

Report from the School Funding Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 13th June 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 27th June 2013.

4. Procurement of Financial Forward Planning Software from April 2014

The School Funding Working Group considered a report on the proposed transition to a web based version of the schools financial planning software and to enter in to a new 3 year agreement with the current supplier in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Rules.

It was recommended that the proposal to enter in to a new 3 year agreement with the current provider to provide a web based financial planning tool to all maintained schools from April 2014 be supported.

5. Final Outturn 2012-13

School Funding Working Group considered a report detailing the final outturn position for 2012-13. It was agreed to support the recommendation that the deficit balance from closing schools be written off against the 2012-13 underspend.

It was agreed that further consideration needed to be given as to how and whether any funding could be set aside to support schools made more financially vulnerable through the change in funding formula.

6. School Funding Arrangements for 2014-15

The group considered the DfE proposals for schools funding in 2014-15. It was agreed that the following options for changes to the formula should be modelled for consideration by Schools Forum:

1. Pupil mobility – to consider the impact of the introduction of a 10% threshold to the mobility factor
2. Sparsity – to consider the impact of the proposed new sparsity factor
3. Lump Sum – to model differential lump sums set at £85,000 for primary schools and £175,000 for secondary schools.

Proposals

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

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Report author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance
01225 713675
Elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk