

School Funding Benchmarking Tables 2016/17

Report being considered by: Schools Forum
On: 05/12/2016
Report Author: Claire White
Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out key school funding benchmarking information for 2016/17 in a chart/graph format, highlighting any significant points to note regarding West Berkshire's position compared to statistical neighbour authorities and all other unitary authorities.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the report.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Key Points to Note from the Charts

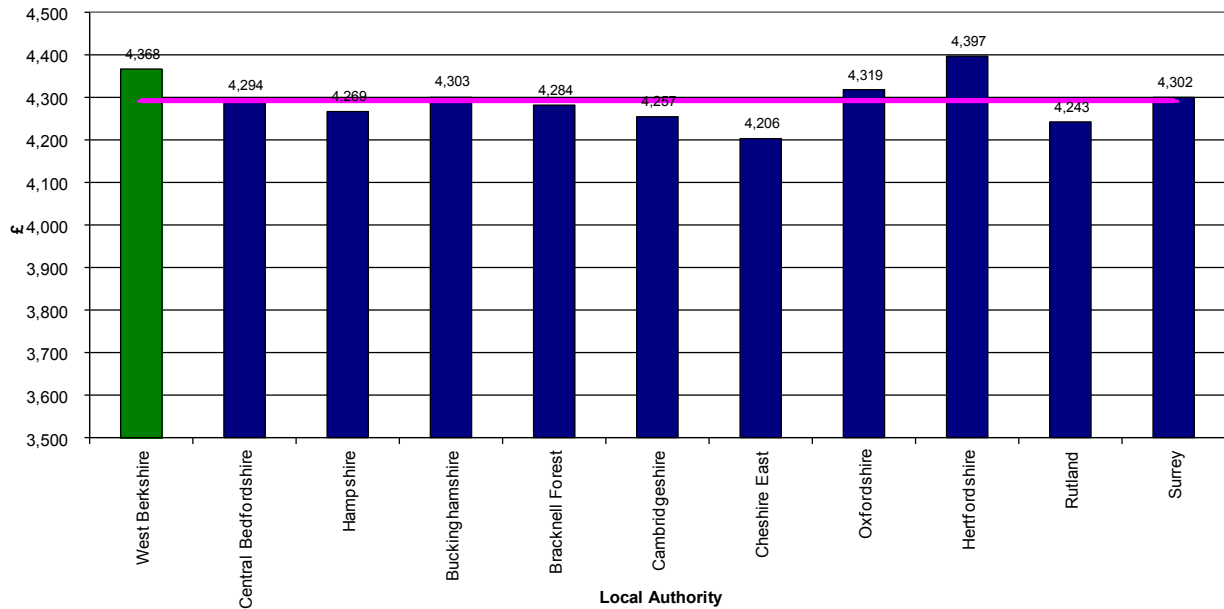
- 3.1 The Department for Education has recently published benchmarking information on school funding, based on the local authority 2016/17 Section 251 budget submissions.
- 3.2 The Appendices to this report provide the key funding data for West Berkshire Council compared to our statistical neighbours and to all other unitary authorities.
- 3.3 Compared to our statistical neighbours, West Berkshire is still funding schools above the median and is the third highest (Appendix B), and this is also reflected in the unit of funding received – being the second highest (Appendix A).
- 3.4 Our schools block unit of funding received (£4,368) is below average compared to unitary authorities (Appendix E), and individual school budgets (ISB) are also below the average at £4,171 (Appendix F). The national average unit of funding has increased to £4,718 from £4,612 in 2015/16, with the highest funded authority being Tower Hamlets at £6,982 per pupil, and the lowest Wokingham at £4,167 per pupil. The highest ISB is £6,693, which is Tower Hamlets. The lowest is £3,885 at Leicestershire. Wokingham, although the lowest funded is £3,920.
- 3.5 There are wide variations in spending on high needs budgets per pupil, even when comparing our statistical neighbours (Appendix C). Our high needs budget is higher than the average for unitary authorities (Appendix G) with spending of £342 per pupil, compared to local authorities such as Shropshire at £200 and Hampshire at £188.

