

## SCHOOLS FORUM

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### MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

#### Present:

Mr N Baker (Chairman), Mr M Watson (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Bates, Ms M Chilcott, Miss Tracy Cornelius, Mr J Hawkins, Mrs S Jiggins, Mr J Proctor, Mr N Roper, Ms I Sidmouth, Mr S White, Mrs C Williamson and Mr D Wragg

#### Also Present:

Cllr Richard Gamble

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#### 1 Apologies and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from Rosemary Collard, John Hamp and Amanda Burnside, who sent David Wragg as substitute.

#### 2 Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were considered.

#### RESOLVED:

**The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.**

#### 3 Declaration of Interests

Nigel Roper stated that if Growth Funds were to be discussed, his school would benefit from the scheme, although he said that he would approach discussions with an open mind.

Neil Baker also stated that his school would benefit from Growth Funds but said that he would approach discussions with an open mind.

#### 4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked the officers for the quick turnaround in the reports following legislative changes at the start of the year.

He also explained that the agenda was extraordinary, in that the reports would be considered and the decisions would be made at the end, under the decisions report, agenda item 12.

5 **Children and Young People's Trust Board Update**

There was no relevant update for the Trust Board.

6 **Budget Monitoring**

Head of Finance Liz Williams gave an update regarding the Budget Monitoring Report.

Specific attention was drawn towards the £0.585 million projected overspend to the overall Schools Budget. A £1.2 million move in spending within the High Needs budget including top up payments was also highlighted, as an increase from the last Budget Monitoring Report in October 2016.

Members were asked to note the contents of the report

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the Budget Monitoring Report.**

7 **National Funding Formula for Schools 2018-19: Phase II Consultation and High Needs funding formula consultation**

School Strategic Finance Support Manager Grant Davis introduced the report explaining the consultation period and the two- stage process involved, lasting for 14 weeks and ending on 22 March 2017.

The new funding blocks were outlined and attention was drawn towards the new structure of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to include; Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and a new Central Services Block for 2017-18.

The 'soft' formula was explained as the approach to be adopted in 2018-19, with a move to the 'hard' formula of National Funding for 2019-20.

The table at para 15 of the report for National Funding Formula was highlighted as giving an indicative funding oversight as to the overall position for Wiltshire and how it stands to be impacted by the National Funding Formula.

The indicative movements in funding were explained in the paper which showed a small increase in funding under the National Funding Formula for schools and no increase under the proposed High Needs formula. Concerns were expressed at the impact, particularly, with the High Needs due to issues with historical spend and deprivation of the area.

Questions were asked by members regarding the determination of historical spend and criticism was raised over the fact that the data was based on historical spend.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the Funding Formula Report.**

8 **Reports from Working Groups**

The Head of Finance Liz Williams introduced the Working Group update reports and asked Members to note the updates.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the update reports from Working Groups.**

9 **Exceptional Numbers of Statements (EHCP's) Formula**

Schools Strategic Finance Support Manager Grant Davis explained the report and the targeting of funding towards schools with High Needs.

Attention was drawn to the tables and figures in the report detailing 6 options considered by the Working Groups, for future funding formulas, at para 9 of the report.

The officer explained that it was proposed to keep the current mechanism unchanged with a capped budget at £100,000 for 2016-17 but for options for future years to be brought to a subsequent for members to consider.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members agreed to keep funding formula unchanged for 2016-17 and to cap expenditure at £100,000 with funding for 2017-18 onwards to be determined at later meetings.**

10 **School Revenue Funding 2017-18 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process**

The Chairman introduced the Revenue Report, highlighting aspects of significance.

Head of Finance Liz Williams further expanded on the reports, including the clarification of decision making powers, and asked members to note the contents.

A question was asked as to how decisions made by for the High Needs Block would be scrutinised if authority was taken away from Schools Forum. It was clarified that it would be part of the overall budget setting process and would be open to scrutiny via the normal processes, such as, the Overview and Scrutiny teams of the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the content of the Revenue Funding Report.**

11 **Update reports on DSG Funding Block**

Head of Finance Liz Williams gave a brief overview of the update reports.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the updates from the DSG Funding Block.**

12 **Schools Block- Central Budgets**

Head of Finance Liz Williams explained the report which sought to update Members on issues surrounding the Central Budget and identify the decisions that needed to be made as part of the budget setting process.

Attention was drawn to the decisions table outlining Sections A-D that needed approval.

Technical questions were asked Appendix 4, and specifically regarding the data on monies being spent on looked after children.

