

**REPORT TO:** School Forum  
**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division  
**SUBJECT:** Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1 To report to the School Forum an update on the new UIFSM grant for 2014-15.**

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report be noted.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

It was announced last Autumn that the Government were extending the eligibility to Free School Meals to include all Infant pupils. We have now received the conditions of grant paper from the Education Funding Agency. We have also received a UIFSM calculator to allow us to estimate the grant each school may receive for the academic year 2014-15.

Provisional Allocation

The grant will be paid in two instalments. A provisional allocation will be paid during June 2014 based on 87% of the number of pupils on roll in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as per the January 2014 census less those infant pupils recorded on the census as eligible for Free School Meals. The EFA are using 87% as the estimated take-up of UIFSM for the provisional allocation.

Final Allocation

The final allocation for the 2014-15 academic year will be calculated using actual take up recorded on the October 2014 and January 2015 census data. This will be paid in the 2015-16 financial year.

Dual Registered Pupils

If a pupil is dual registered then funding will go to the school at which the pupil took a meal on the recording day.

Small Schools

Schools with fewer than 150 pupils on roll will receive additional funding of £100 to £210 per eligible non-FSM pupil.

### Recovery of overpayment

If a school receives a provisional allocation that is higher than the final actual allocation, the EFA will recover the overpayment from the first payment of the grant for the 2015-16 academic year.

### Grant Estimate

Based on the most recent data available and forecasts we consider the 49 eligible maintained schools will receive approximately £500,000 for the 2014-15 academic year. This figure will change once the actual data is received.

### Grant Funding

A new funding identifier will be set up within the Council's ledger to identify the grant income and allocation to schools. The Council is required to provide certification of grant income and amounts devolved to schools. The Local Authority is not allowed to retain any of this grant, it must all be devolved to schools. However, schools are then allowed to make payment to the LA for provision of meals.

### Grant Carry Forward

Schools may carry forward UIFSM monies into the next financial year. To do so would require schools to clearly identify grant expenditure using the correct grant identifier.

### Pupil Premium/Formula Deprivation Funding

No mention is made regarding Pupil Premium and how this and formula funding under the Deprivation factor may be affected by the UIFSM. It is hoped that the National Fair Funding Conference held on 4<sup>th</sup> June will give some clarification to these points and School Forum will be given a verbal update on any additional information gained.

### Conditions of Grant

The conditions of grant document is attached at Appendix A.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

## 5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None