

Agenda Item 4 – Schools Revenue Funding 2017-18

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides Schools Forum with an update on Schools Revenue Funding 2017 to 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The operational guide for Schools Revenue Funding 2017 to 2018 was issued in July 2016. This confirmed that no local authority will see a reduction from their 2016/2017 funding on the Schools Block or High Needs Block. Final allocations will be made in December based on the October census.
- 2.2 The Local Authority completed an exercise for the EFA to 're- baseline' the DSG blocks. The schools block baseline reflects the amounts local authorities put in their baselines for both the schools block and central schools block. It also includes funding for ESG retained duties which have been transferred into the Schools Block.

3. What's New or Different for 2017/18

- 3.1 The funding arrangements for 2017/18 are broadly similar to last year. The changes which affect Hartlepool are:

Education Services Grant (ESG)

The LA receives ESG funding for statutory education duties. The ESG is paid in 2 parts. The first part is the retained funding element which relates to services for all schools and the second part is the general element covering statutory services for maintained schools. The general element is passported to Academies directly by the EFA.

Funding for the retained part of the ESG will be transferred into the Schools Block at a rate of £15 per pupil. The total allocation of £0.216m will be approved by the Forum and reports will be submitted once the EFA have confirmed the duties to be funded from these monies. The EFA have indicated that this will be after consultation on the Schools and Early Years Finance regulations later this year.

The General element is currently funded at £77 per pupil. The LA will receive transitional ESG funding from April 2017 to August 2017. It is proposed that regulations will be amended to allow local authorities to retain some of their

schools block funding to cover statutory duties that they carry out on behalf of maintained schools which was previously funded from ESG. Further details of the duties to be included under this arrangement will be included in the consultation on changes to the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations.

National Weightings for Low Attainment

Using national weightings for secondary low attainment figures. This will affect the per pupil funding for the Prior Attainment Factor for secondary schools. The total funding will remain unchanged but the number of pupils eligible will increase.

3.2 Further changes which have no impact on Hartlepool are as follows:

- The DSG blocks have been rebaselined to reflect current spending patterns – for Hartlepool this means an additional £0.460m of Post 16 place funding. This funding is directly passported by the EFA to the education provider.
- The removal of the post 16 funding factor but protected through MFG.
- Using new bandings for the index of deprivation affecting children (IDACI).
- That local authorities are submitting one proforma tool (APT) in January 2017. Previously the LA also submitted an APT tool in October.
- Consultation on changes to the arrangements for free school recoupment.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the report.