Oxfordshire County Council Schools Forum – 13 January 2016 National Funding Formula and Formula Changes 2016-17, Including Central Overheads

Settings		Sector		Voting Entitlement (for decision papers only)		
Academies	✓	Foundation Stage	✓	PVI Representative	✓	
Maintained Schools	✓	Primary	✓	16-19 Representative		
PVI Nurseries	✓	Secondary	✓	COTO Representative		
Special Schools	✓	Special	✓	Maintained Primary School Representatives	✓	
Local Authority	✓	16+		Academy Primary School Representatives	✓	
Schools Forum	✓	High Needs		Maintained Secondary School Representatives	✓	
				Academy Secondary School Representatives	✓	
				Pupil Referral Unit Representative	✓	
				Special School Representatives	✓	
				Nursery Representative	✓	

1. Item for Decision

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The key purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the final submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2016-17 to the Department for Education (DfE) by 21 January 2016 (including updated Growth Fund criteria).
- 2.2 The report informs Schools Forum on the impact of the updated (2015) Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data on deprivation funding, and the implications for the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).
- 2.3 The report also updates Schools Forum on the Local Authority request for adjudication by the Secretary of State on the historic commitment for central overheads funded by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

3. Recommendations/Actions/Decisions for Schools Forum

- 3.1 Schools Forum is presented with unit rates for the formula at Annex 1, which represents the base position from which two options are to be considered. These are the allocation of balances remaining on the Local Authority's DSG Blocks (Option 1) and potential allocations dependent on the decision of the Secretary of State on central overheads (Option 2).
- 3.2 Schools Forum is asked to endorse the submission of the final proforma, with the unit rates for the formula that are shown at Annex 1 as the base position, and the updated Growth Fund criteria at Annex 2.

- 3.3 Schools Forum is asked to agree the approach for allocating balances remaining on the Local Authority's DSG Blocks, after maintaining units of funding. This is a net total of £972.5k as outlined in Paper 3. Schools Forum is asked to endorse the increase to Basic Entitlement (and hourly rate increase for early years settings) as detailed at paragraph 6.2 of this report (Option 1).
- In the event of the Secretary of State agreeing with the Schools Forum proposal to reduce the DSG contribution to central overheads in 2016-17, Schools Forum is asked to endorse the increase to Basic Entitlement (and hourly rate increase for early years settings) detailed at paragraph 4.5 of this report (Option 2).
- 3.5 Schools Forum is asked to note that school budget shares will be published on the intranet ahead of the deadline of 29 February 2016, following approval of the APT by the DfE.

4. Historic Commitments - Central Overheads

- 4.1 At the Schools Forum meeting on 2 December 2015, Schools Forum did not approve the continuation of the previous DSG historic commitment contribution funding of £4.387m to non-negotiable support service recharges (central overheads) in Children, Education & Families for 2016-17. Schools Forum proposed that this DSG contribution should be reduced by 40% (£1.755m) for 2016-17.
- 4.2 The Local Authority had committed to review the level of overheads funded by DSG and implement a significant reduction from April 2017, when the level of reduction would have been fully evaluated and consultation taken place with schools. A request for adjudication was, therefore, submitted to the Secretary of State asking that the historic commitment be allowed in full for 2016-17, pending completion of the overheads review and to allow the impact to be assessed at the same time as the national funding formula consultation in early 2016. A copy of this request is attached at Annex 3.
- 4.3 The Secretary of State had not provided a decision at the time of writing this report and the finalisation of the deployment of DSG for 2016-17 and, consequently, unit values are dependent on this decision. In this difficult situation, with very tight time constraints, options are presented to Schools Forum to address the possible outcomes of the adjudication. This is a practical approach, on a one-year basis, pending introduction of a national funding formula in 2017-18. The deadline for submission of the final pro-forma to the DfE is 21 January 2016, so there is very limited time to confirm the approach.
- 4.4 If the Secretary of State allows continuation of the full current DSG contribution to central overheads in 2016-17, the proposed final proforma, will be based on unit rates for the formula as shown at Annex 1, with the addition of the increases outlined in 6.2.

