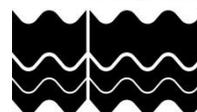


East Sussex County Council Schools Forum

East Sussex
County Council



Friday 20th November 2020

08.30

Remote Meeting

Agenda

Item	Heading	Paper	Lead	Item for
1.	Welcome and Apologies	N	Chair	Note
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 18th Sep 2020	Y	Chair	Approval
3.	Matters Arising and Declaration of Interests	N	Chair	Discussion
4.	Growth Fund / Falling Rolls Fund	Y	Gary Langford	Approval
5.	TTO Update	N	Fiona Wright	Information
6.	Central School Services Block 2021/22	Y	Ed Beale	Approval
7.	ESCC Funding Formula Consultation Update	Y	Ed Beale	Information
8.	ESCC Scheme For Financing Schools	Y	Sarah Rice	Approval
9.	RPA Insurance Update	Y	Rawdon Phillips	Information
10.	AOB			

Next Meeting: Friday 15TH January 2021, 8.30am, Venue TBC (Remote or Wellshurst Golf and Country Club)

Draft Items for next meeting

- DSG 2021/22

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EAST SUSSEX SCHOOLS' FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting of the Schools' Forum held remotely with Microsoft Teams on 18 September 2020

PRESENT

Jane Johnson (Newick CE Primary)
Hugh Hennebry - **Chair** (Uckfield College)
Sarah Pringle (Seahaven Academy)
Kate Owbridge (Ashdown Primary)
Gavin Bailey (Swale Academy Trust)
Mandy Watson (Diocese of Chichester)
Richard Blakeley (Harlands Primary School)
Richard Preece (Saxon Mount and Torfield)
Joanna Sanchez (Diocese of Arundel and Brighton)
Phil Clarke (Trade Union Representative)
Tom Scully (University of Brighton Academies Trust)

Cllr Bob Standley (Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability)
Stuart Gallimore (Director Children's Services)
Fiona Wright (Assistant Director Education & ISEND)
Nathan Caine (Head of ISEND)
Mark Whiffin (Head of Finance)
Edward Beale (Schools Funding Manager)
Sarah Rice (Finance Manager – Schools)
Kirsten Coe (Principal Finance Officer)
Sam McManus (Services to Schools Manager)

Lesley Leppard (Clerk)
Rachel King (Clerk)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Hugh welcomed all and thanked everyone for their attendance. He confirmed the meeting was quorate, recognising the apologies (below).

1.2 Apologies received from:

- Emily Beer (Willingdon School)

- Frank Stanford (Sabden Multi Academy Trust)
- Geoffry Lucas (Etchingam CE Primary School)
- James Freeston (King Offa Primary Academy)
- Monica Whitehead (Claverham Community College)
- Phil Matthews (Hailsham Community College Academy Trust)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS 22 NOV 2019

2.1 The minutes for the meeting held 22 November were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chair and scanned to Rachel King.

3. MATTERS ARISING AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1 There were no declarations of interest and there were no matters arising.

4. FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE 2021/22

4.1 Ed Beale introduced this paper and went through an update on the Funding Formula changes that the DfE are implementing for 2021/22.

5. FUNDING FORMULA WORKING GROUP UPDATE

5.1 Ed Beale introduced this paper and went through an update on the work of the FFWG and the proposal that is being put forward for consultation. The Chair thanked Ed and Finance colleagues for their work in preparing detailed scenarios to support the Funding Formula work. The Chair addressed all Forum Members and asked them to email representatives and urge them to participate in the consultation.

6. DE-DELEGATION APPROVAL 2021/22 (MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY)

6.1 Sarah Rice read through 'part 1' of the paper and then passed onto Nathan who went through 'part 2'. Selected members were asked to vote for each of the de-delegated services (by phase).

