



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

20th September 2018

Schools Budget 2019/20

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government has announced indicative allocations for the Schools, High Needs and Central Schools Services blocks for 2019/20. This paper updates Schools Forum with the latest information on the changes and seeks the views on whether to transfer 0.5% of the schools block to the high needs block.

2. Schools Block

2.1 The indicative budget allocation for the schools block for 2019/20 is £23.057m compared to 2018/19 of £22.969m (an increase of £0.088m) equating to an increase of 0.4%. This figure is calculated using the October 2017 census data. The National Funding Formula sets the Primary and Secondary units of funding for each authority based on last years census data and these will be used to calculate the funding received by the authority for 2019/20.

2.2 The two units of funding for Rutland County Council have been set as follows:

- Primary Unit of Funding is £3,819.86 (£3,792.17 in 2018/19)
- Secondary Unit of Funding is £4,827.39 (£4,809.39 in 2018/19)

3. High Needs Block

3.1 The indicative allocation for high needs for 2019/20 is £3.733m compared to 2018/19 of £3.690m (an increase of £0.04m) equating to an increase of 1.1%. This funding has been adjusted for the latest information on the numbers of pupils being imported/exported and changes in these numbers will impact the level of funding received by the authority.

3.2 The current level of spending on high needs is £3.828m in 2018/19 and therefore the allocation for 2019/20 is likely to be insufficient to cover costs next year. The authority has the opportunity to again transfer up to 0.5% of the school block (approximately £0.115m) to the high needs block for one year. If agreed, this transfer is for one year only and will automatically transfer back to the schools block the following year

3.3 Last year all schools were consulted on whether the transfer of funding between the two blocks should be implemented and everyone was in favour. Therefore 0.5% (£0.114m) was transferred between the two blocks. This funding has been returned to the schools block for 2019/20.

3.4 The Council and Schools Forum are faced with the same decision again this year. The Council proposes that this decision is taken by Schools Forum (all schools are represented through the Schools Forum and Forum is able to take this decision) unless Forum wishes to repeat the consultation process from last year.

3.5 If Forum chooses the latter option, we will write to schools asking for a view. Last year we advised Schools on the financial impact of taking this decision. The impact is broadly the same this year so it would not be our intention to update the figures.¹

3.6 The Council's view is that we should continue to transfer funding whilst work is ongoing to manage the position.

3.7 Local Authorities can also apply to the Secretary of State for a disapplication of the funding formula to allow a greater than 0.5% transfer between the blocks. However, whilst we are still working on local arrangements, we do not believe this is an appropriate action.

4. Central Schools Service Block

4.1 The provisional allocation for the Central Schools Services block (CSSB) is £0.161m for 2019/20 compared to £0.163m in 2018/19 (a reduction of £2k) equating to a 1.2% reduction in funding.

4.2 The CSSB pays for the following services:

- Admissions Service
- Nationally agreed copyright licence fees
- The Local Authorities Statutory responsibilities (previously covered by the Education Services Grant)

5. Early Years Block

5.1 There has not been an announcement on the Early Years allocations for 2019/20. This is not anticipated until December.

6. Recommendations

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the provisional allocations for the Schools, High Needs and Central Schools Services blocks as outlined above.

4.2 Schools Forum is asked to approve the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools block to the High Needs block for 2019/20 whilst local arrangements continue to be worked on.

Dawn Greaves
Senior Accountant
12th September 2018

¹ As the total Schools block allocation is similar in value to that received in 2018/19, the impact of the transfer of funding on individual schools will also be similar. Reviewing the funding formula, schools will be giving up between £3k and £13k per school depending on size of school.