

CABINET – 28 JANUARY 2014

ADDENDA

SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2014/15 – 2017/18 Collection Fund Surpluses/Deficits and Other Notifications

Report by Chief Finance Officer

Collection fund surpluses/deficits

1. Each District Council is required to estimate the surplus/deficit on their collection fund by 15 January (or the first working day thereafter) and notify the County Council of its share of the surplus/deficit within seven working days.
2. The confirmed collection fund surpluses for 2014/15 have now been received from each of the District Councils and total £6.928m.
3. The 2014/15 budget proposed by Cabinet assumes an estimated collection fund surplus of £6.971m. The confirmed amount of £6.928m is £0.043m lower than the estimated amount, resulting in a small reduction to the one-off funding available in 2014/15, which will require a corresponding contribution from the Budget Reserve to offset.

Funding for the provision of infant free school meals

4. From September 2014 the government will provide funding to enable schools to offer a free lunch to every primary school child in reception classes, year 1 and year 2. Capital funding to support this commitment was announced in December as set out in the main report. On 23 January the Minister of State for Schools announced that the revenue funding will be allocated on a flat rate of £2.30 per meal taken, based on actual take-up by newly eligible infant pupils which will be measured in the Schools Census from next year. In addition, the government will be providing transitional funding totalling £22.5m in 2014/15 for small schools, which will be provided before the start of the new academic year.
5. The government has also confirmed that pupil premium funding will not be affected. Schools will still receive the pupil premium for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, with funding allocations for 2014/15 informed by School Census data collected in January 2014. The Department for Education is considering how pupil premium will be allocated in the longer term.

Education maintenance capital allocation

6. As noted in the main report, the education basic need capital allocations for 2014/15 – 2016/17 were received in December 2013. The government has now announced the provisional education maintenance capital allocations for 2014/15. The provisional allocation for the County Council is £6.427m, this is £0.927m more than had been estimated in the proposed capital programme and will go a small way to addressing the £19.3m reduction required to the education capital programme outlined in the main report.

RECOMMENDATION

7. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **Note the confirmed collection fund surplus for 2014/15;**
- b) **Note the amount of funding per infant school meal taken notified by the Department for Education;**
- c) **Note the provisional education maintenance allocation for 2014/15.**

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Background papers: Nil

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