

## **County Council – 21 July 2017**

### **Agenda Item 5(a) – Notice of Motion by Mr Cloake**

#### **School Funding – Briefing Note**

Schools and some education services are funded by the Government through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The total value of the DSG paid by central government to West Sussex in 2017/18 is £555m, which is passported to schools. By comparison, the County Council's total budget for all of its services (including education) is £503m.

In 2016/17 West Sussex received the fifth lowest funding per pupil nationally. National average funding per pupil in England in 2016/17 was £4,636. In West Sussex funding per pupil is £4,198, which is £438 per pupil below the national average, and if we were funded at this level our schools would receive an additional £44.7m per annum

The WorthLess? Campaign was set up by school leaders in West Sussex to alert parents, governors and politicians to the unfairness and impact of the low funding. The Leader wrote to the Secretary of State and the Schools Minister several times in 2016/17 to raise the awareness of the impact of the low funding on the provision of education, pupils and parents in West Sussex. The Leader also requested additional transitional funding pending the implementation of the proposed National Funding Formula – the proposed new way of calculating how much each school should receive.

The pressure on school funding has also been affected by a number of new unfunded cost burdens arising from government policies and cash frozen funding per pupil which means that schools have also had to meet inflationary costs as well as increases to National Insurance and employer pensions contributions.

The County Council is also facing significant funding pressures as a result of government policy changes and because of increased demand for adults and children's social care. However, in 2017/18 the Council has recognised the financial pressures faced by maintained schools in West Sussex by meeting £3.2m of school costs relating to the new Apprenticeship Levy and government cuts to the Education Services Grant, as well as providing £0.6m towards maintaining counselling services to support the wellbeing of children and young people. Although this is only a small contribution in comparison to the total funding allocated through the DSG, it is exceptional additional funding to support our schools and the best we can do in the light of our own budget pressures.

The County Council has responded to the Government's formal consultations about the proposed national funding changes for mainstream schools and High Needs and we await the outcome later this summer.

**Avril Wilson**

Executive Director Children, Adults, Families, Health and Education