

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – SCHOOLS BLOCK UPDATE 2019-20 (Delegated Budget)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2019-20 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 £275.215 million. This includes funding of £2.217 million for the growth fund, based on the new growth formula, detailed in a separate paper.
3. Cabinet approved the funding formula for 2018-19 which confirmed that Wiltshire would move as close to the national funding formula (NFF) as possible. In doing so the Wiltshire formula replicated the formula factors in the national funding formula (NFF) as closely as possible. Formula factors were all fully funded at the published NFF values apart from the FSM6 Derivation factor, which was funded at a lower value for affordability reasons.
4. Modelling work is underway to calculate individual school budgets based on the agreed formula. Progress and an update will be brought to the meeting on 17th January 2019. There are a couple of key factors which could impact upon the affordability of the formula:
 - i. increase in Business Rates, due to significant changes in rateable values in the 2017-18 baseline with a reduction in the transition arrangements which has meant that several 'medium' sized schools have seen an increase of up to 17.5%).
 - ii. A number of growing schools are being funded on estimated numbers with the agreement of the ESFA. This means more pupils are being funded through the formula than were counted in the October 2018 census.
5. It is proposed that any shortfall in schools block funding (if required) will be funded through a reduction in FSM6 rates again. The rationale for reducing this factor rather than other factors is that schools forum felt that there is an element of double counting between this factor and the Pupil Premium Grant. The principle was agreed in 2018-19 but is subject to approval once again.
6. 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. It is proposed that the MFG will be set at 0.5% to ensure that all schools gain by a minimum of a least 0.5% again in 2019-20, on their 'per pupil' funding. This option will be modelled amongst others and presented to schools forum alongside other options.

7. 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 agreed that it would consider proposals for 2019-20 at the January 2019 meeting. Services to be considered for de-delegation in 2019-20 are:
- HCSS Software Licence
 - Trade Union Facilities Costs
 - Maternity Costs
 - Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
 - Traveller Education Service
 - Behaviour Support Service

Proposals

8. Schools Forum is asked to note the report and the required decisions in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2019-20.

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