

# **DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES – 16 JANUARY 2020**

## **Update for Delegated decision on School Funding formula 2020/21**

### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services is RECOMMENDED to: -**
  - a) To agree the recommendation from Schools Forum**
  - b) To approve the final funding formula for 2020/21 as set out in Annex 1**
  - c) To note that the Local Authority will withdraw the disapplication request made to the Secretary of State for Education.**

Timescales for this decision are extremely tight between receipt of the information from DfE on 19<sup>th</sup> December and submission back to the DfE on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Since the report was published, there is further information that needs to be shared. This information has been shared with Schools Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> January to enable the Forum to make a recommendation to this meeting.

## **2. Implementation of NFF and funding**

In the model, applying the NFF at full factor values can be accommodated within the overall funding allocation with up to £1.87m unallocated ONE-OFF funding. This “spare” funding has been generated from 2 areas:

- a) A reoccurrence of additional growth funding. Oxfordshire has benefited from the DfE’s calculation for implicit growth funding in both 2019-20 and 2020-21 of approximately £0.6m. The benefit has continued as the formula allocates funding for growth areas but doesn’t reduce funding where there are negative growth areas.
- b) £1.2m spare after applying funding to implement all the funding factors at the NFF level. This is because the DfE use the October 2018 data to generate the secondary and primary unit of funding for Oxfordshire. The actual data for October 2019 showed much improved outcomes for Oxfordshire particularly for Low Prior Attainment in the Primary sector resulting in lower numbers of pupils in this category and hence the funding required for this factor is less than anticipated by the DfE in October.

### 3. Recommendation to Schools Forum

The Local Authority consulted Schools Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

The Local Authority reaffirmed its preferred position to transfer 0.5% to the High Needs block to reduce deficit.

The Local Authority proposed a second option that recommended an increase in the growth fund.

### 4. Schools Forum Recommendation

Extract from draft minutes below:

*Schools Forum **agreed** that use of the £1.87m unallocated funding, after the full NFF unit rates have been applied in the model, should be to:*

- increase the contribution to the Growth fund by a further £0.6m; and*
- to move the balance of the unallocated funding to High Needs block to allocate directly to SEND budgets in schools to specifically support High Needs students (for this purpose only, rather than it being used to reduce the LA's High Needs deficit).*

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Finance Business Partner

15.01.20