- 3.6 Our total schools budget at £4,728 per pupil is just over average when compared to our statistical neighbours (Appendix D), but below average when compared to unitary authorities (Appendix H). The national average is £4,942 and the highest is £7,888 at Tower Hamlets (though reduced from last year).
- 3.7 When comparing individual school budgets with GCSE results (Appendix I) and the new Attainment 8 (Appendix J), West Berkshire still falls in the top quartile (below average cost, above average results) in both measures compared to the average for all unitary authorities. Although Tower Hamlet's ISB is 60.5% more than for West Berkshire schools, their average results for 5 GCSEs grade A* to C including English and Maths is less at 56.64% compared to 57.8%. Their Attainment 8 is a score of 50.0 compared to West Berkshire's 50.6.

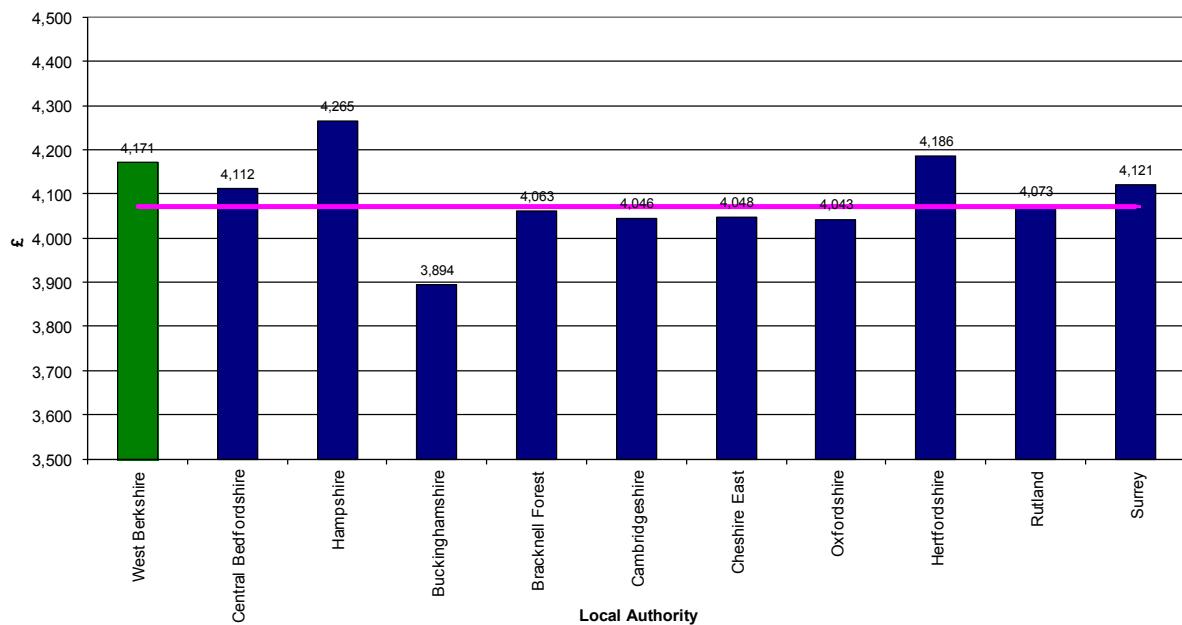
4. Appendices

Appendix A – DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding per Pupil (statistical neighbours)
Appendix B – Individual School Budget per Pupil (statistical neighbours)
Appendix C – High Needs Budget (statistical neighbours)
Appendix D – Total School Budget per Pupil (statistical neighbours)
Appendix E – DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding per Pupil (unitary authorities)
Appendix F – Individual School Budgets per Pupil (unitary authorities)
Appendix G – High Needs Budget (unitary authorities)
Appendix H – Total School Budgets per Pupil (unitary authorities)
Appendix I – Individual Schools Budget vs GCSE Results (unitary authorities)
Appendix J – Individual School Budget vs Attainment 8 Results (unitary authorities)

