

School Funding Benchmarking Tables 2017/18

Report being considered by: Schools Forum
On: 11/12/2017
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 2017/18 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 2017/18 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 The charts show a very similar position to last year. It will be interesting to see what difference the introduction of the National Funding Formula will make.
- 3.4 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).
- 3.5 Our schools block unit of funding received (£4,348) is below average compared to unitary authorities (Appendix E), and individual school budgets (ISB) are also below the average at £4,219 (Appendix F). The national average unit of funding has decreased slightly to £4,619 (due to the rebasing of DSG allocations), with the highest funded authority still being Tower Hamlets at £6,965 per pupil, and the lowest still being Wokingham at £4,152 per pupil. The highest ISB is £6,793, which is Tower Hamlets. The lowest is £3,832 at Bournemouth; this excludes Wokingham and Medway whose extremely low figures suggest there is an error in their data.
- 3.6 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 still higher than the average for unitary authorities (Appendix G) with spending of £352

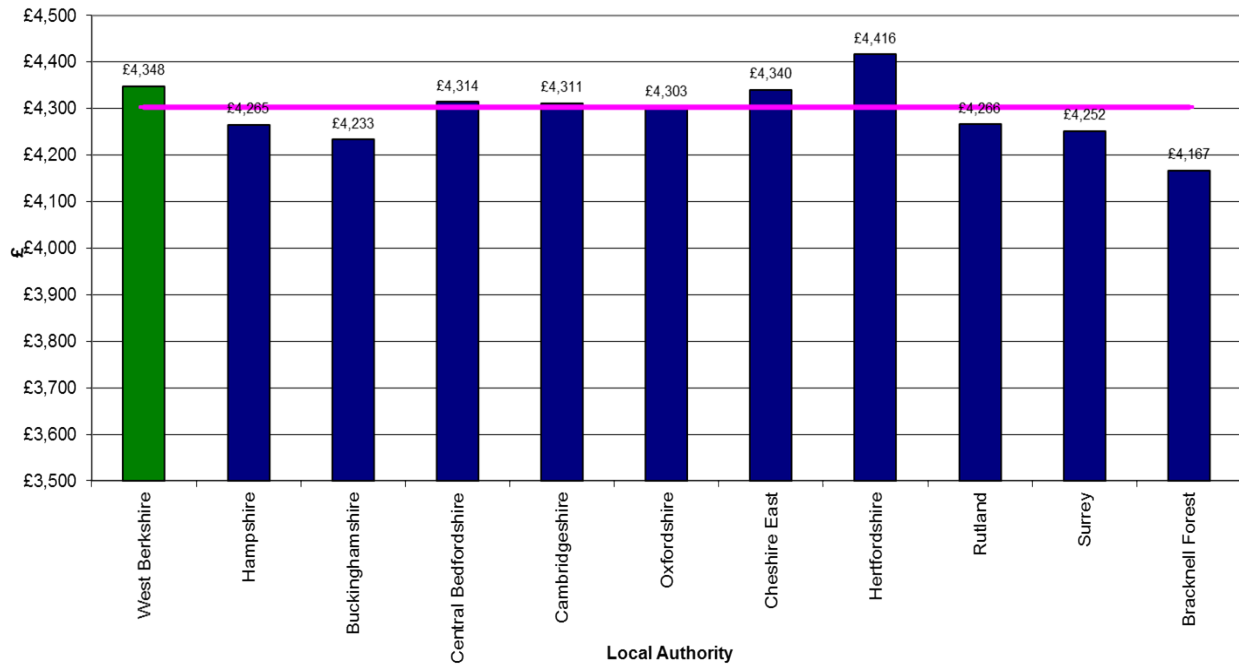
per pupil, compared to local authorities such as Portsmouth at £233 and Hampshire at £220 (gone up from £188).

- 3.7 Our total schools budget at £4,837 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 £5,222 and the highest is £7,902 at Tower Hamlets.
- 3.8 When comparing individual school budgets with Progress 8 (Appendix I) and 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 65% more than for West Berkshire schools, their average Attainment 8 is a score of 47.0 compared to West Berkshire's 47.4.

