

Schools Budget Setting 2022-23

To: Schools Forum

Meeting Date: 5th November 2021

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director: Education & Martin Wade – Strategic Finance Business Partner

Recommendations: The Schools Forum is asked to:

Funding Formula

- a) Support the proposed LA approach to align the Cambridgeshire Schools Funding Formula Factors with the National Funding Formula rates for 2022/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- b) Support the proposed LA approach to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding in 22/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- c) Support the proposed principles for managing overall affordability by means of applying a scaling factor of between 1 and 1.01284, applying a funding cap or by setting the MFG to lower than the maximum allowable 2%. Further modelling will be undertaken and shared on receipt of the final datasets in December. This will then be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.

High Needs Block Transfer

- d) Approve a block transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block of 0.5% - (circa £2.1m – final amount to be confirmed on receipt of final DSG allocations) – to support the following activities:
 - i. Transformation Programme
 - ii. SEND Contingency Fund
 - iii. ASD/SEMH/ADHD Training
 - iv. SENCO Training
 - v. Support for Additional Provision

Central School Services Block

- e) Approve the continuation of the Contribution to Children's Services of £1m.

- f) Approve the continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
- g) Approve the £583k subsidy towards the costs of the Schools Broadband Contract.
- h) Approve the continuation of the £508k to support the Admissions Service.
- i) Approve the continuation of the £3k to support the Servicing of Schools Forum.
- j) Note the proposed budgets for the national copyright licence arrangements, retained duties funding and residual balance. Final figures will be presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum for approval.

The Maintained Primary School Representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve:

Education Functions and De-Delegations – Maintained Primary only

- k) The continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
- l) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Contingency.
- m) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Free School Meals Eligibility.
- n) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Maternity and Paternity Cover.
- o) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Trade Union Facilities Time.

The Schools Forum is asked to:

Growth Funding and New Schools

- p) Approve the revised Growth Funding and New School Funding Policy to apply to 2022/23 only.
- q) Approve the centrally retained growth fund at a level of £1.75m (compared to £2m in previous years).
- r) Note the proposed variation to pupil numbers. Final numbers will be presented to Schools Forum in January.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The presentation (**Appendix 1**) accompanying this report provides information to support the 2022-23 Schools budget setting process and will cover the following areas:
- 2022-23 School Funding Arrangements
 - Budget Proposals (**Appendix 2** shows the proposed funding rates for 2022-23) & Consultation Results (**Appendix 3** provides further detail, including the narrative responses.)
 - High Needs Block
 - Central School Services Block
 - De-Delegations (Maintained Primary only)
 - Growth Funding / New Schools (**Appendix 4** provides the full draft funding policy)
 - Required Decisions
 - Next Steps
- 1.2 During the presentation by Officers, Members of Schools Forum will have opportunity to ask questions. The meeting will then be temporarily adjourned to allow group discussions prior to addressing the recommendations.
- 1.3 The table on the following pages shows the main decision-making powers and responsibilities for items relevant at this meeting (other powers such as decisions in respect of deficits, contracts and changes to the Scheme of Financial Management do not apply to the items covered above.)

Schools Forum Roles and Responsibilities

Function	Local education authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools' block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives	Will adjudicate where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
General Duties for maintained schools - Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal

Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth - pre-16 pupils, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy • Falling rolls - funding for good or outstanding schools with where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years block provision funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement • Back-pay for equal pay claims • Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies • Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • Admissions • Servicing of Schools Forum • Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged • Contribution to combined budgets – this is where the Schools Forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to 	Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal

<p>services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High needs block provision Central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	Decides	None, but good practice to inform forum	None