4.5 In the event of the Secretary of State agreeing with the Schools Forum to release £1.755m to the three DSG blocks, then the same methodology as used for releasing balances is proposed, as this has previously been agreed by Schools Forum as a fair approach. This identifies an amount for High Needs (including special schools, for later discussion at the Schools Forum on 24 February 2016), schools and early years. This (Option 2) would mean an indicative increase in Basic Entitlement of £15.36 per fte pupil for primary (equivalent to 1.6p per hour), £22.35 per fte pupil for Key Stage 3 (equivalent to 2.4p per hour) and £23.44 per fte pupil for Key Stage 4 (equivalent to 2.5p per hour), and an increase for early years providers of 2p per hour.

5. Formula Factors – Basic Entitlement

- 5.1 The structure of Oxfordshire's local funding formula for schools for 2016-17 was agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 22 September 2015, before submission to the DfE by the deadline of 30 October 2015. The structure is unchanged from 2015-16 in line with the principle of minimising turbulence pending introduction of a national funding formula.
- 5.2 Revised datasets for all schools were included in the December APT and the DSG allocations for 2016-17 were issued in December 2015. Schools Forum agreed to address pressures in the High Needs Block of DSG and to maintain the current units of resource per pupil.
- 5.3 The Basic Entitlement per pupil value for primary has increased, however, by £4.49 on 2015-16, relating to the per pupil element of the delegated Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) funding. Schools Forum agreed at their meeting on 2 December 2015 to delegate CERA funding to all remaining schools from 2016-17. The lump sum for primary is also increased by £5,000 to £125,000 for the lump sum element of the CERA delegation. (The equivalent for special schools will be reported at the Schools Forum meeting on 24 February 2016).
- 5.4 The above position is reflected in Annex 1. It should be noted, however, that there are other factors that determine the final impact for individual schools, including the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

6. Unallocated Balances Remaining on the LA DSG Blocks

6.1 Schools Forum is asked to agree the approach to allocating balances remaining on the Local Authority's DSG Blocks for 2016-17, after maintaining units of funding and funding the impact of new schools. This is a net total of £972.5k as outlined in Paper 3. This includes the former historic commitment of £418k contribution to Combined Budgets. Schools Forum is asked to endorse the base unit rates for the

- formula at Annex 1, with the addition of the increase to Basic Entitlement (and hourly rate increase for early years settings) detailed below (Option 1).
- 6.2 The same methodology as used for releasing balances is proposed (as with Option 2 for central overheads), as this has been previously agreed by Schools Forum as a fair approach. This identifies an amount for High Needs (including special schools, for later discussion at the Schools Forum meeting on 24 February 2016), schools and early years. Option 1 would mean an indicative increase in Basic Entitlement of £8.79 per fte pupil for primary (equivalent to 0.9p per hour), £12.78 per fte pupil for Key Stage 3 (equivalent to 1.3p per hour) and £13.41 per fte pupil for Key Stage 4 (equivalent to 1.4p per hour), and an increase for early years providers of 1p per hour.

7. Deprivation

- 7.1 Deprivation is a mandatory factor and local authorities are permitted to distribute their deprivation funding using one or both of two indicators: children eligible for free school meals (FMS) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data. In 2015-16, Oxfordshire used FSM data to distribute approximately 86% (£10.9m) of deprivation funding and IDACI data to allocate 14% (£1.8m) of targeted deprivation funding. The DfE updated the APT in December 2015 with the latest (2015) IDACI data, and this has had a significant impact on targeted deprivation funding compared to previous IDACI data.
- 7.2 The IDACI data has been updated for the first time since 2010, resulting in a significant fall in the numbers of eligible children, and this has had a significant impact on the funding formula for many schools. There was no advance warning of the impact of this from the DfE before datasets were published on 10 December 2015 and other local authorities are also reporting significant changes. It is also noted that the amount of deprivation funding being distributed using the FSM indicator has also decreased in 2016-17, compared to 2015-16, in both primary and secondary. The main outcome has been to increase the amount of MFG protection payable to schools that have lost targeted deprivation funding in 2016-17.

