



**Haringey** Council

**The Children's Service**

**Agenda Item  
9**

**Report Status**

For information/note   
For consultation & views   
For decision

**Report to Haringey Schools Forum – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

**Report Title:** Section 251 Benchmarking – 2011-12 Budgets

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**Purpose:**

**To alert members to the DfE's benchmarking web-site**

**Recommendations:**

- 1. Members are asked to note the report.**

## **1. Background and Introduction.**

- 1.1. This is a regular report to inform members of the publication of benchmarking tables of planned local authority expenditure. The DfE use the annual return known as the S251 Budget Statement to provide comparative data so that Local Authorities (LAs) and Schools Fora can compare planned expenditure per capita (in most cases per pupil).
- 1.2. The tables were published in mid-September and allow comparison at gross and net planned spend per capita plus additional information. They can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/section251/a00197971/benchmarking-2011-12>

- 1.3. Any benchmarking table needs to come with a health warning, for instance different LAs will interpret regulations differently and methods of allocating costs such as overheads will vary.
- 1.4. An additional health warning is needed for the Additional Information site. There were significant changes between 2010-11 and 2011-12, in particular the statutory requirement to introduce the Early Years Single Funding Formula and the mainstreaming of most Standards Funds and Grants. In many instances this has distorted the data and significantly reduced the value of this table.
- 1.5. An extract from the net per capita table for London authorities is attached. To make the attachment manageable not all columns have been shown; I have concentrated on those that relate to the Schools Budget and related item and have excluded columns that were mostly zeros or small numbers. The full tables can be accessed at the above web address.

## **2. Recommendation.**

- 2. Members are asked to note the report.**