

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 30th APRIL 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools Budget update 2014-15

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates the Schools Budget for changes that have been made since it was reported to the Forum on 22nd January 2014. The overall Schools Budget has reduced from £240m to £179m. A revised breakdown is included in the appendix attached.

2.0 BUDGET CHANGES

2.1 PFI Affordability Gap £2,586,500.

The PFI Affordability Gap is discussed elsewhere on this agenda.

The gap is the difference between the contract costs to provide, maintain and support 9 schools (£11m) and the grant and school income received to offset these costs (£8.5m).

The Cabinet in reaching its decision on the Schools Budget on 12th February resolved that "The Council regrets due to its financial challenges it is unable to fund the full PFI affordability gap in 2014-15 and will reduce the Council contribution to the schools budget by £600,000 to £2m." The shortfall is addressed in the Schools Budget by earmarking £600,000 from the underspend in central school budgets in 2013-14

2.2 Primary & Secondary School Budgets

The Primary School budget was previously reported as £95m. This has been reduced by £2.5m to take account of the de-delegation decisions taken at the previous meeting, and the budget for 1 Primary Academy that is paid directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

The Secondary School budget has been reduced by £57m to take account of de-delegation and the budgets for 13 Secondary Academies.

2.3 Special School Places

The adjustment of £1,178,600 is made to show the separate funding for 6th form places – there will be 106 places in total in September 2014.

2.4 Early Years

Since the budget report was written in January the Early Years Census for 2014 has been finalised. The number of 3 and 4 year olds has increased from 2,936 to 2,992. For each additional pupil the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is increased by £3816.57 (£214,000 in total). At this time the budget assumes there will be no further change in the 2015 census (which will also be used to determine this budget).

2.5 High Needs Pupils

The funding for High Needs Pupils was finalised by the EFA in late March following the submission and review of places by all local authorities last December.

The funding for High Needs covers all children and students; both pre and post 16, including those learners with learning difficulties and disabilities aged 16-24. Overall Wirral's pupil baseline increased from 1594 to 1602 pupils as follows:

	Pupils in Sept 2013	Pupils in Sept 2014
Pre 16		
Maintained Special	840	857
SEN Bases	293	283
E MAP	80	80
Non Maintained Special Schools	51	47
Totals	1,264	1,267
Post 16		
Maintained Special	127	107
SEN in schools	60	54
Non Maintained Special Schools	12	13
FE and providers	131	161
Totals	330	335

Changes in pupil numbers have attracted the following changes in funding:

- An increase of 3 Pre 16 places additional part year funding of **£17,500**
- A reduction of 25 post 16 places at Schools/Academies **£157,000cr**
- A full years effect of an increase in SEN bases in 2013-14 **£75,000**
- Headroom to enhance local authorities funding based on pupil population **£225,000**
- An increase where there are additional post 16 school places in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14 **£165,000**.
- Adjustments with the EFA for Post 16 pupils in schools and academies with high needs **£328,000cr**.
- Adjustments with the EFA for pre and post 16 places at non maintained special schools **£614,000cr**.

2.6 Dedicated School Grant

At this time the overall DSG for Wirral's Maintained Schools, Early Years and High Needs will reduce from £237m to £176m. Further changes may be made during the year to reflect Academy conversions or the Early Years census in January 2015.

3.0 Recommendation

That the Forum note the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL SCHOOLS BUDGET 2014-15	Base Estimate 2014/15	Adjustment	Revised Estimate 2014/15
1. Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	95,028,500	(2,530,700)	92,497,800
Secondary Schools	88,032,000	(57,413,500)	30,618,500
Special Schools	9,678,900	(1,178,600)	8,500,300
SEN Bases	2,848,000	(842,000)	2,006,000
WASP	640,000		640,000
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300		1,352,300
Early Years	15,337,000	214,000	15,551,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	212,916,700	(61,750,800)	151,165,900
2. Central School Costs			
Early Years	489,700		489,700
Admissions	365,400		365,400
School closure / retirement costs	326,000		326,000
Licences & Subscriptions	152,000		152,000
Carbon Reduction	0		0
Schools Forum	10,600		10,600
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000		450,000
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,336,200		2,336,200
PPM	449,000		449,000
PFI affordability gap	2,586,500		2,586,500
Costs delegated to schools			
Library Service	0	195,000	195,000
Insurances	0	57,700	57,700
M E A S	0	260,400	260,400
School Specific Contingencies	0	107,500	107,500
Special Staff Costs	0	673,200	673,200
Behaviour Support	0	96,500	96,500
Free School Meals Eligibility	0	13,900	13,900
High Needs Pupils			
SEN top Ups	8,825,900	55,600	8,881,500
Statements	4,641,100		4,641,100
Support For SEN	2,292,900		2,292,900
Indep Special School Fees	3,909,200	(614,000)	3,295,200
Education Out of School	248,600		248,600
Special School Transport	58,200		58,200
Non Delegated School Costs Total	27,141,300	845,800	27,987,100
Total Schools and central Costs	240,058,000	(60,905,000)	179,153,000
Dedicated Schools Grant Total	(236,740,000)	60,905,000	(175,835,000)
Use of Reserves	(731,500)	(600,000)	(1,331,500)
Grand Total	2,586,500	(600,000)	1,986,500

