in 2021/22, totalling £77k deficit. The final outturn position for these schools was a closing position of £559 surplus. A summary is shown below:

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22		Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)		1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
1	Inkpen Primary	(£14,570)	(£24,583)	(£17,964)	(£3,394)	£6,619
2	Kintbury St Marys Primary	(£62,440)	(£48,637)	£18,523	£80,963	£67,160
TOTAL		(£77,010)	(£73,220)	£559	£77,569	£73,779

(1) Inkpen

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£18,585	Surplus
2017/18	£22,427	Surplus
2018/19	£28,399	Surplus
2019/20	£15,767	Surplus
2020/21	£8,819	Surplus
2021/22	(£17,964)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £18k deficit balance, which is £3.4k worse than the original budgeted deficit of £14.6k. The variance from the original deficit was due to essential building works and maintenance.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Inkpen Primary	(£14,570)	(£24,583)	(£17,964)	(£3,394)	£6,619

Inkpen deficit recovery will come from the sparsity funding received in 2022/23.

(2) Kintbury

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£24,958	Surplus
2017/18	(£12,317)	Deficit
2018/19	£16,372	Surplus
2019/20	£47,570	Surplus
2020/21	£30,085	Surplus
2021/22	£18,523	Surplus

The final outturn position was a £18.5k surplus balance, which is a £81k improvement on the original budgeted deficit of £62.4k. Two successful Financial Difficulty bids were approved totalling £59k. There were also savings on maintenance.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22 Surplus / (Deficit)	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Kintbury St Marys Primary	(£62,440)	(£48,637)	£18,523	£80,963	£67,160

5.2 A summary of the final outturns of the three schools which planned to repay their deficits in 2021/22 is shown below:

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22 Surplus / (Deficit)	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
3 Beenham Primary	£1,170	£2,452	£20,936	£19,766	£18,484
4 Mrs Blands Infant & Nursery	£22,290	£49,977	£98,099	£75,809	£48,122
5 St Finians Primary	£4,820	(£7,054)	£0	(£4,820)	£7,054
TOTAL	£28,280	£45,375	£119,035	£90,755	£73,660

(3) **Beenham**

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£34,357)	Deficit
2017/18	(£64,783)	Deficit
2018/19	(£40,676)	Deficit
2019/20	(£33,847)	Deficit
2020/21	(£370)	Deficit
2021/22	£20,936	Surplus

The final outturn position was a £20.9k surplus balance, which is a £19.8k improvement on the original budgeted surplus of £1.2k. The school had a successful Financial Difficulty bid, staff savings and additional income from Operation Warm Welcome.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22 Surplus / (Deficit)	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Beenham Primary	£1,170	£2,452	£20,936	£19,766	£18,484

(4) Mrs Blands

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£6,444	Surplus
2017/18	£9,150	Surplus
2018/19	£17,275	Surplus
2019/20	(£32,526)	Deficit
2020/21	(£12,620)	Deficit
2021/22	£98,099	Surplus

The final outturn position was a £98.1k surplus balance, which is a £75.8k improvement on the original budgeted surplus of £22.3k. There were increases in nursery and lettings income, plus additional grant funding for Operation Warm Welcome children and SEN.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22 Surplus / (Deficit)	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Mrs Blands Infant & Nursery	£22,290	£49,977	£98,099	£75,809	£48,122

(5) St Finians

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£7,714)	Deficit
2017/18	(£31,909)	Deficit
2018/19	(£56,722)	Deficit
2019/20	(£40,599)	Deficit
2020/21	(£20,657)	Deficit
2021/22	£0	-

The final outturn position was a nil balance, which is £4.8k worse than the original budgeted surplus of £4.8k. This was largely due to reduced lettings income and unplanned staffing costs, slightly offset by a supported bid for Financial Difficulty.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
St Finians Primary	£4,820	(£7,054)	£0	(£4,820)	£7,054

5.3 The combined final outturn of all five schools is shown below:

LICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original MSB Deficit	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Schools not planning to repay deficits in 2021/22	(£77,010)	(£73,220)	£559	£77,569	£73,779
Schools planning to repay deficits in 2021/22	£28,280	£45,375	£119,035	£90,755	£73,660
TOTAL	(£48,730)	(£27,845)	£119,594	£168,324	£147,439

5.4 The overall improvement from budget to year end is £119.6k which is an excellent outturn, with only one of the five schools ending the year with a deficit balance.

6. Schools ending 2021/22 with unplanned deficits

6.1 Five schools ended the financial year 2021/22 with an unlicensed deficit.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Basildon Primary *	£18,950	(£40,838)	(£23,004)	(£41,954)	£17,834
Hermitage Primary	£27,140	£13,206	(£7,151)	(£34,291)	(£20,357)
St Josephs Primary	£540	(£9,545)	(£7,173)	(£7,713)	£2,372
Spurcroft Primary **	(£29,670)	(£32,848)	(£79,302)	(£49,632)	(£46,454)
The Kite Federation ***	£29,660	Not submitted	(£37,097)	(£66,757)	-
TOTAL	£46,620	(£70,025)	(£153,727)	(£200,347)	(£46,605)

(1) Basildon

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£1,123	Surplus
2017/18	£2,952	Surplus
2018/19	£10,918	Surplus
2019/20	(£6,040)	Deficit
2020/21	(£3,831)	Deficit
2021/22	(£23,004)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £23k deficit, which is £42k worse than the budgeted surplus of £19k. Costs increased due to opening a nursery class, staffing cover, resources to support additional pupils and reduced lettings income. These pressures were partly mitigated by reductions in management and admin time and maintenance. Surplus income from wraparound care fund was transferred into the budget to further reduce the pressure.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Basildon Primary *	£18,950	(£40,838)	(£23,004)	(£41,954)	£17,834

* Ended Ended 2020/21 with a deficit of £3,831 which was wholly attributable to financial impact of Covid-19. School submitted a budget in 2021/22 that showed a surplus balance at end of year so not requested to apply for a license

Action by Local Authority: Deficit licence application underway.

