

**REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT**

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	Schools Forum
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	25 April 2012
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Section 251 Budget statement 2012/13</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	Tony Warnock (Head of Finance – Children’s and Specialist Services)
<b>NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tony Warnock
<b>CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:</b>	01522 553250
<b>CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	tony.warnock@lincolnshire.gov.uk
<b>IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?</b>	No

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with a copy of the s.251 budget statement for the 2012/13 financial year.

**DISCUSSION**

Local Authorities (LA) are required under s.251 of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to prepare and submit an education and children’s social care budget statement for the relevant period to the Secretary of State for Education by 31 March each year. The s.251 return is used as a basis for determining funding for converter academies and for recoupment of academy funding from LAs. The data is used for benchmarking purposes and will inform the government’s next spending review. This year’s s.251 report takes on greater prominence because it will be used as the baseline for new funding arrangements in 2013/14.

The LA’s s.251 budget statement and the DfE’s benchmarking data should assist the Schools Forum’s consideration of budget levels and the balance of funding between early years, primary, secondary and special schools.

It is important to note that:

- Academies that converted prior to 1 April 2012 are not included;
- A new column has been added to Table 1 to collect information about the amount of School Budget LACSEG LAs expect to be recouped for academies that converted before 1 April 2012.

The information for 2012/13 was submitted to the DfE via its data collection and management system for education (COLLECT) by the 31 March 2012 deadline. The DfE will carry out a number of checks on it.

Attached to this report is a copy of Table 1. This provides an overall picture of the funding being allocated directly to schools, the amount being spent on education centrally and the amount being spent on children's social care. Table 1 also includes information to indicate the amount of funding that is being targeted to deprivation.

As reported to the Schools Forum on 25 January 2012, the LA's proposed changes to the central Dedicated Schools Grant budgets for 2012/13 were rather limited. However, there has been one material change since that time – in light of further academy conversions and a re-assessment of the likely number of school redundancies required in 2012/13, the budget has been reduced from the £1.3m previously proposed to £0.8m.

The LA intends to present a report on the s.251 benchmarking data to the Schools Forum later in the year, following publication of all LA data by the DfE.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

## APPENDICES (If applicable) - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.

Appendix 1 – The LA's s.251 Table 1 data for 2012/13

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Schools Forum	School funding arrangements 2012/13	25 January 2012	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln