

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

- Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Date:** 9 February 2015
- Decision in the matter of:** Review of Schools Funding Formula 2015/16 (CE 14/15-45)
- Decision:** That the 2015-16 Schools Funding Formula, as proposed by the Schools Forum, be endorsed.

Background: The report set out the Schools Forum's proposals for the 2015-16 Schools Funding Formula whereby all additional monies received in Dedicated Schools Grant are allocated through the Schools Funding Formula using the Age Weighted Pupil Factor (AWPU), that the current funding formula factors are maintained, and that the Council continues the rural proofing strategy for schools.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced additional funding for the 2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant and these were discussed and endorsed by the Schools Forum; the final formula had to be submitted to the DfE by 21 January 2015. The proposals maintain all existing formula factors at their current levels, including the amounts allocated for deprivation, basic Special Educational Needs (SEN) and lump sum. It was also proposed that the rural proofing fund continue to be supported for a second year; this allocates £150,000 to small and rural schools which provide a hub for the community. This budget does not come from the DSG but is earmarked from within the Education strategy base budget.

The Government has published revised minimum funding levels (MFLs) and has clearly stated its intention to move towards a National Funding Formula in the future, although not for 2015-16; the consultation findings on this have resulted in some changes to the proposals the initial consequence of which is that the Cheshire East allocation has increased from £4.7m to £5.7m. In the consultation the Government did make it clear that there was NO requirement on local authorities to use these MFLs, and schools should not assume they would be getting budgets calculated using these formula factor values.

The Schools Forum also approved a new policy for clawback of

surplus balances although Schools can create earmarked reserves to hold money for specific projects, which takes this money out of the surplus balance calculation for clawback.

Background Documents: The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor Rachel Bailey (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Families)

Date: 9 February 2015

Advising Officer:

Signed
Fintan Bradley (Corporate Manager Education and Strategy)

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Families

Date: 9 February 2015

Decision in the matter of: Post Compulsory Education Awards - Annual Determination

Decision: That approval be given that the Council does not take up the power to grant discretionary awards for the 2015/16 academic year.

Background: The Local Education Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/229) require LEAs to make an annual determination in respect of their powers to make awards to students. The determination must be made before the start of the following financial year. The requirement to make an annual determination applies regardless of whether an LA has previously determined that it will not exercise its power to offer awards.

The position has remained unchanged since 2000/01 and no new awards have been made since then. National schemes have developed since then to provide funding to various categories of post 16 students who would previously have looked to the local authority for support.

Background Documents:

The background papers to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor Rachel Bailey (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children)

Date:

9 February 2015

Advising Officer:

Signed
Fintan Bradley (Corporate Manager Education and Strategy)