

Agenda Item 7

East Sussex
County Council



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 29 September 2017

Title of Report: ESCC School funding formula 2018/19 update

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of Report: To update Schools Forum on the outcome of the ESCC funding formula consultation for 2018/19.

Recommendation: Schools Forum are asked to note the outcome of the funding formula consultation for 2018/19.

1 Background

- 1.1 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 consider the merits of any potential changes to the funding formula for financial year 2018/19.
- 1.2 The working group proposals were taken to the July 2017 Schools Forum after which the Local Authority issued a consultation with all Schools and Academies in respect of the below proposals for the Primary and Secondary phase.

Primary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £4,000 (£142,000 to £138,000), reduce the FSM 'pot' by £100,000, increase the Prior Attainment 'Pot' by £100,000, allocate £100,000 to an EALs 'pot' and the remaining £508,000 to the Per Pupil 'Pot'.

Or

No change made to the current funding factors,

Secondary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £7,000 (£145,000 to £138,000) and transfer the funds 50% to the Prior Attainment 'Pot' and 50% to the Per Pupil 'Pot'.

Or

No change to the current funding factors.

2 Outcome of Consultation

- 2.1 The consultation questions were sent to the 181 maintained schools and academies (Including all through schools) on 21st July and the consultation closed on 19th September.
- 2.2 Out of the 181 schools that were sent the consultation documents, 29 replied (16%).
- 2.3 A summary of the results from the schools (separated into phases) is shown below:

Primary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	13
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	12

Secondary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	4
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	0

- 2.4 Forum are asked to note that for the Primary Phase, of those that responded, the outcome was marginally in favour of implementing the proposal 2018/19.
- 2.5 Forum are asked to note that for the Secondary Phase, of those that responded, the outcome of the consultation was unanimously in favour of the proposal being implemented.
- 2.6 Given the above outcomes of the consultation and the recent NFF guidance from the DfE surrounding the lump sum value being £110,000 in the future, the proposals outlined in the consultation for both the Primary and Secondary phase will be put forward to Lead Member for approval.

3 Decision

- 3.1 The CSD Senior Management Team will be informed of the outcome of the consultation at their scheduled meeting in 10 October 2017.
- 3.2 A report recommending the changes to the 2017/18 formula as proposed will go to Lead member for Education and Inclusion Special Educational Needs and Disability in 20 November 2017 for final approval.

4 Future

- 4.1 The Local Authority wishes to continue with the funding formula working group for the final time before the NFF is fully introduced and will convene this in the next financial year.