

**Title:** Funding Formula Consultation

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**Schools affected:** All schools

### 1. Purpose of this report

1.1. This report sets out the proposals for the consultation on School Funding formula for 2018/19

### 2. Background

2.1. The Government has introduced a National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools. Buckinghamshire County Council needs to agree the local arrangements with the Schools Forum and Consult on these with schools.

### 3. Recommendations

**3.1. That the consultation document attached to this report is endorsed by the Schools Forum and the consultation with schools commences on 6<sup>th</sup> November for two weeks.**

### 4. Detailed proposals

- 4.1. The proposed consultation document (see Appendix 1) sets out the proposals for the Schools Formula locally.
- 4.2. The proposal is to adopt the NFF principles but scale them to an affordable level.
- 4.3. It proposes the use of capping of gains to offset the cost of protecting schools from more than 1.5% reductions in funding per pupil.
- 4.4. It asks schools consider a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to support high needs pressures. (set out in a separate paper)

### 5. Impact

- 5.1. The NFF proposals are more generous in all regards with the exception of lump sum reductions. This may be an issue for the smallest primary schools where increases in other funding factors does not fully compensate for the reduction in lump sum.
- 5.2. There is no correlation between financial difficulty in schools (deficit budget risk) and size of school. If there was a link between deficit budgets and size, this issue would cause a greater concern for the Council. There are small schools facing financial difficulty but there are many larger schools also facing financial difficulty.
- 5.3. Generally the NFF proposals are positive for Buckinghamshire schools. There will be some schools where the combination of factors is not positive overall. Maintained schools can apply to the contingency for schools in financial difficulty.

***Attached Document – Schools Funding Consultation November 2017***