

# BRIEFING PAPER

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**SUBJECT:** Financial Benchmarking Information 2013/14  
**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013  
**RECIPIENT:** Schools Forum

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## THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

### SUMMARY:

1. Financial benchmarking information has been issued by the DfE, based on the 2013/14 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.

#### **Schools Budget**

4. The first 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 in the upper quartile for unitaries and is 3<sup>rd</sup> highest when compared to our statistical neighbours suggesting that schools contribute less to central services than other comparable authorities.
5. The contingency row relates to the £370,000 Intervention Fund budget held for unexpected items. This contingency appears to be high when compared to other unitaries and the highest of our statistical neighbours. However, this is the only de-delegated budget held by the local authority.
6. The next six rows show the items held centrally as agreed by the Schools Forum. Row 1.4.12 relates to the licences purchased nationally on behalf of schools.
7. The total High Needs budget for Southampton is low compared to other unitaries and almost the lowest of our statistical neighbours.
8. **Dedicated Schools Grant & Minimum Funding Guarantee**
9. The DSG Schools Block unit of funding shows how much money we receive from central Government for pupil provision. Southampton has increased to the upper quartile for unitaries and compared to our statistical neighbours 4<sup>th</sup> best funded.
10. 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 almost two thirds of our secondary schools are protected by the MFG reflecting the movement in funding from Secondary to Primary.

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