

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 5th July 2017

REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools Budget update 2017-18

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the Schools Budget for changes that have been made since it was reported on 18th January 2017. The overall Schools Budget has reduced from £252m to £172m, mainly as a result of academy recoupment adjustments. A revised budget breakdown is included in the appendix attached.

2.0 BUDGET CHANGES

2.1 Primary & Secondary School Budgets

The Primary School budget was previously reported as £100m. This has been reduced by £1.0m for de-delegation and £4.0m for 3 Primary Academies.

The Secondary School budget has been reduced by £73m from £94m to £21m, taking account of de-delegation and the budgets for 16 Secondary Academies which are paid directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). There will be further adjustments during the year if other schools convert to academies

2.3 Special School Places

The adjustment from £10m to £8.9m is made to show the separate grant funding for 6th form places – there continues to be 106 places in total.

2.4 Early Years

Since the budget report was written the Early Years Census for 2017 has been finalised. The anticipated Early Years spend has reduced from £18.9m to £18.1m. The numbers of 3 and 4 year olds have decreased from 3,116 to 2,960. For each pupil the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is reduced by £4,094.50 (£638,000 in total). At this time the budget assumes there will be no further changes to the 2018 census although this may not be the case if the falling roll continues throughout the year. The makeup of the budget assumes the reduction in DSG is managed by a matching reduction in expenditure and this has been the case to date. The change is also relevant to Primary Schools, a reduction in numbers (5%) will also start to impact on Primary rolls from September.

The estimated budget for 2 year olds has reduced. Whilst now reaching 88% of those eligible, the January 2017 census recorded 739 FTE pupils a reduction of 43 against those estimated in the budget. The grant reduction of £211,200 is based on each FTE having a value of £4,959.

Although no significant change is anticipated, the final nursery protection grant has still to be confirmed for 2017-18. This grant which is for 3 years aims to provide funding stability. Locally this will be through maintaining the previous hourly rates and lump sums in respect of the core 15 hour offer.

Finally the Early Years Pupil Premium numbers for January 2017 are confirmed as 814, giving a grant of £246,000. There are about 17% of children who are

now eligible for Pupil Premium, a percentage that has increased following the opt out exercise and is now more in line with the school population.

2.5 Central Budgets PFI

Two adjustments have been made to this area:

1. DfE guidance confirmed that amounts delegated to schools for the PFI Affordability Gap should not include Council funding and on this basis delegation has been revised. The total Affordability Gap was £3,063,500, of this amount £2,300,000 has been delegated and £763,500 remains at the centre, funded by the LA.
2. Secondly following discussions with the EFA in January an adjustment has been made to increase central PFI budgets by £814,600. This has been done to meet the contractual PFI amounts for the financial year starting in April, whilst the amounts delegated for PFI do not increase academy budgets until the start of the new academic year in September. The funding for this change is made through an adjustment to academy recoupment and is for the current year only.

2.6 High Needs Pupils

Compared to the original budget for High Needs, deductions have now been processed by the EFA for places in academies and Further Education. These are made on the basis of changes previously discussed and agreed:

- To increase ASC provision at Hilbre and Claremount
- To close MLD provision at Birkenhead Park and Kingsway
- To increase provision at Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6th Form

The table below summarises the new High Needs Place numbers for 2017-18. There are still some outstanding queries to resolve with the EFA which will be resolved over the next few weeks.

Wirral - High Needs Place Numbers

	Pre 16		Post 16		Total	
	2016-17	17-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Bases	232	218			232	218
Secondary			49	43	49	43
Alt Provision	91	117			91	117
Sp. Schools	891	903	106	106	997	1,009
Further Ed.			132	182	132	182
Total	1,214	1,238	287	331	1,501	1,569

2.7 Dedicated School Grant

At this time the overall DSG for Wirral's Maintained Schools, Early Years and High Needs will reduce from £252m to £170m. Further changes may be made during the year to reflect Academy conversions or the Early Years census in January 2018.

3.0 Recommendation

That the Forum notes the report.

Deborah Gornik
Interim Director of Children's Services

EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

	Base Estimate 2017-18 £	Adj. Estimate 2017-18 £
Individual Schools Budget		
Primary Schools	100,308,700	95,172,700
Secondary Schools	94,366,800	20,884,800
Special Schools	10,040,000	8,941,300
SEN Bases	2,398,300	1,580,000
EMAP	926,700	-
Wirral Hospital Schools	1,359,100	1,356,300
6 th Form / FE	1,264,000	-
Early Years	18,888,200	18,104,900
Individual Schools Budget Total	229,551,800	146,040,000
Central School Costs		
Early Years	518,700	518,700
Admissions	341,800	341,800
School closure / retirement costs	60,000	60,000
Licences and subscriptions	226,100	226,100
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
Contribution to Combined Budgets	875,600	875,600
PFI Affordability Gap		1,551,100
Retained Duties – ex ESG	730,000	1,021,600
Costs delegated to / de-delegated from schools		
Library Service	-	191,700
Insurances	-	29,200
School Specific Contingencies	-	100,500
Special Staff Costs	-	676,400
School Meals	-	19,700
Behaviour Support	-	84,200
School Improvement	-	101,600
High Needs Pupils		
Statements	4,174,800	4,174,800
SEN Top Ups	9,175,600	9,175,600
High Needs Contingency	314,000	305,100
Independent Special Schools	3,770,000	3,770,000
Home Tuition	348,900	348,900
Support for SEN	1,971,500	1,971,500
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
Non delegated School Costs Total	22,575,800	25,612,900
Total School and Central Costs	252,127,600	171,652,900
Dedicated Schools Grant Total	(250,795,200)	(170,320,500)
Use of Reserves	(568,900)	(568,900)
Grand Total	763,500	763,500