(2) Hermitage

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£38,182	Surplus
2017/18	£11,226	Surplus
2018/19	£11,233	Surplus
2019/20	£26,971	Surplus
2020/21	£19,019	Surplus
2021/22	(£7,151)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £7.2k deficit, which is £34.3k worse than the budgeted surplus of £27.1k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Hermitage Primary	£27,140	£13,206	(£7,151)	(£34,291)	(£20,357)

Action by Local Authority: the local authority has reviewed the reasons for the deficit and believe those to be one off. The school is planning to return a surplus of £6,190 in 2022/23 and as such, we have decided that a licenced deficit is not required. This will be reviewed during the year to make sure the school is on track.

(3) St Josephs

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£53,394	Surplus
2017/18	£49,633	Surplus
2018/19	£9,730	Surplus
2019/20	£7,606	Surplus
2020/21	£11,678	Surplus
2021/22	(£7,173)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £7.2k deficit, which is £7.7k worse than the budgeted surplus of £540. This was due to a downturn in Link club attendance since Covid and staff cover.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
St Josephs Primary	£540	(£9,545)	(£7,173)	(£7,713)	£2,372

Action by Local Authority: Deficit licence application underway.

(4) Spurcroft

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£7,842)	Defiicit
2017/18	£52,785	Surplus
2018/19	£211,676	Surplus
2019/20	£103,681	Surplus
2020/21	(£40,624)	Deficit
2021/22	(£79,302)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £79.3k deficit, which is £49.6k worse than the budgeted deficit of £29.7k. The position is due to loss of income in wraparound care and nursery provision since Covid, pupil support and premises expenditure. There is also reduced income from falling rolls.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
Spurcroft Primary **	(£29,670)	(£32,848)	(£79,302)	(£49,632)	(£46,454)

** Ended 2020/21 with a deficit of £40,624 which was wholly attributable to financial impact of Covid-19. School was not initially asked to submit a License Deficit Application as awaited outcome of School Balances report/Covid-19 Impact on Balances report going to SF 21st June 2021 and further delays in submission of a bid to PSIFD resulting it being decide completion and submission of an application for a license was not best use of time.

Action by Local Authority: Deficit licence application underway.

(5) The Kite

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2020/21	£59,369	Surplus
2021/22	(£37,097)	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £37.1k deficit, which is £66.8k worse than the budgeted surplus of £29.7k. This has largely arisen due to staff cover requirements.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2021/22	Original Main School Budget	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)	1	2	3	3 - 1 = 4	3 - 2 = 5
The Kite Federation ***	£29,660	Not submitted	(£37,097)	(£66,757)	-
TOTAL	£29,660	£0	(£37,097)	(£66,757)	£0

*** Agreed the school would not submit P9 forecast

Action by Local Authority: Deficit licence application underway

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1 Schools included in the report have been consulted.

Schools Forum Work Programme 2022/23

	Item	HFG Deadline	Heads Funding Group	SF Deadline	Schools Forum	Action required	Author
Term 6	Schools' Forum Membership and Constitution from September 2022			12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	Early Years Block Budget - Update on deficit recovery plan	28/06/2022	05/07/2022	12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Information	Avril Allenby
	Review of the union facilities calculation	28/06/2022	05/07/2022	12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Decision	Abi Witting/Lisa Potts/Ian Pearson
	Schools' Waste Contract	28/06/2022	05/07/2022	12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Information	Karen Felgate
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	28/06/2022	05/07/2022	12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2022/23 Month 3			12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
Term 1	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	28/06/2022	05/07/2022	12/07/2022	18/07/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2023/24	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Draft De-delegations 2023/24	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Scheme for Financing Schools Consultation 2022/23	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Update on HNB Invest to Save Projects	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2022/23 Month 6			11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	28/09/2022	05/10/2022	11/10/2022	17/10/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
9th November 2022 - Additional Heads Funding Group meeting to consider bids to the Primary Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund (Provisional)							
Term 2	Provisional DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2023/24	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	School Funding Formula 2023/24	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Budgets for Additional Funds 2023/24	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Scheme for Financing Schools 2022/23	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Draft Central Schools Block Budget 2023/24	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	Draft High Needs Budget 2023/24	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	High Needs Block - Deficit Recovery Plan	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	15/11/2022	22/11/2022	29/11/2022	05/12/2022	Decision	Melanie Ellis
Term 3	Final DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2023/24	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	Final School Funding 2023/24	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Final De-delegations 2023/24	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Final Central School Block Budget Proposals 2023/24	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	High Needs Block Budget Proposals 2023/24	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Growth Fund 2022/23	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Outline Early Years Forecast 2022/23	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Discussion	Avril Allenby
	Early Years Block Budget - Update on Deficit Recovery Plan	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Discussion	Avril Allenby
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2022/23 Month 9			17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Information	Melanie Ellis
Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	04/01/2023	11/01/2023	17/01/2023	23/01/2023	Decision	Melanie Ellis	
9th February 2022 - Additional Heads Funding Group meeting to consider bids to the Primary Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund (Provisional)							
Term 4	Work Programme 2023/24	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	Update on HNB Invest to Save Projects	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Final High Needs Block Budget 2023/24	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Decision	Jane Seymour
	Final Early Years Block Budget 2023/24	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Decision	Avril Allenby
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2022/23 Month 10			07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	21/02/2023	28/02/2023	07/03/2023	13/03/2023	Decision	Melanie Ellis

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank