

CABINET

11 February 2010

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**Schools Budget Proposals 2010/11**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To present the recommendations from the Wiltshire Schools Forum in respect of the Dedicated Schools Budget for 2010/11.

**Background**

2. Schools Forum met on 21<sup>st</sup> January to consider budget proposals for 2010/11. The estimated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2010/11 is £252.392 million after adjustments for Academies. This estimate is based on September pupil projections, the final grant will reflect January 2010 pupil numbers and will be notified to the Authority in June 2010.
3. Accounting rules for DSG allow for carry forward of over or underspends against DSG in to the following year although there is no expectation that deficits will be carried forward after the end of a 3 year funding period, in this case 31 March 2011. Budget monitoring for 2009/10 indicates a small underspend of £0.088 million for the current year which may be carried forward to 2010/11.

**Main Considerations for the Council**

4. After allocating inflation costs to fund the Minimum Funding Guarantee (2.1%) and taking in to account funding earmarked for Ministerial priorities, Schools Forum recommended that the following priorities are funded from headroom within the overall DSG:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Special School Banding Moderation – funding of the outcome of the banding moderation and additional places	£230,000
Secondary Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) - increase in numbers	£98,000
Secondary ELPS – restore relative value (not inflated in 2009/10)	£45,000
Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSSF) – implementing proposed formula	£272,000
EYSSF – Return on Capital Invested/Goodwill element	£220,000
Named Pupil Allowances for pupils with special educational needs – increase value	£300,000
Early Years – increase in take up of free entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds	£200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,365,000.00</b>

5. In order to fund all of these priorities a Schools Budget of **£252.392 million** is recommended in line with the estimated level of grant. The proposals above leave approximately £0.380 million unallocated and Schools Forum have recommended that this be held in contingency until the final level of grant is announced in June.
6. Cabinet should consider the budget proposals presented in this report, and make appropriate recommendations to Council on 23 February 2010.

### **Equality and Diversity**

7. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

8. The Schools forum makes recommendations to Cabinet in relation to the schools budget, the final budget will be agreed by Council.

### **Risk Assessment**

9. The recommended schools budget is based on an estimate of the level of DSG to be received by Wiltshire Council. It is possible that the final DSG will be higher than the current estimate (as happened in 2009/10) and therefore further funding will be available in 2010/11. It is equally possible, however, that the estimate of DSG is too high and priorities will not be affordable. For this reason Schools Forum have recommended that a contingency is held until the final allocation of grant.

## **Financial Implications**

10. The recommended schools budget is £252.392 million. This will be fully funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The budget needs to be spent in accordance with the school finance regulations.

## **Proposals**

11. It is proposed that Cabinet agree the overall schools budget of £252.392 million

**Martin Donovan**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report:	None
Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this report:	None