Primary Phase (4): Richard Blakely, Jane Johnson, Kate Owbridge, Geoffrey Lucas (not present)

Secondary Phase (3): Emily Beer (not present), Hugh Hennebry, Monica Whitehead (not present)

	Primary Phase		Secondary Phase	
	Number of Yes	Number of No	Number of Yes	Number of No
Contingency	✓✓✓	0	✓	0
Admin of FSM	✓✓✓	0	✓	0
Jury Service	✓✓✓	0	✓	0
Behaviour Support Services	✓✓✓	0	0	✓

7. SERVICES TO SCHOOLS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Sam McManus read through the paper and updated Schools' Forum member on the revised terms and conditions for the traded services. The Chair thanked Sam for the thoughts and considerations given to schools in the proposals.

8. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMY TRUSTS

8.1 Sarah Rice read through the paper to update Forum members on transparency requirement following Government consultation last year.

9. SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING DATES

9.1 Ed Beale confirmed that the new dates for Schools' Forum 2020/21 had been decided and no objections were made.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Jane Johnson came in at the end of the meeting. Jane had technical difficulties and was unable to vote at the time of voting. She asked for her vote to be counted (Agenda item 6.1) and it has been included.

10.2 Draft items noted for next meeting;

- Growth Funding and Falling Rolls approval
- Funding Formula Consultation Update

Meeting concluded at 09:12am

Next meeting – Friday 20 November 2020 08:30am. Location TBC - Wellshurst Golf and Country Club or Microsoft Teams.

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Agenda Item 4

Report to: **Schools Forum**

Date: **20 November 2020**

Title of Report: **Growth Fund / Falling Rolls Fund**

By: **Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager**

Purpose of Report: **To update Schools Forum on spend in the 2020/21 financial year and to seek approval for funding for the 2021/22 financial year.**

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is asked to approve an allocation of £1,682,300 for the 2021/22 Growth Fund.

1. Introduction

1.1 The 2020/21 Growth and Falling Rolls Funds were approved by Schools Forum on 22 November 2019.

1.2 The Growth Fund supports maintained and non-maintained mainstream schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the local authority. The fund is provided for:

- Key Stage 1 top-up: paid to schools to enable them to comply with Key Stage 1 class size legislation, which sets a maximum class size of 30 pupils with one teacher. There are a few exceptions where class sizes can exceed 30, but there is no entitlement to Growth Fund, for example, arising from admissions through the Fair Access Protocol.
- Additional classes: where the local authority has made a formal request for a school to set up one or more additional classes, or requests a permanent increase in a school's Published Admission Number.
- New school funding: when new schools open in a local authority area, they receive pre-opening funding through a formula to cover costs incurred prior to the opening and diseconomy funding to cover costs incurred while the school fills to capacity. The funding decreases year on year as more year groups in the new school are admitted.

1.3 The Falling Rolls Fund is used to support good or outstanding schools that have temporary, but significant, falling rolls, but where local planning data shows the places will be needed in the near future. It is designed to avoid the need for a school to restructure and then recruit again shortly afterwards. The funding is for maintained and non-maintained schools. The circumstances in which a payment is made from the Falling Rolls fund are:

- The school is judged to be good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (this is a mandatory requirement from the DFE).
- The number on roll has dropped by more than 5% between the October 2019 census and the October 2020 census.
- Local planning data (East Sussex County Council pupil forecasting model) predicts that the number on roll will, at October 2022, be equal to or exceed their number on roll as at October 2019.

2. Growth Fund 2020/21

2.1 Schools Forum approved a budget of £1,554,100 for the 2020/21 Growth Fund. This figure was based on estimated Key Stage 1 pupil numbers, the predicted additional classes required for the 2020/21 academic year and the number of new schools that required diseconomy funding.

2.2 In 2020/21, the numbers of schools eligible for either Key Stage 1 top-up funding, additional class funding or new schools funding were:

- 36 primary schools eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 14 primary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 2 secondary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 3 schools (primary and all-through) eligible for new schools funding.

2.3 To date, £1,164,470 of the Growth Fund budget has been spent in 2020/21, leaving a balance of £407,530 unallocated. The underspend has come about largely because fewer schools qualified for Key Stage 1 top-up funding than had been predicted last year. A summary of spend in 2020/21 is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.4 Given the size of the underspend and the recognised financial pressure schools are under, we have decided to devolve the remaining funds back to all maintained and non-maintained mainstream schools immediately. This has been calculated at a rate of £6.43 per pupil (£407,530 / 63,421 funded students in the 2020/21 funding formula). The funds will be paid to schools in November 2020.

