


Decision Record – The Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant – Warwickshire County Council’s Response to the Government Consultation

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Councillor Izzi Seccombe Leader of the Council
Date of Decision (not before 8 November 2019)	18 Nov 2019
	

Decision Taken

That the Leader of the Council:

- Approves the draft response to the Government’s consultation of the specific grant and ring-fenced status of the Dedicated Schools Grant set out in the Appendix.
- Authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make any amendments necessary in finalising the response by the 15 November 2019, providing they are consistent with the approach set out in this draft response.

Reasons for Decisions

Responses to consultations must be approved by the appropriate Portfolio Holder.

Background Information

On 11 October the Department for Education (DfE) launched a short consultation on the Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with a closing date of 15 November 2019.

The purpose of the consultation is to make clear the Government’s intention that DSG deficits should not be covered from general funds but that over time they should be recovered from DSG income and to consult on the changes to the grant terms and conditions and regulations that will deliver this.

Financial Implications

If the DSG grant conditions are changed in line with the Government’s intentions, then the need for the Authority to consider “making good” any DSG overspend is removed. This will mean less of the Authority’s reserves will need to be set aside for this purpose, thereby potentially releasing additional time-limited resources to support the delivery of the 2020-25 Council Plan.

The additional Government funding for schools announced as part of the 2019 Spending Review will reduce some of the pressure on the DSG. However, it is likely initiatives to reduce demand will still be needed to bring the level of spending in line with the DSG resources available over the medium term. The process and timescales for achieving this are not set out in the consultation paper and will depend on the detailed guidance that will accompany the revised grant conditions.

Report Author	Virginia Rennie
Assistant Director	Richard Ennis
Strategic Director	Rob Powell
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Checklist

Urgent matter?	N
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	N
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	N

List of Reports considered

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4528/Committee/473/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Corporate Board

Legal – Jane Pollard

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors: None