

Devon has 307 primary schools and 37 secondary schools ranging from 20 to 2000+ pupils. 167 primary schools have less than 150 pupils – that's 55% of all primary schools in Devon.



A schools led, co-constructed budget model. A clear focus on distribution by pupil led factors and reducing dependence on MFG.

IMPACT – 13/14 90% of DSG went out by Pupil led factors. Schools are challenged to meet the needs of pupils not institutions.

Agreement of the LUMP SUM amount was a challenge with the range of school size.

IMPACT – The differential rate for primary and secondary was very positive.

Schools led the consultation on the budget.

IMPACT – widespread understanding and agreement on the DSG distribution across schools.

Schools led consultation on examination of services, value for money and alternate providers.

IMPACT – There is simply not the range of alternative providers available in Devon. Fear of loss of provision is high for a majority of schools. Geography does not support the breadth of school-to-school support for many schools. De-delegation and commissioning of a range of services is vital.

Volatility of budgets is difficult for Headteachers and Governors to understand. Challenges to implement pupil-based budgets rather than institution led ones are difficult too.

**IMPACT – many schools are growing
UNDERSPENDS to manage loss.**

Demographic ripples cause some schools to be unable to set budgets. A de-delegated contingency is in place to support 3-year recovery plans.

IMPACT – schools understand the market economy but want longer-term budget indications.

203 primary schools are classed as rural schools (73%). Of 307 primary schools, 36 will receive sparsity funding. 44 primary schools have less than 60 pupils, and 36 of these qualify for sparsity funding. A recognition of sparsity is vital for rural areas.

IMPACT – recognition of the impact of sparsity is vital for rural areas. There needs to be a debate about the mechanism for recognising sparsity.

Growth Fund recognises the predictable growth in school places. Devon has a booming population, with 2 major new towns planned. This exceptional growth needs recognising, we feel it should be dealt with by national topslice rather than having to come from the allocation for schools in the authority, why should other schools in an area that happens to have hot-spot rising populations be penalised because of demographic movements that are predictable.

IMPACT – £9.5m is to be top sliced from Devon's DSG over the next 5 years to fund this new growth, today's pupils are not receiving their full allocation of funds.

Devon Heads welcome a move at speed, to a fairer funding system. We do however hope that the National Funding Formula is not simply a national knife, to slice different sized cakes.

Devon Heads feel that there should be:-

- **Local discretion for distribution mechanisms**
- **One national lump sum**
- **One national Average Weighted Pupil Unit**
- **Explicit funding for sparsity**
- **A national topslice to meet unusual growth in demography.**

We feel that this will give an equitable DSG based on number of pupils and necessary schools.

