

**Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 23rd October 2013
From Dean Jackson (Assistant Director – Education)**

Agenda Item 8 – LA Share of DSG including 2012/13 DSG underspend

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the DSG underspend as at 1st April 2013.
- 1.2 At the 19th June 2013 meeting under 'Any Other Business' the LA share of the DSG underspend as at 1st April 2013 was reported as being £0.97m.
- 1.3 The Minutes from this meeting noted "when the Literacy Consultant post is filled, he would like to be able to use some of this funding to given the successful candidate more working hours. It was suggested that as DSG funding is from primary and secondary schools, then should be some outcome for secondary schools, or something generic for both and primary. If there are any further proposals for the DSG underspend these should be discussed at the All Heads meeting on 9 July 2013".

2. 2012/13 DSG Underspend

- 2.1 In addition to the DSG underspend identified above, the DSG 'rates reserve' currently totals £0.304m. As reported to Forum on 25th February 2013, an external review of all Council properties (including schools) has been undertaken and is now complete. In addition, there were back-dated savings relating to the three Foundation Schools.
- 2.2 £0.600m of this reserve was approved by Forum for use in setting the 2013/14 school budgets and was allocated as 'one-off' funding in addition to the 2013/14 school budgets. However, at the time of the decision the full level of this reserve was not known.
- 2.3 The balance remaining on this reserve (£0.304m) is therefore available to issue to schools. The impact of rates affects all schools (except Special Schools which are fully exempt) therefore it is proposed to issue this 'one-off' funding in 2014/15 across all mainstream schools and Academies on the same basis as agreed for the allocation in 2013/14.
- 2.4 The proposed allocation is on the basis of pupil numbers (Reception to Year 11 only – based on the indicative January 2014 numbers).
- 2.5 This would result in additional 'one-off' funding in 2014/15 of approximately £21 per pupil.

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 Forum Members are asked to:

- ***Note the level of DSG Underspend and make any further suggestions on how this could be used.***
- ***Approve the ‘one-off’ funding allocations to schools of £0.304m to be allocated pro-rata to pupil numbers/planned places (Reception to Year 11 only) using the indicative January 2014 pupil numbers.***
- ***Note that this funding is ‘one-off’ and does not form part of the base budget of the school and will not be included in any future Minimum Funding Guarantee or Capping/Scaling calculations.***