3. Growth Fund 2021/22

3.1 The proposed allocation for 2021/22 is based on the estimated October 2020 pupil numbers and estimated Key Stage 1 numbers as at October 2021. A 10% contingency has been added to the Key Stage 1 top-up element to allow for any unforeseen changes.

3.2 Additional class funding for 2021/22 is based on the predicted need for places identified through the annual update to the pupil forecasting model, most recently updated in July 2020 and available in the recently published School Organisation Plan 2020-2024. A 10% contingency has been added to the additional class element to allow for any unanticipated pressures.

3.3 It is estimated that the following numbers of schools will be eligible for Growth Fund support in 2021/22:

- 52 primary schools potentially eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 14 primary schools potentially eligible for additional class funding
- 3 secondary schools potentially eligible for additional class funding
- 1 school (all-through) school eligible for new schools funding.

3.4 In total, the Growth Fund requirement for 2021/22 is £1,682,300.

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to approve an allocation of **£1,682,300** for the 2021/22 Growth Fund.

3.5 A breakdown of the Growth Fund calculation for 2021/22 is provided in **Appendix B**. The updated Growth Fund document for 2021/22 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

4. Falling Rolls Fund 2020/21

4.1 Rather than seek new funds in 2020/21, we carried forward £63,000 from 2019/20 as a contingency for the year. To date only one school, ARK Castledown Primary Academy, qualified for funding in 2020/21, receiving a total of £16,000. This leaves a balance of £47,000 unspent which we propose carrying forward to 2021/22.

4.2 Based on estimated pupil numbers, 0 schools will be eligible for the Falling Rolls Fund in 2021/22. The carry forward of £47,000 from 2020/21 should be sufficient as a contingency for the year. Therefore, we are not seeking any new funds from Schools Forum in 2021/22.

4.3 The updated Falling Rolls Fund document for 2021/22 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

Growth Fund Summary 2020/21

Summary of Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund 2020/21

	2020/21 approved allocations	Actual / planned expenditure	Balance remaining
KS1 top up	£831,800	£492,295	£339,505
Additional classes	£600,200	£532,175	£68,025
Dis-economy funding	£140,000	£140,000	£0
Net total (rounded)	£1,572,000	£1,164,470	£407,530

