

## REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	Schools Forum
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	24 April 2013
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Section 251 Budget Statement 2013/14
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	Tony Warnock (Head of Finance – Children’s and Specialist Services)
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<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 2013/14 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 intended to provide a clear picture of the LA’s planned spending on its schools budget, de-delegated items, high needs budget, early years budget, central provision within the schools budget and children’s and young people’s services.

The LA's s.251 budget statement, and the DfE's benchmarking data that will be published later in the year, should assist the Schools Forum's consideration of budget levels and the balance of funding between early years, primary, secondary and special schools.

The information for 2013/14 was submitted to the DfE via its data collection and management system for education (COLLECT) by the 28 March 2013 deadline. The DfE is carrying out a number of checks on it. However, to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements, the LA has published the Early Years report, the LA Table report and the Schools Table report in the 'Downloads' section of LCC's website at:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/s251-statements>

This means that details are available to all maintained schools and academies; private, voluntary and independent providers that are funded to provide free early years provision to three and four year olds, and; the general public. The documents will be refreshed should the DfE require any amendments to the LA's reports.

Attached to this report is a copy of Table 1 – LA level information. This provides an overall picture of the funding being allocated direct to schools, the amount being spent on education centrally and the amount being spent on children's social care.

The LA proposed a number of changes to the centrally held budgets within the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2013/14. They were reported to and discussed by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 23 January 2013 and no material changes have been made to the budgets since then. As expected, for the purposes of affordability, it was necessary to place a cap on the largest gains that some schools secured under the revised funding formula for 2013/14. The LA was able to set the cap at 5%, i.e. the level that had been anticipated when the first proforma was submitted to the DfE in October 2012.

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

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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The Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

<b>APPENDICES (If applicable) - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.</b>
Appendix 1 – The LA's s.251 Table 1 data for 2013/14

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>			
<b>PAPER TYPE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
Report to Schools Forum	School funding arrangements 2013/14	23 January 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln