

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 21st January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Schools Block Budgets 2015-16

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum on the final funding formula for Primary and Secondary schools for 2015-16.**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) That a decision be made regarding the LAC cash value to be used for 2015-16.
- (3) That a decision be made regarding the amount of funding to be de-delegated to the local authority for Schools Contingency, Free School Meal eligibility and Staff responsibility.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

At the October School Forum decisions were taken on how the funding formula should be adopted for Halton Primary and Secondary maintained schools, academies and free school.

Work is underway to calculate the cash value for each element of the schools block funding formula for 2015-16.

3.2 **Budget availability for Primary and Secondary schools**

The DSG notional allocation for Schools Block is £83,939,765. Due to overall DSG budget pressures and outstanding queries, work is still being done on the total budget that can be allocated to primary and secondary schools.

For the primary sector, adjustments include the increase of 702 pupils within the phase, the further reduction in lump sum following the merger of Fairfield Junior and Infant schools, the transfer of funds from the secondary sector and the transfer of funds to the PVI sector as previously agreed.

For the secondary sector, adjustments include the increase in

budget for the non-recoupment academy, the transfer of funds to the primary sector, the transfer of funds from the High Needs Block for the PRU and the availability of the unneeded pupil growth contingency budget. The outstanding query relates to the estimated pupil number increase at the non-recoupment academy.

A further paper will be tabled at the meeting detailing the cash values of the funding factors, overall budget used and Schools Block budgets for individual schools when completed.

3.3 **Looked After Children**

Since April 2013 Looked After Children are funded at £1,517.25 across both primary and secondary sectors (using the DfE information of numbers to be funded in each school). We saw an increase in LAC numbers from 2013-14 to 2014-15 and a decision was taken to reduce the Basic Per Pupil factor and transfer the unused funding to the LAC element to keep the LAC cash value the at the same level.

For 2015-16 there has been a further increase in LAC numbers, from 116.34 to 152.89 – an increase of 36.55. A decision is needed as to whether to keep the cash value at £1,517.25, which would need a total of £231,963. This means we need to take £55,439 from another funding element or whether we keep the total funding amount of £176,524 and reduce the cash value by £362.67 to £1,154.58.

3.4 **De-delegated Budgets**

The amount per pupil that is de-delegated for Schools Contingency, Staff responsibility and the amount de-delegated per FSM pupil has not been changed since April 2013. Budgets can only be de-delegated from maintained primary and secondary schools. As we have seen a number of schools convert to academy status, so the total de-delegated budget has reduced.

If the Primary de-delegated budgets are left at:

- £17.01 per pupil for Schools Contingency, the budget will be £160,710
- £1.47 per FSM pupil for FSM6 eligibility, the budget will be £5,405
- £2.18 per pupil for Staff responsibility, the budget will be £20,597

If the Secondary de-delegated budgets are left at:

- £14.80 per pupil for Schools Contingency, the budget will be £47,256
- £1.47 per FSM6 pupil for FSM eligibility, the budget will be £2,086
- £1.89 per pupil for Staff responsibility, the budget will be £6,035

The difference in de-delegated budgets from 2013-14 to 2015-16 is as follows:

	2013-14	2015-16
Schools Contingency	£351,450	£207,966
Staff Responsibility	£38,160	£26,632
Free School Meal Eligibility	£9,923	£7,491

Due to the number of schools that have converted to academy status and therefore do not buy in to the above services, we feel that the proposed de-delegated budgets are sufficient to meet expected need for 2015-16.

3.5 **Early Years and High Needs Funding**

Nursery Schools, Nursery Units, Special Schools, Special Units and the PRU are funded based on the January 2015 census data which has not yet been released. These budgets will be calculated as quickly as possible but it is unlikely schools will receive this information until March 2015.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None