

## Schools Funding Forum 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

## ITEM 5

**Subject Heading:**

**Section 251 Budget Statement 2016-17**

**Report Author:**

**David Allen – Strategic Finance  
Manager**

**Eligibility to vote:**

**All members**

### **SUMMARY**

This report is to present the Section 251 budget statement for financial year 2016-17.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To receive the Section 251 budget statements.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

Local authorities are required under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to prepare and submit an education and children and young people's services budget statement not later than 31st March 2016 for the prescribed period to the Secretary of State for Education. The prescribed period for this budget statement covers 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017.

The statement is intended to provide a clear picture of the LA's planned spending on its schools budget, de-delegated items, high needs budget, early years' budget, central provision within the schools budget and children and young people's services.

It is important that schools forums and others can compare funding between different LAs, so as to have an informed debate about budget levels and use of funds. It is therefore essential that all statements are prepared to a common format and are accurate.

The statements are used by the Department for Education for the publication of statistics, for constructing benchmarking tables for local authorities, and for answering Parliamentary Questions and other requests for data.

LAs must submit their budget statement for the prescribed period to the Secretary of State for Education by 31st March 2016. Havering's submission met that deadline.

A copy of the budget statement must be made available:

- to every school maintained by LAs: In the unlikely event that a school does not have access to the internet, the LA must provide a hard copy of each budget statement including: Table 1- LA information covering de-delegated items, high needs budget, early years budget and children's social care; Table 2- School table high needs and AP settings; and the Early Years Pro forma, to the governing body and head teacher.
- to those private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI Providers) who are funded to provide free early provision to 2, 3 and 4 year olds: The LA must show how they can access a copy of the budget statement;
- to the general public: The LA must make a copy of the whole statement available at their education offices (where a copy must be available for inspection by parents and others in the community at all reasonable times and free of charge);
- on a website: The LA must make a copy of the whole statement available on a website which is maintained by the LA and accessible by the public.

The section 251 budgets statements are attached as appendices:

Appendix A – LA Table  
Appendix B – Schools Table  
Appendix C – Early Years table