

FOLLOW-UP: MATTERS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM THE LAST MEETING

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REASON FOR REPORT

To follow-up any clarifications and information requests agreed by the Committee undertaking their role scrutinising the decisions and reports from the last Cabinet meeting. These matters are for noting only and not for call-in. If a particular Member wishes for further clarification on the information provided below, this will be for the Committee to determine.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

That the Committee note the information provided.

CABINET – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Committee gave consideration to the reports and the decisions made by Cabinet at this meeting and sought further information or clarifications in the reports as set out below. The information is provided below by Council officers.

Committee clarification	Officer response
<p>Item 7 – Consideration of setting a licensed deficit budget in 2019/20 for three schools in the Borough.</p> <p>Clarification was sought on the effect of the proposed increase in funding from the Government on these three schools.</p>	Information awaited / will be provided before or at the meeting
<p>Item 7 – Consideration of setting a licensed deficit budget in 2019/20 for three schools in the Borough.</p> <p>Further details were requested on the budget management plan for Oak Wood School in light of their ongoing deficit linked to pupil numbers.</p>	Information awaited / will be provided before or at the meeting
<p>Item 9 - Revenue and Capital Month 4 Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>Clarification was sought on the status of the School Deficit Recovery Plan detailed in the report and more information on it.</p>	Details regarding the Plan will be provided before or at the meeting

<p>Item 9 - Revenue and Capital Month 4 Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>More information was sought on the overspend relating to Special Educational Needs Transport explaining the higher demographic growth than expected when budgets were set, as cited in paragraph 73 below:</p> <p>‘The service is projecting a drawdown of £1,716k from the SEN Transport contingency as at Month 4, an adverse movement of £978k on the Month 2 position. This reflects the continued growth in the number of children that have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which is currently running at approximately 10% per annum and that it is becoming more challenging to avoid having to procure single occupancy or lower occupancy routes as children are being placed further away. It is now evident that the demographic growth is significantly higher than anticipated when the budgets were set in February 2019.’</p>	<p>Information awaited / will be provided before or at the meeting</p>
<p>Item 9 - Revenue and Capital Month 4 Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>More context was requested why there is an overspend in the Central School Services Block due to the increase in young people accessing alternative provision above the 50 places expected, as set out in paragraph 87 below:</p> <p>‘The overspend is as a result of an increase in the number of young people accessing alternative provision. The Council currently commissions fifty places at the in-borough alternative provision setting and the historic trend is for numbers at the start of the academic year to be below this number before gradually building up. Currently numbers accessing this provision are already in excess of the commissioned number, resulting in an additional cost pressure. As a result of this, the Council is working with the provider to review the number of</p>	<p>During the previous school year there was an increase in referrals to the in-Borough alternative education provision. The Council, on behalf of Schools Forum, is working closely with the education provider to review placements to ensure that where appropriate young people are being supported to re-integrate into mainstream provision.</p>

commissioned places.'	
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