

Report Reference	Page refer	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies	Note any apologies		Apologies accepted.
Item 2		Declaration of interests			None declared.
Item 3	1 to 11	Draft Minutes of the Meeting 15.10.20	For accuracy		Corrections accepted.
Item 4		Matters arising			No Matters arising.
Item 5	12 to 18	DSG Funding report 2021-22	Purpose of this report is to agree the principles and approach to enable Lewisham to progress with work following the Financial Settlement due later this month.	<p>5. Local Authority required to submit their agreed Local Schools Funding Formula to the DfE by <b>21st January 2021</b> (primary and secondary). Deadline for producing this information is very challenging as the financial settlement unlikely to be known until circa 22nd December 2020. For this reason, there could potentially be a delay to the reports dispatch process although every effort will be taken to meet the required timescales. Schools Forum to note.</p> <p>1. Continuation with the National Funding Formula in the deployment of the Schools Block. 15. Continue to progress with the Principles of the National Funding Formula in full. This includes using all funding values as determined by the DfE.</p> <p>2. Agree to any growth funding to be included on the APT tool, with a minimal amount in the Growth Fund Budget to fund incremental support for bulge class and potentially any unplanned in-year growth/bulges.</p> <p>16. The DfE requirement is that all schools will receive a MFG uplift of between 0.5% and 2.00%. Subject to affordability it is proposed that the formula will endeavour to deliver on or as close to the 2%. 5. Consider two options for MFG:- A. MFG set at max 2% (estimate), with any residue to support pressures in HNB. B. 0.5% transfer from Schools Block, followed by MFG set at affordability.</p> <p>18. The de-delegation process <b>must be agreed every year</b> and supported (by means of voting) by the representative of each phase at Schools Forums. The proposal for 2019/20 delegation are in line with the current de-delegation levels. Proposed that de-delegation continues in line with current levels plus 2% uplift where indicated and supports the following: A - Administration of Free School Meals (£59K plus 2%) = £60k B - Trade union and non-sickness supply scheme (Maternity Fund) (£1.1m plus 2%), = £1.122 C - School Improvement –to support the work of the Lewisham Learning Partnership. (£300k) D - Schools Contingency – to support costs that should not be reasonably incurred by a governing body. (£557k). Note that Schools Forum has agreed a two year finance support package, 2021/22 will be the second year of this funding. 3. De-delegation to be in line with the current basis plus inflation 4. De-delegation –agree to receive a detailed report for consideration on functions previously supported by the Education Services Grant. 19. Schools Forum is asked to agree to receive a detailed paper at the January Budget Setting meeting to consider the appropriateness of considering de-delegation to support core functions.</p> <p>29. Proposed that two options are put to schools forum:- a. APT using full funding b. Impact of transfer of 0.5% Schools Forum will recall that in 2020/21, the funding was sufficient to meet the maximum 1.84% increase, with a residue of £400k. Under the regulations, a consultation with all schools is required. Schools forum is asked to agree that Lewisham undertakes this brief consultation with schools to be considered alongside the holistic DSG funding issue.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
Item 6		High Needs Block Update	Standing Item to update Schools Forum on the position with regards to High Needs Funding and Mitigation plan.	28. Schools Forum is asked to consider a potential transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs for 2021/22.	Considered & Agreed
			Early Years Funding	33. Early Years attendance numbers down as a consequence of COVID, coupled with the DfE attempt at providing necessary protection to EY providers. DfE suggests that the autumn payment will be based on January 2020 and the Spring Payment on January 2021. (Normally Autumn and Spring would be on 2021). Remains an expectation that providers are funded on numbers had COVID not been in place. Schools forum is asked to note the continuation of financial risk associated with High Needs (demand led) and Early Years Funding (lack of clarity arising from COVID-related estimations in payment terms and funding receivable).	Noted

Report Reference	Page refer	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
				Schools Forum to note and agree to receive further updates as more information is made available at the January meeting and the summer meeting.	<b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>
Item 7	19 - 21	Membership/Constitution	Discussion to consider the Schools Forum membership constitution reflecting Pupil Number update as at Oct 2020, which includes the transfer of Sedgehill to Academy. The discussion will also review end dates for current memmbers to ensure knowledge and expertise remain during the period of transition towards new members.	Weighted average representation in conjunction with the October census pupil data. Identified across the sectors. Membership remains at 23 but Primary representation increases due to the academy conversions. New constitution increases Primay reps. from 5 to 7, Secondary reps reduced from 4 to 2. Officers drew attention to a number of member expiration dates at Dec 2021 and how this is to be managed at the respective Leadership Consultatives to avoid mass exit. Reminder that any new appointments must be via election.	<b>Noted - agreed that Vice Chair would discuss membership with Primary schools head, Agreed forum clerk would progress on the Governors election requirements.</b>
Item 8		Verbal Updates:			
Item 9		AOB	New requirements reminder - staff salary over £100k/benchmarking	Needs to be identified on school's website as well as DfE benchmarking information. In bands of £10k and from 1st January 2021.	<b>Noted</b>
			Covid claim update	Autumn claim is a residue of the Summer claim; no claim for the autumn period. Deadline for this submission is 22nd December. Government ministerial headlines suggests new extra funding will be introduced to cover levels of sickness in the workforce (circa 20% ) and with school surplus balances not exceeding 4%. <b>This is yet to be confirmed however.</b> Undertaken a survey of Lewisham maintained schools with roughly 80% return - excess of £300,000 COVID related spend in the 3 main areas. Approx £2m spend in additional other areas e.g. loss of income, supply cover costs etc as well as teaching and admin days lost. Forum decided a representation to government regarding autumn term covid expenditure and ensuing financial pressure, is required. Remaining 20% schools to be encouraged to return survey and draft statement for January Forum.	<b>Discussed &amp; Agreed</b>

Agreed by

Angela Scattergood  
Lynne HainesDirector Education Services  
Chair of Schools Forum