
BUDGET UPDATE 2013/14

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Schools Forum regarding the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2013/14

Background

2. School Forum will be aware that each financial year the Education Funding Agency requires that the Chief Finance Officer of the Council sign a statement confirming the final DSG allocation. This statement is due for return by the end of October.
3. There is a requirement that prior to signing the statement that the budget should be discussed by School Forum. The statement must confirm the DSG allocations provided by the EFA in July 2013.
4. In Darlington Schools Forum receive regular updates of the use of DSG as a standing item on the Forum agenda. However, since the last regular Forum meeting on 11th June there has been a change to the DSG allocation, therefore there is a requirement to update Forum prior to the statement being returned.
5. Appendix one of this agenda item shows the revised budget for 2013/14, which ties up with the allocation provided by EFA in July.
6. Forum will note that the total budget has decreased by £1.3 million from the last report. This change in budget has arisen due to the following two reasons
 - a. A reduction of £1,440,883 has taken place as the EFA has recouped the school budget share of two schools that converted to academy status in April. This recoupment has no effect on the budget.
 - b. As Forum members will recall from their February meeting it was notified that the Early Years funding in the budget was provisional and would be updated for the results of the January 2013 and January 2014 census. At the January 2013 census there were 29 more pupils than was included in the provisional allocation, therefore an additional £108,000 has been added to the budget by the EFA.
7. For the interim the additional funding for Early Years has been allocated on a 50/50 basis between the budget lines for the PVI sector and the school based nurseries. Payment for nursery funding is made on an actual head count basis therefore the budget will be allocated in line with the actual expenditure once known.

Recommendations

8. That Forum notes the content of the report.

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