

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 21st June 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: School Forum Sub Group Meetings Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update of the funding allocated to schools in financial difficulty by the School Forum Sub Committee

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

2.1 (a) School Forum note the funding allocated to date and the increasing level of demand on this budget

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Schools Contingency for 2017/2017 was set at £217,010. This budget is the de-delegated contingency which is available only to those community primary and secondary schools maintained by the Local Authority and school can only apply in the following circumstances:

- Exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet;
- Schools in financial difficulties; and
- Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.

3.2 Applications may be considered by the School Forum under the following circumstances:

- Schools in financial difficulty that wish to apply for a licenced deficit;
- Schools in financial difficulty, unable to access a licence deficit, applying for a deficit write off;
- Formula errors and other miscellaneous costs which schools could not be expected to fund from their own budget;

- Additional costs relating to new, re-organised or closing schools (this could include the costs of any salary protection);
- Emergencies and exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet;
- Schools in special measures or where there are serious weaknesses;
- Result of former poor leadership and management for a school which is now under new leadership; and
- Significant loss of goods or equipment.

3.3 The procedure for applying for additional funding from the contingency is as follows:

- Schools must put a formal request for support in writing to the Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision, Children and Enterprise Directorate;
- Schools must state clearly how they have met the eligibility criteria;
- Schools must provide clear details (and financial values) of the circumstances underlying the application, the amount of contingency they are applying for and the rationale for the amount requested;
- Applications can be made at any time during the year;
- Urgent requests will be considered and determined by a sub group of the School Forum, the outcome will be reported to the next School Forum;
- The Headteacher of the school applying for funding may be asked to attend School Forum to explain their application and answer any queries.
- Schools will be notified of the outcome of the School Forum decision within 5 working days of the meeting.

3.4 In 2017/2018 there have been three schools applying for funding due to financial difficulty. In each case a Sub Committee of three School Forum members has met to consider the schools request. In some cases it has been necessary for the Sub Committee to meet on number of occasions and/or request additional information from the school applying for support. For all three schools the funding has been used to restructure and reduce staffing. School Forum members have therefore given consideration to

the schools proposals and whether through these changes the school is likely to be in a more sustainable position in 2018/2019.

- 3.5 To date in 2017/2018 the following School Forum members have participated in School Forum Sub Committee:-

Ian Kirkham – Wade Deacon High
 Lesley Feakes – Simms Cross Primary
 Jane O Connor – Daisy Maisies
 Karen Lawton – Palace Fields
 Kathryn Albertson – St Berteline’s Pre- School
 Richard Collings – Woodside Primary
 Jackie Coughlin – St Bedes Catholic Infant

On behalf of School Forum I would like to thank the members above for their time and commitment.

- 3.6 Listed below is the name of the school requesting funding, the funding initially approved and any revisions to this funding:

School	Original Allocation	Revised Total	Comment
St Chad’s Catholic & Church of England High School	£150,000	£150,000	No change to original allocation
Farnworth CE Voluntary Controlled Primary	£19,926.05	£6,061.47	Voluntary staffing solution reached for one post
Moore Primary	£26,620.36	£31,806	Sub Committee considering revised costs
Total	£196,546.41	£187,867.47	