

## 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 Forum members to consider the feedback received to the consultation on our 2022/23 Schools Block formula funding arrangements and Schools Block centrally managed funds.**

**Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum**

The consultation document and modelling was presented to the Schools Forum meeting 13 October 2021.

**Background / Context**

The consultation document outlined the Authority's proposals against the 7 key decisions that are required to set Bradford's 2022/23 financial year mainstream primary and secondary funding formula arrangements. These 7 decisions are:

1. Whether we transfer budget from Schools Block to the High Needs Block and, if we do, the value of this transfer.
2. Whether we continue to exactly mirror the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF).
3. Whether we apply the 'Reception Uplift' factor for the primary phase, on a one off exceptional basis for 2022/23 only.
4. Whether we continue our existing local approaches to the factors still not covered by the NFF.
5. The value (% level) of the Minimum Funding Guarantee, which can be set between positive 0.5% and positive 2.0%.
6. How we would amend our mainstream primary and secondary funding formula, if necessary for affordability reasons, should the total cost of our formula substantially increase (and be unaffordable) when the October 2021 Census dataset is used.
7. Whether we retain, with their existing criteria and methodologies, the funds currently managed centrally within the Schools Block.

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

The consultation document also set out proposals for the continuation of de-delegated and other centrally managed funds (e.g. Growth Fund). These funds are discussed in more detail in Document NX. However, responses to the consultation are presented here.

**Details of the Item for Consideration****Consultation & Responses**

The consultation ran between 13 October and 30 November. In support of the publication of the consultation document on Bradford Schools Online, School Funding Team attended the autumn term Governor Forum, the Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership (BPIP) and the Primary & Secondary Business Manager Forums.

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

We only received one formal response via the questionnaire, from a maintained primary school, which agreed with all proposals, but, whilst encouraging the £0.917m primary-phase £GUF balance to be spent, indicated some reservations about using the Reception Uplift factor.

**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 12 January 2021, on the primary & secondary mainstream formula for 2022/23.**

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

As set out in Document NU (DSG update).

**Recommendations**

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2022/23 primary and secondary mainstream funding formulae, or Schools Block centrally funds and criteria, should be changed in the light of these 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 central funds, on 12 January. 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 2022/23 Formula Arrangements Consultation – Summary

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