

Agenda Item 6

East Sussex
County Council



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 24 November 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 is recommended to note the outcome of the funding formula consultation for 2018/19.

1 Background

- 1.1 On 14th September the DfE issued their National Funding Formula (NFF) tables which provided important information on the funding factors, their values and the Lump Sum figure that would be used in the NFF with effect from 2020/21.
- 1.2 There was also further confirmation that the East Sussex 2018/19 Schools Block would have an estimated 2.5% increase on the 2017/18 baseline figure and that there was increased flexibility for local authorities to protect schools via the Minimum Funding Guarantee and to increase the Capping percentage, to allow as much money as possible to be passed out to schools.
- 1.3 The confirmation of additional funding for East Sussex schools and also of the rates that will be applied to the various funding factors in the NFF provided new context for the most effective way to support schools in the expected 2 year NFF transition period.
- 1.4 At the Forum meeting on 29th September both the Local Authority and Schools Forum felt it was appropriate to reconsider the East Sussex local funding formula for 2018/19 to ensure that all opportunities were explored and none were missed as we transition to the NFF. Therefore, the Funding Formula Working Group (FFWG) was reconvened and met several times in October to discuss and review the potential implications of this new information.
- 1.5 Final decisions were made by the FFWG regarding their recommendation to Forum and these proposals were then brought to the extraordinary forum meeting on 31st October. After discussion, forum recommended that the proposals were issued to all schools and academies for consultation.

1.6 The proposals are shown below:

1) Primary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £20,000, increase the EAL pot by £300,000, increase Prior Attainment 'pot' by £600,000, reduce FSM by £100,000 and increase the per pupil 'pot' by £2,240,000.

or

No change made to the current funding factors,

2) Secondary Phase Proposal:

Decrease the lump sum by £28,000, increase the EAL 'pot' by £169,000, increase Prior Attainment 'pot' by £992,500, decrease the Per Pupil 'Pot' by £349,500 and reduce the KS4 per pupil rate and increase KS3 per pupil rate to match NFF KS3 and KS4 rates.

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 6th November and the consultation closed on 17th November.
- 2.2 Out of the 181 schools that were sent the consultation documents, 34 replied (19%).
- 2.3 A summary of the results from the schools (separated into phases) is shown below:

Primary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	24
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	6

Secondary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	10
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	1

- 2.4 Forum are asked to note that for the Primary Phase, the overall outcome from respondents was a majority (80%) 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 a majority (91%) in favour of the proposal being implemented.
- 2.6 Given the above outcomes of the consultation, 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 on 5 December 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 on 11 December 2017 for final approval.

4 Future

- 4.1 The Local Authority wishes to continue with the funding formula working group until the NFF is fully introduced, and will therefore convene this in the next financial year.