

Appendix 13

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2015/16

Background to the Schools Forum's recommendations.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Schools Forum on 14th January 2015 the final Schools Budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 14(i) was recommended to Cabinet for approval. This Appendix gives details of those recommendations.
- 1.2. The per pupil funding for 2014/15 will be £4,594 for the Schools Block and £3,916 for the Early Years Block. There is also an estimated allocation of £2.272 million to fund 2 year old provision. The total funding for the High Needs Block is £16.421 million which includes placement and top up fees for special needs, special units and 16-19 Special needs pupils. The Department for Education (DfE) has also announced that the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for 2015/16 will be the same as 2014/15 with schools receiving no less than 98.5% per pupil of their 2014/15 pupil led funding. Overall there is growth in pupil numbers, leading to an additional £964K being allocated to schools. However the increase is within the Primary phase and there has been a decrease in Secondary phase pupils. Primary funding rates are lower than Secondary so the average per pupil funding has decreased slightly to £4,497.

2. Schools' Budget 2014/15

- 2.1 Appendix 14 (i) sets out the recommended Schools' Budget for 2015/16 and compares it to the 2014/15 Schools Budget and spending forecast. The Schools budget is split between the three Funding Blocks (i.e. Schools Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block respectively) as per DfE fair funding reform.
- 2.2 The Schools Block is further split between Primary and Secondary phase schools. The Early Years block shows the breakdown between PVI provision, school nurseries and central expenditure. The High Needs block is broken down by the different types of provision and between place funding and top up funding. Details of the Central expenditure of the Schools Budget are provided.
- 2.3 The changes to the 2015/16 schools budget when compared to 2014/15 are:
 - i. A cost neutral change to the mainstream school funding formula increasing the lump sum allocations per school.

- ii. An increase in funding allocated to Primary Schools due to growth in pupil numbers.
- iii. A decrease in Secondary School funding due to falling pupil numbers.
- iv. A decrease in the 2 year old provision budget as funding will reduce to be based on actual provision rather than a targeted trajectory.
- v. Increases in the estimated 3 and 4 year old provision budgets.
- vi. Increases in place and top up funding, and for hospital education provision, within the high needs block reflecting planned increases in provision.
- vii. An increase to the growth fund allocation to fund planned additional classes in primary schools.
- viii. An increase to the budget to pay for school copyright licenses, which will now be paid centrally.

2.4 The Schools Budget recommended for approval for 2015/16 will therefore total £138.216 million. This is an increase of £1.381 million on the 2014/15 Schools Budget of £136.835 million.

3. Impact of academies 2015/16

- 3.1 Appendix 14 (i) shows the total Schools' Budget including Academies. In practice, the DSG and the Schools' Budget will be reduced via the recoupment process by:
- a) For mainstream Academies the formula share in the ISB;
 - b) For special Academies a pro rata share of place and top up funding within the High Needs Block.
 - c) Place funding for Non Maintained Special Schools