Falling Rolls	£63,000	£16,000	£47,000
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DFE	School Name	KS1 Top Up Apr20 - Aug20	KS1 Top Up Sep20 - Mar21	Additional Class Funding Apr20 - Aug20	Additional Class Funding Sep20 -	New Schools Funding	TOTAL	Falling Rolls
2050	Alfriston School		£851.00				£851.00	
2060	Hamsey Community Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
2076	Park Mead Primary School			£14,434.00	£20,608.00		£35,042.00	
2078	Plumpton Primary School	£608.00	£851.00				£1,459.00	
2082	Punnett's Town Community Primary School	£1,815.00	£2,540.00				£4,355.00	
2091	St Michael's Primary School, Withyham	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
2094	Chyngton School				£337.00		£337.00	
2099	Little Common School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
2103	Denton Community Primary School and Nursery						£0.00	
2104	Cradle Hill Community Primary School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2105	Polegate Primary School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2120	Sandown Primary School						£0.00	
2131	Tollgate Community Junior School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2151	Bourne Primary School			£2,369.00	£3,716.00		£6,085.00	
2153	Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery			£18,010.00	£26,013.00		£44,023.00	
3003	Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School		£12,676.00				£12,676.00	
3004	Beckley Church of England Primary School		£5,919.00				£5,919.00	
3009	Burwash C of E School	£12,674.00	£17,743.00				£30,417.00	
3012	Catsfield Church of England Primary School	£608.00	£851.00				£1,459.00	
3015	Cross-in-Hand Church of England Primary School			£26,500.00	£37,500.00		£64,000.00	
3016	Crowhurst C of E Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
3018	Danehill Church of England Primary School	£5,434.00	£7,608.00				£13,042.00	
3022	East Hoathly C of E Primary School	£4,228.00	£5,919.00				£10,147.00	
3026	Fletching Church of England Primary School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
3028	Forest Row Church of England Primary School	£6,641.00	£9,297.00				£15,938.00	
3029	Frant Church of England Primary School		£5,919.00				£5,919.00	
3041	Southover CofE Primary School			£5,988.00	£8,784.00		£14,772.00	
3043	Mayfield Church of England Primary School	£9,054.00	£12,676.00				£21,730.00	
3045	Netherfield C of E Primary School		£22,811.00				£22,811.00	
3046	Ninfield Church of England Primary School		£16,054.00				£16,054.00	
3047	Northiam Church of England Primary School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
3049	Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
3051	St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Playden	£9,054.00	£12,676.00				£21,730.00	
3062	Stonegate Church of England Primary School	£1,815.00	£2,540.00				£4,355.00	
3076	Bodiam Church of England Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
3077	Iford & Kingston Church of England Primary School		£10,986.00				£10,986.00	
3080	Staplecross Methodist Primary School	£7,847.00	£10,986.00				£18,833.00	
3323	Framfield Church of England Primary School	£6,641.00	£9,297.00				£15,938.00	
3325	St Mark's Church of England Primary School	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
3326	St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School		£7,608.00				£7,608.00	
3327	All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School		£4,230.00				£4,230.00	
3335	Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	£12,674.00	£17,743.00				£30,417.00	
3339	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School			£7,195.00			£7,195.00	
3343	St Philip's Catholic Primary School		£851.00				£851.00	
	Maintained Schools Total	£118,939.00	£327,917.00	£74,496.00	£209,458.00	£0.00	£730,810.00	£0.00

2003	Glenleigh Park Primary Academy				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2008	Burfield Academy					£14,000.00	£14,000.00	
2009	High Cliff Academy			£1,502.00	£2,027.00	£14,000.00	£17,529.00	
2011	The Baird Primary Academy			£8,645.00	£13,851.00		£22,496.00	
2012	Ark Blacklands Primary Academy			£26,500.00			£26,500.00	
2021	Breakwater Academy	£1,105.00	£0.00	£14,596.00			£15,701.00	
2023	White House Primary School	£4,618.00	£10,986.00				£15,604.00	
2025	Ark Castledown Primary Academy						£0.00	£16,000.00
2026	Rye Community Primary School	£0.00	£12,676.00				£12,676.00	
3345	Annecy Catholic Primary School, Seaford	£0.00	£16,054.00				£16,054.00	
4004	Seahaven Academy				£41,800.00		£41,800.00	
4026	Beacon Academy			£60,000.00	£41,800.00		£101,800.00	
4027	Hailsham Academy Trust Primary Academy					£112,000.00	£112,000.00	
	Academy Schools Total	£5,723.00	£39,716.00	£111,243.00	£136,978.00	£140,000.00	£433,660.00	£16,000.00
	TOAL	£124,662.00	£367,633.00	£185,739.00	£346,436.00	£140,000.00	£1,164,470.00	£16,000.00

Growth Fund requirement 2021/22

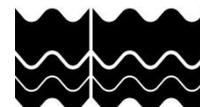
	Funding required
Key Stage 1 top-up funding	£958,800
Additional class funding	£639,500
New school funding	£84,000
2021/22 allocation	£1,682,300

Falling Rolls Fund requirement 2021/22

Funding type	Funding required
Carry forward from 2020/21	£47,000
New funding requirement	£0
2021/22 allocation	£47,000

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Agenda Item 6



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 20 November 2020

Title of report: Central School Services Block (CSSB) DSG 2021/22

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of report: To present and seek approval of proposals for the CSSB for 2021/22

1. Background

- 1.1 The DSG for 2021/22 will be allocated by the DfE, like 2020/21, into four notional blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central School Services Block (CSSB). Each block is calculated on a different basis and subject to separate regulations as to eligible expenditure.
- 1.2 This paper specifically relates to the CSSB. This block includes funding that has been allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) to carry out functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies and has two distinct elements:
- **Ongoing responsibilities** This comprises:
 - funds specified by the DfE and retained centrally (Admissions, Copyright (CLA) licenses and Servicing Schools Forum); and
 - funds that were previously known as Retained Duties ESG which, up to 2017/18, the LA received and held separately for its on-going responsibilities to maintained schools and academies.
 - **Historic Commitments** These are what were previously known as “Combined Services” and is funding for previously specified financial commitments.

