

SCHOOLS FUNDING UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2020

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 25 February 2020

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director: Education
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Purpose: To provide Schools Forum with an update on the latest local funding formula proposals for the 2020/21 Schools budget setting round.

Recommendations:

2020/21 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Forum are asked to:

- a) Reconsider a block transfer of 0.5% / £1.85m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
- b) Approve a submission of a disapplication request to reduce the Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee to minus 5%

1.0 CONTEXT

- 1.1 The presentation (**Appendix A**) accompanying this report provides information to support the 2021 Schools budget setting process and will cover the following areas:
 - Update on the latest funding position following recent discussions and announcements.
 - Update on the local budget proposals.
 - Update on the latest High Needs Block position and proposals.
 - Update on the Department for Education's (DfE's) risk protection arrangements for insurance.
 - Summary and Next Steps
- 1.2 **Appendix B** provides an updated set of illustrative budget figures for primary and secondary schools based on the latest data and assumptions.
- 1.3 During the presentation by Officers, Members of Schools Forum will have opportunity to comment on the content and where required will be asked to make decisions as set out in the recommendations.

Source Documents: Appendices A and B to this Report

- 1.4 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