

Schools Forum 9 December 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Closure of Cradley High School

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the 2008/09 budget position in respect of Cradley High school since the closure on 31 August 2008.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the contents of the report.

Attachments to Report

4. None.

Mirella Harris
Senior Principal Accountant
20 November 2008

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Purpose of Report

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Background

2. Cradley High school closed on 31st August 2008.
3. Schools Forum was advised at the July 2008 meeting that the 2008/09 estimated outturn for Cradley High was £730k against a delegated budget of £633k, indicating an in year deficit of £97k. Schools Forum had previously set aside £350k from the 2008/09 DSG to alleviate the anticipated deficit budget position at the school thus increasing the total resources available to fund Cradley High to £983k.
4. Since the school closed there has been a need to incur ad-hoc costs in order to secure and board up the site and to remove chemicals and pupil records. Cougar Monitoring has been engaged to provide high level security on site, particularly whilst the caretaker and his family remain on site. The caretaker is scheduled to vacate the site shortly, at which time the level of security will be revised.
5. The latest projected outturn for 2008/09 including the security costs at the current level would be £860k against total resources available of £983k.
6. Devolved formula capital of £150k remains available from Cradley High school; this will be reinvested in other schools via the approved capital programme.

Finance

7. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
8. 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.

9. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

10. 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

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

Recommendation

12. Schools Forum to 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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