2. 2021/22 On-going responsibilities

- 2.1 The DfE fund On-going responsibilities on a per pupil basis using the Oct census NOR. Since 2018/19, when this element was introduced, the total NOR in East Sussex has increased each year, which has meant that the DfE has increased the funding allocation to the LA accordingly.
- 2.2 Although the DfE has increased the funding it has allocated to the LA in previous years, the LA has not previously requested to use the full allocation and instead has opted to manage service pressures, and to transfer the increase in allocations to schools / academies.
- 2.3 For 2021/22 however, the LA is asking to retain the full amount that the DfE is providing to the LA. This will not be distributed across all statutory CSSB areas, but used to manage the pressures on services directly affected by increases in NOR. These have been covered within available budgets by the LA since 2018/19, but this is no longer sustainable.

2.4 Table 1 shows the 2021/22 proposals for the 'On-going Responsibilities' element of the CSSB which totals £2.08m. (Please note that this is separate from the Schools Block DSG which funds budget shares / GAGs).

Table 1

Category	Responsibility	20/21 Allocations	Additional Funds Required by LA	2021/22 Proposed Allocations
Specified by the DfE	Admissions	£480,300	£27,000	£507,300
	CLA Licenses	£338,000	£0	£338,000
	Schools Forum	£23,500	£0	£23,500
Stat and Reg Duties	Revenue budget preparation, preparation on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education. Formulation and review of the LA Schools Funding Formula.	£136,900	£0	£136,900
	Leadership of Children's services and support staff.	£93,800	£0	£93,800
	Planning for the Education Service as a whole.	£110,100	£13,000	£123,100
	Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating to specifically maintained schools.	£50,000	£0	£50,000
	SACRE	£10,000	£1,000	£11,000
	IA and CFO/S151	£28,500	£0	£28,500
	Consultation Costs relating to non-staffing issues. Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary services.	£32,600	£0	£32,600
Asset Management	Management of LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions.	£94,300	£0	£94,300
	General Landlord duties	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Education Welfare	Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils. Responsibilities regarding the employment of children.	£92,600	£20,000	£112,600
	School Attendance	£300,000	£33,000	£333,000
Other Ongoing Duties	Places in Independent Schools for non SEN Pupils	£150,000	£31,700	£181,700
	Total	£1,950,600	£125,700	£2,076,300

Note: The figures do not represent the full cost of providing these services – the LA provides additional budgets for all these areas.

3. 2021/22 Historic Commitments

3.1 The Historic Commitments are funded by the DfE as a lump sum amount.

3.2 Table 2 shows the proposals for 2021/22 funding of the service areas via historic commitments.

3.3 The DfE are allocating £3.9m to ESCC for Historic Commitments of which the LA is requesting £0.42m for Lansdowne and the Virtual School (in line with 20/21), with the remainder to be shared proportionately between all schools and academies (in addition to budget share/ GAG from the Schools block).

3.4 If the final 2021/22 CSSB allocation from DfE is higher than the indicative level (which could be expected as there is an increasing NOR), the intention would be for these funds to be transferred to schools / academies, as in previous years.

Table 2

Historic Commitments	2020/21 Allocations	CSSB Changes	2021/22 Proposed Allocations
Lansdowne	£242,000	£0	£242,000
Virtual School	£180,000	£0	£180,000
TTO Funding	£3,778,000	-£3,778,000	£0
Funds transferred to Schools	£724,000	£2,793,200	£3,517,200
**Total	£4,924,000	-£984,800	£3,939,200

** The DfE are reducing the Historic Commitments allocation by 20% from the previous year, meaning the 2021/22 allocation has reduced by £984,800 from 2020/21.

