

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information

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

This report asks Members to consider the outcomes of the consultation on 2021/22 Schools Block formula funding and centrally managed funds.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The consultation document and modelling was presented to the Schools Forum meeting 14 October 2020.

Background / Context

The consultation document outlined the Authority's proposals against the 5 key decisions that are required to set Bradford's 2021/22 mainstream primary and secondary funding formula arrangements. These decisions are:

- Decision 1 - Whether we transfer budget from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22.
- Decision 2 – Whether we continue to mirror the DfE's 2021/22 National Funding Formula (NFF).
- Decision 3 – Whether we continue unchanged our existing local approaches to the factors not yet covered by the NFF.
- Decision 4 – The value of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) we provide.
- Decision 5 – Whether we retain, with their existing criteria and methodologies, the funds currently managed centrally within the Schools Block.

The consultation document also set out the proposals for the continuation of de-delegated and other centrally managed funds. These funds are discussed in more detail in Document MN but any responses are provided here.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the Authority's Schools Block proposals for reference.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Consultation & Responses

The consultation ran between 14 October and 2 December. In support of the publication of the consultation document, School Funding Team attended BPIP, the RC Partnership, the Primary & Secondary Business Manager Forums and the Secondary CEOs group. A briefing note was also circulated to the governor forums via Governor Services.

Forum Members are encouraged to present to the meeting their feedback from their discussions with colleagues.

The number of formal responses received to the Schools Block consultation is low. We received only two formal responses, one from a maintained primary school, which agreed with all proposals, and one from a maintained secondary school, which, although agreeing with the proposals, commented on the value for money of de-delegated trade union facilities time in respect of their school and re-organisation costs.

This low response rate is reflective of the COVID-19 situation as well as the set of proposals being relatively simple, relating to values of increases rather than structural changes. Previously, even in 'normal times', consultation response rates have been low when the proposals have been relatively straightforward.

Forum Members are asked to consider whether any of the proposals should be amended in the light of feedback and / or whether further information is required in order for the Schools Forum to make its recommendations, on 13 January 2020, on the primary & secondary mainstream formula for 2021/22.

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

As set out in Document MI (DSG update).

Recommendations

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the outcomes of the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the primary and secondary funding formulae for 2021/22 should be changed in the light of responses.
- (2) Members are asked to note that they will be asked to make final recommendations on the Schools Block formulae, and the criteria for the allocation of Schools Block funds, on 13 January 2021. As such, Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has now been provided to enable these recommendations to be made.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – Primary and Secondary 2021/22 Formula Arrangements Consultation – Summary

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