

School Funding Working Group Meeting

5th July 2016, 8:30am

Cullum Room – County Hall

MINUTES

1	<p>Split Site Allowances</p> <p>GD presented 2 requests from schools to be considered for allocation of a split site allowance:</p> <p>Greentrees Primary School</p> <p>As part of the expansion of Greentrees Primary school in Salisbury additional classrooms have been opened on a separate site. The site is approx. 600 yards from the existing school and separated by a public highway however the criteria for the current split site allowance in the Wiltshire local funding formula are not met. Allocation of split site allowance in this case could only happen if the Wiltshire formula is changed.</p> <p>On consideration of the schedule of costs submitted by the school it was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The majority of costs were associated with the increase in size of school regardless of whether or not it was across more than one site; 2. The school had received additional funding from the Growth Fund to reflect the initial increase in pupil numbers 3. There would therefore be no recommendation to Schools Forum to amend the Wiltshire formula in future years. The formula for 2016-17 is already in place and therefore cannot be changed. 4. It was further agreed that it would not make sense to propose a change to the local formula whilst details of the proposed national funding formula were still awaited. <p>Exeter House School</p> <p>A proposal for a split site allowance to support the relocation of post-16 provision at Exeter House School in to the John Ivie Centre had been considered by Schools Forum at the June meeting and delegated to the Schools Funding Working Group for further discussion and decision.</p> <p>It was noted that the original proposal for use of the additional building had not included a requirement for a split site allowance with the proposal being affordable within existing place and top up funding. It was further noted that the number of planned places at</p>	
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	<p>the school would not be increasing and that the school was not currently at full capacity.</p> <p>It was agreed that split site funding should not be allocated to Exeter House school for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no formal mechanism for the allocation of a split site allowance within the High Needs Block 2. That the original business case was supported by the LA on the basis that it did not build in any assumption of additional split site funding and was affordable within the estimated place and top up funding allocated to the school 3. That the proposal does not require the expansion of place numbers at the school. The SEN strategy does not propose an increase in capacity as a result of the use of the John Ivie Centre. 	
2	<p><i>High Needs Block – Formula for Exceptional Numbers of Statements</i></p> <p>EW outlined that within the High Needs Block it is possible to include a mechanism for supporting schools with higher numbers of pupils with statements/EHCPs where those numbers may not necessarily be recognised in the main school formula. Expenditure under the current mechanism, which funds schools with more than 3.5% of NOR with statements, had increased in the last year. At the previous meeting of the School Funding Working Group it had been suggested that it would be sensible to consider the numbers of pupils with SEN in individual year groups rather than across the school as a whole.</p> <p>GD outlined the results of modelling work that had been carried out to date. The work had assumed a cap of £100,000 for this formula factor and used October census data to identify the numbers of pupils with statements/EHCPs in each year group.</p> <p>It was agreed that a proposal should be taken to the October meeting of Schools Forum to amend the exceptional SEN formula to allocate funding to schools where more than 10% of pupils in any year group have a statement/EHCP (excluding pupils in Resource Bases/ELP) with a cap of £100,000 on the amount to be paid in any one year. It was agreed that there should be no de-minimis level so even amounts of less than £1,000 should still be paid.</p>	GD
3	<p><i>De-delegated Budgets</i></p> <p>The Group considered a summary of the budgets that are currently de-delegated on behalf of maintained schools. Whilst no further details have been received in relation to the government's proposals for a national funding formula it was agreed that we</p>	

should be working towards the proposed timetable of 100% delegation by April 2019.

As a general principle the group confirmed that if it was possible to delegate budgets earlier than 2019 this should be done.

The following proposed timescale was agreed:

Budget	Proposed Year of Delegation	Notes
Maternity Costs	2017-18	Early delegation but schools will need guidance on the costs they will be expected to meet.
Free School Meals Eligibility Service	2017-18	Would need to be delivered on fully traded basis – expectation that most schools will purchase. Noted that the service will be included within the Traded Services review which will determine final timescale
SIMS Licence	2017-18	Already agreed by Schools Forum
HCSS Licence	2019-20	LA currently requires maintained schools to use HCSS therefore delay delegation
Subscriptions	2017-18	
Trade Union Facilities Costs	2019-20	Concern about the impact on the Wiltshire Collective Agreement if the budget is delegated and schools do not pay in
Schools Contingency Budget	2017-18	
Behaviour Support Services	2018-19	Propose delegate in year 2 – to give momentum to the work on traded services and ensure services not left without a plan. Final timescale will need to fit
EMAS		
Traveller's Educations		

	Services		within outcomes of development of traded services	
4	<i>DSG Historical Commitments Return</i>			
	<p>EW outlined that a return had been submitted to the EFA outlining all of the historical commitments currently funded from the proposed central DSG block. The EFA had asked for more evidence to support the commitments and this was currently being collated. It was agreed that a report will be brought to Schools Forum in October outlining the current commitments and feedback from the EFA.</p>			EW
4	<i>Date of Next Meeting</i>			
	<p>To be set once details of the next stages of the DfE consultation are issued.</p>			