4. Statutory duties for Maintained Schools

- 4.1 LAs are also able to seek approval from maintained schools to retain some Schools Block DSG (from maintained schools only) to cover the statutory duties that are carried out for maintained schools that were previously funded through the General ESG.
- 4.2 ESCC, unlike other LAs, has not proposed this action in previous years despite seeing significant reductions in this ESG funding (Funding was £3.9m in 2015/16, reducing to nil for 2018/19).
- 4.3 Recognising ongoing pressure on school budgets, we are proposing to continue in this way for 2021/22, although there continues to be some risks to the LA with this approach.

5. Summary and Conclusion

- 5.1 This report lays out the proposals for £2.08m for 'on-going responsibilities' and £0.42m for 'Historic Commitments' of CSSB for 2021/22 with the remaining £3.5m being transferred to schools and academies in addition to their budget shares/ GAG. Schools Forum members are asked to approve these proposals.

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Agenda Item 7

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 20th November 2020

Title of Report: East Sussex Funding Formula Consultation Update

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of Report: To update Schools Forum on the outcome of the ESCC Funding Formula consultation for 2021/22.



Recommendation: Schools Forum are asked to note the outcome of the ESCC Funding Formula for 2021/22.

1. Background

1.1 Since May '20, the Funding Formula Working Group has been reviewing the ESCC Funding Formula in preparation for 2021/22. Following the principles that had been set out of working towards the full National Funding Formula (NFF) implementation, proposals were reviewed to continue to:

- offer maximum support and benefit to the pupils in East Sussex Schools / Academies; and
- avoid any undue turbulence to schools and academies.

1.2 In July, the DfE announced the funding arrangements for 2021/22. The announcement provided guidance on a number of areas for 2021/22 such as:

- Increasing the Minimum Per Pupil rates to £4,180 and £5,415 in the Primary and Secondary phase respectively.
- Increasing the lump sum to £117,800 (Both phases) and Sparsity values to maximum values of £45,000 (Primary Phase) and £70,000 (Secondary Phase).
- Uplifting NFF rates by 3%.
- The inclusion of the Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant into the school's budget share / GAG.

1.3 Therefore, in September, when final proposals were brought to Schools Forum for discussion, the updated funding arrangements were included.

1.4 The two options issued for consultation were as follows:

Option 1:

Factors used in the East Sussex Funding Formula remain unchanged for 2021/22 (Rates used in the ESCC Formula will be uplifted to the revised NFF rates).

Or

Option 2:

Introduce the mobility factor into the East Sussex Funding Formula (Other rates used in the ESCC

Formula will be uplifted to the revised NFF rates).

2 Outcome of Consultation

2.1 The consultation documents were sent to all mainstream schools and academies (174), with the consultation beginning on 19th October and running until 6th November.

2.2 Out of the 174 schools that were sent the consultation documents, 46 replied (26%). This compares to a 39% response rate last year (69 replies).

2.3 A summary of the results that were received from schools is shown below (by phase).

Primary Phase: (Out of 148)

Number of establishments that selected option 1	7
Number of establishments that selected option 2	31

Secondary Phase: (Includes All Through Schools) (Out of 26)

Number of establishments that selected option 1	0
Number of establishments that selected option 2	8

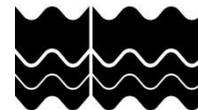
2.4 Forum are asked to note that for the Primary Phase, the overall outcome from respondents was in favour of option 2 for 2021/22.

2.5 Forum are asked to note that for the Secondary Phase, the overall outcome from respondents was in favour of option 2 for 2021/22.

3 Decision and next steps

3.1 Given the outcomes of the consultation, option 2 (The introduction of the mobility factor into the ESCC Funding Formula), for both the Primary and Secondary phase, will be put forward to Lead Member for approval.

3.2 The report recommending the changes for the 2021/22 formula will go to Lead Member for Education and Inclusion Special Educational Needs and Disability on 17 December 2020.



