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# School Funding Arrangements for 2017/18

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**Report being considered by:** Schools Forum

**On:** 10/10/2016

**Report Author:** Claire White

**Item for:** Decision **By:** All Forum Members

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out the proposal for the primary and secondary school funding arrangements for 2017/18 and the briefing/consultation document to go out to schools.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To agree the proposals as set out in paragraph 4.3 of this report, and to agree the document to go out to schools.

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|---|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?</b> | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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## 3. Introduction

- 3.1 Due to delays following the Political upheaval caused by the European Referendum, the Government's proposed change to a national school funding formula will not be going ahead in 2017/18 and has been put on hold for a year. The second stage consultation is expected in the autumn.
- 3.2 The Government announced the funding arrangements for 2017/18 on 21<sup>st</sup> July, which can be accessed on this webpage:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-funding-arrangements-2017-to-2018>
- 3.3 No changes are proposed which will affect West Berkshire, but local authorities are still required to review their formula and consult with schools. The 31<sup>st</sup> October deadline has been removed this year and the submission of the 2017/18 formula to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## 4. Proposals

- 4.1 The document to go out to schools detailing the current formula and explaining the rationale for the proposals for 2017/18 is attached in Appendix A. Schools will be invited to comment on the proposals with a deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- 4.2 This document also details the factors that may impact on the funding available for the school formula from the schools block DSG (paragraph 3.5).
- 4.3 In summary, the proposals agreed at Heads Funding Group are:
- No change to the formula factors used.

- If there is a funding shortfall, this is addressed by adjusting the basic entitlement rate (per pupil funding) downwards, so all schools have a proportional cut to their budgets according to the size of their school.
- If there is additional funding available, that for the first £848k, 55% be added to the basic entitlement (per pupil funding) and 45% be added back to the lump sum. This is in proportion to the deduction that was made to school budgets in 2016/17 to transfer funding to the high needs block. Any additional funding over this amount will be added to the basic entitlement.

4.4 Schools' Forum in December will determine the final proposal after reviewing any comments received back from schools. This will then go to the Council's Executive meeting in January for final decision.

4.5 The consultation will also ask schools their views on the criteria currently used for additional funds, and on de-delegations. Final proposals on these will come back to Schools' Forum for final decision in December.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 It is disappointing that the national funding formula has been delayed, meaning another year of uncertainty and a funding freeze whilst schools continue to struggle to set balanced budgets.

## 6. Appendices

Appendix A – Primary and Secondary Schools Funding - Proposed Funding Arrangements for 2017/18: Briefing and Consultation Document for Schools.