

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum
15th March 2016

Schools Funding Settlement and Budget Proposals for 2016-17

Purpose of report

1. To outline the key changes resulting from the schools funding formula for 2016-17. The report is for information only.

Background

2. The Department for Education (DfE) published the 2016-17 financial settlement for schools on 17th December 2015. The settlement included details of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
3. The funding allocated through the DSG is then modelled through the Wiltshire funding formula to ensure that the schools budget is affordable. This incorporates decisions taken by Schools forum regarding any additional funding and funding-factor rates.
4. The schools block was set at £260.156 million which is an increase of £3.621m on the 2015-16 funding level. The increase is accounted for by the growth in pupil numbers, detailed below.
5. The High Needs Block of funding has seen an increase of £0.823m for 2016-17, following an overall increase in the total block of £92.5m amongst all English authorities.
6. In addition, Wiltshire continues to receive funding for the induction of Newly Qualified Teachers of £0.088m for 2016-17, not included in the above figure for schools block funding.

Main Changes for Information

Pupil Numbers

7. There has been an overall increase in the pupil numbers within Wiltshire. The increase has been in the primary sector and Key Stage 3 pupils, with a decrease in pupils at Key Stage 4, in the secondary sector. The movement is detailed below;

Key Stage	2014-15	Increase	2015-16	Increase	2016-17
Primary (KS1 & KS2)	35,181	832	36,013	958	36,971
Secondary (KS3)	13,999	-71	13,928	139	14,067
Secondary (KS4)	10,103	-270	9,833	-262	9,571
TOTALS	59,283	491	59,774	834	60,609

Per Pupil Funding and Other Funding Rates

8. The 'Fairer Schools Funding' received in 2015-16 has continued into the 2016-17 year and has now been built into the base level of funding.
9. The funding received by the LA for schools is based upon the SBUF (Schools Block Unit of Funding) rate, which has marginally increased from its 2015-16 rate of £4,302.41 to £4,302.45 for 2016-17. Based upon the demographic growth of Wiltshire pupils at Key Stage 1 and 2, the increased total funding for the schools block could have enabled a minor increase in the per pupil funding. However, this could not have been sustained in future years as the growth in pupil numbers filtered into Key Stages 3 and 4 would have necessitated a greater reduction in per pupil funding. Retaining the 'per pupil' funding at the current rates has future-proofed the Wiltshire funding formula against future demographic funding issues.
10. The 'per pupil' funding rates for pupils in Wiltshire are detailed below. There was a significant uplift for the 2015-16 'per pupil' funding due to the additional £5.7m awarded through the Fairer Funding mechanism. The small reduction in the rates for 2016-17 relate to the centralisation of the Copyright Licensing, a national agreement whereby the EFA purchase the licences on behalf of all schools. This has ensured that all schools are covered for all of their copyright needs, whilst ensuring best value for purchase of the licences.
11. The copyright licences have been incorporated within the 'per pupil' funding. The amendments have been reflected in the 2016-17 'per pupil rates', whilst retaining the same differentials in funding between the Key Stages.
12. Funding for other pupil led factors, deprivation, prior attainment and English as an additional language have been adjusted as the overall level of funding for these formula elements has remained unchanged.

'Per Pupil' funding	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Primary (KS1 & KS2)	2,912.12	2,989.50	2,984.65
Secondary (KS3)	3,739.55	3,838.91	3,832.69
Secondary (KS4)	4,562.50	4,683.72	4,676.13

Element	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Deprivation – Primary	825.73	843.15	838.21
Deprivation - Secondary	831.70	849.25	823.43
English as an Additional Language – Primary	1922.48	1500.63	1,476.84
EAL – Secondary	658.66	578.77	542.30
Prior Attainment - Primary	614.95	627.93	628.43
Prior Attainment - Secondary	459.11	468.80	497.88

Minimum Funding Guarantee

13. The Minimum Funding Guarantee ensures that schools are protected from a drop in their overall per pupil funding. Due to the increases from the Fairer Schools Funding monies, the impact of the MFG has been significantly diluted, as below.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total MFG	1,611,101	533,217	609,350
Largest MFG	133,628	67,647	69,457
Largest Cap	117,442	53,553	431,695
Schools in Receipt of MFG	77	27	48
Schools Capped	91	47	27
% Increase before Capping	0.88%	4.61%	1.70%

Proposal

14. Schools Forum is asked to note the content of this report.

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