Agenda Item 8

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 20th November 2020

Title of Report: Update to the East Sussex Scheme for Financing Schools

By: Sarah Rice, Finance Manager

Purpose of Report: To consult the Schools Forum and seek approval to make changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

Recommendation:

Maintained School members to note and approve the changes to the East Sussex Scheme for Financing Schools.

1. Background

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 states that every Local Authority (LA) must have a Scheme for Financing Schools. This Scheme defines the financial relationship between the LA and the maintained schools in its area. Schemes cover a wide range of areas and include items such as accounting, banking and audit arrangements.
- 1.2 The Scheme for East Sussex County Council is based on the model scheme produced by the DfE and can only be amended either by changes directed by the Secretary of State or following consultation with the Schools Forum.

2. Updates made to the scheme

- 2.1 In line with recent updates to the statutory guidance for local authority schemes of finance a number of amendments have been made to the East Sussex Scheme to keep it consistent with the model scheme and ensure it contains directed revisions.
- 2.2 The changes are summarised in the table in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 A copy of the updated Scheme and a summary of changes made will be made publically available via the Services to School Webshop once approval has been received.

3. Action Required

- 3.1 Approval is sought from maintained school members for the amendments outlined in this paper to be applied to the ESCC Scheme for Financing Schools.

Appendix 1: Summary of Changes to The East Sussex Scheme for Financing Schools November 2020

Section	Page Number	Description of Amendment	Reason For Change
2.3 Submission of Budget Plans	11	<p>Previous wording: Schools must submit final budget plans by the end of April..... The LA may require schools to submit a financial forecast covering each year of a multi-year period. The number of years specified will not place undue burden on schools and will usually be 3 years.</p> <p>Amended wording: Each school must submit a 3-year budget forecast each year by the 1st May.</p>	Wording amended in line with direction in the Scheme for Financing Guidance (DfE statutory guidance), however this does not fundamentally change current practice.
4.4 Obligation to carry forward deficit balances	21	<p>Additional wording added: Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority whenever a revenue deficit arises at 31 March of any year.</p>	Wording amended in line with direction in the Scheme for Financing Guidance (DfE statutory guidance), however this does not fundamentally change current practice.)
10.1 Insurance Cover	31	<p>Additional wording added: As from 1st April 2020 instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the Secretary of State’s risk protection arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA. Schools may do this individually when any insurance contract they are part of expires.</p> <p>It is also possible for all primary and/or secondary maintained schools to join the RPA collectively by agreeing through the Schools Forum to de-delegate funding.</p>	As directed in the Scheme for Financing Guidance (DfE statutory guidance)

Agenda Item No 9

Report to: **Schools Forum**

Date: **20th November 2020**

Title of Report: **Schools' Insurance**

By: **Rawdon Phillips: Orbis Insurance Manager (Fund and Policy)**

Purpose of Report: **To inform schools of insurance cover options.**

Recommendations:

- **School Forum members are asked to:**
 - **agree that de-delegation for insurance is not pursued at this time; and**
 - **note that it is recommended that schools do not opt to join the RPA scheme but retain existing insurance arrangements via the ESCC insurance scheme for 2021/22.**
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1. Introduction – The RPA and de-delegation.

1.1 The DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) is an alternative insurance scheme for schools. The scheme was originally introduced exclusively for academy schools, but this has been extended and is now being offered to all Local Authority maintained schools.

1.2 Schools are now able to agree to request entry to the RPA to be treated as a de-delegated item, and a decision to join the RPA scheme could be made for all schools collectively via Schools Forum. However, it is our recommendation that de-delegation is not pursued at this time due to the range of issues highlighted in this report as well as the recommendation to remain in the corporate insurance arrangements. It is also proposed to add this to the list of de-delegation items to be discussed next September, for 2022/23.

2. The RPA scheme or ESCC Insurance scheme– relevant issues

2.1 Schools Forum can now choose to de-delegate insurance, and while some schools could benefit in the short term from moving across to RPA, we do not believe a wholesale move to RPA would be beneficial for all maintained schools at this stage. Taking into account the following considerations, it is recommended that schools do not de-delegate insurance for 2021/22 and also recommended that individual schools stay with the existing LA insurance arrangements.

