

Item 4

TITLE OF REPORT: Mainstream Schools Funding Consultation Results

Purpose of the Report

To bring to Schools Forum the results from the Mainstream Schools Funding Consultation that was issued to all schools on 7 December 2018 and closed 20 December 2018. This builds on a report from the December 2018 Schools Forum.

Background

Under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) and Dedicated Schools Grant Operational Guidance, all schools must be consulted when the local authority is proposing to move funding between the blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). All schools and Schools Forum can only approve movements of up to 0.5%. Amounts over this threshold can only be approved by the Secretary of State.

Consultation

The purpose of this consultation was to seek the views of schools on the proposal to top slice the schools block (SB) by 0.5% to support the overspending high needs block (HNB). The consultation was a simple yes or no vote to the top slicing of the SB. Only 5 responses to the consultation were received. Three schools voted yes to the top slice and 2 schools voted no.

Proposal

It is proposed that Schools Forum notes that 5 responses were received, 3 for the top slice and 2 against. This plus the approval by Schools Forum in December 2018 for the top slice of the SB, it is proposed that the Schools Forum notes Gateshead Council intention to top slice the SB of the DSG to support the HNB.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Schools Forum notes

- The consultation responses
- Gateshead Council's intention to top slice the SB to support the HNB

For the following reasons:-

- To have the funding available to support the HNB
- To enable mainstream school budgets to be set

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