



Item 6.1b

Briefing note

To: Schools Forum **Author:** Claire Emmerson

Date: 26 November 2020

Purpose of the Paper:

Information	√
Consultation	
Decision	√

Title of Briefing: Schools in Financial Difficulty

Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 At its last meeting, Schools Forum agreed to revise the criteria to which would allow greater flexibility for schools to apply for Schools in Financial Difficulty Funding. This paper provides a summary of the outcome from a further review of applications by the subgroup of Schools Forum.

Consultation Responses for Local Funding Formula Changes

- 2.1 The subgroup met virtually on 16 October 2020 to review the applications which had previously been excluded due to being ineligible under the previous criteria. Of the outstanding applications 4 were eligible under the revised criteria.

Each application was reviewed by the subgroup and only 2 applications were accepted for additional funding: -

- Benton Dene Primary School; and
 - Marden High School.
- 2.2 Benton Dene Primary's application met all of the eligibility criteria and the school shows a strong recovery position once the funding has been allocated. All subgroup members agreed that their recommendation would be that the school should receive the full funding which had been requested, £41,000.

2.3 Marden High School also met all of the revised eligibility criteria and again the school shows a strong recovery position. The subgroup members recognised that there were reasons for the schools financial position which were out of the schools control and that the school had made continuous progress over a number of years to not only bring the school back into financial balance but to also reduce the deficit balance.

No decision was made at the initial meeting with regards to the level of funding that the subgroup would recommend to Schools Forum, a further meeting was therefore necessary to discuss this matter in more detail.

The further meeting was held on 18 November 2020 and 3 options for funding were put to a vote. The subgroup voted for Option 2 which was to recommend further funding of £161,026 to Marden High School.

Recommendations

8.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

- Allocation the funding as per the recommendations made from the subgroup for both Benton Dene Primary and Marden High School.