

## Schools Forum

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Provisional Funding Formula 2018-19 – Consultation Responses

#### Introduction

1. As you will be aware the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has gone through a process of consultation on setting a national funding formula for schools. This consultation was completed in March 2017 and the results were published in September 2017. Following the consultation ESFA published updated operation guides for Schools Revenue Funding and High Needs.
2. At the School Forum meeting on the 31st October I presented a report covering the Provisional Funding Formula for 2018/19 based on the information in the operational guides. In the report I noted that a local authority must engage in consultation with all schools and it's School Forum about any proposed changes to the local authority funding formula it was proposing for 2018/19.
3. The consultation document, which can be found at **Appendix A**, was distributed to all schools on the 7th November and ran until 5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. This report provides details of the results of the consultation and the recommendations on setting schools funding for 2018/19.
4. At the request of the Schools Forum a session was held on Wednesday 15th November to explain the changes in more detail and enable school staff and governors to discuss the issues and ask questions before submitting responses. This was held in Room A at the Education Centre, Stockton 6th Form College.

#### Consultation Results

5. In total 18 responses were received which equated to 23% of all schools that were consulted. Of the respondent's 11 (61%) were from maintained schools, 4 (22%) from academies and 3 (17%) from special / other schools.
6. In the consultation document four questions were posed. The questions and the details of the responses are detailed below.

**1) *Do you agree with the proposal to move immediately towards the national funding formula?***

	Number	%
Total Responses	18	23.1%
Yes	17	94%
No	1	6%
No Views	0	0%

As you will see from the above table 17 schools (94%) responded yes to the question with only 1 school disagreeing. So based on the above results the Council will therefore move immediately towards the national funding formula for 2018/19 with relevant scaled reduction to the formula factors so that individual school allocations remain affordable.

**2) It is proposed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is set at 0.25% in Stockton, thereby ensuring all schools and academies gain at a per pupil level in 2018/19. This would replace the current MFG which limits losses to minus 1.5% per pupil. Do you support this proposal?**

	Number	%
Total Responses	18	23.1%
3) Yes	18	100%
4) No	0	0%
5) No Views	0	0%

From the schools that replied to this question 100% agreed that the MFG should be set at 0.25% for 2018/19. Therefore the Council will, as part of the National Funding Formula set the MFG at 0.25%.

As noted in the consultation documents the operation guide stipulated the Council would need to submit an application to dis-apply the MFG for 2018/19 if above 0%.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November the ESFA provided a notification on the requirement for disapplication of MFG, it stated '*it's been agreed that the funding regulations will be amended to enable local formulae to include a positive minimum funding guarantee (MFG) up to + 0.5% per pupil*'. Therefore no disapplication to the Secretary of State is required.

**3) Do you support the proposal to set a minimum per pupil funding level as close as possible of £3,300 for primary schools and £4,600 for secondary schools in 2018/19 as a transition towards the 2019/20 minimum per pupil amounts?**

	Number	%
Total Responses	18	23.1%
4) Yes	18	100%
5) No	0	0%
6) No Views	0	0%
7)		

From the schools that replied to this question 100% agreed to support the proposal to set a minimum per pupil funding level. Therefore the Council will, as part of the National Funding Formula set the minimum per pupil level as close as possible to £3,300 for primary schools and £4,600 for secondary schools in 2018/19.

**4) Do you support the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Budget (Approximately £600k) to meet High Needs pressures?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Total Responses	18	23.1%
Yes	17	94%
No	0	0%
No Views	1	6%

From the schools that replied to this question 94% agreed to support the proposal to transfer 0.5% of the schools budget to meet high needs pressures. One respondent did not have a view on this question. Therefore it is recommended that Schools Forum approve the transfer of 0.5% of the final schools block allocations to high needs for 2018/19.

**Recommendations**

- 9 That the Forum note the intention that the Council will move immediately towards the national funding formula, set an MFG at 0.25% and set the minimum per pupil level as close as possible to £3,300 for primary and £4,600 for secondary schools.
- 10 It is recommended that schools forum approve to transfer 0.5% of the schools block allocation to support high needs funding pressures.

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