Members noted the reports and the identification of eligible and ineligible spend.

**RESOLVED:**

**Determination of this report was deferred until the other reports were heard and for the decisions paper at the end.**

13 **Schools Block-Delegated Budget**

Head of Finance Liz Williams introduced the report, highlighting decisions table at para 11. The options for funding pupil led factors in 2017-18 were indicated in Appendix 1 and technical aspects were explained to the Members.

Technical issues were discussed surround de-delegation of maternity costs and funding for additional school improvement funding as outlined in the operational guidance.

Members were advised that the proposal was that the formula would stay the same for 2017-18.

**RESOLVED:**

**Confirmed Lump Sum to remain £85,000 for Primary Schools and £175,000 for secondary schools.**

**Agreed to retain the quantum for pupil led factors (Deprivation, EAL and Prior Attainment) at 2016-17 levels. Impact will be small change in funding rates per pupil. It was confirmed that the cost of the minimum funding guarantee would continue to be met through the capping of any gains.**

**Agreed to de-delegate the budget for maternity costs, as in previous years all other de-delegation decisions made at the October meeting confirming delegation of contingency and SIMS licences but all others to remain as in previous years.**

14 **High Needs Block**

Head of Finance Liz Williams introduced the report and emphasised the need to reduce the pressure on the High Needs Block.

There was a discussion in relation to the use of any funding released from central schools block in order to support pressures in the high needs block. Questions were asked by Members regarding the allocation of funds and aspects of the report were clarified.

**RESOLVED:**

**Determination of this report was deferred until the other reports were heard and for the decisions paper at the end.**

15 **Early Years Block**

Head of Finance Liz Williams introduced the reports and explained the proposed Early Years Single Funding Formula, as a simplified formula.

Questions were asked regarding early years pupil premium. There was a discussion about the proposed 98% pass through of the 3 & 4 year old funding and use of early years block funding to support central Local Authority costs in administering the new entitlement.

**RESOLVED:**

**Determination of this report was deferred until the other reports were heard and for the decisions paper at the end.**

16 **Budget 2017- 18: Decision Paper**

As stated by the Chairman in his announcements most of the decisions to be made were deferred until the end of the meeting to be heard in this section.

An updated Decisions Matrix was presented to Members in the meeting. This outlined all the decisions that needed to be deliberated and approved.

The decisions made by Members, based on consideration of the reports and deliberation in the meeting were as follows.

**Central Schools Block proposals**

1. To approve Line by Line summary, appendix 1 to Central DSG Report. Summarised in Proposed Budget summary.
2. Propose agree eligible expenditure as per table in Appendix 3 Central DSG Report.
3. To be confirmed - SFWG/SEN Group recommendation to consider impact on moving to high needs block to support top up rates and capacity for change.
4. Propose Budget for central copyright licences set at £0.346m.
5. Propose budget for retained ESG duties set at £1.005m as per funding settlement and analysis of costs.
6. No top slice proposed in initial reports.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **Budgets for Admissions, Schools Forum Support, and Infant Class Size payments agreed as per Appendix 1 to the Central Schools Block Report. Budget for Basic Need Element of Growth fund set at £0.9m and agreed virement between basic need and infant class size elements of growth fund if required during the year. Confirmed previous decision not to implement a Falling Rolls Fund in Wiltshire.**
2. **After considering eligibility and the evidence presented funding was agreed for the following historic commitments: Support for**

Personal Education Plans for Looked After Children (£0.233m). Funding for Child Protection Adviser in Schools (£0.041m). Funding for Prudential Borrowing (£0.3m). Funding for ineligible commitments of £1.7m released for reallocation

3. Agreed to release £1.7m from central schools block for allocation across other funding blocks
4. Noted LA decision to set budget at £0.346m for central copyright licences to reflect cost of licence notified by the Department for Education
5. Agreed budget for centrally retained duties to be set at £1.005m
6. Agreed no funding to be retained centrally from maintained schools to cover former ESG spend

#### **Delegated Schools Block Proposals**

1. Propose retain quantum as per 16-17 for pupil led factors
2. No proposal brought to Schools forum to dedelegate funding for additional school improvement.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. **Confirmed Lump Sum to remain £85,000 for Primary Schools and £175,000 for secondary schools. Agreed to retain the quantum for pupil led factors (Deprivation, EAL and Prior Attainment) at 2016-17 levels. Impact will be small change in funding rates per pupil It was confirmed that the cost of the minimum funding guarantee would continue to be met through the capping of any gains. Agreed to de-delegate the budget for maternity costs, as in previous years all other de-delegation decisions made at the October meeting confirming delegation of contingency and licences but all others to remain as in previous years.**
2. **No further de-delegation for additional school improvement costs**

