

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **SCHOOLS FORUM – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION**

#### **SCHOOLS 2023-24 BUDGET UPDATE**

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#### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Schools Budget for 2023-24 for changes that have been made since it was reported to Schools Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Schools Budget for 2023-24 covers Early Years, Maintained Schools, Academies, colleges, and providers and reflects the following views and formula proposals agreed at the January 2023 meeting:

- A Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0.5% for Wirral mainstream schools
- The Contributions to Combined Budgets reduced by 15% to £535,883.
- The deficit of High Needs funding of £213,286 is transferred to the DSG reserve.
- Headroom in schools funding after applying the National Funding Formula (NFF) to be transferred to a falling rolls/growth fund

The Schools Budget for 2023-24 was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and by Council at its meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

#### **2.2 DSG Reserve**

The 2023-24 budget reflects an in-year deficit of £213,286 to be added to the High Needs deficit. The actual deficit brought forward at 31 March 2023 is £3,072,608 and this means that the DSG deficit reserve will be increased and around £3.3m at the end of 2023-24

#### **3.0 BUDGET CHANGES**

- 3.1 The following changes have been made to the budget since that presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 meeting of the Forum:
- Primary and Secondary Budget are adjusted based on the individual schools funding allocation and for the business rates.
  - Academy recoupment – this change has reduced both the Individual Schools Budget and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) by £127,105,003.

- De-delegation – this change has transferred funding of £2,096,444 from Individual School Budgets to the de-delegated block.
- Falling rolls/growth fund – headroom of £17,674 has been identified following the application of the NFF.
- Early Years allocation is split into Individual Schools Budget and Central Schools Cost
- PFI Affordability Gap budget funded by the council has been adjusted to 23-24 budget.

The table attached in Appendix 1 compares the original and revised 2023-24 budgets.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That the Schools Forum note this report.

**Simone White**

**Director of Children, Families and Education**

**Appendix 1 - Schools Budget 2023-24**

	2023-24 Proposed Budget - January 2023 £	2023-24 Revised Budget - Jun 23 £
<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>		
Primary	124,686,368	97,636,261
Secondary	125,975,398	24,026,697
Special	14,972,721	14,861,376
Wirral Hospitals School	1,728,663	1,723,463
SEN Bases	2,071,000	1,272,499
Sixth Form/Further Education	1,614,000	146,000
Early Years	0	20,858,723
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	0	17,674
<b>Individual Schools Budget Total</b>	<b>271,048,150</b>	<b>160,542,693</b>
<b>Central School Costs</b>		
Early Years	21,430,382	571,659
Admissions	402,604	402,604
School Redundancy Costs	74,000	74,000
Licenses and subscriptions	286,976	286,976
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
Contingency	17,718	17,718
Contribution to combined budgets	535,883	535,883
PFI Affordability Gap	1,459,500	2,589,553
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000
<b>Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools</b>		
Library Service	0	174,693
Insurances	0	23,677
School Specific contingencies	0	30,204
Special Staff Costs	0	758,135
Behaviour Support	0	139,698
School Improvement	0	470,037
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	0	500,000
<b>High Needs Pupils</b>		
Statements	10,802,569	10,802,569
SEN top-ups	18,185,525	18,185,525
High Needs contingency	687,205	687,205
Independent Special Schools	8,795,780	8,795,780
Home Tuition	364,166	364,166
Support for SEN	2,127,817	2,127,817
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
<b>Non-school and school delegated Total</b>	<b>65,968,925</b>	<b>48,336,699</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>337,017,075</b>	<b>208,879,392</b>
<b>Funding</b>		
Dedicated School Grant	(335,344,289)	(206,076,553)
Contribution from DSG Reserve (High Needs)	(213,286)	(213,286)
<b>Funding Total</b>	<b>(335,557,575)</b>	<b>(206,289,839)</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,459,500</b>	<b>2,589,553</b>