

Pennaeth Addysg Head of Education

Arwyn Thomas

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28 January 2015

To headteachers and chairpersons of Gwynedd school governing bodies

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

Re: Schools Network Service Consultation

The Welsh Government has invested approximately £2.5m on strengthening the infrastructure that provides Wi-fi connections in schools, accelerating the linkage to a minimum of 10mbps for secondary schools and primary schools whose pupil numbers exceed 300. There are permanent revenue implications to supporting the provision. The provision's total annual cost is £577 mil. £307 mil and the remainder of £270 mil is provided through a Welsh Government grant up to March 2015. From April 2015 the grant will no longer be available and schools will shoulder the additional and permanent cost of £270mil -

	Costs 2015/16	Available funding	Additional Cost to Schools
'Circuits'	£275mil	£133mil	£142mil
Infrastructure	£186mil	£174mil	£12mil
Wi-fi Service Support	£116mil	-	£116mil
Total	£577mil	£307mil	£270mil

Further information on the scheme is available via the link below to the report of the Information Technology and Transformation Senior Manager that was presented to the Schools Budget Forum on 3 November 2014 (see item 6) –

<https://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/cy/Cyngor/Cynghorwyr-a-phwyllgorau/Pwyllgorau,-cofnodion-ac-agendau/Pwyllgorau,-cofnodion-ac-agendau.aspx?pwyllgor=/2014-15/Fforwm> **Cyllideb Ysgolion Schools Finance Forum/2014-11-03**

The Information Technology Service intends to charge schools £577mil in 2015/16. The schools will receive an allocation to the value of £307mil to contribute towards the cost, that leaves a balance of £270mil that schools will need to find within their budgets for 2015/16. This cost has been introduced as part of 3 year projections that schools received during November 2014.

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So as to allocate the available funding of £307mil, a distribution formula is required. *The LEA's intention, and on which consultation is being held, is to distribute on the basis of -*

True cost of hiring 'circuits'	£275mil
Infrastructure based on pupil numbers	£186mil
Support a wi-fi Service based on pupil numbers	£116mil
Total cost 2015/16	£577mil
Pro-rata allocation to the total cost (53.66% of the cost)	£307mil

A table is appended that indicates total costs (£577mil) per school, value of the allocation (£307mil) for every school and the additional cost (£270mil) that will be borne by every individual school budget.

If you wish to comment **on the allocation basis** (not on the unavoidable additional cost to schools, or the service itself) it would be appreciated if you did so and send the correspondence to me by **the end of the day, Wednesday, 18 February 2015** – for the attention of Annie Sanson anniesanson@gwynedd.gov.uk

I will report on the consultation to the Schools Budget Forum and to the Council Cabinet, requesting your support for implementation in 2015/16.

Yours sincerely

Arwyn Thomas

Arwyn Thomas
Head of Education