8. Other Factors

8.1 As indicated above, the funding formula structure is unchanged from 2015-16 in line with the principle of minimising turbulence pending introduction of a national funding formula. Unit values have been retained for other factors, as set out in the APT summary at Annex 1. Details of the funding factors were included in Paper 4 that was discussed by Schools Forum on 22 September 2015 (link as follows):

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/document s/childreneducationandfamilies/educationandlearning/schools/ourwork withschools/schoolsforum/Sept2015/Paper4-NationalFundingFormulaandFormulaChanges2016-17.pdf.

8.2 A description of each allowable factor is contained in the EFA Operational Guide for 2016-17 (link below):

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486747/Schools_revenue_funding_2016_to_2017_operational_guide_updated_December_2015.pdf).

9. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and Technical Adjustment

- 9.1 The MFG is set by the EFA at minus 1.5% in 2016-17. The MFG total to be funded has doubled (linked to the deprivation funding changes), from £0.7m in 2015-16 to £1.4m in 2016-17. Gains have been capped locally at 3.4%, which is at the same level as 2015-16.
- 9.2 The EFA restricts exclusions from MFG to specific areas. Rates are automatically excluded from the MFG calculation. Where funding has previously been held centrally and is to be newly delegated, then this is excluded from the MFG baseline as a technical adjustment. This is the case with the additional funding delegated for CERA. Should the Secretary of State agree with the Schools Forum proposal to reduce the DSG contribution to central overheads in 2016-17, this will also be excluded from the MFG baseline as a technical adjustment. This is to ensure that schools benefit in full from the additional funding. As the former historic commitment for Combined Budgets was not required to support High Needs pressures, this delegation will also be recorded as a technical adjustment in the same way. (An application to exclude a previous split site allocation from the 2015-16 funding baseline for MFG calculation purposes for one school has been granted by the EFA).

10. Additional Funding from the High Needs Budget

The process and criteria used in prior years is proposed to be continued for 2016-17. The £6,000 threshold is mandatory to provide consistency between authorities and assist the movement to a national funding formula. The estimate of the amount potentially required is £50,000 and this is included in the proforma. If the estimated cost of support for named high needs pupils, up to the £6,000 threshold, exceeds 60% of the notional SEN budget, the excess is allocated to the school as exceptional SEN top-up. However, if the school has a sustained excess balance over the last three years, this potential exceptional SEN funding is withheld. This is administered by the SEN team.

11. Growth Fund

- 11.1 The Schools Forum agreed in December 2015 to maintain the historic commitment from DSG for the growth fund in 2016-17 at £660,000. The December report outlined that local authorities are allowed to retain DSG funding from the Schools Block to provide additional revenue funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need. The report also indicated that local authorities are also required to make provision in their growth funds to support increases in pupil numbers relating to basic need. This relates to the per pupil revenue funding in addition to all funding for preopening development costs, and post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale until a school reaches full capacity. Reference was made to the details of the criteria for the Pupil Growth and Additional Class funding schemes attached to Paper 6a discussed at the Schools Forum meeting held on 3 December 2014.
- 11.2 On the advice of colleagues in School Organisation & Planning, the Local Authority is requesting Schools Forum to agree two amendments to the previous criteria with regard to the definition of new schools, for the reasons outlined below:

Amendment 1: For a new school opening in more than one phase (e.g. 2 form entry primary school built and opening in two phases of 1 form entry, or a 1,200 place secondary school built and opening in 2 phases of 600 places), the initial post-opening funding will be based on its initial size, but when the phase 2 expansion is implemented, additional post-opening funding is agreed to bring it in line with that which would have been received had it opened at the larger size from the outset.

Reason: To remove financial incentives for new schools to open full size from the outset, as this would be destabilising to other schools.

Amendment 2: Where a new school is being provided not by a new establishment, but by an existing school opening an annex on a new site, it would still receive post-opening funding as if it were a new establishment, but not the pre-opening funding.

Reason: To reflect the additional costs to the school of such an expansion, but also that it will not face all the costs of a new establishment.

