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| <b>MEETING:</b>   | <b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b>  |
| <b>DATE:</b>  | <b>7 DECEMBER 2009</b>  |
| <b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>   | <b>PROPOSED USE OF DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT UNDERSPEND – HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP (HSTG)</b> |
| <b>ASISSTANT DIRECTOR PLANNING, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT</b> | <b>CHRISTOPHER BAIRD</b>  |

## Wards Affected

County-wide

## Purpose

To agree to use Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) under spend to enable Herefordshire to support outcomes from the work of the HSTG and to ensure effective and supported communication and consultation events to implement recommendations.

## Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

## Recommendation(s)

**THAT Schools Forum agrees to commit £50,000 to support Herefordshire's implementation of the HSTG recommendations for the financial year 2010/11. Any unspent funds will be returned to schools or reconsidered by the Forum for the next year.**

## Key Points Summary

- HSTG has consulted upon and presented to Cabinet for consideration a number of proposals and processes designed to enable the development of a strategy to deliver quality sustainable models of schooling across the county.
- In order to design and implement such a strategy training, support, consultation events and cluster meetings will require coordination and facilitation. This will necessitate the release and cover of key school staff as well as the provision of venues / information and data to inform

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Christopher Baird, Assistant Director Planning, Performance and Development, 01432 260 264

discussions.

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 Schools Forum can decide what amount to commit to this support or schools can find funding for cover from within their budgets or through cluster agreement. However, the implementation of the HSTG proposals will be hindered if such activity is not agreed and supported.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To enable Herefordshire to move forward on the recommendations of the HSTG as approved by Cabinet at their forthcoming meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 HSTG was tasked to develop processes and procedures through which Herefordshire could develop a strategy for the development and maintenance of high quality provision across the county.
- 4 The pressures of falling rolls has impacted upon funding for all schools and presents challenges in terms of sustainability and quality of delivery.

## **Key Considerations**

- 5 This proposal invites Schools Forum to support full engagement in the implementation of the HSTG proposals.

## **Community Impact**

- 6 The delivery of the HSTG proposals in Herefordshire will support the development of quality sustainable provision for the communities of Herefordshire. Primarily this support will facilitate representation from communities and cluster of schools to contribute to the development of delivery models.

## **Financial Implications**

- 7 School staff that wish to engage in this development will need to commit time for this to be successful. Release of staff places additional pressures on schools. This funding will help to meeting and cover costs.

## **Legal Implications**

- 8 Any resources committed by Schools Forum would have to comply with financial regulations covering the use of under spend from DSG.

## **Risk Management**

- 9 HSTG proposals may be delayed in implementation if supportive funding cannot be made available and schools are unable to fund their own costs and the LA is unable to fund meetings.

## **Consultees**

None identified

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

- HSTG Consultation Paper for Cabinet- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009.