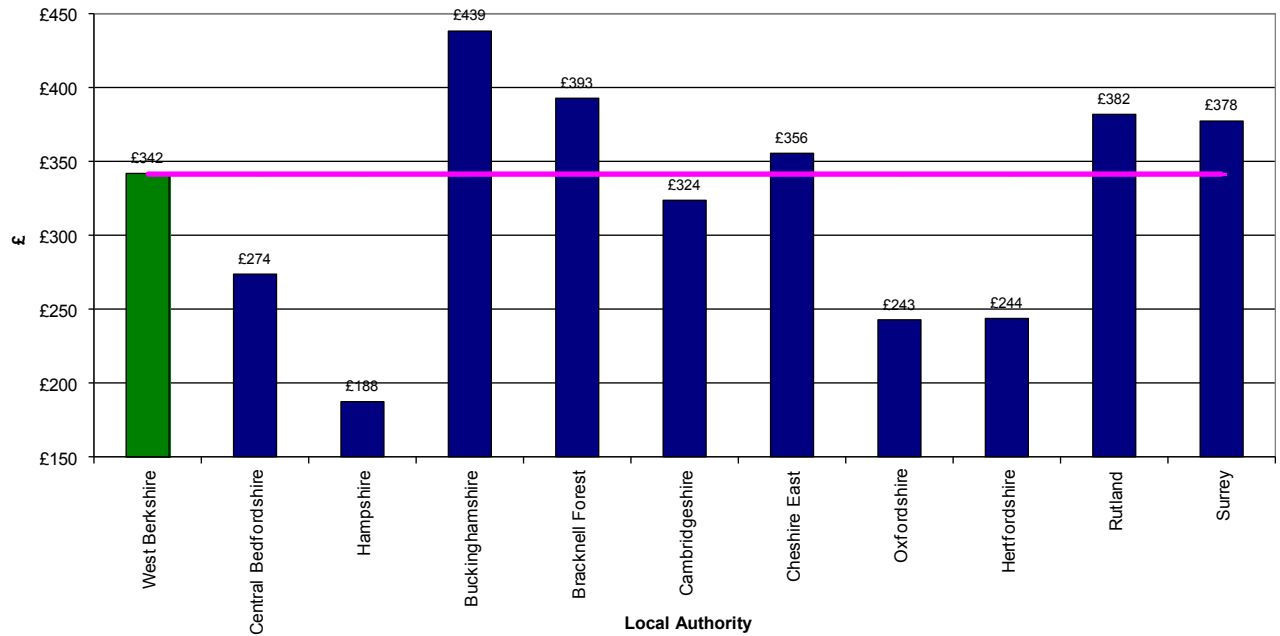
Appendix A
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2016-17 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding
£ per Pupil



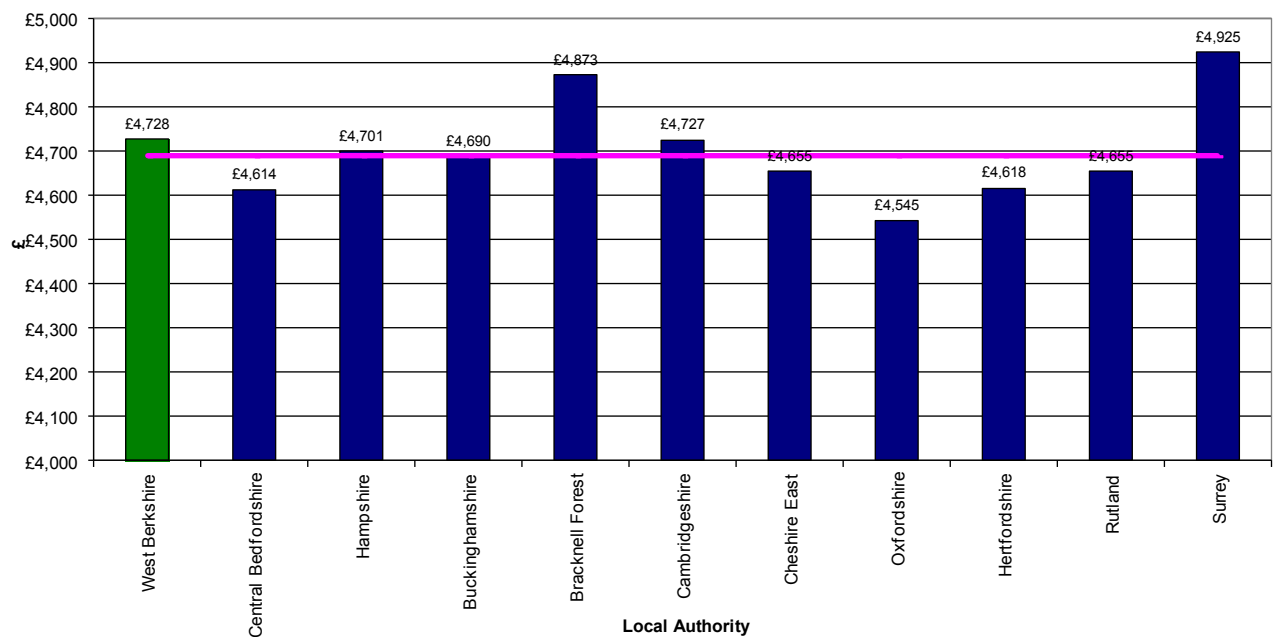
Appendix B
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2016-17 Individual School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



