

Report to: **Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**
Date: **8 December 2014**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Title: **Schools Funding Formula**
Purpose: **To seek approval for a change to the schools funding formula**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the change to the schools funding formula for 2015/16 financial year.

1. Background

1.1 The Department for Education sent out operational guidance in relation to the schools revenue funding for financial year 2015-16 in July 2014.

1.2 This guidance is produced to help Local Authorities and their Schools Forums plan the local implementation of the reformed funding system for the 2015-16 financial year that builds on the reforms which began in 2013-14.

1.3 A funding formula working group (made up of school representatives and Local Authority Officers) met during the summer term to review the current ESCC schools funding formula and any potential changes to the funding formula for financial year 2015/16.

1.4 The working group proposals were taken to the September Schools Forum and following discussion, the Local Authority decided that a consultation should take place with all Secondary Schools and Academies in respect to transferring £200,000 from the Free School Meals (FSM) funding factor to English as an Additional Language (EAL) funding factor for the 2015/16 funding formula. The Local Authority's intention to make the change was presented to the November Schools Forum.

2. Supporting Information

Outcome of Consultation

2.1 The Consultation included the Question: *Do you agree that the funding formula should re-allocate £200,000 from the Free School Meal (FSM) factor to the English as an Additional Language (EAL) factor? 'Y/N'*

2.2 Out of the 26 Secondary phase schools and Academies that were sent the consultation documents, 7 replied, of which, 5 establishments agreed with the potential change.

2.3 The outcome of the consultation was discussed at the CSD Senior Management Team meeting on 12 November 2014. CSD Senior Management Team agreed that £200,000 should be transferred from the Secondary phase Free School Meal (FSM) funding factor to the Education as An Additional Language (EAL) funding factor for the Secondary Phase.

Financial Appraisal - Impact on ESCC Secondary Schools

2.4 The funds will be transferred from one funding factor to another and therefore the effect on the overall schools block Dedicated Schools Grant is net nil. Based on the 2014/15 financial year formula funding factors, the impact on individual Secondary School / Academy budgets will range from a reduction of £13,600 to an increase of £40,600 (Prior to MFG / Capping).

3. Conclusion and reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Schools Forum and schools have been consulted on the proposed formula change. The majority of the respondents agreed with the proposed change, as did CSD SMT. The Lead Member is recommended approve the change to the East Sussex Schools Funding Formula.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None