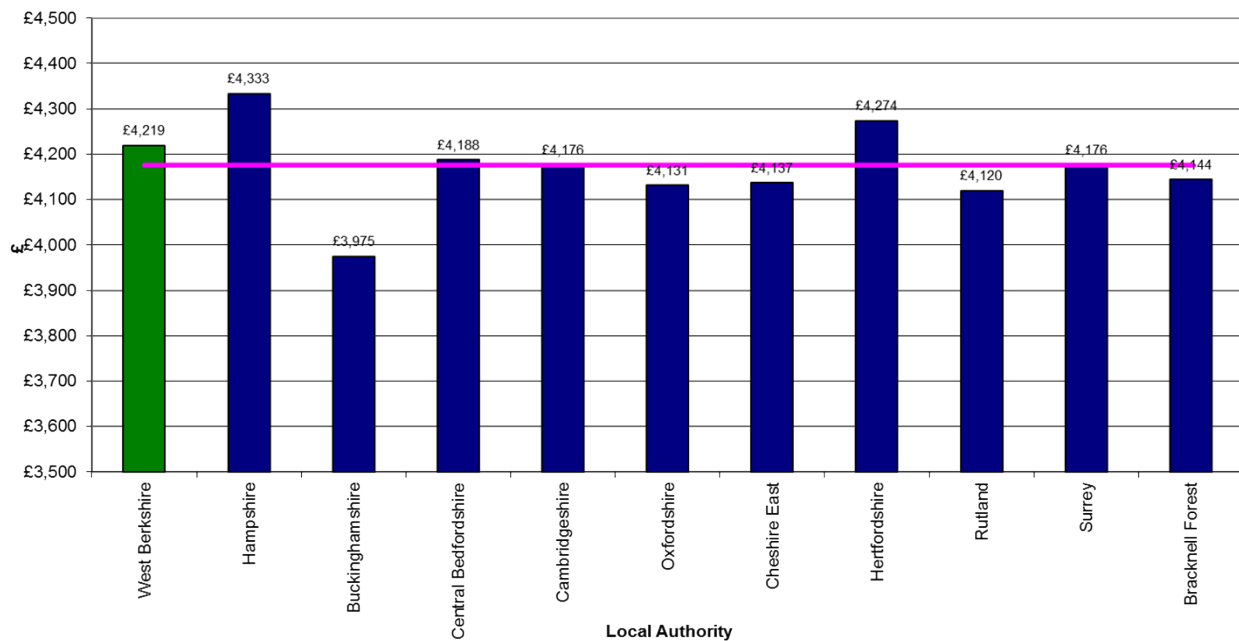
4. Appendices

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 Progress 8 Results (unitary authorities)
Appendix J – Individual School Budget vs Attainment 8 Results (unitary authorities)

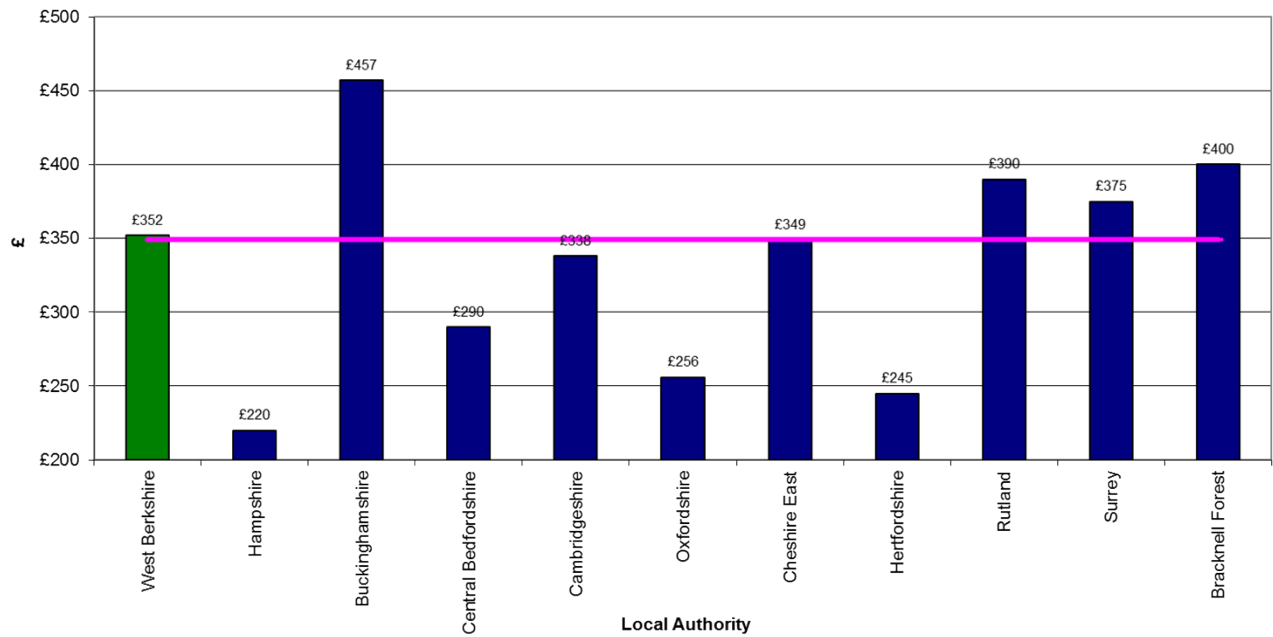
Appendix A
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2017-18 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding
£ per Pupil



