

## **Wiltshire Council**

**Schools Forum**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

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### **Report from the School Funding Working Group**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

#### **Main considerations for School Forum**

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. In relation to the management of high needs budgets in 2016-17 the working group agreed the following:
  - a) That the recoupment of unfilled places should continue in the 2016-17 academic year through the current methodology;
  - b) That proposals should be developed for consideration by Primary Heads Forum (PHF) and Wiltshire Association for Secondary and Special Heads (WASSH) in relation to a revised and consistent process for considering requests for re-banding and for the moderation of banding decisions;
  - c) That further work should be carried out to consider options for the operation of the exceptional numbers of statements formula factor, funded from the high needs block.
4. In relation to the procurement of licences for the schools management information system, the working group agreed that the recommended approach should be to delegate the budget to maintained schools for 2017-18.
5. A further discussion took place in relation to the delegation of budgets that are currently de-delegated; it was agreed to recommend that Schools Forum agree not to carry out the annual consultation on de-delegation of central budgets in September, and instead, to require the Schools Funding Working Group to work with Officers to develop a plan for the delegation of budgets to meet the required timescale of 100% delegation of schools block budgets by April 2019.

#### **Proposals**

6. That Schools Forum notes the minutes of the School Funding Working Group meeting.
7. That Schools Forum agree the proposals relating to the management of the high needs budget as follows:

- a) That the recoupmnt of unfilled places should continue in 2016-17 academic year through the current methodology;
  - b) That proposals should be developed for consideration by Primary Heads Forum (PHF) and Wiltshire Association for Secondary and Special Heads (WASSH) in relation to a revised and consistent process for considering requests for re-banding and for the moderation of banding decisions;
  - c) That further work should be carried out to consider options for the operation of the exceptional numbers of statements formula factor funded from the high needs block.
8. That Schools Forum note the recommendation of the Schools Funding Working Group when considering the paper on procurement of schools management information system licences.
9. That Schools Forum agrees not to hold a consultation in September 2016 on the de-delegation of central budgets for the next financial year.
10. That Schools Funding Working Group is asked to work with Officers to develop a plan for the delegation of budgets to meet the required timescale of 100% delegation of schools block budgets by April 2019 and to report back to Schools Forum at the October meeting.

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