

BOXMOOR HOUSE BUDGET 2006-07 & 2007-08

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform members about the projected out turn for the Boxmoor House budget for 2006-07.
- 1.2 To seek members support for a proposed budget allocation for Boxmoor House in 2007-08.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meetings in February 2006 and April 2006, the Schools Forum agreed that the 2006-07 budget share for Boxmoor House School should be retained within central funds and members indicated their support for the proposed allocation of that budget.
- 2.2 The final budget share for Boxmoor House for 2006-07, based on the historic place numbers but with zero pupils, was £1.144m.
- 2.3 The projected total of all costs arising in respect of the Boxmoor House site and the pupils displaced from the school was £1.307m. As indicated above the available budget was limited to £1,144m, therefore the anticipated costs of placing Boxmoor pupils in independent special schools, totalling £653k for 2006-07, could not be met in full. The balance was met from the out county placements budget of the authority, which contributed to the overspend against the budget for out county placements as reported to the Forum in December.

3. Forecast Expenditure Out Turn 2006-07

3.1 Summary

<u>£,000</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2006-07</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>To 8/11</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>2006-07</u>
Boxmoor House Site	180	67	173
Little Furze Site	90	103	103
Reinstated and/or Suspended Staff	260	152	251
Project Management	64	31	62
Home Tuition fees	60	5	5
Independent Special School fees	490	321	550
TOTAL	1,144	679	1,144

3.2 The forecast outturn for site costs includes allowance for a 100% rates charge, assuming that the rates exemption for the site would be lost due to the change of use. Preliminary rating advice indicates that the remaining occasional use of the site is likely to qualify for exemption, therefore there may be a saving on site costs of approximately £36k. It is not thought prudent to take this into account until the rating position is formally determined by Dacorum District Council, which may not be confirmed during this financial year.

3.3 Although there was a small overspend on the costs of operating the Little Furze site through the summer term 2006, other expenditure lines are now forecast to be underspent for the year. This enables a larger than budgeted contribution to be made to the costs of out county placements for the pupils displaced from Boxmoor house School.

4. Budget 2007-08

4.1 The indicative budget share for Boxmoor House for 2007-08, based on the historic place numbers but with zero pupils, is £1.178m.

4.2 It remains the intention of the authority to make future provision for pupils with special educational needs on the Boxmoor House site. In order to provide a future budget for the replacement establishment, it is important to identify the funding separately in the Schools Budget of the authority. As the school has closed, it is no longer possible to make this budgetary provision within the delegated schools budget. Accordingly it is proposed to make specific budgetary provision in 2007-08 for the costs of operating the site, the re-provisioning project, and those relating to the remaining staff of the school still employed by the authority.

4.3 The Little Furze site closed at the end of July 2006, therefore no budget is required for this site.

4.4 A project team involving Headteachers, governors, external consultants and officers across the authority is continuing work to develop proposals for future provision on the site. The work of this group is expected to accelerate

as the timelines necessary to submit capital plans approach, therefore the proposed 2007-08 budget for the re-provisioning project is increased to £120k.

- 4.5 After meeting the projected site, staff and project costs, the remainder of the available budget allocation is proposed to be set against the costs of placing students in out county special schools. Most of this allocation could be directly related to placements for pupils who were displaced from the Boxmoor House Special School. Although the allocation is greater than the projected costs of actual placements for ex-Boxmoor pupils, it is not sufficient to meet the out-county special school fees for all of the pupils who would have been placed at Boxmoor House if it were still open.

4.6 Proposed Budget 2007-08

<u>£,000</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2006-07</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>2006-07</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2007-08</u>
Boxmoor House Site	180	173	185
Little Furze Site	90	103	0
Reinstated and/or Suspended Staff	260	251	115
Project Management	64	62	120
Home Tuition fees	60	5	0
Independent Special School fees	490	550	758
TOTAL	1,144	1,144	1,178

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast out-turn against the 2006-07 budget, and to approve the proposed 2007-08 budget for retention within the centrally retained budget of the authority.