

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION**

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education held on Wednesday, 21 November 2018 at 5.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair)

Councillors Hannah Hockaday

#### **38. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Coles.

#### **39. Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Horton declared a non-prejudicial personal interest as Vice Chair of Governors of Craneswater Junior School.

#### **40. Education Budget Monitoring Report for the 2nd Quarter 2018-19**

The report was introduced by Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager. She highlighted that the current forecast was for the total portfolio spending to be £248k in excess of the revenue budget provision. Expected pressures on school transport were partially offset by staffing savings, staff turnover and a small operational underspend. The capital programme was currently forecasting a small underspend on the approved capital budget of £86.9m, although this would be reallocated to other priority schemes as the need arose.

**Decision: The Cabinet Member noted the report.**

#### **41. DSG budget monitoring report for 2nd Quarter 2018-19**

The report was introduced by Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager. She said that the report reflected the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation, and it was suggested that the budget be adjusted as per the report's recommendations.

Table 1 of the report outlined the breakdown of the projected overspend of £573k. A High Needs strategy had been put in place in October to deal with the issues around the financial pressures in this area.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member:**

- 1) Noted the forecast year-end budget position for the DSG as at 30 September 2018, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**

**2) Approved the necessary adjustments to the DSG to reflect:**

- **Early year's budgets and DSG income budget, to reflect the adjustment in grant funding due to pupil number changes, as set out in paragraphs 3.30 and 3.31.**
- **An adjustment to the DSG to reflect the decision by the Secretary of State to approve the transfer of £1.0m to capital to support the development of Redwood Park School.**
- **An adjustment to the DSG to reflect the decision to support The Harbour School in May 2018.**

**42. School Modernisation Programme for the 2nd Quarter**

Caroline Corcoran, Head of Sufficiency, Participation and Resources - Education Service, introduced the report. She reported that three urgent condition projects from the 2017-18 programme had been completed and one "live" condition project which remained from the 2017-18 programme, which was being completed in phases to minimise disruption to the school. The final end date was expected to be March 2019.

In response to a question, she said that a feasibility study had been undertaken at Copnor Primary in order to replace the boiler. The existing gas fired heating system was failing and had reached the end of its working life. The work could not be undertaken immediately, as there were four boilers in the school, with issues associated with the pipework. Temporary heating was being provided, and the works should be finished by the February half term.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member noted the progress on the school modernisation "urgent condition" projects and the secondary school sufficiency projects (as set out in the report and in Appendix A)**

**43. Change of age range for Portsdown Primary School - outcome of statutory consultation**

Caroline Corcoran, Head of Sufficiency, Participation & Resources, Education Service presented the report. She said that the structural change would simplify the administration of the provision offered by the school and help to make the provision more sustainable, flexible and adaptable in the future.

**DECISION: the Cabinet Member**

- **Consider the response to the statutory consultation carried out on the proposal to change the age range of Portsdown Primary School**
- **Authorised the Director for Children, Families and Education to implement the proposal so that Portsdown Primary School**

**becomes a school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years of age from 1st December 2018.**

#### **44. School Funding Arrangements 2019-20**

The report was introduced by Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager, and was designed to provide an update on progress regarding the implementation of the school revenue funding arrangements for 2019-20. The decisions included the percentage of unit values to be identified as the notional Special Educational Needs (SEN) budget and a disapplication request.

The unit values within Portsmouth's funding formula were largely similar to national averages, but a significantly lower proportion of overall funding was recognised as being within the notional SEN budget. Redefining the notional SEN budget would not impact in any way upon a school's funding; nevertheless it was proposed to amend the proportion of funding attached to the notional SEN budget as set out in the report, in order to bring Portsmouth's values more closely in line with national averages.

The Finance Manager went on to say that local authorities could submit disapplication requests to the ESFA, where strict adherence to the legislation as set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) regulations would generate perverse results for specific schools. Two disapplication requests had already been submitted to the ESFA in respect of the operation of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG), both of which had been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and Schools Forum. A further request has now been submitted, in respect of the operation of the Minimum Funding Level (MFL) for Mayfield school.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member approved the proposals for implementing the funding formula arrangements locally as set out in the report; in particular:**

- **To amend the percentage of funding allocated to notional Special Educational Needs (SEN) as set out in paragraph 4.3;**
- **The disapplication request as set out in paragraph 5.3.**

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

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Councillor Suzy Horton  
Chair