



Report to the Schools Forum

Title:	New Funding Formula for Schools
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 on the proposed changes to the local schools funding formula.

Background

The Department for Education (DfE) is proposing to implement a National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2020/21.

School block funding (C. £300m) will increase c. £10m in 2018/19 and by a further £10m in 2019/20 (about 3% then a further 3%). Buckinghamshire receives the 3rd lowest funding per pupil from the DfE and the gains are the 6th highest in the country.

As part of this the Council has worked closely with the Schools Forum to agree proposals for the next two years (assuming the DfE implement the NFF in full in 2021/22)

Key issues

- Changes are required in the local schools funding formula due to the additional funding being allocated by the DfE.
- The proposals set out by the DfE are generally beneficial to most schools, although small schools will gain least from the proposals and mitigations to support them are being put in place wherever possible.
- A consultation was held with schools between the 6th and 19th of November and five roadshows were held which were attended by over 130 stakeholders. The consultation document and the analysis of responses are both appended.

- The consultation analysis indicates strong support for the proposals overall and therefore the recommendation sought from the Schools Forum is to agree the proposals as set out in the consultation.

Recommendations

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

- 1. Adopting the National Funding Formula factors from 2018/19 (This means using the minimum funding level per pupil, FSM Ever6 and Sparsity factors and removing the LAC factor)***
- 2. Prorate (scaling) of each factor agreed to match the available allocation of funding from the DfE. As set out in modelling provided as part of the consultation.***
- 3. Continue to use a minus 1.5% minimum funding guarantee factor.***
- 4. Use capping of gains per pupil to pay for the cost of protecting schools where the formula reduces their budget by more than minus 1.5%.***

Next Steps

- Mike Appleyard as Cabinet Member for Education will make a formal decision based on the recommendations of Schools Forum in early December.
- The DfE will provide the final dataset and funding allocation for the schools block in mid-December to which the agreed formula will be applied.
- Schools budgets will be calculated and provided to schools in early January 2018.

Appendices

- Consultation Paper November 6th-19th 2017
- Consultation analysis (also presented to Schools Forum at the meeting)
- Indication of funding changes by school.