11.3 The proposed criteria are set out at Annex 2. Details of the criteria, as agreed by Schools Forum, will be included in the 2016-17 funding proforma submitted to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in January 2016.

12. Total Funding

In summary, and as set out in the APT summary at Annex 1, the total funding for the Schools Block Formula, before adjustment for Options 1 or 2 above, is £343,237,291. The percentage distributed through Basic Entitlement is 81.36% and the percentage of Pupil Led Funding is 88.76%. (This is in excess of the requirement to allocate at least 80% of the delegated Schools Block funding through pupil-led factors as detailed in the EFA Operational Guide for 2016-17). The primary to secondary ratio is 1 to 1.27 (as in 2015-16).

13. Financial and Staff Implications - centrally and for schools

This paper already deals with the financial implications of the funding formula for 2016-17, so no further comment is made.

14. Equal Opportunities Implications and Impact on Equality Groups

The changes that are proposed are being imposed nationally on all LAs. Where the LA continues to have discretion in the funding decisions made, it will continue to give priority to the needs of vulnerable pupils and the Council's aims of raising attainment, narrowing the attainment gap and safeguarding children.

15. Conclusions

This paper requests endorsement from the Schools Forum of the funding model to be submitted to the DfE by the deadline of 21 January 2016.

16. Contact Details of Lead Officer/Author

If you have any queries or comments in advance of the Schools Forum meeting about this report, please contact:

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Oxfordshire 931 LA Name: LA Number:

Pupil Led Factors	Reception uplift	Yes	Pun	il Units	120	9.50				
	Reception upint	163	Fup	l	12:	9.50				
Basic Entitlement			Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notion	al SEN (%)
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary (Years R-6)	£2,906.81		51,50	06.03	£149,718,236		43.80%	2	.00%
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,163.38		18,298.50		£76,183,609	£278,148,342	22.29%	2	.00%
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,363.38		11,9	73.86	£52,246,498		15.28%	2	.00%
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
	FSM % Primary	£1,208.11		4,659.93		£5,629,705			44.00%	
	FSM % Secondary		£2,012.86		2,486.13	£5,004,237				42.00%
	IDACI Band 1	£0.00	£0.00	4,460.30	2,542.38	£0			0.00%	0.00%
2) Deprivation	IDACI Band 2	£0.00	£0.00	2,546.92	1,329.91	£0	£11,547,133	3.38%	0.00%	0.00%
2, 5 cp. 11 dilo	IDACI Band 3	£115.85	£126.88	3,074.56	1,801.69	£584,786	211,5 17,155	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	IDACI Band 4	£231.70	£253.75	890.78	480.64	£328,357			0.00%	0.00%
	IDACI Band 5	£347.55	£380.63	0.14	0.00	£48			0.00%	0.00%
	IDACI Band 6	£463.39	£507.50	0.00	0.00	£0			0.00%	0.00%
	[Primary	Secondary	Eligible	Eligible	I]	Proportion of	Primary	Secondary
	Description	amount per pupil	amount per pupil	proportion of primary NOR	proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	Notional SEN (%)
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC X March 14			220	0.16	£0		0.00%		
4) English as an Additional	EAL 2 Primary	£265.57		3,419.17		£908,030				
Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Secondary		£726.88		615.37	£447,299		0.40%		
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£639.65		274.91	0.00	£175,845	£1,531,174	0.05%		
	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil	Percentage of eligible Y1-3 and Y4-6 NOR respectively	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
6) Prior attainment	Low Attainment % new EFSP Low Attainment % old FSP 78 Secondary pupils not achieving (KS2 level 4 English	39.55%	£821.41	16.40% 16.40%	- 8,445.83 6,647.78	£6,937,488 £5,284,054	£12,221,542	3.58%	100.00%	100.00%
Other Factors	or Maths)									
Factor			Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notion	al SEN (%)
7) Lump Sum			£125,000	£125,000			£34,166,667	9.99%	10.00%	10.009
8) Sparsity factor			-,-,-	,			£0	0.00%		
9) Fringe Payments					•	•	£0	0.00%		
10) Split Sites							£90,000	0.03%	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	
11) Rates							£4,099,739	1.20%		
12) PFI funding							£0	0.00%		
13) Sixth Form							£0	0.00%		
	s (can only be used with prior a	greement of	FEFA)					Proportion of	l	Larry (as)
Circumstance Additional lump sum for scho	ols amalgamated during FY15-1	5					Total (£)	total pre MFG funding (%) 0.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Additional sparsity lump sum							£0	0.00%	23.0076	20.0076
School Rent							£52,858	0.02%		
Total Funding for Schools Block	Formula (excluding MFG Fundin	g Total) (£)					£341,857,455	100.00%	£25,	780,025
15) Minimum Funding Guaran	tee (MFG is set at -1 5%)						£1.4	146,138		
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled) Yes										
Capping Factor (%) 3.40% Scaling Factor (%) 100.00%										
		ocarring rac	201 (70)	100	.00%	<u> </u>		C 202	-	
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied -£66,302 - Froportion of										
Total (£						Total (£)				
Total funding(%)										
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling) £1,379,836 0.40%										
tigh Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)										
Additional funding from the hi				.,	.,,,		£50	,000.00	1	
	Growth fund (if applicable) £660,000.00									
	Falling rolls fund (if applicable)									
railing rolls tund (if applicab										
Total Funding For Schools Block	total Funding For Schools Block Formula £343,237,291									
% Distributed through Basic En							81.36%			
		% Pupil Led Funding						88.76%		
% Pupil Led Funding										
% Pupil Led Funding Primary: Secondary Ratio							1:	1.27		

