
Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee

9 January 2020

Outcome of school funding review 2020/21 consultation

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

West Sussex County Council is required, under national funding regulations, to consult schools and the Schools Forum on proposed changes to funding arrangements affecting school budgets. The Children and Young People's Services Select Committee also considers this matter on a regular basis in order to provide comment to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

To alleviate pressures on certain budgets proposals to transfer funding between Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding blocks were also included as part of the schools funding consultation. Under the funding regulations, any transfer between blocks is a decision that is taken by Schools Forum, although the County Council can seek to overturn this by applying to the Secretary of State for Education through a disapplication request.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report and provide comment to the Cabinet Member Education and Skills prior the formal decision being taken.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 1.1 The Committee is asked consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report, which has been informed by a period of engagement with stakeholders. Issues members may wish to explore include;

- (a) The proposals in relation to the local funding formula for mainstream schools as set out in section 2.2
- (b) Whether to support to funding any transfer to the High Needs block by not increasing the basic entitlement unit value and the Minimum per Pupil Funding Level rates to the full National Funding Formula rates (section 3.6).
- (c) Consultation that has already taken place, as set out in Section 5.

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Appendix A: Draft Decision Report: Outcome of school funding review 2020/21 consultation

Background papers

None