



Department for Children, Adults and Health

Headteachers and Chair of Governors of  
Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary, Special  
Schools and Alternative Provision,  
Principals of Academies

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Email:  
CORPCYPFinance@southglos.  
gov.uk

Dear Colleague

### **SCHOOLS FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE FOR 2020/21**

This letter follows on from my last letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and is to update you on the final position regarding setting the Schools Budget for 2020/21. In response to that previous letter, some schools had written to the Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills & Employment. This letter also seeks to respond to the common issues raised.

In that previous letter I explained that following the consultation with all schools and with the Schools Forum the Council had submitted a request to the Secretary of State for Education to transfer £4.9m (a continuation of £2.9m that had been agreed in previous years and a new £2m) to invest in the local SEND system and to cover expenditure on supporting children and young people with SEND. That request was supported by the Schools Forum.

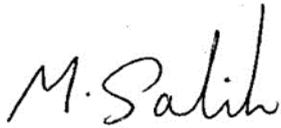
The Council has now received the Secretary of State's decision which is for a partial approval to transfer up to £2.2m. The Council met on 12 February 2020 and made the decision to make the transfer of £2.2m as approved by the Secretary of State for Education. While the transfer is less than the £4.9m we asked for it is nevertheless a significant amount that will allow us to continue with some of the planned SEND improvement developments such as extending the Cluster Fund initiative across all schools in the local authority. The Secretary of State's approval was based to a large extent on our successful partnership work with the Schools Forum and our approach to invest in initiatives that will improve our local SEND system and I would like to thank schools and the Schools Forum for their support with this matter.

For individual School Budget shares for 2020/21 I can confirm that we will be ensuring all schools are funded to at least the nationally announced minimum per pupil funding amounts of £3750 for primary schools and £5000 for Secondary Schools. Following the transfer of £2.2m, School Budget shares will benefit from an extra £6.7m compared to 2019/20 which will be distributed through the National Funding Formula and ensure that every school at least receives the previously mentioned minimum per pupil funding levels.

School Finance regulations require local authorities to inform their schools of their individual budget shares by the 28<sup>th</sup> February and we will ensure that deadline is met.

Finally, I would like to again thank all schools for their support for the many initiatives we are working together on to improve our local SEND system, which will improve our financial sustainability as well as – most importantly – delivering improved outcomes and support to all pupils.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Salih". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'M'.

Mustafa Salih  
Head of Financial Management and Business Support (CAH)