2.2 The RPA is not comprehensive and would require further insurance in many cases. For example, it does not include Motor insurance (school minibuses etc) or Engineering insurance and Inspection (relating to boilers, lifts, lifting equipment etc). (The insurances that are included in the RPA are otherwise broadly comparable to the insurances provided via the existing ESCC Corporate insurance scheme.)

2.3 The RPA is charged on a simple 'per pupil' rate, which can vary from year to year. The rate for 2021/ 22 is £18pp for all schools, but it has been as high as £24pp. The DfE has said that it will review the RPA per pupil rate on a regular basis, initially every 2 years. They have made no guarantee to maintain the existing rate beyond the initial 2 years, which expires in April 2022.

2.4 Claims / advice service: Any schools that opt for the RPA will no longer benefit from the full local advice / claims service provided by the council's specialist, expert Insurance team, who have a wealth of expertise, experience and local knowledge. The advice / claims service associated with the RPA is remote and provided via a national call Centre.

2.5 Capacity: The RPA currently holds approx. 7% of the total national schools' market. It is questionable if the RPA and its service contractors could scale up the service to meet the increased demand if a large number of schools joined the scheme.

2.6 Risk Management: The RPA have confirmed that any risk improvement requirements will be advisory only, and not supported by potential financial sanctions for non-compliance. In the difficult financial landscape, this means that nationally some schools may opt not to complete risk improvements. This will increase risk for schools, increase claim incidents and ultimately put an upward pressure on the per pupil rate for all schools.

2.7 Covid: The Covid 19 pandemic will have long term implications, both for the commercial insurance market and for Government finances. There is currently no indication that the DfE will withdraw the RPA at any time in the future, but clearly Government finances will be reassessed to meet new priorities.

2.8 Competition and Best Value: The RPA is not subject to any competitive tendering requirements and therefore there is no guarantee that schools who opt in will be receiving the best value for money for the insurance coverage, particularly in the long term.

3. Other considerations

3.1 Where possible, the council will attempt to remain competitive with RPA in terms of insurance premium charged / per pupil rate, so that ESCC schools can continue to benefit from the comprehensive, local expert insurance service at a reasonable cost. At the Insurance tender in 2020, ESCC achieved substantial premium savings which have been passed onto schools for 2020/21. This equated to a 16% saving for schools from the previous year.

3.2 ESCC has recently entered a 5-year, Long Term Agreement with new insurers which will provide long term stability in terms of both premium levels and available cover.

3.3 Safer schools: ESCC will shortly launch the 'Safer schools' app. This app relates to digital / cyber / online safety and security. Details of the app will be distributed to schools separately. Feedback from safeguarding professionals indicate that the app is an extremely useful tool. Schools have the choice to opt for the app if they wish. The app is free, and is an exclusive offer to Zurich Municipal customers, not available to those who opt for the RPA.

3.4 Flexibility: The RPA have not provided details of how schools can opt back out of the RPA. However, it is not the intention that schools will be able to opt in and out of the RPA on an annual basis and therefore once a school has opted for the RPA there is a DfE expectation that it will remain within the scheme.

4. Recommendations

4.1 While the simplicity and potential financial benefits of the RPA are attractive, these cannot be guaranteed in the medium to long term. There are also significant uncertainty over the RPA's sustainability and the DfE's long term commitment to the RPA in a post Covid world, and there are concerns over the RPA's ability to service the potential increase in volume of claims / advice requests should there be an increase in Local Authority maintained schools.

4.2 The claims / advice service offered by the RPA will not be as comprehensive as the existing service provided by the ESCC Insurance team. Separate insurances for Motor and Engineering would also still be required if schools join the RPA scheme. ESCC will also endeavor to remain competitive with the RPA in terms of premium charge / per pupil rate in future, and in light of this it is **recommended that Schools Forum:**

- **agree that de-delegation for insurance is not pursued at this time; and**
- **note that it is recommended that ESCC schools remain within the existing ESCC Corporate insurance arrangements and do not opt to join the RPA scheme.**