

**13 October 2015**

**Update on Universal Infant Free School Meals Funding**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To provide schools forum with an update on the current position regarding capital funding for the implementation of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM), and the outcome of the recent further requests for funding that have been received from schools.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Schools Forum note the current position regarding funding and endorses the requests for funding that have been approved by the working group.
- 2.2 That approval of any further requests to utilise the remaining funding are delegated to the working group (with updates provided to Schools Forum).

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Schools Forum agreed on 10 March 2015 to a further round of bids from maintained non VA primary schools to seek to utilise the remaining UIFSM capital funding that had been received by the authority, which, as an initial round of bidding for funding was completed during 2014 to support schools to implement UIFSM, and due to their being a limited amount of funding remaining, would be prioritised as follows:

1. Schools who are still unable to offer hot meals
2. Schools who were not successful in receiving any financial support in the first round of bidding
3. Schools who are now experiencing health and safety or other legislative issues in connection with operating the UIFSM offer
4. Schools who are experiencing operational difficulties issues in connection with operating the UIFSM offer

- 3.2 Schools Forum also agreed that bids would be reviewed and agreed by a working group comprising:

- Assistant Director Access & Achievement (or nominee)
- Head of Educational Standards and Improvement (or nominee)
- Senior Finance Manager Schools (or nominee)

- Chair of Schools Forum (or nominee)
- Chair of PNS (or nominee)

4.6 Once bids had been received a working group of the members who were available met on 2 October 2015 to review submissions.

## 5. Outcome of Bidding Process

5.1 A summary of the bids received, the outcome of the review of the working group, and explanation of any variance in funding requested and funding allocated is set out in the table below:

| School          | UIFSM Funding Requested (£) | UIFSM Funding Agreed (£) | Reason for Variance   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Castelfort JMI  | 15,634.66                   | 5,234.66                 | Request for £10,400 for the warm heating system to be connected to the existing extraction input not supported as guidance issued to schools for further funding bids explicitly set out that we would not consider bids where the school is responsible and has not fulfilled its obligations e.g. appropriate ventilation or heating. Therefore for consistency it was felt that this part of the request could not be supported.                     |
| Palfrey Infants | 25,000.00                   | 0.00                     | Request related in full to an extension of the hall to provide table and chair storage, however no building extension works were supported during phase 1 bids, therefore for consistency it was felt that this request could not be supported.   |
| Watling Street  | 1,734.50                    | 1,734.50                 |   |
| Lower Farm      | 21,134.00                   | 1,409.20                 | Request for £19,725 for a new canopy and ventilation was not agreed as no ventilation / extraction works were supported during phase 1 bids, and guidance issued to schools for further funding bids explicitly set out that we would not consider bids where the school is responsible and has not fulfilled its obligations e.g. appropriate ventilation. Therefore for consistency it was felt that this part of the request could not be supported. |
| Butts           | 5,187.40                    | 5,187.40                 |   |

|               |                  |                  |  |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| County Bridge | 17,132.77        | 16,517.14        | Request for £615.63 to supply and fit a fire alarm relay interface to kitchen shutter doors not agreed as this was not directly linked to the provision of UIFSM and guidance issued to schools for further funding bids explicitly set out that we would not consider bids where the school is responsible and has not fulfilled its obligations. |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>85,823.33</b> | <b>30,082.90</b> |  |

5.2 The value of bids that have been agreed above would leave a remaining UIFSM capital grant balance of circa £50k. Since the bids were evaluated one further school has contacted the Schools Finance team to set out that they were unable to meet the deadline for bids but were experiencing significant operational difficulties in the UIFSM offer at their school.

5.3 To ensure that schools continuing to experience difficulties can be supported, and the available funding is fully utilised, it is recommended that approval of any further requests to utilise the remaining funding are delegated to the working group (with updates provided to Schools Forum).

## **6. Financial implications/Value for Money**

6.1 Any bids that are approved need to be contained within the financial resources that are available to support UIFSM implementation (as set out in the report).

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 Only maintained non VA primary schools are eligible to bid for this funding (Academy and VA schools received funding to support the implementation of UIFSM separately).

## **8. School Improvement**

8.1 The bids that this funding will support should ensure that all schools are able to effectively deliver their UIFSM offer, and aid schools in achieving Walsall's aim of doing all that it can to ensure that schools are able to serve a hot meal as part of this.

## **9. Members eligible to vote**

9.1 All elected members with voting rights are eligible to vote on this matter.