

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	High Needs SEND Budget Savings for 2017/18
Divisions Affected:	All
Key Decision:	No
Reason Key:	Over £500,000 / Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Committee decision by Cabinet on 22 November 2017 minute ref: 230/16

Summary

On 22 November 2016, Cabinet considered a range of savings proposals for the Special Educational Needs Budget for 2017/18. Savings of £10m were required for expenditure to remain within the level of available Dedicated Schools Grant (High Needs Block) funding.

The Cabinet resolved that “the approach to identifying and delivering £10m savings in SEND services in 2017/18, as described in paragraph 13 of the submitted report, be approved and final approval of the savings be delegated to the Assistant Director, Schools and Learning, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement. (Any proposal that requires a public consultation will be referred to Cabinet).”

Since September 2016, officers have worked with a group of members of the Surrey Schools Forum to develop a range of proposals for savings, some of which were detailed in the Cabinet paper. Work in all savings areas has progressed and are ready for implementation. It is expected that the 2017/18 funding gap (originally £10m) will largely be met by £9m of savings.

Any under or overspends on the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block will be managed across the financial years, although this requires schools forum approval. Approval in principle to this approach will be sought from schools forum on 17 July.

Key to a more equitable process of resource allocation across SEND, is a review of service bandings and associated funding and more rigorous controls around ISPSB. The service requests approval from the Leader to undertake the banding review and implement the required ISPSB controls.

Decision madeDecision made:

That the savings options in the annex to the submitted report be approved.

Decision taken by:	Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning in consultation with: David Hodge, Leader of the Council and Mary Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education
Decision taken on:	18 August 2017
To be implemented on:	18 August 2017

Alternative options considered

The annex describes the range of savings which were considered.

Summary of any financial implications

In order for expenditure in Special Educational Needs to be sustainable within the agreed level of DSG funding for the High Needs Block in 2017/18, a reduction of £9m is required.

A review of the service bandings and implementation of controls around the ISPSB, will potentially deliver further savings in 2017/18 and 2018/19 – amount to be determined following preliminary work during the review.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

The proposals have been developed with a working group of the Schools Forum, including representatives from primary, secondary and special schools sectors.

Background Documents

Cabinet report of 22 November 2016.

Exempt:

No

ANNEX – Current Position on Savings Proposals 2017/18

<u>Proposed Savings Area</u>	Proposed £'000
Post 16 SEND numbers of pupils with an EHCP requiring financial support was lower than anticipated in 2016/17	1,000
Review of staff in Early Years to support SEND	1,000
Post 19 provision savings – revised guidance	1,000
Commissioning Savings – looking at different ways of commissioning specialist places	1,000
Available DSG funding – lower overspend in 2016/17	900
Individual Statemented Pupil Support Budget – no inflation has been given for 2017/18 and new requests for ISPSB will be looked at in terms of overall funding	700
Increased income from Other Local Authorities due to occupancy in Special Schools and Centres	700
New operating model for SEN pathway	500
Alternative Provision – various savings including A2E and PRUs and SALP	500
Review education, health and social care costs	500
Reduction of residential provision in Special Schools – individual schools have put forward proposals	400
Education Psychology have reviewed their services and identified opportunities to provide additional services for schools for purchase	300
Decommission SEN planned places where no longer required	300
Individual outreach and nurture groups not operating in 2017/18	200
Updated Proposal	9,000