

Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter

• Issue 112 • February 2021

Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 112 of 'Fair Exchange?' a pre-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

Schools Budget for 2021/22

Information about the key school funding decisions relating to the 2021/22 financial year taken by the Schools Forum and the LCC Cabinet in January 2021 were set out in Fair Exchange, Issue 111.

Proposals for the Schools Block budget then had to be submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for compliance checking against the relevant Regulations. The ESFA subsequently contacted the LA seeking various clarifications and explanations and once satisfied with the responses provided issued the following approval:

"The authority's adherence to the finance regulations and proforma appear to meet the required criteria, and we would like to thank you for the work done to achieve this."

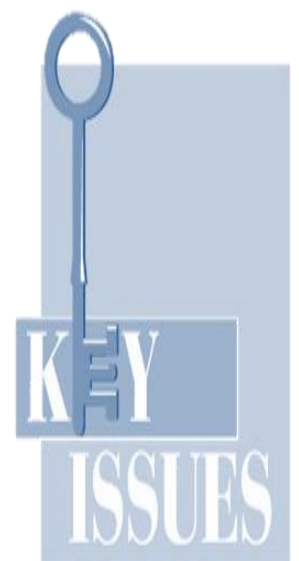
Budget information was subsequently prepared and issued to all schools and early years providers on 22 February 2021, including:

- Individual School Budgets (ISBs);
- Forecast High Needs Block allocations;
- Forecast Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) allocations;
- Forecast Early Years funding statements.

Forum Update

In addition to information about the 2021/22 Schools Budgets, key issues being considered at the Spring term cycle of Forum meetings include:

- High Needs Block Termly Redetermination Process;
- Consideration of the DfE's consultation on national funding formula for allocations of high needs funding to local authorities for 2022-23;
- Schools in Financial Difficulty (SIFD) Categorisation update;
- Options for the DSG Historic Commitments expenditure;
- New School Proposals;
- Possible amendments to the Lancashire Growth Fund Policy to cover new schools;
- Consideration of administrative changes to the SEN Inclusion Fund process in early years.



What else is happening?

Closure of Accounts 2020/21

Notes on the Closure of School Accounts for 2020/21 have been issued via the schools portal on 1 February 2021.

The guidance documentation is also available on the Schools Forum website, which can be accessed from the links below:

- [Closure of accounts guidance 2020/21](#)
- [Closure of accounts guidance for schools operating a local bank account 2020/21](#)

School Teaching & Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme

Confirmations letters about the 2021/22 School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme level of cover will be issued on the Schools Portal shortly

There is still an opportunity to alter the level of cover you require in 2021/22 and a link to a clickquestion eform was included in the confirmation letter. If you have any queries please email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

What's Happening Nationally?

Copyright Licences for Schools

The DfE directly buys copyright licences for schools in England, the funding for which is taken from our Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. These licences cover schools for almost all copyright requirements.

Information on the licences covered by the DfE is available through the Schools Portal and schools are asked to ensure that:

- all intended activities are covered adequately by the licences;
- all staff follow the terms and conditions.

A link to the copyright page can be accessed [here](#). (A Schools Portal login is required).

Forum Membership

Current membership

A current list of Forum members is provided in the link [here](#).



QUESTIONS?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Paul Bonser, Forum Clerk, 01772 531815, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk