

Wiltshire Council

**Schools Forum
6th November 2014**

Report from the School Funding Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 20th October 2014

Main considerations for School Forum

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The Schools Funding working Group made the following recommendations to Schools Forum:

Split Site Allowances – High Needs Provision

4. It was agreed to support the principle of a split site allowance for High Needs provision however it was felt that the following criteria needed to be applied before funding was agreed:
 - a. That the split site provision is developed as part of an agreed strategy between the LA and the school and in the context of the SEN Places strategy as it is developed;
 - b. That the school would need to provide evidence of the expected additional costs of managing the additional site to enable the agreement of funding to be considered in the overall context of the high needs block.

Childcare Vouchers for Staff on Maternity Leave

5. Schools Funding Working Group considered a paper outlining a required change to the system for paying for childcare vouchers for school staff on maternity leave. Previously these costs have been borne by the LA as there has been no system in place for recharging schools however costs relating to school staff on maternity leave remain the responsibility of the school.
6. It was agreed that for maintained schools the costs of childcare vouchers for school staff on maternity leave should be charged to the central Maternity budget as long as that continued to be de-delegated, and that for academies the costs should be charged directly to the school as the maternity budget has been delegated to academies.

Proposals

7. That Schools Forum note the recommendations of the School Funding Working Group in relation to the allocation of split site allowances to special schools and other high needs provision. This issue is the subject of a separate paper on this agenda.
8. That Schools Forum agree that the costs of childcare vouchers for school staff on maternity leave be charged to the central maternity budget for maintained schools as long as this budget continues to be de-delegated and directly to academies as the maternity budget has been delegated to these schools.

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