

**“A fair deal for Wiltshire’s Special Schools?”**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce a letter received from the Headteacher of Rowdeford Special School, attached as Appendix 1.

**Background**

2. A letter was received, for consideration at the January Schools Funding Working Group, relating to the issue of the award of fairer funding monies received in 2015-16 and built into Wiltshire’s baseline funding for 2016-17.
3. In 2015-16, the DfE had announced changes to the schools block under its Fairer Schools Funding proposals. Under these proposals an additional £390m was allocated nationally to increase funding for the lowest funded authorities in terms of the Schools Block Unit of Funding (SBUF).
4. The final allocations meant that Wiltshire benefitted from this increase and successfully received an additional £5.721million, and moved from being the 6<sup>th</sup> worst funded authority in the country to the 7<sup>th</sup> worst funded authority (out of 151 authorities). In July 2015, it was confirmed in a Ministerial Statement that this funding would continue and in effect form part of the SBUF baseline for Wiltshire’s DSG funding.
5. Schools Forum agreed to build this additional funding into the AWPU rates for the mainstream schools in 2015-16, whilst retaining the Key Stage differentials. None of the extra funding was awarded to Special Schools.
6. The contents of the letter were discussed at the Schools Funding Working group on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and it was recommended that this be presented as an agenda item at Schools Forum.

**Proposal**

7. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the contents of the letter and discuss and respond to the concerns raised.