

SCHOOLS FUNDING UPDATE – DECEMBER 2019

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 18 December 2019

**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

- 1) Schools Forum are asked to:**
- i) Comment on the local budget proposals**
 - ii) Vote on the proposed Schools Block to High Needs Block transfer**

Growth Funding

- 2) Following the approval in principle at the previous meeting of Forum, Schools Forum are asked to approve:**
- i) the revised growth fund rates for 2020/21**
 - ii) the reduction of the centrally retained growth fund to £2m.**

De-Delegations

- 3) 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**

Central Schools Services Block

- 4) Although approved in principle at the previous meeting Schools Forum are asked to approve the following on a line by line basis (as set out in slides 20 & 21):**
- i) Contribution to Combined Budgets**
 - ii) Capital Expenditure from Revenue**
 - iii) School Admissions**
 - iv) Serving of Schools Forum**
 - v) Retained duties funding**

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:

- Consultation
- High Needs Update
- Final Budget Proposals
- Growth Fund Update
- De-delegations Update

- Centrally Retained Funding
- Summary and Next Steps

- 1.2 **Please note:** Due to the timings of the closure of the consultation and publication dates of Forum papers the slides referring to the consultation results will be updated once the consultation has closed and further analysis has been undertaken. The full set of consultation responses will be collated and circulated as an additional appendix to this report once available. Appendix B provides a list of frequently asked questions which have been raised during the consultation period to date.
- 1.3 Also due to Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) deadlines at the end of November, the LA have already had to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State in the event a transfer of up to 1.8% / £6.5m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made. The submission and accompanying evidence can be viewed as appendix C to this report.
- 1.4 This submission is in no way meant to pre-empt the outcome of the consultation or Schools Forum vote, but is to meet the initial ESFA deadline of 28th November. The results of the consultation and Forum vote will then be fed back to the ESFA, and amended disapplication requests can still be made up to 16th January 2020.
- 1.5 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 on a number of areas as set out in the recommendations.

Background Papers / source documents – as set out in Appendices 1-3

- 1.6 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 |

