

Report to Schools Forum 1st November 2017
From Mark Patton Assistant Director – Education

Agenda Item 6: Schools Formula 2018/19

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is to start the consultation of the Schools Funding Formula for 2018/19.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) announced the schools and high needs funding arrangements for 2018 to 2019, confirming an additional £1.3 billion over the next two years for schools and high needs to support the transition to the new formula.
- 2.2 Under the proposed arrangements, the guidance states “all schools will be allocated an increase of at least 0.5% per pupil in 2018/19 and at least 1% per pupil by 2019/20 compared to their 2017-18 baselines”.
- 2.3 Although it had been the Government’s intention to set schools budgets on the basis of a single national formula in 2018/19 and 2019/20, local authorities still have the option to determine final funding allocations through a local formula for these two financial years. This is known as a ‘soft’ formula.
- 2.4 Final funding allocations to each authority will be made in December 2017, in line with the latest pupil data.

3 National Funding Formula

- 3.1 Details of the National Funding Formula were presented at a meeting of all headteachers on 13th October 2017. The slides are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Further discussions were held at the headteachers update meeting at the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) on 19th October 2017.
- 3.3 Headteachers are reminded that the ESFA published baselines are illustrative only. These figures will be subject to pupil number changes, pupil characteristic changes and potential National Non Domestic Rate NNDR variations
- 3.4 In addition, any agreed movement between blocks will affect individual school budgets.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the report and to decide whether to recommend the adoption of the 2018/19 National Funding Formula as set out by the ESFA or the adoption a locally designed soft formula for 2018/19.

Voting: Only School Members of the Schools Forum may vote on this recommendation.

- 4.2 Should Forum request to adopt a soft formula, Members will need to agree the factors to be modelled.