

Agenda Item 4

East Sussex
County Council



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 17th May 2019

Title of Report: Funding Formula Working Group (FFWG) Update

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of Report: To provide an update on the Funding Formula Working Group

Recommendation: Schools Forum are asked to note the information in relation to the 2020/21 ESCC Funding Formula.

Working Group Members

School Forum Representatives: James Freeston, Jane Johnson, Hugh Hennebry, Phil Matthews, Monica Whitehead

LA Officers: Sarah Rice, Ed Beale, Kirsten Coe

1 Background

- 1.1 Apart from the 2017/18 formula, which was unchanged due to the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation process, East Sussex has worked each year with schools and Schools Forum to agree a local formula that has apportioned the funding as appropriately and effectively as possible for the schools and academies in East Sussex.
- 1.2 Local Authorities will be determining the Funding Formula locally for 2020/21. Therefore, the Funding Formula Working Group (FFWG) will be reconvening to review accordingly.
- 1.3 The FFWG is comprised of School representatives (Primary and Secondary Phase) and Local Authority officers, as indicated above.
- 1.4 For the 2019/20 funding formula, a thorough review of all the funding factors took place. After consultation, the outcome of this was that a number of changes were implemented:
 - The lump sum – The Primary phase saw a small stepped change of £2,000 which reduced the lump sum to £120,000 (This is still £10,000 higher than under the NFF). The Secondary Lump sum was reduced by £7,000 to £110,000 and is now aligned to the rate under the NFF.
 - Deprivation - This saw the introduction of IDACI and FSMEver6 and the realignment of the existing FSM rate which has resulted in the rates for all of these deprivation factors being aligned to the NFF rate.
 - Sparsity – The formula for calculating the Sparsity funding for schools was changed and now reflects how the calculation is determined under the NFF.
 - Minimum amount per Pupil – This was a new factor that was introduced for 2019/20 and ensures that all schools / academies receive a minimum amount of funding per pupil. Currently this is £3,435 for the Primary Phase and £4,711 for the Secondary Phase.

2 Forward Plan

- 2.1 The first FFWG meeting will be taking place on Friday 17th May at which the aims and objectives of the group will be discussed and the principles confirmed. Further meetings will be taking place over the next two months.
- 2.2 By implementing the funding changes mentioned above in paragraph 1.4, the vast majority of funding factors are now aligned to what they would be under a NFF. However, there are some that, as yet, are not quite aligned to what they would be under the NFF.
- 2.3 Therefore, potential funding factors to review for the 2020/21 Funding Formula are the lump sum for the primary phase and the minimum amount per pupil.
- 2.4 Proposals for the 2020/21 Funding Formula will be brought to the July Schools Forum with the final proposal being brought to the September Schools Forum.
- 2.5 As and when FFWG meetings occur, information about the meetings will be communicated, like previous years, to ensure schools / academies are kept informed. This will be via the Virtual School Bag (VSB) and emails. The minutes from FFWG meetings will be circulated to School Forum members and would actively encourage colleagues to read these.
- 2.6 For 2021/22, the expectation is that the NFF will be fully implemented. However, as yet, we have not received confirmation of this, and await this and further details. We will keep Schools Forum, and the wider school community informed as and when we receive information.
- 2.7 Details of the planned timeline for reviewing the Funding Formula is shown on Appendix A.