

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TORBAY'S 2011/12 SECTION 251 BUDGET STATEMENT WITH ITS STATISTICAL NEIGHBOURS

### Background

Each Children's Services authority in England is required to complete the Section 251 return detailing their authority's spending plans for the forthcoming year.

This return covers all Dedicated School Grant funded activities and those centrally funded by Council tax and other grants. Therefore the spending plans for Schools, centrally retained activities and services related to looked after children are all included in this return.

The regulations for completing section 251 are very prescriptive but different L.As still interpret some aspects differently so this can give variations in allocations. It is also the case that individual arrangements in L.As can alter the figure on the Section 251 statement whilst maintaining practice, for example delegation and buy back of SEN funding reduces the level of spend on this line and increases delegation per pupil but in reality maintains the same practice.

### Scope of this Paper

Given that this return covers a wide range of Children's services, this analysis will focus only on ones that are incorporated within DSG. Therefore, central statistical analysis for central children's services such as looked after children services have been excluded.

### Commentary

The attached 4 pages should be read as follows:-

The analysis is on a per capita basis, for findings 1 to 8 the relevant population is 14,801 (pupils aged 3 – 19 excludes Academy pupils). For findings 9 to 14 the relevant population is 18,887 (pupils 3 -19 includes Academy pupils). The exclusion of academy pupils may account for some differences when compared with the 10/11 benchmarking exercise.

The comparative analysis is with Torbay's statistical neighbours (SN);

Isle of Wight	Plymouth	Cornwall
Southend-on-Sea	Portsmouth	Poole
Bournemouth	Blackpool	North Lincolnshire
	Telford and Wrekin	

### 1. Column 1 – Individual Schools Budget

Torbay £4,328      Statistical Neighbours (SN) Average £4,342

This is allocated funded to all schools via Torbay's local funding formula and includes the mainstreaming of former standards fund grants.

## 14<sup>th</sup> October 10 BAR and 11<sup>th</sup> November Schools Forum

### 2. Column 6 – Central Expenditure on education of Under 5s

Torbay £14                      SN Average £18

Early Years advisory workers

### 3. Column 8 – School Specific Contingencies

Torbay £65                      SN Average £24

The make up of this is largely determined in consultation with School's Forum and is subsequently allocated out to schools' budgets throughout the year.

Torbay's figure has fallen by £4 since 10/11.

This contingency includes funding for school improvement partnerships, secondary behaviour strategy, KS4 14-19 foundation learning, Business Rate in-year adjustments, KS1 class size contingency, special school contingency and funding for individual school support and improvement.

Please note that the costs of PFI and carbon reduction credits are accounted for in columns 42 and 40 respectively.

### 4. Column 18 – SEN Budgets excl PRU

Torbay £153                      SN Average £235

This reflects the fact that Torbay delegates a large proportion of SEN funding via the Inclusion sub formula.

### 5. Column 22 – PRU/Behaviour Support/EOTAS

Torbay £164                      SN Average £108

This reflects the high per place funding for this type of provision and the demand for one to one and small teaching groups.

### 6. Column 34 – Miscellaneous

Torbay £18                      SN Average £4

This reflects DfE advice on where to allocate £213k of Extended Services. This was an issue for 09/10 and it appears that other LAs are continuing to account for these grants elsewhere in the statement. Funding for TAPS and TGA is also included.

### 7. Column 42 – Capital Expenditure

Torbay £38                      SN Average £zero

This reflects the £150k revenue contribution to the capital programme and £400k PFI Unitary Charge LA element.

### 8. Column 44 – Total Schools Budget

Torbay £4,896                      SN Average £4,890

This is a total of all net budgets across all lines (the key ones are listed above)

## LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDED SERVICES

### 9. Column 50 – Total Special Education

Torbay £37 SN Average £38

This includes Educational Psychology, SEN assessment, therapies, monitoring of provision

### 10. Column 53 - Home to School Transport – SEN

Torbay £60 SN Average £55

This reflects the geographical pattern of 3 special schools in Torbay and the requirement to transport their pupils to these settings. Torbay's figure has fallen by £5 since 10/11.

### 11. Column 54 – Home to School Other

Torbay £36 SN Average £28

This cost reflects the Council's Home to School transport policy. This was changed for September 2011 which will impact upon this figure. This is a volatile demand led budget; effected by pressure on primary school places.

### 12. Column 62 – Home to College Other

Torbay £41 SN Average £4

### 13. Column 65 – School Welfare

Torbay £21 SN Average £13

### 14. Column 66 – School Improvement

Torbay £18 SN Average £45

This reflects changes to this service in 2011/12.

## Concluding remarks

Although this government return has been in existence for many years, its content is always subject to change inline with central government changes including the Every Child Matters agenda and the formation of a Children's Services. As such the allocation of some functions to particular lines is still subjective and as can be seen can distort benchmarking data. However, on the whole the comparative analysis is a useful reflection of how Torbay's budgets are allocated.

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10<sup>th</sup> October 2010