

National Minimum School Clothing Grant**Report by Director Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that on 11 June 2018 The Chief Executive, after discussion with the Leader of the Council/Depute Leader of the Council authorised an increased school clothing grant payments to £100 to allow payments to be made from the 18 June 2018 as previously intimated to parents and carers.

This action was to ensure the prompt and effective implementation of the joint agreement reached between the Scottish Government and COSLA on the establishment of a national minimum school clothing grant for the 2018-19 academic term.

2 Background

A letter received from Scottish Government dated 5 June 2018 is attached for information.

From the start of the 2018-19 academic year the minimum grant level has been agreed at £100. Current levels are £60 for Primary Schools and £65 for Secondary Schools.

To support the introduction of the national minimum the Scottish Government is contributing £6 million to local authorities, Midlothian Council's allocation being £121,000.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications from this report the additional grant will cover the cost of the increased payments.

3.2 Risk

There would be reputational risk if the joint agreement was not implemented or if payment of the increase grant was delayed.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The payment of clothing grants contributes to addressing inequality.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Broadly in line with those expected from the existing arrangements.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The increase will help parents and carers.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

None given the time constraint.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Given the time constraint an IIA has not been prepared. In any event this is implementation of a nationally agreed policy.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability Development issues as a consequence of this report.

3.10 IT Issues

Midlothian Council uses the Seemis system to administer applications and payments of Clothing Grants, changes are required to implement the increase in payment amounts. The approval in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation avoids an alternative payment arrangement to have to be put in place.

4 Recommendations

Council is recommended to note:

- (a) That the Scottish Government and COSLA Leaders have reached a joint agreement on the establishment of a national minimum school clothing grant.
- (b) The minimum grant level has been agreed at £100 with effect from the start of the 2018-19 academic year.
- (c) Midlothian Council's allocation of £121,000

- (d) That on 11 June 2018 The Chief Executive, after discussion with the Leader of the Council/Depute Leader of the Council authorised an increased school clothing grant payments to £100 to allow payments to be made from the 18 June 2018 as previously intimated to parents and carers.

11 June 2018

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Background papers: National Minimum School Clothing Grant letter dated 5 June 2018.