

Schools Forum -Decision Sheet

Meeting Date

20/10/22

Report Reference	Page Reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/Welcomes New Members	Apologies from Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey (Nursery School Head), Ann Butcher (Academies). Welcome Niall Hand (Secondary Head) and Michael Sullivan (Secondary Head).		Apologies accepted & noted. New appointments to Forum welcomed.
Item 2		Declaration of interests		None	
Item 3	1-5	Minutes of the Meeting - 28 June 2022	To agree on minutes of previous meeting	Noted and agreed as accurate	Agreed as accurate.
Item 4		Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on TOFTUA Schools Forum Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on TOFTUA - to be detailed in Item 6. Schools Forum Training - confirmed as delivered. 	Agreed by Forum.
Item 5	6-14	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 (provisional)	This report sets out the DSG position 2021/22 (final), 2022/23 (update and forecast position) and DSG 2023/24 (provisional). The report further seeks the application of circa £1m towards high needs spend. Linked to the report is a powerpoint presentation on High Needs Funding as discussed at the Schools Forum High Needs Working Group. To agree the remaining £300k held in contingency to manage any movements between paid and received. Potential issue of EY pupil numbers related to national issues on birth rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates at each meeting. To note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block. Application to transfer £1M carry forward surplus in the Early Years Block to fund the High Needs Block. 	All noted and agreed by Forum.
Item 6	15-17	Review Method for Funding Time Off for Trade Union Activities and Duties (TOFTUA)	The report details the current method of reimbursing for TOFTUA activities and duties. The report also clarifies approach for funding the proposal through direct de-delegation for maintained schools and charge for academies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of TOFTUA is paid to Schools on the basis of true cost at October. Forum asked to agree the total costs to be divided by the total pupil population across all schools including Academies (5 to 16) and continues to form the de-delegation element of the schools funding formula. HR to bring an updated paper to Forum in December, to agree the de-delegated budget position. Agreeing the billing position and process in relation to academies, to ensure transparency and clarity. 	Agreed by Forum. Agreed by Forum. Noted
Item 7	18-34	Responses to Recent Consultation Papers	Responses made by the Local Authority to support three recent consultation documents are provided for information.	Chair thanked officers for their consultation responses. No further comments or queries raised.	Responses noted.
Item 8		Any Other Business	Headlines national update – pressures facing schools	<p>Discussion for forum:- <u>Teachers Pay award</u> - general expectation is that this will not be funded; level of uncertainty. <u>2023/24 funding</u> potentially 1.5 - 2% - no increase in funding per pupil.</p> <p><u>Utilities</u> Energy crisis - schools are a 'vulnerable' group. At this present stage it appears we (Lewisham) will not benefit from the government Energy Relief Scheme from April next year as we will be locked into a contract.</p> <p><u>FSM</u> - lagged funding. Meals contractor prices are increasing and parents are struggling to pay.</p> <p><u>Inflation</u> is at 10% currently - impact on contracts, grounds maintenance, cleaning contracts etc.</p> <p>Discussion about whether to lobby the government via a joint letter from all London Councils headteachers, about the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Standardising school meal prices - question raised.</p>	<p>All noted -agreed that a response will be made by Schools forum to DFE to raise awareness /concern of the pressures on Schools.</p> <p>Decision was that this is not a mandate for Forum.</p>

Agreed by

Matthew Ringham

Chair of Schools Forum