

**REPORT TO:** School Forum

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Schools Block Budgets 2014-15

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum on the final funding formula for Primary and Secondary schools for 2014-15.**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDED:

(1) The report be noted.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

At the last School Forum decisions were taken on how the funding formula should be adopted for Halton Primary and Secondary maintained schools, academies and free school. At the time of writing this report work is underway to calculate the cash values of each funding factor to be used and subsequently the indicative school budgets from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

3.2 **Budget availability for Primary and Secondary schools**

The DSG notional allocation for Schools Block is £81,825,824 including the top-slice for the Carbon Reduction Commitment. The overall budgets for Primary and Secondary schools has been calculated by taking the budget for 2013-14, dividing by the number of pupils in the relevant phase for 2013-14 and multiplying by the number of pupils in the relevant phase for 2014-15. This has seen the Primary overall budget increase from £38,144,496 to £39,062,822 while the Secondary overall budget has decreased slightly from £39,729,224 to £39,642,136.

These figures include adjustments for Primary schools for the increase of 232 pupils within the phase, the reduction in lump sum total following the merger of Fairfield Junior and Infant schools and an addition for the agreed Split Site allowance. For Secondary schools the adjustments are for the decrease of 31 pupils within the phase but a one-off addition of £80,000 being the unused Pupil

Growth Contingency budget in accordance with the funding regulations.

3.3 A further paper will be distributed to Schools Forum members detailing the cash values of the funding factors, overall budget used and Schools Block budgets for individual schools when completed.

3.4 **Early Years and High Needs Funding**

Nursery Schools, Nursery Units, Special Schools, Special Units and the PRU are funded based on the January 2014 census data which has not yet been released. These budgets will be calculated as quickly as possible but it is unlikely schools will receive this information until March 2014.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None