Education Walsall

serco

SCHOOLS FORUM **Item**

DEPRIVATION & ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

As a context it is important to note that the DCSF has a commitment to a greater proportion of school funding being driven by deprivation in Walsall.

In the attached spreadsheet you will see a list of secondary schools rank ordered by deprivation based on IDACI. [One includes EMAG and one does not].

IDACI represents a cluster of factors related to deprivation which gives a fuller picture than any one single indicator.

I have spoken to Graeme Roberts, the senior civil servant in the DCSF who deals with Standards Fund grants, and he has commented that the DCSF has now moved away from FSM as an indicator to more sophisticated indicators such as Tax Credits.

The attached spreadsheet raises a number of issues which I believe the School Forum needs to reflect on:

a. Situations where there is a mismatch in the IDACI rank order and the rank order funding

b. Are the differentials between schools of the right magnitude?

c. What is the attitude of the School Forum towards Point 5 – SDG Main Grant? It is in this grant in particular that there are substantial difference between similar schools.

Having reflected on the above, I would suggest the School Forum needs to consider:

1. Whether we are meeting the DCSF target of funding reflecting deprivation

2. How much freedom of action it has in the allocations on the spreadsheet.

3. If there are national parameters which are causing inequity whether or not there is a case for lobbying and making representation

4. Whether or not the above should influence the use of any financial headroom that the authority may have.

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