

The Council acknowledges that a number of Stockport Schools are planning a day of action on October 12th calling for fair funding for Schools.

Stockport Schools face a highly challenging situation in relation to funding. We have seen the resources we receive from Government to fund Schools reduced year on year, with capital reduced by £48million and revenue cut by 8% since 2010. These circumstances have led to schools using up reserve balances, and the situation is worsening. A Schools Education Funding Motion presented to the Full Council meeting of January 2017, notes -'Stockport schools have been making cuts for many years now and have reached the limit of where further cuts can be identified'. The National Fairer Funding Formula is set to increase the funding schools receive by 0.5% per year. Given that Inflation is currently at 2.5% pa and predicted to rise, the projection on future Schools funding represents a real terms cut of circa 2% per year. This means that between 2015 and by the time of the next planned general election in 2022, this could result in real-terms cuts to schools' budgets of up to 15%. This is compounded by a growing population and increasing costs.

Stockport Council has passed two motions (in March 2017 and January 2018) which relate to this issue. Both call for fairer and increased funding for Schools from Government. As such, it is Stockport Council policy that the Government should move to ensure the budget for Schools is kept in line with inflation from the year 2015; that the Government's policy commitments to the apprenticeship levy, national living wage and pension contributions in schools should be fully funded by national Government, that the Government should publish the methodology used to calculate the costs of running a school and commission a comprehensive review of education funding covering ages 0-19.

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