Criteria for Pupil Growth/Additional Class Funding

The DfE requires that local authorities make provision in their growth funds to support increases in pupil numbers relating to basic need. This can relate to new schools, or existing schools which are expanding.

Schools Expanding on their Existing Site

Additional class funding is for the purpose of supporting primary schools to provide additional classes as requested by the Local Authority to meet the basic need for school places.

Payments are made to non-academy schools on the basis of the seven months from September to March, when the additional children will not be reflected in the school's budget. For academies, the payments are on the basis of 12 months, as the additional children will not be reflected in the academy's budget until the following September.

Where schools are permanently expanding, the limit for payments is two years per school. Where schools are accepting bulge classes, payments are made each time an additional class needs to be created.

Funding is allocated as follows:

The first payment will be made when:

- 1. The school or academy is admitting at least 5 more pupils into Reception than the Published Admission Number (PAN) that applied prior to the expansion (e.g. a school with a PAN of 15 for 2015 would qualify if it admitted 20 or more in 2016, whatever the PAN for 2016).
- 2. AND both the LA and the school have confirmed that an additional class will need to be set up.
- 3. AND the increase is requested by the LA.

For schools that are permanently expanding, a second payment will be made when:

- 1. The total number of teachers employed by the school has increased by two teachers over the years affected by the increased intake.
- 2. AND the Local Authority agrees that another additional class needs to be set up in order to comply with class size limits across Reception and Key Stage 1.
- 3. AND the increase is requested by the LA.

Where schools agree to create an additional class after the start of the school year, due to significant in-year population growth, and the pupils are not reflected in their funding for the second year, an additional contribution may be agreed for the second year.

New schools – including where these are Established as Off-site Annexes of Existing Schools

For new schools, local authorities must make provision to finance pre-opening development costs and post-opening funding to reflect the additional costs of establishing and operating a new school during the first few years, when pupil-led revenue funding is not sufficient to cover the full running costs. In particular, it compensates for the lack of economies of scale, for example reflecting that the cost of the leadership team is likely to be similar whether the school has one year group operating or five.

The pre-opening and post-opening funding provided by Oxfordshire to new schools will be:

PRIMARY	1 FE	1.5 FE	2 FE	2.5 FE	3 FE
Pre-opening	£66,000	£66,000	£66,000	£66,000	£66,000
Post-opening	£150,000	£225,000	£280,000	£355,000	£430,000

SECONDARY	600 pupils	900 pupils	1200 pupils	1500 pupils	1800 pupils
Pre-opening	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000
Post-opening	£375,000	£560,000	£750,000	£935,000	£1,120,000

Before any pre-opening or post-opening payment is made, a funding agreement between the LA and the academy sponsor will be signed, setting out the terms of payment. It is expected that the post-opening funding will be drawn down over a period of up to five years. Sponsors will be asked to set out their funding requirements to allow a schedule of payments to be agreed.

