

Item 6

MEETING	SCHOOLS BUDGET FORUM
DATE	18 November 2015
TITLE	Proposed Additional Protection Allocation Policy
PURPOSE	Schools Funding Forum's recommendation is sought
RECOMMENDATION	For approval
REPORT BY	Arwyn Thomas, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Cllr Gareth Thomas

1. Background

- 1.1 With the level of Gwynedd Primary Schools balances being amongst the highest in Wales, there are annual demands from several directions, including Headteachers, Advisers and Parents, to review the funding basis, particularly for high balances at some Schools who receive a minimum staffing protection additional allocation.
- 1.2 Unfortunately, legislation empowers the Council to deal with the balances element **exceeding £50,000 only** in Primary Schools i.e. the Council has no empowerment regarding the element of balances up to £50,000.
- 1.3 Full consultation has been held with all schools in Gwynedd (**appendix 6.1**) on the proposed policy to reduce the minimum staff protection additional allocation with the element of the balances over 5% at the end of the latest financial year published.
- 1.4 If the proposed policy is approved, that will mean a reduction in the minimum staffing protection additional allocation for 2016/17, emphasizing that this is a one-off saving.

2. Consultation Outcomes

- 2.1 45 Schools out of 109 responded.
- In Favour 36 (80%)
 - Opposed 9 (20%)
- 2.2 A summary of the Schools comments is enclosed (**appendix 6.2**)

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 A clear majority of the Schools who responded support the implementation of the proposed policy. .
- 3.2 Implementing the proposed policy may impact on some schools current arrangements and plans, including financial implications. In such circumstances, discussions with the Education Department will be required.
- 3.3 If the proposed policy is approved, as some of the £4.3m savings plans fall outside the 3 year period 2015/16 to 2017/18, these one-off savings will be used to contribute towards funding the required bridging period.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the School's Finance Forum gives its approval.