

# Local authority support for school budgets

## 1. Questionnaire for governing bodies

### 1. About the school

**1. Name of your school:**

**2. Type:**

- Primary
- Secondary
- Special
- All-age

**3. Your name:**

**4. Your role (tick all that apply):**

- Governor
- Headteacher
- School business manager

Other (please specify):

## 2. Financial advice and communication

**5. Does your school receive annual strategic budget guidance from the local authority?**

Yes

No

Tell us more:

### 3. Financial advice and communication

#### 6. How useful is the guidance in supporting budget planning?

1 - Not at all useful

2

3

4

5 - Very useful

Please explain:

## 4. Financial advice and communication

### 7. Is the advice timely?

Yes

No

Please explain:

## 5. Financial advice and communication

### 8. Is the advice easy to understand?

Yes

No

Please explain:

## 6. Financial advice and communication

**9. Have you been consulted on LA funding changes or local formula decisions?**

Yes

No

## 7. Budget setting and delegation

**10. Do you feel confident that your school understands how delegated budgets are calculated?**

Yes

No

## 8. Budget setting and delegation

**11. Are budget discussions with the LA collaborative and constructive?**

Yes

No

## 9. Budget setting and delegation

**12. Do you receive feedback on your budget setting processes or benchmarking data from your local authority?**

Yes

No

## 10. Training and support

**13. Have governors, senior leaders or business managers accessed training from the local authority in the last two years?**

Yes

No

## 11. Training and support

**14. How effective was the training in building financial understanding and confidence?**

1 - Not at all effective

2

3

4

5 - Very effective

Please explain:

## 12. Managing budget risk

**15. Has your school experienced financial difficulty in the last three years?**

Yes

No

**16. If so, how supportive was the LA in helping you manage or recover from it?**

## 13. Managing budget risk

**17. Are local authority officers available for advice when you face financial challenges?**

Yes

No

Tell us more:

## 14. Targeted funding

**18. Does the local authority provide guidance on planning and using targeted grants such as the Pupil Development Grant etc?**

Yes

No

## 15. Targeted funding

**19. Do you evaluate the impact of targeted grant spending?**

Yes

No

If so, how?

## 16. Targeted funding

**20. How well does the local authority support the strategic use of these grants?**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the user to provide their answer to the question above.

## 17. General views

**21. What is working well in the financial support provided by your local authority?**

## 18. General views

**22. What areas do you feel need improvement?**