



Report to the Schools Forum Funding Group

Title:	High Needs Transfer – Consultation Feedback
Meeting date:	11th December 2018
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1. Purpose of Agenda Item

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the results of the Consultation: Transfer of Funding from Schools Block to High Needs Block in the financial year 2019-20.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the Schools Forum meeting on the 25th September 2018, the Forum agreed to hold a Schools Forum Funding Group (SFFG) on 9 October 2018 to discuss the consultation with schools on the transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High needs Block. The SFFG met and agreed the consultation detail and process. The Group also agreed that the findings of the consultation would be considered by the next SFFG meeting and then take the Group's recommendations to December Schools Forum for decision. This report sets out the findings of the consultation and the recommendation for consideration by Schools Forum.
- 2.2. The Department of Education's operational guidance states that any local authority wishing to make a transfer should consult with all local maintained schools and academies, and schools forum should take into account the views of the schools responding before giving their approval.
- 2.3. Local authorities may transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block funding into another block with the approval of their schools forum. The consultation paper reflected the

original illustrative schools block allocation for Buckinghamshire in 2019-20 of £318.298m, giving a value £1.59m for a 0.5% transfer.

3. The Consultation

3.1. SFFG agreed that the transfer values to be included in the consultation would be as follows

- £0
- £0.5m
- £1.0m
- £1.59m

3.2. The consultation ran from 29th October to 12th November via Schools Bulletin, with a request that only one response per school was to be submitted. The consultation papers are given at Appendix 1.

4. The Findings

4.1. The findings showed 34 mainstream schools and academies submitted a response: 20 Primary Schools, 14 Secondary Schools. A list of the schools and academies is given at Appendix 2.

4.2. The table shows the response by sector:

Primary					
Value	£0	£500,000	£1,000,000	£1,591,000	Total
No. of Responses	8	5	4	3	20
% of Responses	40%	25%	20%	15%	100%
Average Value by % of Resp.	£0	£125,000	£200,000	£238,650	£563,650

Secondary					
Value	£0	£500,000	£1,000,000	£1,591,000	Total
No. of Responses	8	2	3	1	14
% of Responses	57%	14%	21%	7%	100%
Average Value by % of Resp.	£0	£71,429	£214,286	£113,643	£399,357

4.3. Similar to last year, given the range of responses, a weighted average was taken to give a fair summary of the findings. The weighted average of responses from Primary and Secondary schools indicates support for £0.5m to be transferred for 2019-20, as set out below:

Sector	Pupil No.s	% of all Pupils	Average Value	% of Pupils x Average Value
Primary	43,733	59.8%	£563,650	£337,003
Secondary	29,412	40.2%	£399,357	£160,584
Total	73,145	100.0%		£497,587

Proposed transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2019-20	
Weighted average of responses (Primary and Secondary only) indicates support for £0.5m	
Schools Block (updated illustration)	£318,574,000
Estimated % of Schools Block	0.157%
for information: 2018-19 transfer was £0.650m 0.22% of Schools Block	

4.4. The transfer will be for 2019-20 only. The DfE have not confirmed the Local Authority's ability to transfer from Schools Block in 2020-2, but should this ability continue and a request for a transfer be needed, then another consultation with schools will be required.

5. Evidence to Support the Proposal to Transfer Funding Between Blocks

5.1. Appendix 3 shows the forecast High Needs Block spend from 2019 to 2023. This includes updated financial modelling of independent special school placements with revised unit costs and updated analysis of current pupils and end dates. The forecast indicates that there is a pressure of £3.8m in 2019-20 prior to any agreed transfer from Schools Block or utilisation of historic commitment funding from the Central Schools Services Block.

5.2. Appendix 4 outlines the evidence required by the Schools Revenue Funding 2019 to 2020 Operational Guide to support Schools Forum in considering any request to transfer funding between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block.

6. Recommendations

6.1. That Schools Forum notes the results of the consultation and agrees the transfer of £0.5m from Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019-20.