

Schools Forum
12th January 2017

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – SCHOOLS BLOCK UPDATE 2017-18 (Delegated Budget)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2017-18 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

Main Considerations

2. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the DfE has allocated a schools block quantum to Wiltshire of £260.780 million. This includes funding of £1.005m to represent the retained duties that the local authority (LA) has for all schools (formerly funded from ESG), and growth of £4.680m for increased pupil numbers in the October 2016 census.
3. The summary of schools forum responsibilities and powers attached to the report on the funding settlement and budget setting process states that any decisions in relation to the school funding formula are proposed and decided by the LA, having consulted with schools forum. Because the government is currently consulting on a new national funding formula for schools in future years there are no proposed changes to the Wiltshire local funding formula for 2017-18. Schools forum will want to consider the values of pupil led factors within the formula and further detail is provided on this in paragraph 7 below.
4. Taking in to account current central commitments against the schools block it is calculated that the available quantum for the delegated budget is £255.562m. This quantum will be used in the initial calculations of the schools delegated budget.
5. Work is ongoing to input the October 2016 census data in to the Wiltshire formula to calculate individual schools budgets and to review the affordability of current formula factors in order to meet the EFA deadline of 20th January 2017. Further update will be provided at the meeting on 4th January.
6. Currently budgets are being calculated assuming no change in age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) value compared with the current year and no change to the current lump sum values.
7. In previous years the quantum for each of the pupil led formula factors ie., deprivation, English as an Additional Language (EAL) and prior attainment have been held at the same value from year to year. This has meant that per pupil rates have changed year on year. At the meeting in January 2016 schools forum expressed concern that this meant the original relativities between the rates had been distorted and that rates should be reviewed for 2017-18. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the position and presents a number of options for consideration in the 2017-18 budget. These options will need to be considered in terms of the affordability of changing the rates.
8. As in previous years it is also assumed that costs of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) are met through limiting the increases to schools gaining from the formulaic changes.
9. As in previous years funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can then be de-delegated for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. Schools forum considered proposals for 2017-18 at the October meeting and so the majority of decisions in

relation to de-delegation have already been made. There is an outstanding decision in relation to schools maternity budgets and this decision will need to be made at the January meeting.

10. From 2017-18 schools forums can also agree to de-delegate further funding for additional school improvement provision for maintained schools. This new provision sits alongside the new [school improvement grant](#) for statutory local authority intervention functions which commences in September 2017. At this stage there are no proposals within this report for any de-delegation in relation to additional school improvement provision for 2017-18, it is not clear whether this flexibility will continue in future years.
11. The decisions that schools forum will be asked to make in relation to the delegated budget are as follows:

Decision	Notes and interdependencies
Confirm value of AWPU and lump sum	Currently assumed same as 2016-17. Decisions in relation to historic commitments in central DSG will impact on the available quantum for the delegated budget. Final value may not be confirmed until all budget calculations are finished but schools forum can agree principle of whether growth allocated to AWPU.
Confirm values of pupil led factors for deprivation, EAL and prior attainment	Separate report attached As above, decisions in relation to central DSG may impact on affordability of preferred option
Delegation or de-delegation of maternity costs	All other de-delegation decisions were made at the October meeting. Further info required before a decision is reached on maternity budgets
De-delegation of additional school improvement services.	New provision outlined in the operational guidance for 2017-18. No proposal presented at this stage.

Proposals

12. Schools Forum is asked to note the report and the required decisions in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2017-18.

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