
Schools Forum – Tuesday 5th February 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Closure of Cradley High School – Update
Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the 2007/08 funding process together with the revenue budget position in respect of Cradley High school.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No

Schools Forum Action

3. To note the funding process and latest revenue budget position in respect of Cradley High school.

Attachments

4. None

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
22 January 2008

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Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the 2007/08 funding process together with the latest revenue budget position in respect of Cradley High school.

Background

2. School Organisation Committee approved the closure of Cradley High school on 7 February 2007.
3. Schools Forum were advised at the December 2007 meeting of the latest 2007/08 projected budget position for Cradley High School and of the arrangements in place to transfer funding to schools that receive pupils from Cradley High School, as a result of the closure.
4. For the 2007/08 financial year, Cradley High has a delegated budget allocation of £1.530m. The latest budget position for Cradley High is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 – 2007/08 Financial Year Cradley High School Budget Monitoring

Budget Details	Carried Forward Position From 2006/07	2007/08 Budget Position – excluding carry forward	Net Position for 2007/08
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Delegated Budget deficit	85	345	430
Leisure/Adult Ed. Account deficit	75	0	75
<i>Sub Total – deficit</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>505</i>
'One Off' 2007/08 budget approved by Schools Forum to cover anticipated budget overspend at Cradley High		(350)	(350)
Net Financial Position – Forecast Overspend at December 2007.	160	(5)	155

5. Whilst the 2007/08 overall budget position is projecting a net deficit of £155k (Table 1), which will be a charge against the DSG, School’s Forum members should note that this does include the estimated cost to 31 March 2008 in respect of the remaining 48 staff

employed at the school. The Director will update Schools Forum at the meeting on management action being taken to effect redeployment in a timely manner in order to minimise the ongoing salary costs.

6. Table 2 details the remaining staff by job type. The teachers figure includes the Head and Deputy. Should these staff (excluding the Head and Deputy) not be redeployed, the estimated redundancy costs would be £475k.

Table 2 – Number of Remaining Staff by Job Type

Teachers	22
Support Staff	1
Classroom Assistants	3
Technicians	5
Clerical	6
Caretakers	3
Midday Supervisors	1
Cleaners	5
Catering	2
Total Number of staff	48

7. The estimated redundancy cost of £475k (paragraph 6) and the net financial overspend of £155k projected for 2007/08 (Table 1) have been accommodated within the Schools Budget forecast for 2007/08. The budget monitoring of the Schools Budget and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) are subject to a further report elsewhere on the agenda.
8. Part -year funding, from September 2007, has now been allocated to all Dudley schools who have received pupils from Cradley High School. There are currently 3 pupils who are not currently attending alternative schools, details as follows :
 - Child A – Referred to Travelling Children's Consortium
 - Child B – Currently attending KS3 Pupil Referral Unit
 - Child C (Sandwell resident) – Currently receiving home schooling provided by Sandwell LA.
9. A further update will be provided to Schools Forum at the next meeting on 18 March 2008.
10. The Directorate is working closely with the headteacher to ensure the assets held by the school are properly safeguarded.

Finance

11. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007.
12. 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.
13. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law


14. 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

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

Recommendation

16. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of this report in respect of the closure of Cradley High school and advise the Director of Children's Services of any further action necessary.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

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