

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

**SUBJECT:** Contingency Update

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To report on the level of School Contingency and to update members on the approved requests to date.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

2.1 School Forum note the current commitments agreed from the contingency

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Background**

3.1 The Schools Contingency is the sum delegated to those schools maintained by the Local Authority. Halton schools have agreed that this sum is de-delegated and managed centrally. This total budget for 2018/2019 is £198,780. This funding can only be used 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 can be considered by the School Forum under the following circumstances:

- 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.
- Schools in financial difficulty that wish to apply for a licenced deficit;\*

3.3 Applications from schools in financial difficulties applying for a licenced deficit are considered by the Strategic Director People and the Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources.

3.4 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 –Education, Inclusion and Provision.
- 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;
- Requests will be considered and determined by a sub group of the School Forum. School Forum Sub Committee will have at least 3 members but no more than 5. The outcome of any decision will be reported to the next School Forum;
- The Headteacher of the school applying for funding will 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.

3.5 There have been five applications for funding received to date. Two applications were considered at a meeting in June and the third application in July. The funding agreed is detailed below:

<b>School</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Spinney Avenue Primary	£15,317.03
Victoria Road Primary	£45,228.42
Warrington Road Nursery	£8,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>£69,039.45</b>

3.6 The remaining balance is £129,740.55. Two further applications are being considered on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 prior to this meeting. An update will be provided at the meeting.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The funding agreed by School Forum Sub Committee ensured that the three schools were able to balance their budget.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The contingency is used to provide financial support and stability to schools.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

##### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

##### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

#### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Without financial assistance schools would either be unable to balance their budget or be forced to make additional staffing reductions which will directly impact on pupil outcomes.

#### **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 Applications are welcome from any eligible school and each application is considered on its own merit.

#### **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 N/A