

Schools Forum 8 July 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Closure of Cradley High School

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the latest 2008/09 financial year position in respect of Cradley High school.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No

Schools Forum Action

3. To note the forecast outturn position for the 2008/09 financial year.

Attachments

4. None

Mirella Harris
Senior Principal Accountant
23 June 2008

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Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the latest 2008/09 financial year position in respect of Cradley High school.

Background

2. School Organisation Committee approved the closure of Cradley High school on 7 February 2007. The school will close at the end of the summer 2007 term.
3. Schools Forum were advised at the May 2008 meeting of the initial 2008/09 budget position for Cradley High School and of the arrangements in place to fund any final deficit.
4. For 2008/09, the school has a delegated budget of £633k. The latest forecast budget requirement is £730k, which indicates a deficit budget of £97k. Schools Forum will note that a sum of £350k has already been set aside from 2008/09 DSG to alleviate the anticipated deficit budget position at Cradley High school.
5. At the end of 2007/08 a provision of £594k was set aside to fund the possible redundancy outcomes of the Cradley High staff at 31 August 2008. Any unspent part of this provision can be released at a later date. Ongoing annual pension commitments would amount to £43k and must be funded from the Schools Budget.
6. Table 1 provides an update of the staff currently not re-deployed remaining at the school by job type; Teachers include the Head and Deputy and the overall total includes five employees with a temporary contract who would not be subject to redundancy.

Table 1 – Number of Remaining Staff by Job Type

| Category of Staff | Total Staff not Redeployed at 19.6.08 | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Staff on Temporary Contract | Staff Subject to Redundancy |
| Teachers | 3 | 16 |
| Support Staff | - | 1 |
| Classroom Assistants | - | 3 |
| Technicians | - | 3 |
| Clerical | 2 | 4 |
| Caretakers | - | 1 |
| Midday Supervisors | - | 1 |
| Cleaners | - | 5 |
| Catering | - | 2 |
| Total Number of staff | 5 | 36 |

7. Further updates will be provided to future Schools Forum meetings.
8. The Directorate is working closely with the school to ensure the assets held by the school are properly safeguarded as the school is nearing complete closure.

Finance

9. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
10. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
11. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

12. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

13. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of this report in respect of the closure of Cradley High school.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

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