#### **High Needs Block Proposals**

1. No change proposed to top up rates however other decisions may change this.
2. Separate paper on exceptional numbers of statements refers. Proposal to leave formula unchanged for 2016-17 but cap at £100k.
3. Recommend High Needs Block to fund cost of speech & language service.
4. Initial proposal no change from 2016-17 values.
5. Propose additional £100k to support addition of University Technical College (UTC) to list of participating schools
6. Proposal for £100k to support development of funding mechanism to support children at key transition points.
7. Propose to move funding of Inclusion Support Fund to Early Years Block.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. **Central spend on high needs provision to be increased with funding reallocated from central schools block. From this: £0.5m to be added to top up budget for mainstream schools. £0.357m to be utilised to continue to fund Inclusion support fund from High Needs**

**Block. For remainder proposals to be brought to March meeting based on SEN strategy for consideration and approval.**

- 2. Agreed to leave formula for exceptional number of statements unchanged for 2016-17 and to cap expenditure at £100,000.**
- 3. Agreed Therapies budget to be met from High Needs Block.**
- 4. Agreed that £0.5m be added to the top up budget (from the £1.7m reallocation) to increase top up values for mainstream schools by 11% compared with 2016-17.**
- 5. Agreed £0.100m to be added to the alternative provision budget.**
- 6. Not agreed - proposals to be considered at March meeting.**
- 7. Proposal to fund base budget for Inclusion support fund from Early Years Block not agreed.**

#### **Early Years Block Proposals**

1. Proposed formula as per EY Block report with supplements for Rurality and Deprivation. Proposed Basic Hourly rate £4.06
2. Proposed ISF £467,300, fully funded from Early Years Block
3. Proposal in Early Years report for 98% pass through to providers.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. Wiltshire Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) agreed. The agreed base rate of funding to providers was set at £4.14 per hour.**
- 2. It was agreed that the increase of £110,000 to the Inclusion Support Fund be funded from the Early Years Block and that the base budget continue to be funded from High Needs Block**
- 3. It was agreed that 98% of 3 & 4 year- old funding would be passed through to providers.**
- 4. It was agreed that the funding rate for two year olds would be set at £5.32 per hour**

#### **17 Confirmation of dates for future meetings**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

#### **18 Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 11.00 am - 4.00 pm)

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## **SCHOOLS FORUM**

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### **MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2016 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.**

#### **Present:**

Mr N Baker (Chairman), Mr M Watson (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Bates, Mrs R Collard, Miss Tracy Cornelius, Mr J Hawkins, Mrs S Jiggins, Mr J Proctor, Mr N Roper, Mr S White, Mrs C Williamson and Miss Cathy Shahrokni

#### **Also Present:**

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#### **37 Apologies and Changes of Membership**

Apologies were received from Mrs Chilcott – South Wilts Grammar; and David Whewell – Wiltshire Governors Association, and Amanda Burnside who was substituted by Cathy Sharokni.

#### **38 Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 were considered.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 June be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

#### **39 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### **40 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Chair.

#### **41 Children and Young People's Trust Board Update**

The Service Director for Commissioning and Performance, Department for Children and Education provided a verbal update regarding the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

The meeting noted the update.

42 **Budget Monitoring**

The meeting received a report, circulated as a supplement, which provided budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2016/17.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that was a projected £420k underspend against the budget; that the underspend had mainly been in the Early Years budget; and that top up budgets were, broadly, breaking even, but that there was a separate paper on that matter.

**Resolved**

**To note the budget monitoring position at the end of August 2016.**

43 **Reports from Working Groups**

Minutes and updates on working groups of the Forum were provided and considered as follows:

**43a Report of Meetings of Early Years Reference Group - 16 September 2016**

**Resolved**

**To note the minutes of the Early Years Reference Group meeting.**

**43b Report of School Funding Working Group meetings 5 July and 20 September 2016**

The Forum considered the notes and any matters arising.

**Resolved**

- 1. That Schools Forum notes the minutes of the School Funding Working Group meeting.**
- 2. To agree not to amend the current formula for split site allowances for mainstream schools (paragraph 3)**
- 3. To agree to not allocate a split site allowance from the High Needs Block for Exeter House (paragraph 3)**

4. That in considering proposals for the delegation and de-delegation of budgets to maintained schools, Schools Forum note the recommendations of the School Funding Working Group (paragraph 5)
5. That Wiltshire Council incorporate the School Financial Management Statement in the Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Schools, including it as part of the compliance process (paragraph 6). – agreed as part of discussion in item 11.
6. That in considering the proposal to review ELP guidance, Schools Forum note that the Schools Funding Working Group is in support of the proposal (paragraph 7)

#### 44 **Early years Block 2017-18**

The meeting considered the report that provided an update regarding the DfE proposals for changes to the funding for the free entitlement to childcare for 3 & 4 year olds and the extension to 30 hours of free childcare for children of eligible working parents; and asked the Schools Forum to consider the implications of the proposed changes for the Wiltshire Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that the consultation was out on the 11<sup>th</sup> August and was required to be submitted by the end of September, so consultation was undertaken with the Early Years Reference Group not the whole Schools Forum; that the overall view was broadly sympathetic in respect of the proposal for a national funding formula but with some specific concerns, highlighted in the report; the main implications for the single forum; that Wiltshire was ahead with regard to some aspects but other actions will need to be taken; the new supplements that can be included in the Formula; the optional supplements that could be offered and the impact on the baseline budget allocation; that the Officers would review the formula taking into account the changes and bring proposals to the EY reference group in November and then bring proposals to Schools Forum in December; and the concerns, expressed by some, that the change in formula could affect the quality of provision.

#### **Resolved**

1. To note the report and the response to the DfE consultation.
2. To agree that the Wiltshire EYSFF should be reviewed in the context of the DfE consultation and that proposals will be brought to the December meeting. The outcome of the review will include options for changes to the EYSFF and in relation to the % pass-through of funding.

## 45 **High Needs Block**

The meeting considered the following items:

### **45a High Needs Block Update Report**

The meeting considered a report, circulated as a supplement, on savings implemented within the 2016-17 high needs budget; and provided an update on placements in Independent Special Schools as requested at the previous meeting.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: The comparison of changes in volume and changes in unit cost; the changes in the projected spend, and that the increase is mostly due to volume but also, in part, due to increase in unit cost; the issue of upskilling and providing facilities within mainstream schools; where the more complex needs are more appropriately addressed; and that the Wiltshire college work had been recognised to meet local need.

**Resolved**

**To note the report.**

### **45b High Needs Post 16 Data Analysis and Funding Report**

The meeting considered a report on the analysis of activity and spend on the Post- 16 high needs element of the High Needs Block.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that Wiltshire was a high recipient of young people placed from out of the area; that there had been a significant increase in number of post16 high needs learners, but that the total amount of spend has decreased; it was projected that this amount should decrease; the significant improvement in quality all local post 16 provision; that officers had successfully reduced amount of bureaucracy; that a better choice within the County could be offered to Wiltshire families; and the individual decision that had been made, sometimes based on locality choices.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their thorough report.

**Resolved**

**To note this report.**

#### **45c High Needs - Exceptional Numbers of Statements Formula**

The meeting considered a report which outlined the current formula for funding schools where there is an exceptional number of statements/EHCP's in a school and the associated implications for the High Needs budget, costs, along with proposals for the future funding of this factor. It was noted that the paper had been published as result of the Schools Funding Working Group.

Chair proposed to defer consideration of this report and refer it back to the Working Group to ask them to consider how the report can best reflect the scope of the issue.

#### **Resolved**

**To defer consideration of the report to December.**

#### **45d Proposal to Review Enhanced Learning Provision Guidance**

The meeting considered a report that highlighted the on-going pressure on the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). A number of actions have been taken to address this pressure, all have focused on achieving savings and efficiency whilst at the same time achieving parity and fairness in the system and the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disability (SEND).

This paper asked the Schools Forum to support a proposal to review the Enhanced:

- Learning Provision (ELP) Guidance to ensure that it;
- Contributes to the need for financial efficiency
- Is aligned with the reforms set out in the Children and families Act 2014
- Is in accord with the new Wiltshire SEN Banding arrangements

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: the ongoing pressure, with actions being taken, and how it was hoped to ensure parity and fairness across the system; and how the guidance had changed.

