

**Subject: Report from the Schools Forum School Funding Working Group**

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**Purpose of report**

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**Main considerations for School Forum**

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The School Funding Working Group makes the following recommendations to Schools Forum:
  4. Levels of Debt Write Off
    - a. That differential levels of debt write off for Primary and Secondary Schools be agreed as follows:

Primary Schools	£2,000
Secondary Schools	£5,000

and that the funding scheme be amended to reflect these updated values.
5. Expansion of Primary Schools
  - a. That the Group recognised the advantages of developing a staged model for expanding schools to accommodate pupils moving in to new housing.
  - b. That such a model is not currently affordable and any proposal for funding in the future would need detailed consideration of the costs and implications.
6. Young Persons Support Service
  - a. That the value of AWPU's for all pupils on the YPSS roll and the start of the year be calculated and presented to Schools Forum as part of the discussion on the YPSS paper.
7. Special School Banding Moderation and Funding Values
  - a. That the needs led staffing model should be adopted for funding purposes in Wiltshire special schools, whilst recognising that special schools will determine their own staffing mix according to the needs within each school.
  - b. That the affordability of fully funding the model should be considered with other priorities during the budget setting process.
8. Controls on Surplus Balances 2008/09 Balances

- a. That School x be given retrospective permission to use the 2008/09 reserve for a different purpose
  - b. That School y be asked to account for the failure to comply with the scheme and to explain how the excessive balance for 2008/09 was utilised during 2009/10.
9. Leases (see Appendix 2)
- a. That formal consultation with schools is undertaken to change the funding scheme to require schools to obtain Central Finance endorsement for any lease arrangement (unless it is with Unilink Finance)
10. Clawback of Surplus Balances Scheme – 2009/10 onwards
- a. That a signed declaration from the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors is required on an annual basis to confirm they have read and understood the scheme.

### **Proposal**

11. That Schools Forum consider the proposals in paragraphs 4 to 10 above.

**Name of Director Carolyn Godfrey  
Director, Children & Education**

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### **Background papers**

None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft minutes of the School Funding Working Group  
Appendix 2 – Report on changes to leasing agreements