

Appendix 13

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2016/17

Background to the Schools Forum's recommendations.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Schools Forum on 13th January 2015 the Schools Budget for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 13(i) will be proposed. This is the result of consultation with Schools and Schools Forum and will then be recommended to Cabinet for approval. This Appendix gives details of those recommendations.
- 1.2. The per pupil funding for 2016/17 will be £4,594 for the Schools Block and £3,916 for the Early Years Block. There is also a funding allocation for 2 year old provision funded at £4.89 per hour. The total funding for the High Needs Block is £16.869 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 2016/17 will be the same as 2015/16 with schools receiving no less than 98.5% per pupil of their 2014/15 pupil led funding. Overall there is growth in pupil numbers, which along with local funding formula changes will lead to an additional £2.519 million being allocated to schools. However the bulk of this increase is within the Primary phase and there has been a decrease in Secondary phase pupils in some schools. The average per pupil funding has decreased slightly to £4,522.

2. Schools' Budget 2015/16

- 2.1 Appendix 13 (i) sets out the recommended Schools' Budget for 2016/17 and compares it to the 2015/16 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 2 year old provision, 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 2016/17 schools budget when compared to 2015/16 are:

- i. An increase in funding allocated to schools to part cover the transitional costs in 2016/17 of the Minimum Funding Guarantee. This is due to funding formula changes agreed by Schools Forum following a consultation with all schools. This will be funded by £0.564 million from DSG reserves, estimated at circa 1.6 million.
- ii. An increase in funding allocated to Primary Schools due to growth in pupil numbers.
- iii. An increase in funding allocated to 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 realistic estimates of provision rather than the previous targeted trajectory from the Department for Education.
- v. Increases in the estimated 3 and 4 year old provision budgets.
- vi. Increases in the High Needs block to be agreed with Schools Forum following an increase in the block funding.
- 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 an expanded range of school copyright licenses, which will now be paid centrally.

2.4 The Schools Budget recommended for approval for 2016/17 will therefore total £140.950 million. This is an increase of £2.551 million on the 2015/16 Schools Budget of £138.399 million.

3. Impact of academies 2016/17

3.1 Appendix 13 (i) shows the total Schools' Budget including Academies. In practice, the DSG and the Schools' Budget will be reduced via the recoupmnt 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