



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

26 February 2020

Report by: GwE Managing Director & GwE Lead Director / Chair of Management Board

Subject: Education Improvement Grant 2020/21

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek approval from the Joint Committee regarding the Education Improvement Grant 2020/21.

2.0 Background

2.1 GwE have received an indicative allocation of £27,103,164 for the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) in 2020/21. This is a cash increase of £524,893 compared to 2019/20.

2.2 Welsh Government confirmed that the EIG for 2020/21 includes an increase of £2.5m (All Wales) for Foundation Phase, this calculates as approximately £560,000 for GwE.

2.3 The Welsh Government is expected to publish their final budget (together with grant details) on 25th of February 2020.

2.4 The current terms & conditions (2019/20) note that Challenge Advisers provide support and challenge to schools to ensure their School development plans appropriately reflect their improvement journey and local priorities.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 It is proposed that the profile of expenditure for 2020/21 remains as per 2019/20.

3.2 There are additional resources required (from GwE) as part of the Wrexham PIAP. The estimated cost of this is approx. £303,450 and will contribute towards:

- Strategic Lead to support the Core Lead
- Senior SIA for statutory category schools
- Bespoke and enhance core support for statutory category schools:
 - Maths x 3 days a week increasing to 5 days a week in Summer Term
 - English equivalent of 1 day a week
 - Science equivalent of 1 day a week
- Bespoke and enhanced support for supporting schools with strategies to improve provision for:
 - vulnerable pupils
 - MAT
- Developing and delivering a bespoke coaching programme for senior leaders in 6 non-category schools [and potentially for identified cohort of middle leaders]

3.3 The Joint Committee is required to consider the source of additional resource in order to fund this additional cost.

3.4 The options for consideration are (subject to terms and conditions referred to 2.4)

- 3.4.1 Option 1: Fully fund from the EIG additional funding for 2020/21
- 3.4.2 Option 2: Fully fund from the EIG via the reprioritisation of existing EIG expenditure
- 3.4.3 Option 3: Partly fund from the EIG additional funding for 2020/21
- 3.4.4 Option 4: Partly fund from the EIG via the reprioritisation of existing EIG expenditure
- 3.4.5 Option 5: Do not fund from the EIG, Wrexham to fund themselves.

3.5 The need to strengthen school's use of the Education Improvement Grant has been identified as a requirement for 2020/21.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Recommendation 1: Agree the preferred option to fund the additional resources required for the Wrexham PIAP.

4.2 Recommendation 2: That the profile of expenditure for 2020/21 remains as per 2019/20 but taking into account the decision made by the Joint Committee as per recommendation 1; with the GwE Management Board to agree on the distribution of the balance of the cash increase (once terms & conditions have been received).

4.3 Recommendation 3: EIG funding for schools causing concern will be not be released until their plan has been approved.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 As outlined above.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

8.1 The GwE Management Board has been consulted & have referred to the Joint Committee for decision.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Any advice on propriety will be provided at the meeting

Statutory Finance Officer:

Comments will be submitted verbally, as necessary, at the Joint Committee meeting.