

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools Budgets

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 10 November 2020

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director, Education (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)
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Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide the Committee with an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Schools Budget arrangements for 2021/22.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to review and comment on the report;

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1. Background

- 1.1 The presentation (appendix 1) accompanying this report provides information to support the 2021/22 Schools budget setting process and will cover the following areas:
- 21/22 School Funding Arrangements
 - High Needs Block
 - Illustrative Budget Modelling
 - Consultation Process & Results
 - Centrally Retained Funding
 - Growth Funding / New Schools
 - Next Steps
- 1.2 The presentation contains a summary of the results of a consultation which was undertaken with all schools and key stakeholders during October. Three virtual schools budget briefing events were held during the consultation period to provide further details of the national changes and local proposals. Approximately 200 people attended these events.
- 1.3 The budget consultation paper has also been shared with Cambridgeshire MPs and a briefing session was held on the 23rd October to outline the key changes and the pressures faced by Cambridgeshire schools as a result of this budget settlement. We have been requested to provide some further information to allow MPs to make representation on the budget pressures faced for small schools, in the high needs block and for the ongoing exceptional costs of making schools Covid-19 compliant.
- 1.4 At the Schools Forum meeting held on the 6th November, members of Schools Forum were asked to comment on the proposals and vote on those within their approval powers. Officers will provide a verbal update of these decisions during the presentation.
- 1.5 The table below shows the main decision making powers and responsibilities for items relevant to the schools budget setting process (other powers such as decisions in respect of deficits, contracts and changes to the Scheme of Financial Management do not apply at this stage).

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

Function	Local education authority	Schools forum	DfE role
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 and Falling Rolls 	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

2. Alignment with corporate priorities

2.1 A good quality of life for everyone
There are no significant implications for this priority.

2.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

2.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The budget allocations will directly impact on the levels of funding to be received by each school in Cambridgeshire.

2.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3. Significant Implications

3.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This report sets out details of the overall resources in respect of schools budgets for 2021-22.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The need to set the schools funding formula in line with the DfE requirements
- The need to submit the final 2020-21 Authority Pro-forma Tool (the schools budget data) to the ESFA by the 21 January 2021
- The requirement to publish school budgets by the statutory deadline of 28 February 2021

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4. Source documents

4.1 Source documents

The DfE published details of the 2021-22 national funding formula for schools in July 2020.

4.2 Location

[National funding formula tables for schools and high needs 2021 to 2022](#)

4.3 Appendix

Appendix 1 – Schools Funding

Accessible version available on request from Democratic.Services@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

