

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

LEARNING AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29th October 2020

Briefing Paper

SUBJECT: Delegated School Budgets 2020/21

REPORT FOR: Information / Discussion

1 Schools Delegated Budget Forecasts 2020-21

- 1.1 Due to the impact of the pandemic, Schools were given an extension to submit their approved budgets to the 22nd May. These were reviewed in July and some schools were asked to submit spend plans (if they were in a significant surplus position) or recovery plans (if they were in a deficit position) by Friday 16th October. These will be reviewed and a further update report will be put to Cabinet and to Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee in November.
- 1.2 The figures shown in Table 1 below summarise the current estimated draw on reserves provided by schools which has reduced by £134k from the previous budgeted position (please note that some schools have yet to provide updates to their budgets to take account of the changes due to COVID-19 closures and staffing reductions that can no longer be made in September as previously planned). The schools finance and HR teams are holding finance surgeries with all schools during October/November and these positions will then be updated next month.

Table 1

School Sector	Opening Balance 31/3/20	Budgeted Contribution / (Use) in 2020-21	Forecast Variation to/(from) reserves	Closing Balance 31/3/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Primary	2,646	(561)	(60)	2,025
Special	(124)	245	(138)	(17)
Secondary	(3,432)	(930)	332	(4,030)
Total	(910)	(1,245)	134	(2,022)

- 1.3 Budgets approved by Governing Bodies have been reviewed by the Chief Education officer and the Section 151 officer and schools have been advised what position their budget is in for 2020-21 along with any actions needed. Schools in Deficit or significant Surplus positions were asked to submit plans by the 30th September but an extension to this was given due to COVID-19 and the

revised submittal date is the 16th October 2020. These plans will then be reviewed again by the authority and an update will go to Cabinet in November.

1.4 The RCSIG and PDG allocations have now been confirmed and allocations will be sent to schools, this may impact on the balances position when schools update spend plans to reflect the new allocations.

1.5 **Primary**

The forecast contribution from reserves for the Primary Sector is currently £621k which has increased by £110k since last month.

1.6 **Secondary**

The Secondary sector has a forecast call on reserves currently of £600k. This has reduced since last month by £290k.

1.7 **Special**

The special sector has a £107k forecast contribution to reserves. This has reduced by £74k since last month.

1.8 Table 2 below summarises the position of schools' budgets as submitted in May.

School Sector	Approved	Licensed	Unlicensed
Primary	66	7	6
Secondary	3	2	6
Special	2	0	1
Total	71	9	13

1.9 Detailed analysis of the current forecast balances per school is shown in confidential Appendix A.

1.10 It is proposed that a more detailed briefing on schools on warning notice and those causing concern be brought to the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2020.