

COMMISSIONERS' INDIVIDUAL DECISION MAKING

Friday, 27 March 2015


Commissioners' Decision Log No. 3

1. **EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY GRANTS TO SCHOOLS (Pages 1 - 4)**

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Agenda Item 1

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| Individual Commissioner Decision Proforma Decision Log No: <u>003</u> |  TOWER HAMLETS |
| Report of: Robert McCulloch Graham Corporate Director (Education, Social Care and Wellbeing) | Classification: Unrestricted |
| Education Funding Agency Grants to Schools | |

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| Is this a Key Decision? | No |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The majority of funding for schools is paid to the Local Authority (LA) by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) via:

- (a) the Dedicated Schools Grant;
- (b) Post 16 funding allocation;
- (c) the Pupil Premium; and
- (d) Capital Grants.

1.2 Where the allocation is predetermined by the EFA (as in the case of (b); (c); and the Devolved Formula Capital element (d) above), the LA acts as a conduit for this funding and is required to pass on the predetermined allocation for each of their maintained schools.

2. DECISION

2.1 The allocation of post 16 funding; Pupil Premium and Devolved Formula Capital to local authority maintained schools is **not** the 'making of a grant' for the purposes of Directions under section 15(5) and (6) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to the Council of LBTH.

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APPROVALS

1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Commissioners.

Signed  Date 17/3/15

2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 17/3/15

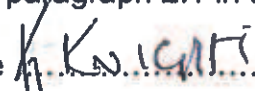
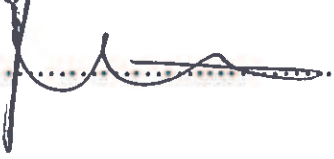
3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy



I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 18/3/15

4. Commissioner

I agree the decision proposed in paragraph above for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.1 in the attached report.

Name  Signed 
Date 25/3/15

Name  Signed 
Date 25/3/15

1. Post 16 Funding

Description

- 1.1 Colleges, providers, schools and academies receive annual funding allocations from the EFA for the provision of 16 to 19 education. Funding is calculated using the EFA funding formula that incorporates factors including student numbers, student retention, higher cost subjects, disadvantaged students and area costs. This is supplemented by additional funding for high needs students, bursaries and other financial support awarded to individual.
- 1.2 This funding is allocated on an Academic Year basis, with the 2015/16 allocation due to be confirmed in February 2015. The 2014/15 allocation was £18.087m.

Recipients

- 1.3 LBTH Maintained Secondary Schools with 6th Forms.

Decision Making Process

- 1.4 The LA acts as a conduit for this funding. The annual funding is paid to the LA and passed on to schools in accordance with the EFA determined funding formula.

External Monitoring

- 1.5 The Chief Executive, as the EFA's accounting officer, is responsible to the Department for Education (DfE) for ensuring that departmental funds are applied to the purposes of funding learning. The National Audit Office (NAO), as the EFA's auditors, examines and reports upon how the EFA discharges its responsibilities towards its funded institutions, including academy and school sixth forms.

2. Pupil Premium

Description

- 2.1 The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. Pupil premium funding is available to both mainstream and non-mainstream schools, like special schools and pupil referral units.
- 2.2 This funding is allocated on an Academic Year basis, with the 2015/16 allocation due to be confirmed in July 2015. The 2014/15 allocation was £23.7m.

Recipients

- 2.3 LBTH maintained schools.

Decision Making Process

- 2.4 The LA acts as a conduit for this funding. The annual funding, based on the EFA determined funding formula, is paid to the LA which

manages the funding and decides when to pass it on to the schools they fund.

External Monitoring

- 2.5 LAs are required to certify that they have passed on the correct amount of funding to schools or, where funding has been spent centrally, that it has been spent in line with the conditions of grant.

3. Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

Description

- 3.1 Calculated on a purely formulaic basis on the January school census for all maintained mainstream nursery, primary, secondary schools and special schools and pupil referral units.
- 3.2 The LA has not received confirmation of 2015/16 allocations for DFC but expect to do so imminently, the respective allocations in 2014/15 were £139.976m.

Recipients

- 3.3 LA maintained schools;

Decision Making Process

- 3.4 The LA acts as a conduit for this funding and is required to pass on the pre-determined DFC allocation for each of their maintained schools.

External Monitoring

- 3.5 Nil

4. Decision

- 4.1 To confirm that the allocation of post 16 funding; Pupil Premium and Devolved Formula Capital is **not** the 'making of a grant' for the purposes of Directions under section 15(5) and (6) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to the Council of LBTH.