

APPENDIX 4b - Specific responses to consultation

Budget Consultation NAHT Response

We welcome the better than expected settlement from Welsh Government. From a school's perspective, maintaining school budgets and investing in schools, budgeting for a 4% teacher pay award dependent on the award agreed for 2022/23 – that would be good to see and great that the LA is seeking to cover the cost. We are grateful for the investment in ALN funding however, not sure what has been added will be sufficient. Further funding is almost certainly needed to address the growing demand for additional specialist placements for pupils from LRBs to high end EBD.

Key paras for us –

The draft budget makes provision for schools to receive investment of up to £8,003k in 2022/23, which represents a 7.3% growth in the schools budget. This is based on an assumed level of inflationary pay award increase as noted above plus the additional costs of new/ expanding schools at a level which maintains the current 'funding per pupil' as the table below shows. In this respect, it represents an investment in schools' budget over and above the cost increases predicated in schools. It is proposed to Cabinet in this report that all of the budget increase provision will be added to the 'Individual School Budget' except for the allowance for the 2022 pay award increase, which will be considered by Cabinet when a final figure is known/agreed, up to the value of the budget provision made. In doing so, the intention of fully funding cost increases in the school budget sector remains and reflects what is being proposed to Cabinet within this report 3.13 As part of the investment outlined above, £1,197k has been included in relation to the provision of support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). This funding will largely go towards the one-to-one support that is delivered for statemented pupils, in turn reducing the requirement for schools to use other funding allocations to meet the cost of delivering this support. Although this funding will be provided for specific ALN provision, it is anticipated that most, if not all, schools will benefit from this. As well as this, in recognition of the ongoing funding challenges faced by schools, £900k is included as a general budget increase to the overall school budget. This will increase the per pupil funding amount and all schools will experience the benefit of this. 3.14 The context for this proposed funding is the challenging financial management position within.