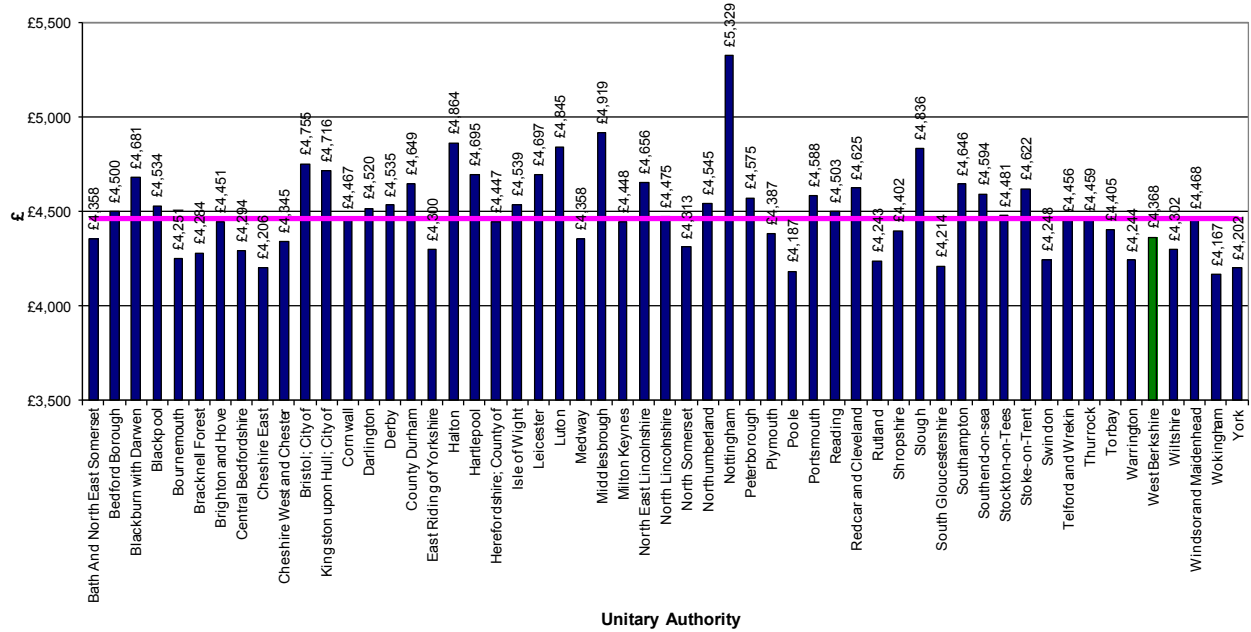
Appendix C
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2016-17 High Needs Budget
£ per Pupil



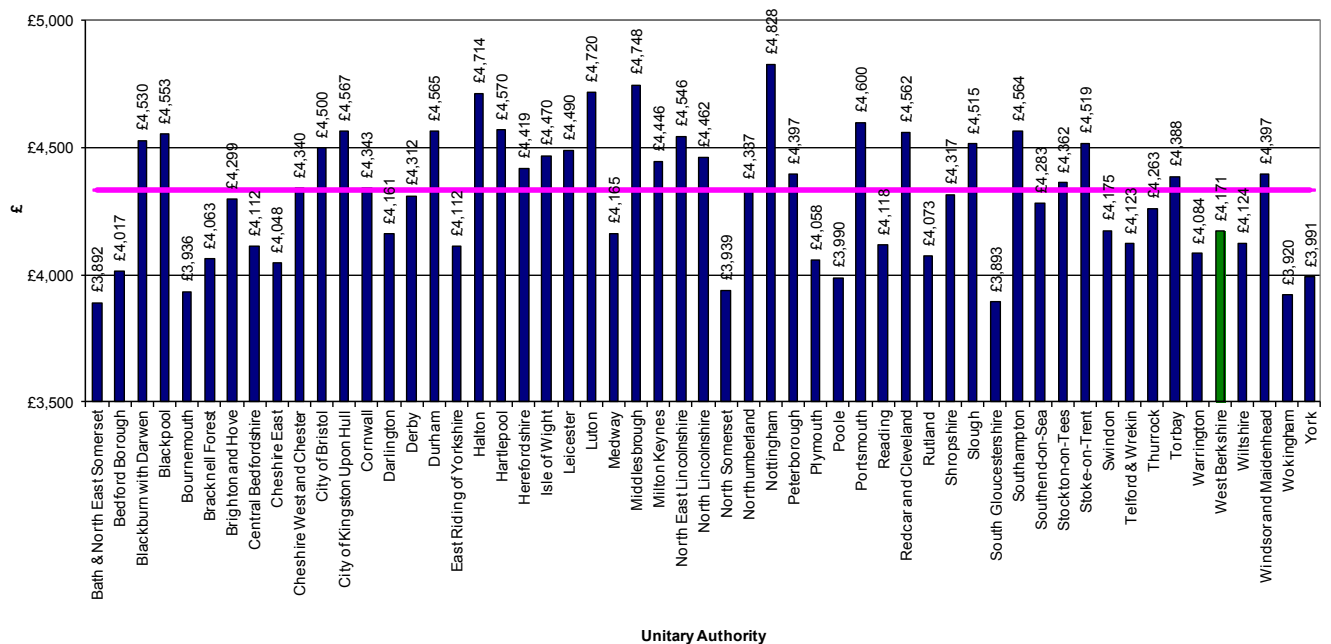
Appendix D
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2016-17 Total School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



