**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 15 November 2019**

**From Amanda Whitehead – Assistant Director Education**

**Item 4 : High Needs Block Budget Requirement 2020/21**

1. **Introduction**
   1. The local authority is proposing a transfer of £0.550m from the schools block to the high needs block in 2020/21.

* 1. Although high needs block funding from government has increased in 2020/21, the funding remains insufficient to cover expected demand and spending on SEND support.

1. **Background**
   1. Schools’ Forum receive regular updates on high needs spending and forecasts during the year. The latest forecast position was shared with Forum on 13 September 2019.
   2. Consultation on the proposed transfer of £0.550m commenced on 17 October 2019, with information sent to all head teachers for review and discussion at the head teachers meeting on 23 October 2019.
   3. Schools’ Forum received a subsequent detailed report on the high needs block budget requirement for 2020/21 at their meeting on 25 October 2019.
2. **Local Authority Proposal**
   1. The authority is proposing a block transfer of £0.550m from the schools block to the high needs block for 2020/21.
   2. The block transfer is necessary in order to meet the majority of anticipated demand and spend in 2020/21, with the authority and Schools’ Forum working collaboratively to tackle the remaining unfunded amount in-year.
   3. The £0.550m represents 0.84% of schools block funding in 2020/21. As this is above the 0.5% tolerance allowed within the regulations, the authority would still require approval via disapplication from the Secretary of State, even if Schools’ Forum supported the proposal.
   4. Detailed information supporting the high needs block budget requirement and funding pressure for 2020/21 was included in the report to Schools’ Forum of 25 October 2019.

**4.** **Recommendations**

4.1 Forum is asked to:

1. vote on whether they support the proposed block transfer of £0.550m from the schools block to the high needs block in 2020/21

**Please note: All Forum Members are eligible to vote on this proposal**