In some circumstances, the need for a new school may be removed by an existing school expanding onto a new site. This includes:

- A school which opens an off-site annex which is effectively of the scale of a new school, but which operates as a split-site school.
- A secondary school which extends its age range to also provide primary provision, instead
 of us opening a new primary school.
- A primary school which extends its age range to also provide secondary provision, instead
 of us opening a new secondary school.

In these circumstances, the school will incur significantly higher increased costs than a simple expansion, but not as high as a new school. Funding for these situations will, therefore, be based only on the post-opening element relevant to the type and size of school.



School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations Local Authority Application to Disapply Regulations Form

- 1. Please complete this form to formally apply to the Secretary of State for Education to disapply the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Please complete all relevant fields and send the completed form to ReformTeam.FUNDING@education.gsi.gov.uk
- 2. You may wish to include brief supporting attachments with your request such as forum minutes (if links not available) or spreadsheet calculations. Please do not include narrative in your email as this will not be considered in your request. Attachments should only be included as supplementary evidence and referenced in the 'detail of the request' box.
- 3. In the 'details of the request' box, you should include, where appropriate:
 - What is the impact on the schools concerned?
 - Do the schools benefit from the proposal?
 - Will maintained schools and academies be affected in the same way?

Local authority	Oxfordshire
Local authority number	931
Funding year request relates to	2016-17
Request category	Central Expenditure
Number of schools affected	ALL
Have the schools affected by this request been consulted?	NO
What are the views of the schools affected by this request?	Not known

Published: July 2015

Does schools forum agree with this request?	NO			
If yes, please provide link to the minutes showing schools forum agreement				
Details of request (2500 characters max)				

REQUEST FOR ADJUDICATION RELATING TO CENTRAL EXPENDITURE

This request relates to an existing historic commitment relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant contribution of £4.387m to central overheads of £15.641m in our Children Education & Families Directorate. This historic commitment represents only 1% of 2015-16 DSG. This contribution has not changed since 2012-13 and it is acknowledged that this needs to be fundamentally reviewed with the aim of significantly reducing the contribution from April 2017 onwards, reflecting changes in education provision and in the authority in recent years.

Work has started but will not be completed before submission of the APT funding proforma in January 2016. See attached paper 6a considered by Schools Forum on 2 December 2015. A commitment has been given to Schools Forum that the work will be completed by June 2016.

Schools Forum was asked to agree the continuation of the historic commitment for 2016-17, pending completion of the review by June 2016 to identify how much DSG should be released. This would allow time to review all available evidence about on-going costs attributable to current and future delivery of education services, and also to consult with schools, academies and other education providers about the best use of the DSG released. This will be particularly important to address as part of the work required to consider the impact of the Government consultation on a national funding formula in early 2016, and should help to minimise turbulence that is likely to arise from these future changes. Schools Forum did not agree retention of the full amount but one member suggested at the meeting that 60% of £4.387m (£2.632m) could be retained, releasing 40% of the total for the financial year 2016-17. It was acknowledged that the 60% suggested was not based on any supporting evidence, and there was no opportunity to have a full informed discussion about the possible use of the DSG released.

Oxfordshire is requesting that the Secretary of State allow the continued central retention of the full £4.387m for 2016-17. This will allow time to complete a proper review and to determine the best way to allocate the DSG released, in consultation with schools, after considering the impact of the national funding formula consultation.

Name of requestor	Gillian McKee
Job title	Finance Business Partner CEF

Email address	gillian.mckee@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Date	8 December 2015

For Official Use Only

Decision Outcome				
Request Number				
Details of Decision (including any conditions)				
Name				
Date				
Type of Notification				
If this notification type is listed as 'intention to approve' the Department will notify you when the regulations are laid.				