**School Forum Decisions – 17th May 2023**

**Agenda Item 2 – Early Years Update**

**Recommendations:**

2.1Schools Forum noted the draft outturn for 2022/23 at 5.1.

2.2 Schools Forum agreed the proposal to allocate **£1.9 million** of the Early Years Block surplus balance

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| **Proposal** | **Purpose** | **Total Cost**  **£** |
| 1. 1fte of temporary increased staffing levels to Early Years Sufficiency and Sustainability team | To provide additional business management consultancy and childcare sufficiency staffing support to early years sector for 2 years  £60,000 x 2 years | 120,000 |
| 1. Year of Reading | Contribution to project to cover early years activity | 100,000 |
| 1. Year of Numbers | Contribution to project to cover early years activity | 100,000 |
| 1. Speech and Language Club | On-line resource by SALT specialists in the 6 levelling up areas.  42 settings and 500 children and their families supported through the setting, along with up to 10 additional direct support for parents  Supplier: Essex Speech Club. | 94,500 |
| 1. Continuation of Speech and Language Club following a 1-year review | Should the project show success, a further 2–3-year funding, continuation and expansion of the Speech and Language Club. Potential for collaboration with Health colleagues and/or the High Needs Block. | 350,000 |
| 1. Help for sufficiency of disadvantaged EY settings | Funding for Early Years settings in levelling up and disadvantaged areas to help provide sufficiency and longevity in tough times. The settings would be distinguished through location, and if the setting is the only option for families in the area to access their funded place. | 750,000 |
| 1. Talk, Listen & Cuddle improvement and expansion | Talk listen and cuddle is a platform for parents that provide information, advice and guidance. Potential to offer improvement and expansion of this platform and to allow access to more parents. | 50,000 |
| 1. Recruitment and retention support | Work underway to put together a package to support the early years sector | 300,000 |
| **Total** |  | **1,864,500** |

2.3 Schools Forum agreed to undertake a consultation on how to apply the former teacher’s pay and pension grants set out at 5.5.

**Agenda Item 3 – Falling Rolls Fund**

**Recommendations**

2.1 Schools Forum approved the balances criteria at 4.2 as recommended by the Finance Review Group (FRG).

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|  | Balance Criteria |
| Primary schools 210 pupils or fewer. | The balance should be less than or equal to £60,000 or 8% of the relevant budget share, whichever is the greater. |
| Primary schools with 211 pupils or greater. | The balance should be less than or equal to 8% of the relevant budget share. |
| Secondary schools | The balance should be less than or equal to 5% of the relevant budget share. |

2.2 Schools Forum approved the recommendation of FRG to fund the schools listed at 4.6 to be funded by the Falling Rolls Fund for the amounts shown at 5.2 for 2023/24.

* Prettygate Infant School
* St Mary’s Primary, Hatfield Broad Oak
* Clavering Primary
* Holt Farm Infant School
* Wethersfield Primary
* The Alderton Junior School

2.3 Schools Forum approve using **£76,000** of the Schools Block surplus balance to increase the budget for the Falling Rolls Fund at 5.3.

**Agenda Item 4 – School and Academy Balances**

**Recommendations**

2.1 Schools Forum noted the report.

2.2 Schools Forum agreed the recommendation of the Finance Review Group (FRG) to reconvene the review of schools with balances of 30% or higher.

**Agenda Item 5 – Constitution and Membership of Schools Forum**

**Recommendations**

2.1 Schools Forum approved to change the meeting arrangements switching the in person meeting from January to May at 3.2.

2.2 Schools Forum noted that no changes are required to the constitution of Schools Forum at 3.6 and 3.8.

2.3 Schools Forum noted Membership at Annex A and Attendance at Annex B.