

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

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For Information

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Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report provides Forum members with updated indicative modelling of Primary and Secondary delegated budgets for 2018/19, using the pupil numbers taken from the October 2017 Census. This is tabled for information at this stage, prior to asking members to make final recommendations in the meeting to be held on 10 January 2018.

Date(s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The consultation on Primary and Secondary formula funding arrangements for 2018/19 was discussed at the last Forum meeting.

Background / Context

At the meeting held on 18 October 2017, members discussed and approved the consultation document, which outlined the proposals for the formulae to be used to calculate delegated formula funding allocations for Primary and Secondary schools and academies in 2018/19. This consultation document incorporated modelling:

- Using October 2016 pupil numbers, adjusted in some schools for a) the cessation of the reception uplift in the primary sector under NFF, b) the transfer of resourced provision pupil back into main formula funding and c) additional growth for newly establishing schools.
- Using October 2016 data i.e. the data (such as FSM, EAL, IDACI) that was used to calculate 2017/18 financial year allocations.
- On a 0% Minimum Funding Guarantee.
- On a + 3% Ceiling.
- Assuming that the National Funding Formula is used rather than our previous local formula and that the NFF can be afforded in full.
- That the DfE's per pupil minimum floors can also be afforded in full at £3,500 (primary), £4,800 (secondary) or £4,042 (all through).
- Assuming that our 'disapplication' requests will be accepted by the Secretary of State.

Details of the Item for Consideration

The modelling, shown in Appendices 1a, 1b and 1c provides members with an updated view of Primary and Secondary school and academy indicative (estimated) formula funding allocation totals in 2018/19 now using pupil numbers taken from the October 2017 Census.

The modelling is based on the same assumptions as those used to construct the modelling, which accompanied the consultation document. These assumptions are listed above. The only difference is the use of October 2017 Census numbers.

For clarity, these indicative allocations for individual schools and academies have not yet been updated for other data changes (e.g. Ever 6 FSM %, IDACI, EAL, etc.) as the October 2017 Census Dataset will not be made available by the EFA until later in December. Please also note that not all Census information for academies has been released. Therefore, a number of academy allocations are still based on estimated numbers.

Please note that the allocations exclude early years, high needs and post 16 funding i.e. these just show Reception – Year 11 primary and secondary mainstream formula funding.

Details of the Item for Consideration

The main factors that will influence variances for individual schools and academies, not yet built into the modelling (mainly because the data is not yet available), are:

- Final decisions on the 6 areas for consideration set out in the consultation document e.g. whether we move to NFF at April 2018.
- Changes in individual setting data, such as Ever 6 FSM, EAL, SEN attainment, as recorded in the October 2017 Census.
- The application of the weighting to be prescribed by the DfE for the secondary phase prior attainment factor for year 7.
- Decisions about the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee and use of Schools Block Headroom.
- Pupil Premium allocations, which will be based on January 2018 Census pupil numbers.
- Growth Funding allocations, which will be based on final October 2017 census numbers and the final base £app values within our 2018/19 mainstream funding formula.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

This is an item for information. The implications for the DSG are set out in separate reports to this meeting (Document IB).

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to note the Primary and Secondary modelling information. A further update will be provided on 10 January, when Forum Members will be asked to make final recommendations on the values of funding allocated via each formula factor.

Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has been provided to enable final recommendations to be taken on 10 January 2018 on the matters presented in this report.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

- Appendix 1a - Indicative Variances Analysis 2018/19 - Individual Primary School / Academy Modelling
- Appendix 1b - Indicative Variances Analysis 2018/19 - Individual Secondary School / Academy Modelling
- Appendix 1c – Indicative Variances Analysis 2018/19 – Individual All Through Schools Modelling

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