

## **Joint Report of Strategic Director, People Group and the Strategic Director, Resources Group**

### **School Financing Policy Review Schedule**

#### ***Recommendation***

##### **The Schools Forum is recommended to:**

- Agree to the review of the schools funding policies included in this report
- Offer suggestions for the development of any new schools funding policies
- Offer volunteers to take part in the review of these policies

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Whilst there has been a fundamental review of the local schools funding formula over the last 12 months, there has been little review of ad hoc schools funding policies.
- 1.2 With the changing role of the Local Authority in relation to schools, the development of academies and the move towards transparency in schools funding, this is an ideal time to review such policies in Warwickshire.

#### **2.0 School Funding Policies to be reviewed**

- 2.1 Whilst the current school funding policies in Warwickshire are not necessarily recorded or collated in one area, those that are in place and that would merit a review are as follows:
- The Exceptional Pupil Increase Policy
  - Dual Registration and Funding of Special School Pupils in Mainstream Settings
  - The Balances Control Mechanism Policy
- 2.2 There would also be value in exploring the option to develop an agreed policy around the revenue funding for school capital expansion programmes that includes the potential lagged funding for pupils and premises areas and for amalgamated or federating schools.

### **3.0 Procedures for Review**

3.1 In order to ensure that a rounded approach is taken on the review of these policies, it is suggested that a Schools Policy Sub Group is established. The group work will be based around:

- Understanding Warwickshire's current policies
- Understanding and assessing any national steer
- Understanding and assessing the approach taken by other Local Authorities
- Understanding and assessing the financial impact of any changes on schools and the DSG
- Consulting on options
- Reporting back to the Schools Forum with final recommendations

3.2 As the budgets for 2012/13 have been set and some ad hoc funding commitments already made to schools on the basis of the current policies, it would be the intention that these changes were effective from April 2013.

3.3 In terms of time scales then, the Sub Group could start work during the Spring, develop options and consult in the Autumn for recommendation to the Schools Forum in January 2013 for approval.

3.4 Should any current Schools Forum members like to be part of this project team, please contact Sara Haslam.

Sara Haslam  
Schools Funding and Strategy Manager  
01926 742430  
sarahaslam@warwickshire.gov.uk