

Subject Heading:

Application to DFE for exemption to MFG

Report Author:

David Allen – Strategic Finance Manager

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This item is to report on the decision of ministers on the LA's application to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for schools that continue to benefit from defunct grants within their per pupil funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report.

REPORT DETAIL

At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum held on 22nd September 2016 it was agreed to apply to the DFE for an exemption to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) that ensures that schools lose no more than 1.5% per pupil. This application was in relation to schools that in previous years received Excellence Cluster and Behaviour Improvement Programme Standards Fund grants and the inclusion of that grant in their per pupil funding continues to be protected above the -1.5% per pupil. In 2016-17 £1,187,110 of the DSG is allocated for this purpose.

The application process requires LAs to seek the views of the schools that would be affected and letters were sent to the head teachers of three secondary schools and three primary schools. All six strongly objected and their views were represented in the application.

The decision of minister was received on 5th January and was to not approve the application. The reason given was as follows:

“This does not allow the MFG to work as it has been designed and is inconsistent with our move towards a National Funding Formula under which schools will receive protection against their current budgets, regardless of historic high levels of MFG.”