

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 23 January 2017

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

**SUBJECT:** High Needs Block Funding Update for 2017-18

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update School Forum on the recent government announcement in relation to High Needs Block funding for 2017-18.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Background

Following the Stage 1 consultation over the summer and the subsequent change of Secretary of State for Education, the proposal to implement a formula basis for the allocation of high needs block funding to local authorities was postponed until April 2018.

### Information

It was announced in September that no local authority would see a reduction from their 2016-17 high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, adjusted to reflect local authorities' most recent spending patterns.

£125 million has been transferred from the Department for Education's Post 16 budget to the high needs block baseline to fund the transfer of high needs places in FE colleges and post 16 charitable and commercial providers (CCPs). These institutions currently receive £6,000 per place from the Education Funding Agency as part of their allocation. From 2017-18 all of these places will be funded from the initial high needs block allocations to Las. Deductions will then be made to fund these institutions directly from the EFA before the high needs block allocations are finalised in March 2017.

For Halton this equates to 74 places or £444,000.

Our baseline High Needs block was set at £15.12M and with the £0.44M added it comes to £15.76M.

We have then been top-sliced £1,740,000 for commissioned places in special academies, primary and secondary academies with resource bases and non-maintained special schools, as well as the £444,000 for FE colleges and CCPs. This is in comparison to the £1.4M top-slice on the 2016-17 high needs block.

A Stage 2 consultation on how the High Needs block funding is allocated to local authorities is expected.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.