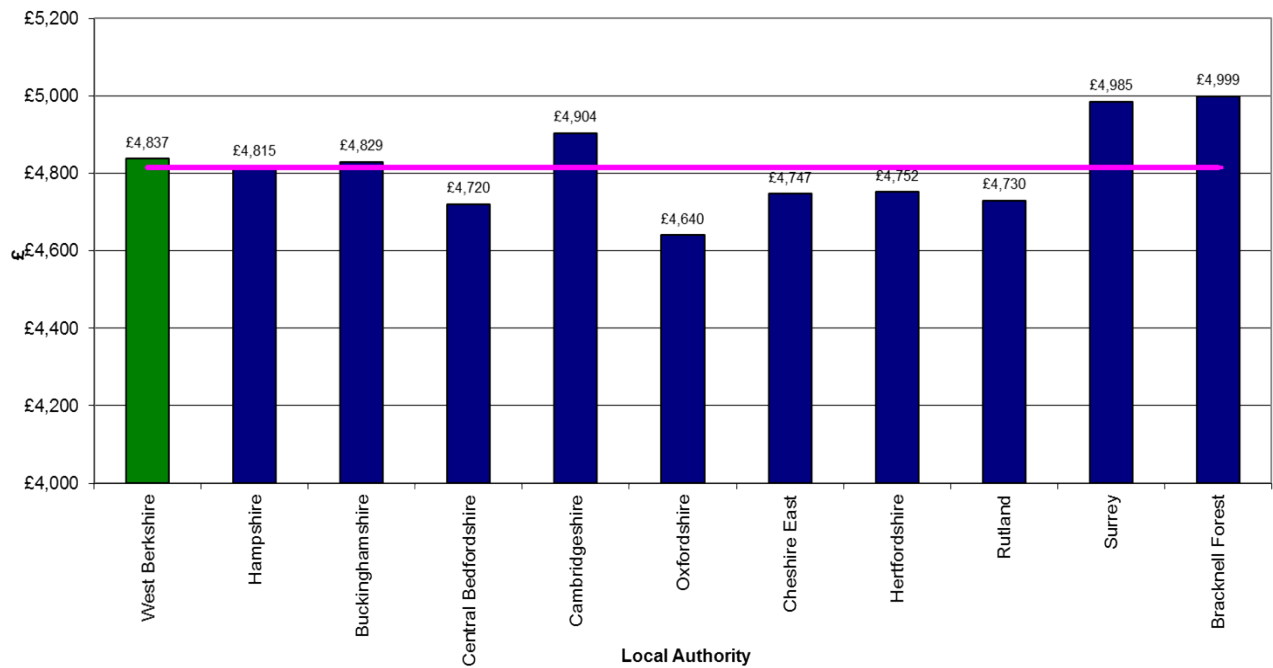
Appendix B
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2017-18 Individual School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



Appendix C
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2017-18 High Needs Budget
£ per Pupil



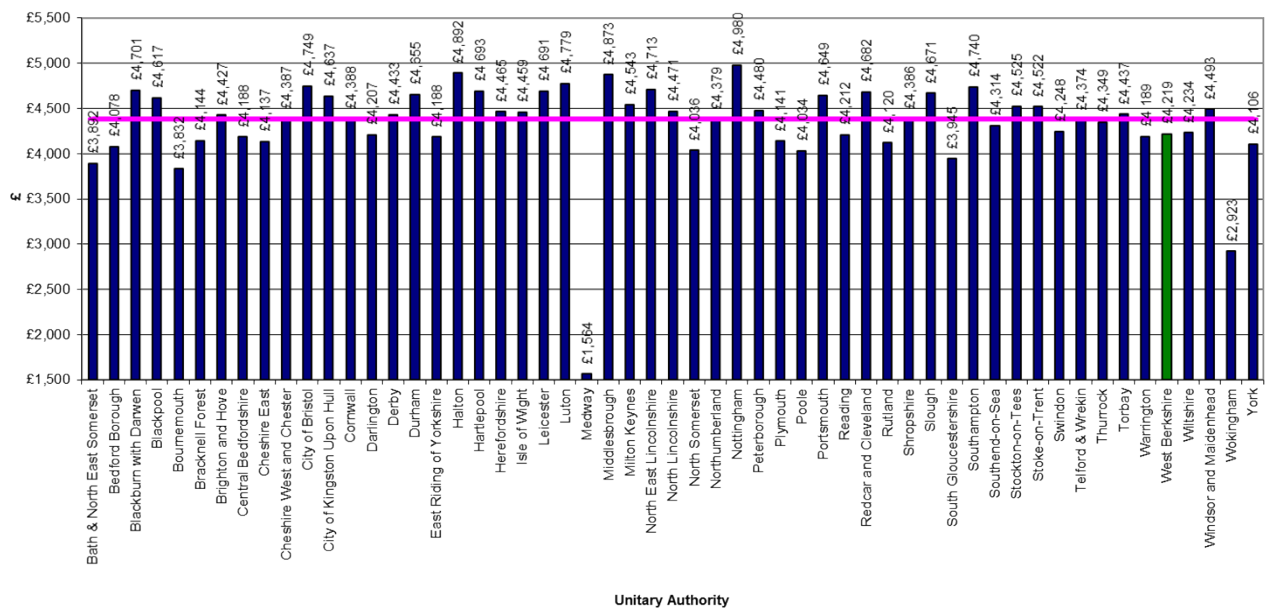
Appendix D
Local Authority Statistical Neighbours
2017-18 Total School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



