

Schools Forum 24 February 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Recommendations following proposed changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Mainstream Schools 2009/10

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Schools Forum a summary report of the responses received to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools 2009/10.
2. For Schools Forum to endorse the Interim Director of Children's Services intention to accept the recommendations contained in the summary report.

Budget Working Group Discussed

3. Yes - 23 February 2009.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To endorse the Interim Director of Children's Services intention to accept the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 7f&g, 8f&g, 9g&h, 10f&g, 11d&e of the summary report attached at Appendix A.

Attachments to Report

5. Appendix A. – Summary report of the responses and recommendations to the consultation.

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Background

3. The draft consultation document outlining proposed changes to the resource allocation formula for schools was presented to October 2008 Schools Forum meeting. The document was subsequently issued formally following that meeting and the consultation period ended on 9 January 2009.
4. The proposals contained in the consultation document will, if implemented, have an impact on the resource allocation formula for schools from 2009/10 and therefore Schools Forum has a statutory function in this regard and must be consulted by the Council in respect of any such changes.
5. A summary of the responses received and recommendations made to the Interim Director of Children's Services is attached at Appendix A.
6. On the basis of the responses received and the recommendations presented in the summary report attached at Appendix A, the Interim Director of Children's Services is proposing acceptance. Schools Forum is requested to endorse this proposal.

Finance

7. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.

8. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
9. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

10. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

11. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

12. In line with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7f&g, 8f&g, 9g&h, 10f&g, 11d&e of the summary report attached at Appendix A, Schools Forum is requested to endorse the Interim Director of Children's Services intention to implement changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for schools from 2009/10.



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