

# Schools Forum

Update on national  
school funding issues

15 July 2022

# National funding issues

- Announcement expected from DfE 19<sup>th</sup> July about next years funding arrangements – normally sets out the basis for funding DSG and any changes to the NFF
- Hopefully will cover how DfE will respond to inflation at 10% as this is clearly a major concern for schools e.g. pay, school meals, energy
- I expect that the Schools Supplementary Grant will continue to be necessary as permits late changes
- Direct NFF proposals – discussed detail with BWG
- SEND review published but no financial impact yet

# Direct NFF proposals - 1

- Any transfers to the high needs block will be via a top-slice to school budgets agreed with Schools Forum
- Notional SEN budgets to be set by DfE
- Growth funding – to continue to be determined locally but required to meet DfE national standards
- Growth funding amounts to be reset to 2023-24 baselines and any surplus returned to DfE or DSG balances i.e. not be used to top-up school funding

# Direct NFF re Premises - 2

- Complexity of PFI funding requires separate future consultation – DfE will work with LAs
- Split site factor to be based on lump sum values – base amount and supplementary distance add-on
- Premises exceptional factor to be retained but threshold tightened from 1% of school budget to 2.5%. Will impact on Eastnor Primary as exceptional funding is used to rent the school but at 1.8% of school budget will be ineligible in future.
- Surely if deemed exceptional then all rent costs should be eligible without a financial threshold

# Direct NFF re Funding cycle - 3

- No draft or final budgets prepared by LA - schools given calculator tool to prepare own forecasts or use DfE notional budgets based on last year's NOR
- These notional budgets are produced by DfE every summer but don't include changes in NOR
- we will be unable to populate the HCSS budget planner with either the budget details or budget assumptions on pay and prices
- School funding will simply become a Whitehall spreadsheet similar to that distributed for Pupil Premium

# Other funding matters

- Schools White paper
- Update on LA brokered MAT and Q&As - Ceri
- f40 briefing to MPs on school funding held on 5 July – awaiting for feedback and will circulate

# SEND Review published

- High level SEND policy with no financial proposals
- Proposes financial stability for PRU/AP providers
- Proposes national framework for top-up tariffs
- No comment on uprating the £10,000 per place funding for special schools in the light of significant inflation
- At the end of the meeting we will show the speech by Charlie Lang, Deputy Director, DfE SEND team on the SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper

# Budget Working Group update

- DSG deficit management plan – outline proposal
- Initial de-delegation proposals for 23-24
  - New - School Improvement at £12 per pupil
  - New - School contingencies at £3 per pupil
  - Inflationary increases on existing arrangements i.e. School meals, Budget software licence, EAL, TU facilities, Behaviour Support Services – agreed for one year and to be reviewed
- Central Block - School Admissions budget increase of £5k to cover additional in-year transfers
- DSG Outturn 21-22 report – share screen



# DSG deficit management plan

- Agreed with DfE to share our management plan at Schools Forum in October – not a recovery plan
- Working up the content with BWG as follows
  - Five year summary of income, expenditure, reasons
  - Actions taken so far to manage budget/spend
  - Outline of tariff banding system
  - Proposals to increase special school and resource base places
  - Assumptions re increased high needs grant funding
  - Impact of SEND review – but too early to know
  - Lessons from DfE “safety net” LAs
  - Key Performance Indicators