

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

2020-21 Schools Budget Settlement Update

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Schools' Forum of the final 2020-21 budget settlement issued by the DfE and compare against the consultation data.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum **note** the final settlement and the reversal of the planned transfer of £0.5m from the High Needs Block.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 For the purposes of transparency.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Schools' Forum will note that in the previous two financial years, a transfer of £0.5m was authorised from the High Needs Block into the Schools Block to correct an in-balance within the Schools Block as a result of the baselining exercise undertaken in 2017-18.
- 4.2 The DfE has now confirmed, as part of the deficit recovery response, that the transfer is no longer required as it relates to PFI funding, which is currently fully funded by the DfE as targeted funding.
- 4.3 The funding arrangement will need to be reviewed in future years once the DfE confirm a more permanent solution to treating premises related costs under the National Funding Formula, which could see it being formularised.
- 4.4 The estimated Schools Block settlement saw the Primary Unit Funding (PUF) and Secondary Unit Funding (SUF) prudently uprated by 1.84% and used pupil data from schools and estimations, where schools had not provided this data. This has now been reconciled with the final settlement which is viewable over leaf.

5 FINAL SETTLEMENT

- 5.1 The PUF and SUF unit values were increased by around 2% against the 2019-20 settlement, slightly above the modelled increases.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

8 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

8.1 Monitoring Officer

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

8.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

Contact for further information

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