

SCHOOLS FUNDING UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2019

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 8 November 2019

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director: Education
Jon Lee – Head of Integrated Finance Services
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Purpose: To provide Schools Forum with an update on the latest national funding announcements and local funding formula proposals for the 2020/21 Schools budget setting round.

Recommendations:

2020/21 School Funding Arrangements

1) Schools Forum are asked to note and comment on the national funding announcements.

Growth Funding

2) Schools Forum are asked to approve:

- i) the revised growth fund criteria and funding rates for 2020/21
- ii) the reduction of the centrally retained growth fund to £2m.
- iii) the variation to pupil numbers for new schools.

Central Schools Services Block

3) Schools Forum are asked to approve:

- i) the reduced Contribution to Combined Budgets into 2020/21 as set out in slide 27.
- ii) the continued use of the retained duties funding (adjusted for final pupil numbers) within the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) to support ongoing functions.
- iii) the continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.

4) Schools Forum are asked to comment on:

- i) the proposal for schools to be charged for 20% of the current broadband costs following the reduction in funding.
- ii) the increased transfer of £1,138k from the Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) to the High Needs Block.

De-Delegations

5) Maintained Primary representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve the continuation of de-delegations in respect of:

- i) Contingency
- ii) Free School Meals Eligibility
- iii) Insurance Catch-Up
- iv) Maternity
- v) Trade Union Facilities Time

High Needs Block

6) Schools Forum are asked to comment on High Needs Block proposals and potential impact for Cambridgeshire Schools

Consultation Proposals and Process

7) Schools Forum are asked to comment on the proposed consultation process and areas for consultation.

1.0 CONTEXT

- 1.1 The presentation (appendix 1) accompanying this report provides information to support the 2021 Schools budget setting process and will cover the following areas:
- 2020/21 School Funding Arrangements
 - Growth Funding / New Schools Funding
 - Centrally Retained Funding and De-Delegations
 - High Needs Block
 - Consultation Proposals
- 1.2 During the presentation by Officers, Members of Schools Forum will have opportunity to comment on the content and where necessary will be asked to make decisions on a number of areas including:
- Growth Funding (detailed criteria – appendix 2)
 - Centrally Retained Funding
 - De-Delegations (maintained primary schools only)
- 1.3 Members of Schools Forum will also be asked for views on the proposed consultation process which will be used to help inform budget setting decisions.
- 1.4 Results of the consultation will be presented at the December meeting of Schools Forum, prior to final decisions being taken by Children and Young Peoples Committee in mid-January.

Background Documents: Appendices 1 and 2

- 1.5 The table below 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.)

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"> high needs block provision central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	Decides	None, but good practice to inform forum	None

