**School Forum Decisions – 11th January 2023**

**Agenda Item 2 – Falling Rolls Fund**

**Recommendations:**

2.1Schools Forum agreed the recommendation of the Finance Review Group to amend the falling rolls criteria to:

It is proposed to change the criteria that the number on roll must have fallen by 10% in both previous years to:

* The NOR must have fallen by 4% in both previous years for primary schools with 210 or fewer pupils; or
* The NOR must have fallen by 7% in both previous years for primary schools with greater than 211 pupils up to 420 pupils; or
* The NOR must have fallen by 10% in both previous years for primary schools with more than 420 pupils and secondary schools.

2.2 Schools Forum agreed an additional criteria is added to exclude schools with a bulge class qualifying for the falling rolls fund when the bulge year exits the school.

2.3 Schools Forum agreed the variation to the growth criteria to reflect the primary sector as follows:

* For infant schools the NOR must be forecast to increase in the third year;
* For junior schools the NOR must be forecast to increase in the third and fourth year
* For primary and secondary schools, the NOR must be forecast to increase in the third, fourth and fifth years.

2.4 Schools Forum agreed the proposed changes to the funding methodology to fund the difference between the published admission number and the number on roll for reception, year 3 and year 7.

Schools Forum asked the Authority to add a further criteria relating surplus balances held by schools.

**Agenda Item 3 – Dedicated Schools Grant Budget 2023/24**

**Recommendations**

2.1 Schools Forum noted the School Funding Settlement for 2023/24, including the allocation for each DSG Block

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Schools Block  £m | Central School Services Block  £m | High Needs Block  £m | Early Years Block  £m | Total  £m |
| 2022/23 | 1,026.0 | 11.3 | 203.3 | 92.3 | 1,332.9 |
| Supplementary Grant | 30.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 30.3 |
| Rebased 2022/23 | **1,056.4** | **11.3** | **203.3** | **92.3** | **1,363.3** |
| *Provisional 2023/24* | *1,077.2* | *11.3* | *215.7* | *92.3* | *1,396.6* |
| December Settlement | **1,090.6** | **11.4** | **226.7** | **97.5** | **1,426.3** |
| Increase from 2022/23 | 34.2 | 0.2 | 23.4 | 5.2 | 63.1 |
| % Increase from 2022/23 | 3.2% | 1.5% | 11.5% | 5.6% | 4.6% |
| Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) | 37.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 37.1 |
| Total DSG & MSAG | **1,127.8** | **11.4** | **226.7** | **97.5** | **1,463.5** |
| Total Increase | 71.4 | 0.2 | 23.4 | 5.2 | 100.2 |
| Total % increase | 6.8% | 1.5% | 11.5% | 5.6% | 7.3% |

2.2 Schools Forum noted the funding for the PFI Affordability Gap\

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scheme | 2022/23  £’000 | 2023/24  £’000 | Difference  £’000 |
| BSF PFI | 1,178 | 1,474 | 296 |
| Clacton PFI | 1,104 | 1,348 | 244 |
| Debden PFI | 1,217 | 1,313 | 96 |
| Total | **3,499** | **4,135** | **636** |

2.3 Schools Forum noted the total delegation for primary and secondary schools

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Primary  £ | Secondary  £ | Total  £ |
| Schools Block 2023/24 | 572,933,968 | 517,703,342 | 1,090,637,309 |
| Growth Fund | (2,866,642) | (4,457,535) | (7,326,177) |
| Premature Retirement Costs (1) | (398,399) | (812,262) | (1,210,661) |
| Funding Differential (2) | (1,460,025) | 1,460,025 | 0 |
| DfE Copyright Licences (3) | (74,214) | (51,633) | (125,847) |
| Total Delegation 2023/24 | **568,132,687** | **513,841,937** | **1,081,974,624** |

2.4 Schools Forum noted the proposed allocation of the High Needs Block

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2022/23  £’000 | 2023/24  £’000 | Difference  £’000 |
| Place Funding:  - Special Schools  - Enhanced Provisions  - PRUs | 35,184  2,027  5,790  **43,001** | 36,403  2,414  6,594  **45,411** | 1,219  387  804  **2,410** |
| Top-up Funding:  - Mainstream  - Special Schools  - PRUs  - Post 16 FE  - Independent Schools  - Enhanced Provisions  - Essex Pupils OLA Schools | 21,158  33,888  7,037  9,713  28,034  6,145  5,896  **111,871** | 24,988  38,792  8,468  10,768  31,324  6,722  6,416  **127,748** | 3,830  4,904  1,431  1,055  3,290  577  520  **15,607** |
| SEN Support Services | 15,374 | 17,246 | 1,872 |
| Other Alternative Provision | 7,100 | 7,474 | 374 |
| Support for Inclusion | 3,898 | 5,527 | 1,629 |
| PFI Costs | 65 | 83 | 18 |
| Therapies & Other Health | 2,223 | 2,703 | 480 |
| Corporate Recharges | 4,735 | 4,735 | 0 |
| HNB Contingent Costs | 14,586 | 16,062 | 1,476 |
| Total | **202,853** | **226,719** | **23,866** |

2.5 Schools Forum noted the risks.

2.6 Schools Forum agreed the funding for the Growth Fund for 2023/24.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2022/23  £m | 2023/24  £m | Increase / (Decrease)  £m |
| Planned Growth | 4.5 | 4.7 | 0.2 |
| Furniture & Equipment | 0.7 | 0.5 | (0.2) |
| KS1 Class Size | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0 |
| Contingency | 1.0 | 0.8 | (0.2) |
| Falling Rolls Fund | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Total | **7.0** | **7.3** | **0.3** |

2.7 Schools Forum agreed to set the Falling Rolls Fund at **£466,000** for 2023/24.

2.8 Schools Forum agreed the funding rates for early years providers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2022/23  £ | 2023/24  £ | Difference  £ |
| 2-year-olds | 5.53 | 5.89 | 0.36 |
| 3- & 4-year-olds | 4.53 | 4.77 | 0.24 |
| Maintained Nursery School Supplement | 1.97 | 3.80 | 1.83 |
| Early Years Pupil Premium | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.02 |
| Disability Access Fund | 800.00 | 828.00 | 28.00 |

2.9 Schools Forum agreed the funding for central expenditure for the Central School Services Block and Early Years Block

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2022/23  £’000 | 2023/24  £’000 | Difference  £’000 |
| Central Expenditure Under 5s | 3,167 | 3,213 | 46 |
| Former ESG Retained Duties | 3,080 | 3,080 | 0 |
| Admissions | 1,449 | 1,449 | 0 |
| Schools Forum | 24 | 24 | 0 |
| Combined Budgets | 2,909 | 3,073 | 164 |
| Prudential Borrowing | 3,804 | 3,804 | 0 |
| Total | **14,433** | **14,643** | **210** |