

## Response ID ANON-VMYX-T526-5

Submitted to Implementing the direct national funding formula  
Submitted on 2022-08-31 14:39:38

### Introduction

What is your name?

Name:  
Andy Bryson

What is your email address?

Email:  
andy.bryson@stockton.gov.uk

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

What is the name of your organisation?

Organisation:  
Stockton on Tees Borough Council

What type of organisation is this?

Please pick the organisation you belong to.:  
Local Authority

What local authority area are you or your organisation based in?

Please select:  
Stockton-on-Tees

Would you like us to keep your responses confidential?

Yes

Reason for confidentiality (optional):

### Interaction between the direct NFF and funding for high needs (1)

1 Do you agree that local authorities' applications for transfers from mainstream schools to local education budgets should identify their preferred form of adjustment to NFF allocations, from a standard short menu of options?

No

If you have any comments on this question or on other aspects of the operation of transfers of funding from mainstream schools to local authorities' high needs budgets, please give these below. Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

No, as we think this overly complicates the existing simple process. We believe that the flexibility to allow LA's to transfer between blocks should be retained while high needs pressures specifically remain and a percentage top slice with Schools Forum approval should remain.

### Interaction between the direct NFF and funding for high needs (2)

2 Do you agree that the direct NFF should include an indicative SEND budget, set nationally rather than locally?

Yes

If you wish to explain your answer, please do so here. Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

### Growth and falling rolls funding

3 Do you have any comments on the proposals to place further requirements on how local authorities can operate their growth and falling rolls funding?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

Each Local Authority should retain the flexibility to set it's own Growth Fund / Falling Roles policy which is agreed locally by the Schools Forum.

4 Do you believe that the restriction that falling rolls funding can only be provided to schools judged "Good" or "Outstanding" by Ofsted should be removed?

Yes

5 Do you have any comments on how we propose to allocate growth and falling rolls funding to local authorities?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

We believe that some local flexibility is still necessary so agree with proposals in option one of the consultation. However, in terms of re-baselining the total amount of growth funding we are concerned about the affects of the Covid pandemic on the outcome.

6 Do you agree that we should explicitly expand the use of growth and falling rolls funding to supporting local authorities in repurposing and removing space?

Yes

7 Do you agree that the Government should favour a local, flexible approach over the national, standardised system for allocating growth and falling rolls funding; and that we should implement the changes for 2024-25?

Yes

8 Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to popular growth?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

We agree that mainstream schools may experience expected growth through local circumstances and should have access to popular growth funding.

### Premises funding

9 Do you agree we should allocate split site funding on the basis of both a schools' 'basic eligibility' and 'distance eligibility'?

Unsure

10 Do you agree with our proposed criteria for split site 'basic eligibility'?

Unsure

11 Do you agree with our proposed split site distance criterion of 500m?

Unsure

12 Do you agree with total available split sites funding being 60% of the NFF lump sum factor?

Unsure

13 Do you agree that distance eligibility should be funded at twice the rate of basic eligibility?

Unsure

14 Do you agree with our proposed approach to data collection on split sites?

Unsure

15 Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to split sites funding?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

Not applicable to Stockton Council

16 Do you agree with our proposed approach to the exceptional circumstances factor?

Yes

17 Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to exceptional circumstances?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

No comments.

## The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) under the direct NFF

18 Do you agree that we should use local formulae baselines (actual GAG allocations, for academies) for the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in the year that we transition to the direct NFF?

Yes

19 Do you agree that we should move to using a simplified pupil-led funding protection for the MFG under the direct NFF?

Yes

20 Do you have any comments on our proposals for the operation of the minimum funding guarantee under the direct NFF?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

No comments.

## The annual funding cycle

21 What do you think would be most useful for schools to plan their budgets before they receive confirmation of their final allocations: (i) notional allocations, or (ii) a calculator tool?

Calculator tool

22 Do you have any comments on our proposals for the funding cycle in the direct NFF, including how we could provide early information to schools to help their budget planning?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

It would be useful to have both. It would also be useful if the calculator tool could enable future years forecasting (for forward plans).

The proposed funding cycle states that "DSG allocations will no longer be published for the schools NFF". However, when considering a transfer from the Schools Block to High Needs, LA's will still need to see indicative DSG allocations for the Schools NFF as this will have implications for the transfer methodology/proposals set out in any local consultation.

Although the methodology for Growth Funding / Falling Rolls is subject to the consultation it would be useful to include thoughts on proposals for publication in the funding cycle especially if there is still to be some level of local discretion on methodology (If so then presumably Schools Forum will still need to approve?). The same applies to the PFI factor which is also subject to further consultation.

23 Do you have any comments on the two options presented for data collections in regards to school reorganisations and pupil numbers? When would this information be available to local authorities to submit to DfE?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

Option two seems more achievable as the timeframe is not too dissimilar to the current APT submission deadline.

24 Regarding de-delegation, would you prefer the Department to undertake one single data collection in March covering all local authorities, or several smaller bespoke data collections for mid-year converters?

One single data collection

25 Do you have any other comments on our proposals regarding the timing and nature of data collections to be carried out under a direct NFF?

Please limit your answer to 200 words.:

No further comments