

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Financial Benchmarking Information 2012/13
DATE: 6th March 2013
RECIPIENT: Schools Forum

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. Financial benchmarking information has now been issued by the DfE, based on the 2012/13 Section 251 Budget statement returns made by each authority.
2. Average figures for England, Unitary authorities and Statistical Neighbours are provided for comparison purposes. A ranking against all Unitary Authorities and Statistical Neighbours is also included, along with the Unitary quartile in which we appear, with the upper quartile being the highest cost, or level of funding, per pupil.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

3. Appendix A shows a selection of the benchmarking statistics that relate to schools.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

4. The first row in Appendix A relates to the size of our Dedicated Schools Grant i.e. how much money we receive from central Government for pupil provision. Southampton remains in the second quartile for unitaries and compared to our statistical neighbours 6th best funded.

Individual Schools Budget (ISB)

5. The second row shows the average amount of ISB funding per pupil i.e. how much is delegated to schools in their budget shares. This figure is also in the second quartile for unitaries but is 4th highest when compared to our statistical neighbours suggesting that schools contribute less to central services than other comparable authorities.

Contingencies

6. The contingency row shows the reduction in these centrally held budgets from 2011-12. The figures show that most authorities have decided to delegate more contingency budgets to schools this year probably reflecting the fact that academies would automatically receive a share of any centrally held contingency budgets. The following budgets were delegated in 2012-13:

	2011/12	2012/13	Additional delegation
General ISB contingency	£250,000	£120,000	£130,000
Intervention Fund	£230,000	£250,000	(£20,000)
Contingency for ASTs	£327,000	£0	£327,000
Contingency for Primary targeted support	£250,000	£0	£250,000
Contingency for Diplomas	£17,500	£0	£17,500

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Minimum Funding Guarantee

7. The final section shows the percentage of schools in each sector receiving the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) rather than the Fair Funding Formula. The figures show that Southampton is generally in line or lower than national averages for Primary and Secondary schools.

Further Information Available From:

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