

24th November 2023

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT SPECIFIED BODIES 2024-25

Purpose

1 To agree the top slice arrangements for 2024-25.

Background

2 In 2024-25 Welsh local government is due to provide top slice funding from the Revenue Support Grant to the Specified Bodies detailed below, to support their activities in the next financial year. At Appendix 1 is a schedule of Specified Bodies funding in 2023-24 and the principles to be applied to uplifting funding in 2024-25. The Specified Bodies are:

- The National Eisteddfod
- Royal Welsh Agricultural Show
- Urdd Eisteddfod
- Foster Wales
- National Adoption Service
- The WLGA

Approach to top slicing the Revenue Support Grant

National Cultural Events

3 The Chief Executive has been in discussions with these organisations and has ascertained the need for continued funding in the next financial year. The increase for the funding for 2024-25 will be held flat.

Social Services

- 4 The National Adoption Service (NAS) is a collaboration for the provision of adoption services across Wales and promotes and supports best practice in adoption on an all-Wales basis. The work undertaken as part of the National Fostering Framework (NFF) led to the launch of Foster Wales (FW) in 2021.
- 5 A review of the funding model for the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales was undertaken over the past few months and a detailed report is on the agenda to be considered by members, with a number of recommendations on how this is better managed moving forward.
- 6 It is proposed that the top slice funding for both bodies be held flat in 2024-25, pending the outcome of other discussions. There is a variance to the proposed level of topslice, as set out in the NAS/FW funding review, and it is proposed £53k is removed from the topslice for 2024/5 (and recovering the payment included in the topslice for 2023/4 as this is currently funded through the Welsh Government grant) but this will need to be included in future requests when the Welsh Government grant comes to an end.
- 7 Funding has been secured from the Welsh Government for NAS and FW to enable them to take forward their significant pieces of work, many of which are Programme for Government commitments.

WLGA Retained Top Slice

- 8 As referred to in the section on budget principles, the WLGA retained top slice is to be held flat in 2024-25. This funding is used to support Data Cymru, the Food in Schools team, Employment & Workforce advice from the LGA, funding for Directors of Public Protection, the Office of the Chief Digital Officer and supports various initiatives within the WLGA.

Recommendations

9 Members are asked to:

- 9.1 **Approve the 2024-25 stand still Revenue Support Grant Top Slice amounts.**

Author: Jon Rae, Director of Resources
Tel: 07979018007
E-mail: jon.rae@wlga.gov.uk

RSG Top slices 2023-24 and 2024-25

WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT 2024-25		Notes for uplift from 2023-24	Final Settlement	First Draft	Diff
			2023-24	2024-25	
Amounts of RSG proposed to be paid to specified bodies		Held flat 2024-25			
		Held flat 2024-25		4.00%	
		Held flat 2024-25		4.00%	
National Cultural Events					
National Eisteddfod		Held flat	462,376.0	462,376.0	0
Urdd Eisteddfod		Held flat	160,264.0	160,264.0	0
Royal Welsh Show		Held flat	92,248.0	92,248.0	0
			714,888.0	714,888.0	0.0
National Social Services					
National Adoption Service		includes a reduction for income for hosting and shared posts from the FW grant	591,700.0	509,250	- 82,450
<i>Looked After Children</i>					
Foster Wales		reduction applied includes 2 x £53k (the 22/23 and 23/24 hosting cost currently in the grant	504,444.0	£389,000	-115,444
			1,096,144.0	898,250	-197,894
WLGA Retained top slice (including Data Cymru & LGA)		held flat	2,060,800.0	2,060,800.0	0
Chief digital officers		held flat	900,000.0	900,000.0	0
Total			4,771,832.0	4,573,938	-197,894