



Report to the Schools Forum

Title:	Exceptional Premises Factors
Committee date:	Tuesday 28 th November 2017
Author:	Sarah Callaghan
Contact officer:	John Huskinson, jhuskinson@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 382384

Purpose of Agenda Item

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Schools Forum for a disapplication to the Secretary of State for exceptional premises factors

Background

The Department for Education (DfE) requires approval of Schools Forums for any disapplication requests.

A disapplication request is sought for exceptional premises factors in the smallest schools in Buckinghamshire, where the premises costs are disproportionate high per pupil.

The DfE does not allow a request for exceptional premises costs unless this affects no more than 5% of schools.

Key issues

An analysis of the costs of schools has highlighted a case for exceptional premises factors being agreed for a small cohort of schools in Buckinghamshire.

The premises costs (cleaning, utilities, repairs and maintenance) of schools with up to 50 pupils are significantly higher per pupil at than the average cost of larger schools. This is due to diseconomies of scale in smaller schools.

The cost is highest for the very smallest schools so a sliding scale is proposed. All Buckinghamshire schools have at least 20 pupils.

To support the smallest schools with these exceptional premises costs Buckinghamshire is seeking a disapplication to support the 12 schools currently with under 50 pupils (which represent less than 5% of all schools) with exceptional premises factors funding.

The total estimated exceptional cost of these premises for the smallest schools is c £85k per annum. This is based on the proposed formula and the current pupil numbers in small schools.

Formula proposed is:

£100 per pupil x relevant diseconomies factor.

The diseconomies factor is 5% higher for each pupil under 50 to reflect the diseconomies of the smallest schools. The average exceptional funding for schools with less than 35 pupils is £313 in line with the known differential.

The average for all 12 schools with less than 50 pupils (429 pupils in total) is £197.

Resource implications

The cost of this would fall under the Schools Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant, under the part funded by the DfE on a retrospective basis. It would NOT affect the funding formula for schools.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked collectively to vote on the following proposals:

- 1. To support the request for disapplication as set out in this report.***

Next Steps

- Disapplication requests must be submitted by 30th November 2017. The disapplication form will be completed by the Local Authority.
- The DfE will review the request and the Secretary of State will make the final decision. The results of their decision will be included in any school budget share calculations. The result will be shared with Schools Forum as soon as it is known.

Disapplication funding formula proposed (based on 2017 data)

pupils	diseconomies factor	exceptional cost differential per pupil	no of schools	exceptional funding
50	100%	£ 100		£ -
49	105%	£ 105		£ -
48	110%	£ 110	1	£ 5,292
47	116%	£ 116		£ -
46	122%	£ 122		£ -
45	128%	£ 128		£ -
44	134%	£ 134	2	£ 11,793
43	141%	£ 141		£ -
42	148%	£ 148	1	£ 6,205
41	155%	£ 155	1	£ 6,360
40	163%	£ 163		£ -
39	171%	£ 171	1	£ 6,670
38	180%	£ 180		£ -
37	189%	£ 189		£ -
36	198%	£ 198	1	£ 7,128
35	208%	£ 208		£ -
34	218%	£ 218		£ -
33	229%	£ 229		£ -
32	241%	£ 241		£ -
31	253%	£ 253	1	£ 7,834
30	265%	£ 265		£ -
29	279%	£ 279	1	£ 8,079
28	293%	£ 293		£ -
27	307%	£ 307	1	£ 8,293
26	323%	£ 323		£ -
25	339%	£ 339		£ -
24	356%	£ 356	2	£ 17,067
23	373%	£ 373		£ -
22	392%	£ 392		£ -
21	412%	£ 412		£ -
20	432%	£ 432		£ -
Totals			12	£ 84,722