



Schools Forum

Agenda Item: 5

Title: School Funding 2003/04 to 2005/06

Date: 23 September 2003

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Electoral Divisions Affected: ALL

Summary

This report updates the Schools Forum, as we have done on a regular basis, on current issues regarding schools' funding affecting both the current financial year and future financial years.

Background Information

Comparative LEA Data

1. It had been reported to the Schools Forum previously that the DfES was likely to publish LEA comparative data as it has done in previous years and this information would have been made available to the Schools Forum.
2. The County Council received information from DfES in a letter dated 15 August stating that they do not now intend to issue the comparative table of financial data, but do intend to publish two tables in middle to late September which would show the following:
 - (1) The first table will be a simple but detailed one showing planned expenditure per pupil based on individual expenditure lines from Section 52 budget statements and pupils aged 3 to 19;
 - (2) The second table will show year on year changes for a range of selected expenditure categories from 2002/03 to 2003/04 – for both schools and LEA budget items.
3. This information will be made available to the Schools Forum when it is received. It is of course only at a national level that true comparisons with other LEAs' data can take place and become meaningful.
4. Attached to this report is a letter on School Funding for 2004/05 and 2005/06 which was sent to schools early in this term and which sets out the current situation as we understand it for future budgets for schools and the current Secretary of State and DfES thinking.