

Schools Forum 19 January 2024 – Summary of Recommendations - Appendix 3

1. Herefordshire's school funding proposals for 2024/25 to adopt the national funding formula values be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People as listed below:
 - a) subject to a gains cap of 2.45% to ensure affordability, the statutory minimum total funding per pupil for primary and secondary schools and including the Minimum Funding Guarantee at 0.5%
 - b) Basic Entitlement per pupil:
 - i. Primary KS1/2 - £3,562
 - ii. Secondary KS3 - £5,022
 - iii. Secondary KS4 - £5,661
 - c) Low prior attainment (low cost, high incidence special education needs)
 - i. Primary funding per pupil £1,170
 - ii. Secondary funding per pupil £1,775
 - d) Free School Meals per pupil
 - i. Primary £490
 - ii. Secondary £490
 - e) Deprivation per Ever-6 Free Meal pupil
 - i. Primary £820
 - ii. Secondary £1,200
 - f) Socio-economic deprivation Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
 - Band A (2.5% LSOAs) primary £680 secondary £945
 - Band B (5%) primary £515 secondary £740
 - Band C (5%) primary £485 secondary £690
 - Band D (5%) primary £445 secondary £630
 - Band E (10%) primary £285 secondary £450
 - Band F (10%) primary £235 secondary £340
 - Band G (62.5%) primary £0 secondary £0
 - g) English as Additional Language (EAL3) for all eligible pupils within last three years
 - i. Primary £590
 - ii. Secondary £1,585
 - g) Lump sums – Primary and Secondary £134,400
 - h) Sparsity
 - i. Tapered lump sum of £57,100 for qualifying primary schools with an average year group size of 21.4
 - ii. Tapered lump sum of £83,000 for qualifying secondary schools with an average year group size of 120 pupil
 - i) Business Rates – no change, funded at estimated cost of £1,305,765
 - l) The council will continue to participate in the DfE's scheme for business rates payments to be paid centrally by the DfE in Whitehall.
 - J) Looked After Children – £0 as funding has been transferred to the pupil premium grant.

- K) Mobility – Primary per pupil £960, Secondary per pupil £1,380, above a threshold of 6% pupil turnover.
- L) Exceptional premises factor – increased by 1.9% inflation and an additional allowance for the lease of additional space to £17,000 (£9,556) to meet rent costs for Eastnor Primary School subject to DfE approval.
- M) PFI factor – increased to £354,992 comply with PFI contract which uses the RPI(X) as at February 2024.
- N) Split site factor £80,600 – the DfE has confirmed the new autism resource base at Hampton Dene Primary School complies with the DfE's new national split site factor criteria.

2. Additional growth funding of £117,180 for academic year 2024/25 at the rate of 7/12th of the KS3 pupil factor £5,022 i.e. £2,929.50 per pupil (including the DfE minimum £1,550 per pupil) to comply with the new NFF national criteria for payment of growth funding for agreed basic need follows:

- (a) Growth funding for basic need expansion at Kingstone High School, £87,885 for the period September 2024 to March 2025 for an additional 30 planned pupils, to be paid on actual pupil growth if less than 30 pupils.
- (b) Growth funding for basic need expansion at Kingstone High School, £13,956.25 for the period April to August 2024 for an additional 30 planned pupils, to be paid on actual pupil growth of 7 pupils and to be recovered from ESFA through reduced recoupment in 2024-25.
- (c) Growth funding for basic need expansion at Fairfield High School, £29,295 for the period September 2024 to March 2025 for an additional 10 planned pupils, to be paid on actual pupil growth if less than 10 pupils.
- (d) Growth funding for basic need expansion at Fairfield High School, £19,937.50 for the period April 2024 to August 2024 for an additional 10 planned pupils, to be paid on actual pupil growth if less than 10 pupils and to be recovered from ESFA through reduced recoupment in 2024-25.

3. Transfer to high needs block to support the SEN protection scheme, £649,692 to be approved by the Schools Forum and to set the school funding cap at £195 x Number on Roll for 2024/25 allowing £50,000 growth in 2024-25 subject to further consideration of the funding cap at the March meeting of the Schools Forum.

4. That prior to submission to the DfE, any minor adjustments to the schools budget up to £5,000 required to comply with the regulations, be made to the funding allocated to the growth fund to provide a contingency.

5. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be advised for information, that Schools Forum approved an inflationary increase for the central support services funding for 2024/25, as follows:

- (a) Statutory retained duties £390,000
- (b) Schools Forum administration costs £20,000
- (c) School admission costs £169,000
- (d) National licences for schools £157,000
- (e) Additional funding for statutory duties for SEN casework team £28,000
- (f) SACRE funding for statutory duties £10,000
- (g) Transfer to the high needs block £77,800

6. That, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be advised for information, that local authority maintained school members, approved an increase of 1.9% in the de-delegation of funding in 2024/25, as follows:

- (a) Trade union facilities for primary schools only be approved at £2.70 per pupil
- (b) Trade union facilities for secondary schools only be provided for through a Service Level Agreement at £2.70 per pupil
- (c) School budgeting software licence at £431 per school
- (d) Ethnic minority support at £1.19 per pupil plus £7.06 per Ever-6 Free school meals and £36.68 per English as an Additional Language three years (EAL3)
- (e) School meals entitlement assessment at £1.33 per primary pupil and £1.01 per secondary pupil (for local authority schools)
- (f) Behaviour support service at £4.15 per primary pupil to provide £37,400 income
- (g) School improvement services at £6.11 per pupil
- (h) Contingencies at £1.02 per pupil
- (i) The statutory education services for non-academy schools be charged at £12.74 per pupil
- (j) That de-delegation for CLEAPPS was not approved
- (k) That an additional £1 per pupil was not approved for the primary behaviour support de-delegation to provide additional support judged as essential in reducing the high needs deficit.

7. The early years funding formula for Herefordshire providers from April 2024 be increased by the inflationary increase provided by DfE and approved as follows:

- (a) Two year olds – disadvantaged: £7.34 per hour
- (b) Two year olds – working families: £6.85 per hour
- (c) Under two year olds - £9.51 per hour
- (d) Three and four year olds: £5.00 per hour, plus a deprivation supplement of £0.42 per hour for Early Years Pupil Premium eligible children, plus a rurality supplement per provider of £63 per week (pro-rata for providers that deliver less than 100 hours per week) paid for 38 weeks per year.
- (e) That the 2.7% retention be approved for the two and under two year old grants as follows;
 - (i) SEN inclusion fund (SENIF) be increased by £150,000
 - (ii) That early years advisors be increased by £80,000
 - (iii) That Herefordshire council provider training be provided free at the point of delivery at a cost of £50,000
- (f) Early years central expenditure for 3 and 4 Year Old NEF be set at £413,400 for NEF contract payments, Early years consultants and MASH support for early years settings in line with the 5.19% inflationary increase provided by the DfE for 3 and 4 Year old NEF grant .

8. The Schools Budget be approved as follows:

- (a). A balanced schools budget be approved for 2024/25; and
- (b). The unusable reserve for the DSG deficit reserves of £1,004,503 be carried forward to financial year 2024/25 adjusted by any under or overspend in DSG at year end in March 2024.