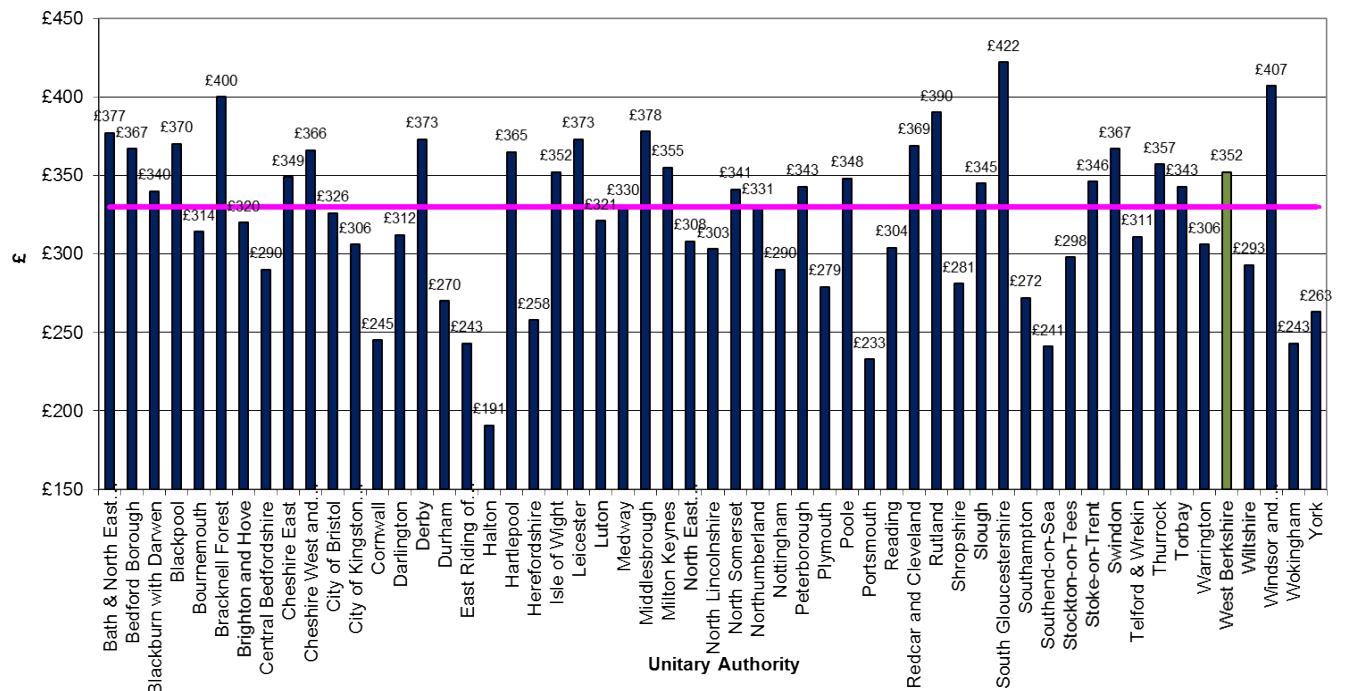
Appendix E
Unitary Authorities
2017-18 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding
£ per Pupil



Appendix F
Unitary Authorities
2017-18 Individual School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil



Appendix G
Unitary Authorities
2017-18 High Needs Budget
£ per Pupil



Appendix H
Unitary Authorities
2017-18 Total School Budgets (before academy recoupment)
£ per Pupil

