

2016/17 Schools Block DSG Allocations and Formula Data

1 Total DSG Allocation

1.1 The notification of Schools Block DSG on 17 December 2015 showed the following:

- 23,979 pupils funded at £4,456 giving an allocation of £106.855m

1.2 This represents an increase of over 600 pupils compared to the previous year, mostly in the primary sector (over 500) but also more than 100 in the secondary sector, demonstrating that the demographic recovery in secondary school pupil numbers is underway.

2 Schools Block Formula Data

2.1 T&W's funding formula for 2016/17 was discussed with the Forum at previous meetings during 2015 and agreed by the Council's Cabinet on 12 November. However, the final data on which the formula is calculated was only made available by the EFA in December, following compilation of data from the October 2015 census etc.

2.2 The most striking aspect of the data for 2016/17 is the scale of the decline in pupils registered as eligible for free school meals. Figures compared to the previous year are as follows:

Sector	Data for FY 2015/16	Data for FY 2016/17	Movement	% Movement
Primary	2,891	2,477	-414	-14.3%
Secondary	1,596	1,395	-201	-12.6%
Total	4,487	3,872	-615	-13.7%

2.3 In the local funding formula we ring-fence the amounts for deprivation, with the result that the amount per eligible pupil has increased, rather than the overall amount allocated for deprivation going down.

2.4 However, these figures do suggest that pupil premium allocations could be a little lower once allocated, i.e. the overall growth in pupil numbers being more than offset by a reduction in new registrations for pupil premium. The overall impact should be moderated by the Ever 6 measure used however, as this means that the allocations are less subject to large year on year movements.

3 Provision of Budgetary Information to Schools

3.1 We are planning to issue individual budget information to schools later today (22 January), possibly including early years estimates. High needs information (e.g. SEN statement funding) estimates will follow in February. Pupil premium information will be issued by the DfE and is likely to be available in the summer term.

3.2 Budget briefing sessions will be held on Friday 5th and Monday 8th February - invitations have been sent to schools (including academies). The sessions will be of interest to Governors, Headteachers and Business Managers / Finance Officers.

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