

Schools Funding Forum 21st January 2016 ITEM 6

Subject Heading:	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
------------------	-------------------------------

Settlement 2016-17

Report Author: David Allen – Strategic Finance

Manager

Eligibility to vote: All Members

SUMMARY

This report summarises the final DSG settlement for financial year 2016-17.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the DSG settlement and also the reduction in the Education Services Grant
- (ii) agrees that the additional £343,000 is allocated to schools through the schools funding formula
- (iii) agrees that the additional £426,000 allocated through the High Needs Block is held as a contingency

REPORT DETAIL

On 17th December 2015 the DfE announced the DSG settlements for local authorities for financial year 2016-17. Havering's allocation is set out at Appendix A across the Early Years, Schools and High Needs Blocks. The settlement figures are pre academy recoupment. The appendix also includes a comparison with other London LAs of key data.

The following points should be noted:

- An increase in pupil numbers of 586 between the October censuses of 2014 and 2015.
- The Guaranteed Unit of Funding has increased by £9.67 from £4,719.03 to £4,728.70. This provides an additional £343,000 which is available to allocate to schools through the Schools Funding Formula.
- An additional £426,000 has been allocated through the High Needs Block as a share of additional top up funding of £92.5m. It is proposed to retain this funding within the High Needs Block to be held as a contingency above the forecast expenditure for 2016-17. Any underspend at the end of the year can be used to support transitional arrangements arising from the DfE funding reforms for 2017-18.
- Early Years funding will be recalculated based on January 2016 census to reflect participation and again in January 2017.

Also on 17th December the DfE announced a reduction in the per pupil rate that is used to allocate the Education Services Grant to local authorities and academies. The rate has been reduced by £10 from £87 to £77 per pupil from 2016-17.