

**FINANCE WORK GROUP  
REPORT TO FORUM  
FOR PRESENTATION  
AT FORUM ON 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**



**Date of Work Group meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

**Matters Arising from minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- All matters arising are on the agenda for this meeting.

**Out-Turn Monitoring Statement - Review DSG Financial Monitoring Statements** IM tabled the FINAL General DSG Grant for 2021-22 and the 2021-22 High Needs Block. With regard to DSG there had been little movement since the last statement in November and most budgets are within the parameters set, except for Pupil Growth and High Needs. Within High Needs the transport budget supporting high needs had risen and the general High Needs budget continues to increase to an anticipated annual deficit of £3.9m (up from £3.7m in Nov.) and an overall accumulated deficit of £13.091m. (note this is an increase of 30.2% over the last year). Out of Borough placements account for 64% of Special needs Education expenditure, the remainder on post 16, Top up Funding and Special School places). Total expenditure on the High Needs Block for 2021-22 was £46,565,360

**Independent School and college Payments (out of Borough Placements)** SF tabled the latest figures for March 2022. There are 150 students placed out of Borough at an annual average cost per placement is £45,153. A worrying trend is the number of new placements in 2021-22 at 46, or a third of all placements are new.

There are 129 post 16 placements of which 80 are outside Solihull. The expense of post 16 placements has been rising (since Jan 20 the cost per place at £19,211 has risen by £5k, or £500k overall)

Transport costs both within and out of borough stand at £887,500.

The figures again showed the extend of expenditure out of Borough and the challenges to be faced in bringing pupils back into Borough to reduced expenditure as outlined in the High Needs Recovery Plan.

**2021-22 School Budgets** SF tabled a summary paper of recent changes in school funding, including:

- The rise in Growth funding from £350k to £600K – agreed by schools
- The agreement by maintained schools for a £5 de-delegation (£12.50 for special schools and PRUs) in line with the governments changes to cut the grant for School Improvement
- Cabinet member approval and thanks to Forum
- The supplementary grant to high Needs Block to reflect cost pressures and the administration of this to include help with NI increases.
- The administration of the grant to Schools for covering NI increases.

**Maintained School Balances** - each year we have to monitor Maintained School Balances (reserves).

These show that with one exception all schools are holding reserves. These are a snapshot at one moment of time, and this year have not taken account of building projects. Overall they show it has been a volatile year with large changes for individual schools. Academy figures can be found on school websites.

These were noted.