

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

REPORT ON BUDGETS SET BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOR EDUCATION SERVICES IN 2002-03

Sources of funding

Local authority budgets for education services are funded in the main from local authorities own resources, i.e. council tax and shares of revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates. In addition, funding is provided through specific and special grants provided by the National Assembly; and grants provided by ELWa – National Council for adult education and for post 16 provision in schools. The ELWa grant for post 16 provision in schools forms part of core funding for relevant schools and forms part of the local authority's local schools budget (LSB) and that part of the LSB which is distributed to give schools their delegated budgets. Where this analysis refers to figures net of specific or special grant the net figures include ELWa funding for post-16 school provision.

Summary of main conclusions

The main conclusions are:

- Total education budgets for 2002-03 have increased by £101 million (6.8%) to £1,590 million – the range for individual authorities is 4.1% to 11.2% (table 1);
- Total net schools' services budgets (exclusive of expenditure financed by specific or special government grants) has increased from £1,443 million to £1,543 million, an increase of 6.9% - the range for individual authorities is 3.3% to 11.8% (table 2);
- The total current schools' services budgets (inclusive of expenditure financed by specific government grants, e.g. GEST and other grants) has increased by £89 million to £1,622 million; an increase of 5.8%. The increases in the gross budgets of the individual authorities range from 2.1% to 9.8% (table 2a);
- If the further £18.7 million special grant for teachers' pay costs which the National Assembly is due to debate on 16 July is taken into account, funding increases by £108 million (7.0%) in comparison with 2001-02. The range for individual authorities is 3.3% to 11.2%;
- The amount delegated to schools has increased by £83 million (7.1%) to £1,250 million which

represents 81% of the net local schools' budget – the same percentage as in 2001–02 (tables 3 and 5). Individual delegation rates range between 78% and 84% (table 3);

- Total local authority net revenue expenditure is forecast to increase by 7.4% between 2001-02 and 2002-03 compared with 6.9% for the local schools budget (table 4);
- LEAs in Wales retain an average of £601 per pupil to fund centrally provided services for schools – the main elements are specialised SEN provision (£162) and home to school transport (£136); the element attributable to central administration services is £52 - a similar amount to that for 2001-02 (table 6 – the categories of expenditure are set out in the notes to table 6);
- Total expenditure per pupil (exclusive of expenditure financed by specific or special government grants) is forecast to be £3,167. This compares with £2,957 per pupil in 2001-02 – up 7.1%. The authority with the lowest budgeted expenditure per pupil is the Vale of Glamorgan with £2,851 per pupil; the highest being Ceredigion with £3,757 per pupil. The range from the lowest to highest per pupil spend has remained constant –£906 in both years (table 7).

Status of the Data

Budget returns for education spending are required by section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Authorities' section 52 returns and revenue account (RA) forms have been used to determine overall increases in local authority budgets, increases in education budgets and amounts delegated to schools.

Local authorities have provided the data. Each authority has verified its data and had the opportunity to comment on the figures.

[Table 1: Education net expenditure, 2001-02 and 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 2: Net local schools' budgets \(LSB\), 2001-02 and 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 2a: Current local schools' budgets \(LSB\), 2001-02 and 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 3: Delegated school budgets, 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 4: Changes to schools' budgets in comparison to overall local authority budgets, 2001-02 and 2002-03](#)

[Table 5: Delegated schools budgets, 2001-02 and 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 6: LEA services *not* delegated to schools - net expenditure per pupil, 2002-03 \(a\)](#)

[Table 7: schools' budgets per pupil, 2002-03](#)

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