

Decision Maker: **Schools Forum**

Date: **7 March 2013**

TITLE: REVIEW OF 2013/14 SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

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Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director of Education and Care Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides revised details the DfE recent consultation documents regarding the Review of the 2013/14 School Funding arrangements.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **The Schools Forum is asked to consider the consultation document and to formulate a response to be sent on behalf of the Local Authority.**

3. **COMMENTARY**

- 3.1 The Department for Education has recently released a consultation document to look at the funding arrangements that are now in place for 2012/13 and whether there should be any changes put in place for 2013/14 to address some areas of particular concern and to prevent unacceptable consequences. This consultation covers a wide range of issues, some of which relate to very specific educational issues and it was therefore proposed that the Schools Forum should be fully involved in formulating a co ordinated response with the LA.
- 3.2 As mentioned at the last Schools Forum meeting Bromley was invited to meet with DfE representatives to discuss some of these issues. This meeting took place on Weds 27th February and included the Director and Assistant Director, LA officers Head Teachers and Schools Forum representative. This was an extremely useful meeting as it allowed the LA to feed back some of the issues that are particularly pertinent to or exacerbated in Bromley. Further information regarding this meeting will be fed back verbally at the Schools Forum meeting.
- 3.3 The full consultation document and response form is attached at **Appendices 1 and 2**. Also attached at **Appendix 3** is the Bromley proforma that was submitted to the DfE which shows Bromley funding rates and percentages to be compared to the average figures that are quoted in the report. This document has also been circulated to other relevant senior officers in the LA for their comments and view which will be brought to the Forum next week.

- 3.4 Section 3 of the consultation document looks at High Needs funding. Paragraphs 58 to 60 focuses specifically on the Notional SEN budget for mainstream schools. To help Schools Forum members to comment on this area some further information is provided. **Appendix 4** shows details of DfE guidance around the concept and calculation of notional SEN budgets, Bromley's interpretation of this guidance and full calculations for individual schools.
- 3.5 The Schools Forum is invited to contribute to the co-ordinated response on behalf of the LA. However, it is recognised that some schools may have differing views on some of the issues and are therefore encouraged to submit an individual response highlighting any particular issues.