

**Meeting:** Funding Formula Working Group

**Date:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Time:** 14.00 - 16.00

**Venue:** Remote Meeting

**Attendees:** James Freeston, Hugh Hennebry, Jane Johnson, Monica Whitehead, Ed Beale and Kirsten Coe

### **1.0 Aim of the Funding Formula Working Group (FFWG)**

To continue to work towards the National Funding Formula (NFF).

To continue to have minimum turbulence for schools and offer maximum support and benefit to the children in East Sussex schools.

To continue to make it as fair as possible to as many schools and academies as possible.

### **2.0 Process**

Information was circulated prior to this meeting clarifying what factors are currently in the ESCC Funding Formula compared to a National Funding Formula (NFF). Like previous years, for modelling purposes, the funds available would be the current year's 'pot' excluding any one-off funding transferred into the Schools block.

Because confirmation from the DfE was already given that the Minimum Per Pupil levels for the Primary Phase will increase in 2021/22 from £3,750 to £4,000 per pupil, this has also been **included**.

Four options were identified for initial review;

1. No changes to the formula.
2. Reduce the lump sum (Primary Phase) by £600 to reach the current NFF rate of £114,400.
3. Reduce the lump sum (Primary Phase) by £600 and introduce the mobility factor.
4. Introduce the mobility factor.

### **3.0 Observations and Proposals**

The group discussed the lump sum for smaller schools and though the reduction in the Primary phase was “only” £600, it was acknowledged that for some, this was still a material amount. However, it was also acknowledged that £600 per primary school equates to just £89k out of a total available ‘pot’ of £290m+ which is perhaps not too significant an amount that is being used to support the slightly higher lump sum.

Introducing a mobility factor would help move the ESCC Funding Formula further towards the NFF. Introducing this factor would not have a detrimental financial impact on schools / academies, but there would be some who would see an increase in their funding. This funding would give some funding support to those with high mobility numbers who would need this funding to give the extra support potentially required for these pupils.

It was also identified that some “small” schools would see a gain from the mobility factor which could offset the lump sum reduction.

Because the group’s principles, over a number of years now, has been to transition towards the NFF, both option 3 (Reduce the lump sum and introduce the mobility factor) and option 4 (Introduce the mobility factor) are currently being considered.

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

The group is to reconvene early September. This is to allow time to review any funding guidance that may have been issued by the DfE prior to then. It will be at this meeting that the option being proposed will be confirmed.