

**REPORT TO:** School Forum

**DATE:** 19 March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

**SUBJECT:** Contingency Update

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report provides a summary of the requests from a number of schools for contingency funding. School Forum is asked to consider each of the requests and whether they wish to agree to support.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- 2.1 School Forum consider the request for funding by Farnworth CE Primary School;**
- 2.2 School Forum consider the request for funding by West bank Primary School;**
- 2.3 School Forum note the decision on the request for funding by Cavendish School; and**
- 2.4 School Forum note that funding will be recouped from the budget in year for academies.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The report to School Forum in January 2013 identified a balance of £24,180 on the general schools contingency budget in 2012/2013 and £1,785,881 on the DSG centrally held contingency.
- 3.2 The contingency can be used to support schools who have incurred exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect a governing body to meet. Two schools are seeking support under this criteria.
- 3.3 Following a Job Evaluation, Farnworth Church of England Primary School have now been advised that they must find the costs of a backdated job evaluation award of £14,000. This sum was neither budgeted nor expected by the school and they have insufficient funds to meet this additional cost. They are therefore seeking funding from the contingency to meet these additional backdated costs.

- 3.4 West bank primary school has had to pick up the costs of four hearings in the last twelve months. They are therefore seeking support towards the costs of note taking, venues and supply costs for the staff involved. A request has been made to School Forum for £9680.
- 3.5 The total of the above requests if £23,680 they can therefore be met if approved from the general schools contingency budget balance leaving £500.
- 3.6 A request was also received from Cavendish School to support the premature of retirement of a member of staff. As the school are not facing financial difficulties this request was not agreed and the school were advised as follows:

*"In March 2011 School Forum confirmed the responsibility for retirement costs in Haltom Schools. At the meeting it was agreed that "premature retirement must be charged to the schools delegated budget". This is in line with the Education Act 2002 Section 37 paragraph 8.36. The School Forum could consider a case if it could be demonstrated by the local authority that the "revenue savings achieved by the termination of employment are equal or greater than the costs incurred." This tends to be the case when a school is in financial difficulty and must reduce staff or where an authority re-organisation takes place."*

- 3.7 School Forum are asked to note that following a brief consultation by the Department of Education on the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), from 2012/2013 any school converting to an academy will now take a proportion of the school contingency budget. This funding will funding will be recouped from the budget in-year.

#### **4.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
E-mail on Westbank Primary	Rutland House	Ann McIntyre
E-mail on Farnworth CE Primary	Rutland House	Ann McIntyre
Letter from Cavendish	Rutland House	Ann McIntyre