

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum
24th January 2013

Report from the School Funding Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 11th January 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 24th January 2013.

4. Supply Pool Insurance Scheme

The School Funding Working Group considered a report outlining proposals for cashback allocations from the scheme and considering whether the scheme could be extended in future years to include cover for maternity costs.

It was recommended that

- a) Cashback should be allocated back to participating schools at the "enhanced level"
- b) That work should be carried out to look at the feasibility and risks of incorporating maternity cover in to the scheme and a report brought back to Schools Forum later in the year.

5. Free School Meals Pooling Scheme

The group considered the report outlining the current financial position within the FSM Pooling Scheme and also considered the proposed method of calculation of premiums for 2013-14.

It was recommended that

- a) A report be brought to the March meeting outlining any proposals for cashback
- b) That premiums for 2013-14 be calculated based on numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals multiplied by a rate per meal

6. Schools Budget 2013-14

The group received an update on the 2013-14 funding settlement for schools and the impact on the funding formula for next year. In respect of the Schools Block the group asked that the following savings options be modelled for consideration by Schools Forum:

1. Reducing formula rates and the impact on the cost of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping

2. Identify savings from central DSG budgets
3. Use of one off funding from the DSG Reserve – this could only be considered as part of the overall budget discussions so that any one off funding could be prioritised.

Proposals

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

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