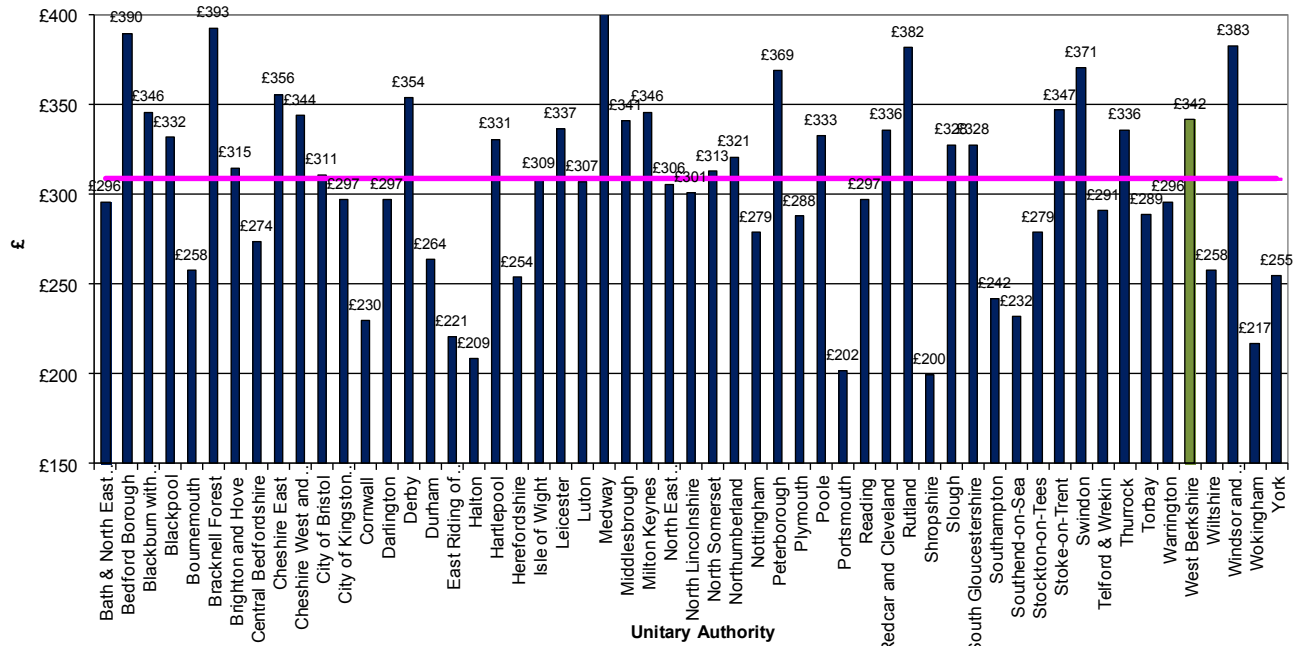
Appendix E
Unitary Authorities
2016-17 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding
£ per Pupil



Appendix F
Unitary Authorities
2016-17 Individual School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



Appendix G
Unitary Authorities
2016-17 High Needs Budget
£ per Pupil



Appendix H
Unitary Authorities
2016-17 Total School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil

