

## Wiltshire Council

### Schools Forum

14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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#### Review of High Needs Places for 2016-17

##### Purpose of report

1. To provide an update following the submission of the "*High Needs funding 2016 to 2017 - place change request.*", issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in September 2015,

##### High Needs Places for 2016 to 2017

2. At its meeting in November 2015, Schools Forum agreed to implement an option, 'Option 5' which enabled the revision of the number of agreed 'planned places' based upon actual pupil numbers at two points in time (May and October 2015). This option will enable the LA to maximise the number of places funded, but also to still retain the mechanism to recoup - funding using the top ups mechanism.
3. The revised number of High Needs places was required to be submitted to the EFA in November 2015, for all Academy schools, following agreement with each institution. All academies were contacted to ensure agreement.
4. There was only one Academy which would not agree to the revised planned place numbers and it will now be for the EFA to agree the place numbers using the ILR (Individualised Learner Records) or census data. The EFA consider that the planned place numbers should incorporate both the pre and post 16 places as a total.
5. Place numbers at maintained schools did not require submission as part of the process but will be submitted as part of the annual Schools Budgets return (Authority Pro-Forma Tool) to the EFA in January 2016.
6. It was agreed, in accordance with the EFA's guidance that these changes should apply from the start of the 2016-17 academic year. This would accord with the plans of schools working in academic years and also be consistent across both academies and maintained schools.

7. The revised number of places are summarised in the table below and a full breakdown detailed in Appendix 1.

<b>PLACES</b>	<b>Academic Year</b>	
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Maintained ELP's	96	83
Academy ELP	264	254
Maintained RB's	117	114
Academy RB	150	126
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>577</b>

### Financial Perspective for Wiltshire

8. The revision in planned place numbers was not designed as a cost-saving exercise but to enable LA's to revise their planned place numbers in accordance with the demand for places.
9. Due to the LA working in financial years, April to March and the High Needs places being allocated on an academic year, September to August, the LA's 2016-17 financial year will be a transition year where changes in planned places will be based upon funding of;
- 5/12ths of the 2015-16 academic year planned places (Apr 16 – Aug 16)
  - 7/12ths of the 2016-17 academic year planned places (Sept 16 – Mar 17)
10. Therefore for the 2016-17 financial year, there will be a transition period where all schools move from being funded for the current number of places to their new number of places. As a result, maintained schools will appear to be funded for an unusual number of places on their Funding Certificates, for example;

<b>School</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>5/12ths</b>	<b>7/12ths</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Current Places 15-16 Academic Year	11	4.58		<b>4.58</b>
Revised Places 16-17 Academic Year	8		4.67	<b>4.67</b>
<b>TOTAL Funded Places 16-17 Financial Year</b>				<b>9.25</b>

11. For Academy schools, whilst there will also be a transition period in terms of funding by the LA. However, as Academies are currently funded for an academic year, there will be no transition period in terms of place funding and their Funding Certificates issued directly by the EFA for the 2016-17 year will show the correct whole number of places to be funded.

12. The table below sets out the net impact of the reduction in the number of planned places over the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years. Whilst there will be a significant saving in the 2016-17 financial year, the full financial impact will not be achieved until the 2017-18 financial year, when all schools should be funded according to their revised number of planned places. Appendix 1 sets out this detail on a school by school basis.

ELP's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	TOTAL
<b>Maintained</b>	960,000	884,167	830,000	
<b>Academy</b>	2,640,000	2,581,667	2,540,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>	<b>3,465,833</b>	<b>3,370,000</b>	
<b>Saving</b>		134,167	95,833	<b>230,000</b>

Resource Bases	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	TOTAL
<b>Maintained</b>	1,170,000	1,152,500	1,140,000	
<b>Academy</b>	1,500,000	1,293,333	1,260,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,670,000</b>	<b>2,445,833</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	
<b>Saving</b>		224,167	45,833	<b>270,000</b>

TOTAL (ELP & RB's)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	TOTAL
<b>ELP's</b>	3,600,000	3,465,833	3,370,000	
<b>RB's</b>	2,670,000	2,445,833	2,400,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,270,000</b>	<b>5,911,667</b>	<b>5,770,000</b>	
<b>Saving</b>		358,333	141,667	<b>500,000</b>

## Proposals

13. Schools Forum is asked to note the content of the report.