#### **Resolved**

**To support the proposal that, in order to support the management of the high-needs budget and review some of the discrepancies between secondary and primary funding, the Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning reviews and updates the guidance for ELP to bring it into line with the 2014 Children and Families Act and Wiltshire's new SEND Banding system (the current ELP guidance was last reviewed in 2011).**

46 **Schools Block 2017-18**

The meeting considered the report which outlined the key details of the DSG Baseline Funding and the Operational Guidance for Schools Revenue Funding for 2017-18.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: budgets for all schools will be submitted in January; that the changes in the baseline funding which would be neutral; that the operational guidance issues this year referred to there being no additional funding; and whether there would be an increase in future funding.

<b>Budget/Service</b>	<b>Proposed Year to Delegate</b>		
	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
Maternity costs - postponed until Dec 16 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free School Meal Eligibility Service		✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licences - SIMS	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licences - HCSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Subscriptions	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Unions facilities costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
School contingency budget	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour Support Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travellers Education Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic Minority Achievement Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Resolved**

- a) **To approve the criteria for allocating pupil Growth Fund in 2017-18, as per the 2016-17 criteria – agreed**
- b) **To agree that the budget for the Growth Fund is retained at a maximum of £1.00m for 2017-18, as per the 2016-17 baseline figure, confirmed by the EFA – agreed**
- c) **To agree to continue funding schools where there are exceptional premises factors, as in 2016-17 – agreed**
- d) **To consider the proposed services to have the funding delegated or de-delegated and agree the delegation for 2017-18.**
  - i.) **To leave Free Schools Services as de-delegated.**
  - ii.) **Defer Maternity Schools decision for December Forum if figures is there.**
  - iii.) **SIMs delegate,**

#### 47 **Schools Revenue Balances 2015-16**

The meeting considered the report which presented: the position of revenue balances of Wiltshire maintained schools as at 31st March 2016 and identifies those that are in deficit; the analysis of net revenue balances excludes those schools that converted to academy status during the financial year but includes those that converted post 31st March 2016. It was noted that Members had last considered a report on schools' balances and deficits in November 2015, and that in that report the value of surpluses was £10.753 million and 18 schools were in deficit with a total value of £2.27 million.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that historically Wiltshire Council had operated a clawback facility until 13/14; how the DfE had started to challenge schools where they had relatively high surpluses; that a School Finance Statement was made available for all schools to improve their headline budget, making it clear whether they had breached the threshold guidelines for surpluses.

#### **Resolved**

**That Wiltshire Council incorporate the School Financial Management Statement in the Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Schools, including it as part of the compliance process (*paragraph 6*).**

#### 48 **Confirmation of dates for future meetings**

The meeting confirmed the dates of meetings for the remainder of 2016/17, as follows:

- 8 December 2016
- 12 January 2017
- 9 March 2017

#### 49 **Urgent Items**

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 3.47 pm)

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DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
				Local Authority	Schools Forum	DfE	
Overall Budget	Overall Schools Budget	individual decisions for blocks to feed in	Schools Budget to be set at level of DSG Settlement £330.806m	Decides	Proposes		No decision required. Council to set budget at overall level of DSG
	Confirm no LA Top Up			Decides			
Central Schools Block	Ongoing commitments eg Admissions, Growth Fund, Schools Forum support		Line by Line summary, appendix 1 to Central DSG Report. Summarised in Proposed Budget summary Propose as presented in Table	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Budgets for Admissions, Schools Forum Support, and Infant Class Size payments agreed as per Appendix 1 to the Central Schools Block Report Budget for Basic Need Element of Growth fund set at £0.9m and agreed virement between basic need and infant class size elements of growth fund if required during the year Confirmed previous decision not to implement a Falling Rolls Fund in Wiltshire
	Central spend on historic commitments	will inform any further funding to be delegated if spend is not agreed, is not evidenced or does not meet criteria	Propose agree eligible expenditure as per table in Appendix 3 Central DSG Report	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	After considering eligibility and the evidence presented fundign was agreed for the following historic commitments: Support for Personal Education Plans for Looked After Children (£0.233m) Funding for Child Protection Adviser in Schools (£0.041m) Funding for Prudential Borrowing (£0.3m) Funding for ineligible commitments of £1.7m released for reallocation
	Decision required to reallocate any ineligible historic commitment spend		To be confirmed - SFWG/SEN Group recommendation to consider impact on moving to high needs block to support top up rates and capacity for change	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed to release £1.7m from central schools block for allocation across other funding blocks
	Central Licences negotiated by Secretary of State		Propose Budget for central copyright licences set at £0.346m	Decides	None	None	Noted LA decision to set budget at £0.346m to reflect cost of licence
	Central Spend on services previously funded by the retained rate of ESG		Propose budget for retained ESG duties set at £1.005m as per funding settlement and analysis of costs	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed budget to be set at £1.005m
	Central spend on general duties for maintained schools - services previously funded by ESG general duties rate	would be a top slice for maintained school budgets - impacts on delegated budget decision	No top slice proposed in initial reports	Proposes	Decided by maintained school members	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed no spend to be retained centrally from maintained schools
Schools block - Delegated Budget	Values of pupil led formula factors - Deprivation, EAL, Prior Atainment, etc	Decision on Historic commitments will inform any additional funding to be delegated	Propose retain quantum as per 16-17 for pupil led factors	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Confirmed Lump Sum to remain £85,000 for Primary Schools and £175,000 for secondary schools Agreed to retain the quantum for pupil led factors (Deprivation, EAL and Prior Attainment) at 2016-17 levels. Impact will be small change in funding rates per pupil It was confirmed that the cost of the minimum funding guarantee would continue to be met through the capping of any gains
		De-delegation - most decisions made, still need to confirm Maternity		Proposes	Primary and Secondary school reps decide	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed to de-delegate the budget for maternity costs, as in previous years all other de-delegation decisions made at the October meeting confirming delegation of contingency and licences but all others to remain as in previous years.
	Funding for Additonal School Improvement	new guidance allows for funding for "additional" school improvement to be de-delegated from maintained schools	No proposal brought to Schools forum	Proposes	Primary and Secondary school reps decide	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	No further de-delegation for additonal school improvement costs

