

Issues arising from the Schools Forum training and discussion on 30th September 2015

In response to members' requests for training, a 90 minute session was held on 30th September. 7 members attended and received a presentation designed to help them to understand how the funding is received from the government and how it is distributed by the local authority to schools and allocated to various other budgets. Members joined in the discussion of issues such as

- annual DSG settlements taking no account of inflation or pay awards;
- the high needs block not being linked to pupil numbers;
- the need to advance fund all schools and academies as the population increases each year;
- school places in many secondary schools costing more than the LA receives in the DSG;
- the impact of the MFG which 'locks in' any additional school funding permanently;
- few options for making savings due to the high level of delegation and relatively low central costs.

The draft 2016/17 budget was presented, and although currently balanced, the continuing pressures over the next five years, especially in relation to pupil number growth, are likely to quickly absorb any accumulated underspends.