

From: The Willink School, Headteacher Mr P Fry

To: Claire White, Schools' Finance Manager. WBDC

Subject: Rationale for exceptional premises costs to be included in the 2015/16 formula funding

Background

For the first time and in financial year 2013/14, West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) changed the way in which it funded the Willink School:

Prior to 1st April 2013, the costs associated with the school's use of the facilities at the Willink Leisure Centre (WLC) were fully met by the Authority. The school was not required to make any contribution to these costs from its operating budget.

The School has use of the Main Sports Hall at the WLC during school hours. The school also has use of the Swimming Pool several times a week in order to fulfil the National Curriculum. In return the School Gym is made available to the WLC after 5pm weekdays, at weekends and during the school holidays.

Hitherto, the school has not made a charge to the WLC (either Parkwood Leisure or WBDC) for the use of the Gym.

Charges made to The Willink School

In the financial year 2013/14 the school was billed as follows for the use of the WLC:

Use of the Facilities*	£27,176
Electricity**	£12,610
Gas**	£15,502
Total	£55,288

*For 2013/14 this was advised as split as follows

Rates	£19,724.74
Insurance	£ 1,705.78
Repair & Maintenance	£ 5,746.44
Total	£27,176.00

**Based on the historical formula used by WBDC the school has been charged 37% of the costs of the WLC's annual bill for these utilities.

The following data shows that the charges levied to the Willink School in 2013/14 fulfil the criteria for exceptional premises costs:

“The current regulations allow for the local authority to make requests to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to include an exceptional premises factor. The criteria set by the EFA is that the nature of the school premises give rise to significant costs greater than 1% of the school’s total budget allocation...”

Willink School Funding for 2013/14		2013/14 Leisure Centre Costs as a % of Funding
Delegated Funding	£4,027,490	1.37%
Sixth Form Funding	£ 829,700	
Sub Total	£4,857,190	1.14%
SEN Top-up	£ 25,250	
Sub Total	£4,882,440	1.13%
Pupil Premium Grant	£ 98,100	
Total Funding	£4,980,504	1.11%

The Senior Staff and Governors of the Willink School therefore believe that we meet the criteria and request that the exceptional premises factor be included in the 2015/16 funding formula.