

Report to: Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date of meeting: 11 December 2017

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Approval of the East Sussex County Council School Funding Formula for 2018/19

Purpose: To provide an update on the recent East Sussex County Council Funding Formula consultation that took place with schools and academies; and to recommend the Lead Member approve the proposals for 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATION

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the proposals in relation to the East Sussex County Council School Funding Formula for 2018/19:

1) Primary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £20,000, increase the English as Additional Language (EAL) 'pot' by £300,000, increase Prior Attainment 'pot' by £600,000, reduce Free School Meals (FSM) by £100,000 and increase the per pupil 'pot' by £2,240,000.

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 Key Stage 4 (KS4) per pupil rate and increase Key Stage 3 (KS3) per pupil rate to match NFF KS3 and KS4 rates.

1 Background

1.1 On 14 September the Department for Education (DfE) issued its National Funding Formula (NFF) tables – which provided important information on the funding factors – its 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.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the Schools Forum meeting on 29 September the 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.

2.2 Final decisions were made by the FFWG regarding their recommendation to Schools Forum and these proposals were then brought to the extraordinary Schools Forum meeting on 31 October. After discussion, the Schools Forum recommended that the proposals were issued to all schools and academies for consultation. These recommendations are based upon the agreed principle of working incrementally towards the NFF. This approach is deemed the most appropriate as it will support schools with their transition to the new formula.

2.3 The proposals issued to all schools and academies for consultation were:

Primary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £20,000, increase the English as Additional Language (EAL) 'pot' by £300,000, increase Prior Attainment 'pot' by £600,000, reduce Free School Meals (FSM) by £100,000 and increase the per pupil 'pot' by £2,240,000.

or

No change made to the current funding factors.

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 Key Stage 4 (KS4) per pupil rate and increase Key Stage 3 (KS3) per pupil rate to match NFF KS3 and KS4 rates.

or

No change to the current funding factors.

2.4 The consultation questions were sent to the 181 maintained schools and academies (Including all through schools) on 6 November and the consultation closed on 17 November.

2.5 Out of the 181 schools that were sent the consultation documents, 41 replied (23%). Of which, 19% in the Primary phase responded, whilst 42% in the Secondary phase responded. The composition of this can be seen below.

2.6 A summary of the results from the schools (separated into phases) is shown below and shows that the majority of respondents agreed with the proposed changes to the Funding Formula:

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

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 For the reasons set out in paragraph 2.2 and the outcomes of the consultation set out in paragraph 2.6, the Lead Member for Education and ISEND is recommended to approve the following proposals in relation to the Schools Funding Formula 2018/19:

1) Primary Phase Proposal:

Reduce the lump sum by £20,000, increase the English as Additional Language (EAL) 'pot' by £300,000, increase Prior Attainment 'pot' by £600,000, reduce Free School Meals (FSM) by £100,000 and increase the per pupil 'pot' by £2,240,000.

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 Key Stage 4 (KS4) per pupil rate and increase Key Stage 3 (KS3) per pupil rate to match NFF KS3 and KS4 rates.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None