Schools Forum - January 2017  
Decision Matrix for 2017-18 Budget

DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
High Needs Block	Central spend on High Needs provision		No change proposed to top up rates however other decisions may change this	Decides	none	none	Central spend on high needs provision to be increased with funding reallocated from central schools block. From this: £0.5m to be added to top up budget for mainstream schools £0.357m to be utilised to continue to fund Inclusion support fund from High Needs Block For remainder proposals to be brought to March meeting based on SEN strategy for consideration and approval
	Funding for exceptional numbers of statements		Separate paper on exceptional numbers of statements refers. Proposal to leave formula unchanged for 2016-17 but cap at £100k	Decides	none	none	Agreed to leave formula unchanged for 2016-17 and to cap expenditure at £100,000
	Inclusion of Therapies spend in central high needs budget - moved from ESG	additional pressure on HNB - may require movement from other blocks	Recommend High Needs Block to fund cost of speech & language service	Decides	none	none	Agreed Therapies budget to be met from High Needs Block
	Top Up values for NPAs, ELP, Resource Bases and Special Schools		Initial proposal no change from 201-17 values	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed that £0.5m be added to the top up budget (from the £1.7m reallocation) to increase top up values for mainstream schools by 11% compared with 2016-17
	Funding levels for Alternative Provision		Propose additional £100k to support addition of UTC to list of participating schools	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed £0.100m to be added to the alternative provision budget
	Additional Pressures within high needs block to be funded		Proposal for £100k to support development of funding mechanism to support children at key transition points	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Not agreed - proposals to be considered at March meeting
	Savings proposals to meet shortfall in high needs block		Propose to move funding of Inclusion Support Fund to Early Years Block	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Proposal to fund base budget for Inclusion support fund from Early Years Block not agreed
Early Years Block	Agree Wiltshire formula - including supplements to be applied		Proposed formula as per EY Block report with supplements for Rurality and Deprivation. Proposed Basic Hourly rate £4.06	Proposes and decides	must be consulted		Wiltshire Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) agreed. The agreed base rate of funding to providers was set at £4.14 per hour
	Level of Inclusion Support Fund and how funded	High Needs Block options	Proposed ISF £467,300, fully funded from Early Years Block				It was agreed that the increase of £110,000 to the Inclusion Support Fund be funded from the Early Years Block and that the base budget continue to be funded from High Needs Block
	% Pass Through to settings	impacts on potential top slice for schools	Proposal in Early Years report for 98% pass through	Proposes and decides	must be consulted		It was agreed that 98% of 3 & 4 year old funding would be passed through to providers.
	Hourly rate for free entitlement for 2 year olds			Proposes and decides	must be consulted		Agreed rate to be set at £5.32 per hour in line with funding allocation

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**Principles that have guided Schools Forum decisions in previous years:**

- 1 Money should follow the pupil
- 2 Decisions should maximise the funding allocated to all pupils where possible
- 3 Support local specialist provision
- 4 Maintain relativities between phases (Primary/Secondary) in formula factors
- 5 Minimise the numbers of Schools on Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)