

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
**Wednesday, 11 January 2017**

**1. QUESTION FROM MR P WALKER**  
**Re: Movement of Funding – High Needs Block**

We would like to ask if members are aware of the full consequences of the movement of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and that all other options have been considered. The recent DEF meeting opposed this move at a rate of £55 per child, we remain opposed at the current suggestion of £33 per child. To achieve the required £2.2 million, actually just under £3million is required due to the impact of the Minimum Funding Guarantee. This proposal is coming at a time when schools are also about to lose £62 per child from the Education Service Grant. The National Funding Formula is also on the horizon, again the impact in Devon being reductions on the per pupil unit of funding. This proposal will put many schools in unmanageable financial situations. It will also mean that when the new formula is introduced, Devon Schools will have a lower baseline figure. During the implementation of the new formula we are protected against massive drops in funding. However, we will be protected from a lower rate meaning schools will be penalised. We urge Cabinet to consider all other possible options.

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR MCINNES**

I am well aware of and understand the valid concerns schools have around funding and the additional impact this transfer will have on already stretched budgets. Given the seriousness of the issue, Cabinet Members were thoroughly briefed before Christmas on the concerns of schools as well as the technical content of the issues to be considered.

As the matter is to be discussed today, I have reminded Members of your concerns and will ensure they are fully advised on all of the issues. As the Leader has previously made clear the Council has been, and still is, very active in working with schools to lobby MPs on all aspects of school funding. Additionally the Council has written to the Secretary of State expressing it's explicit concerns around the lack of funding for High Needs.