

| West Berkshire Schools' Forum | |
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| Title of Report: | School Formula & School Budget for 2014/15 |
| Date of Meeting: | 20th January 2014 |
| Contact Officer(s) | Claire White |
| For Decision | |

1. Background

- 1.1 The formula for 2014/15 was agreed by Schools' Forum on 7th October 2013 and approved by the Council's Executive on 17th October 2012 without any change. It was submitted to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by the deadline of 31st October.
- 1.2 The EFA accepted the submission as being compliant, and no changes are required to the formula. However, now that the data from the October 2013 census is available, and we have received our final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for the Schools Block for 2014/15, the final funding rates need to be set, and submitted to the EFA by 21st January 2014.

2. Final Proposed Funding Rates for Schools Formula

- 2.1 Appendix A provides a breakdown of the funding and rates per factor that were used for the submission to the EFA in October 2013 using October 2012 census data, compared to the funding and rates now using October 2013 census data.
- 2.2 To arrive at these revised funding allocations and rates for 2014/15 the following has been carried out:
1. Used the same per pupil funding rates but applied to the actual number of pupils in the October 2013 census.
 2. Used the actual 2013/14 non domestic rates costs per school.
 3. Recalculated the funding rates for the other factors based on the October data, leaving the total quantum of funding for each of these factors the same; so for example, if the number of pupils qualifying for deprivation funding has gone up, the funding rate per pupil needs to be adjusted downwards.
 4. The same funding cap of 2.4% has been applied, even though the cost of the minimum funding guarantee has gone up.
- 2.3 The base funding allocations is then compared to the actual DSG being received within the schools block, less the centrally retained funding. The following table summarises the position:

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| Schools Block DSG Funding | 95,149,760 |
| Less Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund | -370,000 |
| Less other Centrally Retained | -398,290 |
| Funding Available for Schools | 94,381,470 |
| 2014/15 Formula Allocations | -94,201,370 |
| Balance | 180,100 |

2.4 The result is that there is approximately £180k of funding left in the Schools Block. The options are as follows:

1. Don't use and add to the high needs contingency. There is likely to be a significant underspend in the high needs contingency in 2013/14 that can be carried forward. Any underspend in the schools block centrally retained budgets for 2013/14 must also be carried forward but cannot be allocated to schools during 2014/15. Therefore it would be best to allocate to schools as much as possible at this stage, particularly if there is likely to be enough funding available for the high needs block.
2. Increase the per pupil funding rate. This is the preferred option as all schools benefit equally, it provides a small increase towards pay award increases, and it reduces reliance on the minimum funding guarantee.
3. Add to the quantum of any of the other funding factors. This will target funding to specific schools only.

2.5 The Heads Funding Group have considered these options and recommend utilising all the schools block funding for schools by adding to the per pupil rate (AWPU).

2.6 Appendix B1 details the funding changes for each school based on the current AWPU rates and Appendix B2 details the funding changes if the AWPU is increased by £14 (costing £178k).

Recommendation: Add £14 to the per pupil (AWPU) rate for both primary and secondary pupils

Appendices

Appendix A – School Formula Funding 2014/15

Appendix B1 – School Funding Allocation Summary School by School 2014/15 – no change to AWPU

Appendix B2 – School Funding Allocation Summary School by School 2014/15 – increase AWPU