

**Report from the School Funding Working Group**

**Purpose of report**

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

**Main considerations for School Forum**

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The Group agreed the following recommendations to be made to Schools Forum to be considered at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**4. Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme**

The School Funding Working Group considered a report outlining the results of the consultation with schools on proposed changes to the controls on surplus balances scheme.

It was recommended that the proposal to amend the funding scheme to withdraw the control mechanism on surplus balances with effect from the 2013/14 financial year be supported.

**5. Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements**

The group considered the DfE consultation document: Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements and requested that the following information be made available to Schools Forum to assist in the consideration of the document and Schools Forum's response:

1. Benchmarking information on the sizes of schools in similar rural counties;
2. Per pupil funding for different sizes of schools within Wiltshire under the old and new formula, pre and post MFG
3. Data on the nearest second school for pupils attending small rural schools.

**6. Free School Meals Pooling Scheme**

The group considered the report outlining the current financial position within the FSM Pooling Scheme.

It was recommended that no cash back be distributed to schools in 2012-13.

## **Proposals**

7. That Schools Forum note the minutes of the School Funding Working Group and the recommendations outlined above.

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