

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

Date of meeting: 24 January 2019

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Update on the ESCC School Funding Formula for 2019/20

Purpose: To provide an update on the ESCC Funding Formula consultation that took place with schools and academies and the recommendation to Lead Member to approve the proposals for 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION

The Lead member is recommended to approve the proposals in relation to the ESCC School Funding Formula for 2019/20

1) Primary Phase Proposal:

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 100.5% and Capping at 1.5%, decrease the lump sum by £2,000 to £120,000, reduce the Free School Meals (FSM) rate to the NFF rate, introduce Free School Meals Ever6 (FSM6) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factors at the proposed NFF rates, introduce a minimum per pupil amount, amend the Sparsity calculation to align to the NFF.

2) Secondary Phase Proposal:

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 100.5% and Capping at 1.5%, decrease the lump sum by £7,000 to the NFF level of £110,000, reduce the Free School Meal (FSM) rate to the NFF rate, introduce Free School Meal Ever6 (FSM6) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factors to the NFF rates, introduce a minimum per pupil amount, amend the Sparsity calculation to align to the NFF

1. Background

1.1 Since May 2018, the Funding Formula Working Group have been reviewing the ESCC Funding Formula in preparation for 2019/20. Following the principles that had been set out of working towards the National Funding Formula (NFF) rates, whilst at the same time avoiding any undue turbulence to schools and academies, a number of proposals were reviewed.

1.2 After reviewing over 20 different scenarios, conclusions were drawn on what was felt to be the most appropriate proposal that would offer maximum support and benefit to the children in East Sussex Schools / Academies with a formula that was as fair as possible to as many as possible whilst causing the minimum amount of turbulence.

1.3 This proposal was subsequently brought to the September 2018 Schools Forum for discussion, after which, the proposal (shown below) was issued as a consultation to all schools and academies.

Primary Phase Proposal:

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 100.5% and Capping at 1.5%, decrease the lump sum by £2,000 to £120,000, reduce the Free School Meals (FSM) rate to the NFF rate, introduce Free School Meals Ever6 (FSM6) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factors at the proposed NFF rates, introduce a minimum per pupil amount, amend the Sparsity calculation to align to the NFF

Or

No change to the current funding factors

Secondary Phase Proposal:

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 100.5% and Capping at 1.5%, decrease the lump sum by £7,000 to the NFF level of £110,000, reduce the Free School Meal (FSM) rate to the NFF rate, introduce Free School Meal Ever6 (FSM6) and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factors to the NFF rates, introduce a minimum per pupil amount, amend the Sparsity calculation to align to the NFF

Or

No change to the current funding factors

2 Supporting information

2.1 The consultation documents were sent to all schools and academies (178), with the consultation beginning on 8th October and running until 9th November.

2.2 Out of the 178 schools that were sent the consultation documents, 67 replied (38%). This compared to a 19% response rate for last year's consultation.

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

Primary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	51
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	1

*Please note that we also had one response that was 'unsure'.

Secondary Phase:

Number of establishments that said 'Agree'	14
Number of establishments that said 'No Change'	0

2.4 The outcome of the consultation was brought to the November 2018 Schools Forum. Forum members were asked to approve the proposed changes. 15 members voted in favour and there was 1 abstention.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 Given the outcomes of the consultation, the Lead member is recommended to approve the proposals that have been put forward in relation to the ESCC schools funding

formula for 2019/20.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Ed Beale, Schools Funding Manager

Telephone Nnumber. 01273 337984

Email: edward.beale@eastsussex.gov.uk