

**WIRRAL COUNCIL  
SCHOOLS FORUM 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES**

**School Funding Arrangements 2016-17**

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report summarises a paper issued by the EFA over the summer with proposals for School funding in 2016-17.

**2.0 SCHOOLS REVENUE FUNDING 2016-17 OPERATIONAL GUIDE**

The Schools revenue funding 2016-2017 Operational Guide and School Block units of Funding 2016-2017 Technical Note were published by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) over the summer.

These documents provide LA's with information that enables them to start making arrangements for next year's Schools Budget, including guidance on:

- The make-up of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the funding blocks within that
- The allowable elements within the schools funding formula including the Minimum Funding Guarantee
- Provision that may be made within centrally held budgets
- Arrangements for High Needs (reported elsewhere)

**3.0 Dedicated Schools Grant**

The schools block per pupil unit of funding in 2016-17 will be the same value as in 2015-16 with an adjustment to take account of former non-recoupment academies (Birkenhead Girls High School) and the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

This announcement confirms that the Flat Cash settlements of the last 4 years (no inflationary increases) will continue in 2016-17 within the Schools Block. There has been no detail provided about a national funding formula and this will not be introduced in 2016-17. However the ministerial statement in July confirmed a commitment to make funding fairer and to put forward proposals "in due course".

Funding for the Early Years block will be confirmed after the Spending Review in November, together with details for Pupil Premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals and the Education Services Grant.

**4.0 Schools Funding Formula**

There are no changes to the permissible elements within the schools funding formula. The elements allowed are:

- **Basic Entitlement**
- **Deprivation (compulsory)**
- **Prior Attainment**
- **Looked After Children**

- **English as an Additional Language**
- Pupil Mobility
- Sparsity
- **Lump Sum**
- **Split Sites**
- **Rates**
- PFI
- London Fringe
- Post 16
- **Exceptional Premises**

Those used in the Wirral formula are highlighted. Data for these elements will be updated by the EFA and provided to LA's.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (funding protection for schools) in 2016-17 will continue at minus 1.5%

### **5.0 Centrally Held Budgets**

The controls over the purpose and level of central school budgets remain. These include:

De-delegated budgets. De-delegation is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or PRU's, although there is a presumed offer of buyback by the LA.

High Needs Budgets – Schools Forum should be consulted

Licences - Schools Forum should be consulted

Admissions – the existing budget provision cannot be increased

PFI, PPM, Combined budgets, SEN transport – budget and commitments cannot increase.

Where the Forum or the LA is looking to operate outside this framework approval is required from the Secretary of State.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Schools budget is prepared in accordance with the arrangements described in this report

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