

## Schools Forum - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### Department for Education Funding for Higher Needs

#### Context

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, Education Secretary Damian Hinds announced an additional £250 million of funding for high needs, across the two financial years 2018 to 2019, and 2019 to 2020. This will be allocated as an uplift to the higher needs block of the DSG at £125 million for 2018 to 2019 and £125 million for 2019 to 2020.

Torbay Local Area allocation is published at £268,221 for 2018 to 2019, and £268,221 for 2019 to 2020. The EFSA/DFE have requested that local areas who have already proposed to move funding from the schools block to the high needs block of the DSG in 2019 to 2020, review their proposals and inform the DFE/EFSA by the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

School Forum as the statutory body has been rescheduled to enable this important debate to take place and to ensure that a decision can be reached ahead of the DFE/EFSA deadline.

#### Options Appraisal

It is important the School Forum consider how they propose to manage these additional funds in the context of the **forecasted £2.716m overspend**, which continues to rise.

To ensure transparent and open decision making, officers have set out the following three options for School Forum to debate.

<b>Option 1</b>	The additional funds are allocated to the Higher Needs Block to offset the forecasted £2.716m overspend.
<b>Option 2</b>	The additional funds are taken off the virement application and allocated through the Schools block. The virement application would be £1.091m.
<b>Option 3</b>	The additional funds are both allocated to the Higher Needs Block and the Schools Block to offset the virement application and deficit on a 50/50 basis. The virement application would be £1.225m

If either option 2 or option 3 was considered to be the correct course of action, School Forum would then need to take an additional decision on how the funds are to be distributed to schools.

These are presented in the options below

<b>Option A</b>	The minimum per pupil levels are increased in the funding formula (previously consulted upon). This would ensure a closure of the gap for schools that did not meet the minimum levels in the consultation document. The percentage provided back to the Schools Block would impact on the amount allocated.
<b>Option B</b>	The minimum per pupil levels are not increased in the funding formula (previously consulted upon)/ This would allocate funds through the drivers AWPU Lump sum FSM IDACI (Bands A - E) IDACI (Band F – New for 19/20) Prior Attainment

	<p>PFI Split Sites Rates English as an additional language</p> <p>The percentage provided back to the Schools Block would impact on the amount allocated.</p>
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**Position**

School Forum need to consider the allocation of additional funds in the context of the **£2.716m overspend** and the growing trajectory of costs. Decisions to allocate the funds outside of the Higher Needs Block need to be carefully considered in the context of the future deficit that would need to be recovered. The allocation of any funds to the school block needs to be considered in the context of the formula that was consulted upon in the original virement application.

**Rachael Williams**

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