

FAIR FUNDING CONSULTATION OUTCOMES 2017-18
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM ISSUES, DECISIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2016

As the statutory consultation body for schools funding issues and local schools formula development, the Worcestershire Schools Forum met to receive and discuss the national Fair Funding Policy Direction and Consultation Issues as follows:

- On 8 September 2015 for the outcomes of the Department for Education (DfE) policy direction and for consideration of potential local consultation issues for 2017-18; and
- On 19 October for the outcomes of the local consultation issues launched on 12 September 2016.

The main areas discussed are detailed in the following sections.

SEPTEMBER 2016 DRAFT CONSULTATION ISSUES CONSIDERED AT THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered and debated the draft consultation document and questionnaire as required.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum approved the draft consultation and questionnaire including no change **i.e. stability for the Local Schools Funding Formula for 2017-18** and for its circulation to all schools.

In doing this the Worcestershire Schools Forum noted even with a no change option individual school budget allocations will differ between 2016-17 and 2017-18 due to:

- The Minimum Funding Guarantee baseline having to roll forward with its start point being the 2016-17 budget.
- Data not yet available from the October 2016 census and other 2016 DfE data sets, including prior years, which has to be used for the 2017-18 allocations.
- In particular the Education Funding Agency have alerted Local Authorities to two data issues that will impact but will be mitigated by the statutory Minimum Funding Guarantee: -
 - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index – these will be reconfigured due to the effect of the revised 2015 data sets.
 - Low Prior Attainment Key Stage 2 assessment for secondary aged pupils – these will be weighted to reflect the more challenging national curriculum.
- The revised Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping calculation for 2017-18 having to be based upon this revised data.
- The final Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant quantum for 2017-18 which will not be notified by the DfE until late December 2016.
- The removal of the additional one-off funding allocated in 2015-16 and 2016-17 from central Dedicated Schools Grant reserves excluded from the Minimum Funding Guarantee calculation following approval from the DfE.

SEPTEMBER 2016 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES CONSIDERED AT THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM ON 19 OCTOBER 2015

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered the issues for:

- Stability in the local schools funding formula in 2017-18.
- The consultation outcomes for each of the 3 consultation questions.
- Summaries of the key consultation issues raised by schools
- The recommended actions as detailed in this report paragraphs 35 to 45 and accompanying Appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Overall, the Worcestershire Schools Forum was disappointed by the extremely low level of responses (8%), particularly in the primary sector and noted the variations between the sectors. However, the Worcestershire Schools Forum concluded this was a consequence of the continued policy for stability in 2017-18 and that the National Fair Funding Formula having been delayed until 2018-19.

IN TERMS OF THE DETAILED CONSULTATION ISSUES THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: -

Local Schools Funding Formula 2017-18

The Worcestershire Schools Forum re-iterated their support for stability and noted it had been supported by the majority of schools responding. The Worcestershire Schools Forum noted and discussed all the summaries of all the main issues made by schools.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum unanimously resolved to approve formula stability for the Local Schools Funding Formula in 2017-18 and for no formula change from 2016-17 again noting the potential impact of this on individual school allocations discussed at its 8 September meeting.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum were supportive of the continuation of the existing formula factors and units of resource for 2017-18 and unanimously resolved to approve the model, using the DfE required data sets and formula factors as detailed in paragraph 37 of this report.

In doing this the Worcestershire Schools Forum noted:

The **estimated** Local Schools Funding Formula units of resource and **estimated** capping % may need to be adjusted in January 2017, as required, to take account of:

- October 2016 census data impact and requirements including use of estimated data for changes in school age ranges if required.
- Other DfE prescribed 2016 data changes including those from prior years.
- The final Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant for 2017-18.
- Statutory requirements relating to the Minimum Funding Guarantee and/or the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- The removal of the additional one-off funding allocated in 2015-16 and 2016-17 from central Dedicated Schools Grant reserves.

As in previous years the formula model for 2017-18 will **not** include factors for:

- Pupil Mobility – not deemed to be a significant issue.
- Looked After Children (LAC) – deemed to be funded via the LAC Pupil Premium.
- Post-16 top up – not permitted as not a pre-2013 formula factor and no longer a LSFF permitted from 2017-18.
- Higher Teacher Costs – only applies to London fringe Local Authorities.

Consultation Question 1 – Delegation and De-delegation of Centrally Retained Dedicated Schools Grant Services for Maintained Schools

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered its statutory responsibilities in making decisions on the delegation or de-delegation of services currently centrally retained in the Dedicated Schools Grant.

In line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, the Worcestershire Schools Forum maintained school members by phase considered these areas. By phase these Worcestershire Schools Forum members unanimously resolved to approve to either delegate or de-delegate these areas as detailed in this report paragraphs 39 to 41 together with the method of delegation or de-delegation proposed.

Consultation Question 2 - Central retention of some Schools Block funding to cover the statutory duties for maintained schools carried out by the Local Authority which were previously funded through the general duties Education Services Grant

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered its statutory responsibilities in making decisions on the delegation or de-delegation of services currently centrally retained in the Dedicated Schools Grant.

In line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, the Worcestershire Schools Forum maintained school members by phase resolved to approve to allow central retention of some Schools Block funding to cover the statutory duties for maintained schools carried out by the Local Authority which were previously funded through the general duties Education Services Grant as required, with any amounts to be determined following the confirmation by the DfE of such statutory duties, as detailed in this report paragraph 42.

Consultation Question 3 – Centrally Retained Dedicated Schools Grant Services

The Worcestershire Schools Forum also considered its statutory responsibilities in making decisions on other centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant services.

In line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, the Worcestershire Schools Forum unanimously resolved to approve the continued central retention in 2017-18 of the centrally retained services as detailed either limited to the 2016-17 budget level or as prescribed by the DfE (indicative budgets are shown either limited to previous year levels or **estimated** funding subject to final clarification and change) as detailed in this report paragraph 43 for:

- Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth to meet basic need and to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement i.e. pupil growth fund – £0.70m **estimated**.
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) licences (subject to DfE prescription) – £0.38m **estimated**.
- Contributions to Combined Services – the Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS) service budget – £1.50m.
- Co-ordinated admissions scheme – £0.69m.
- Servicing of the Schools Forum – £0.06m.
- Services previously funded by the retained rate of the Education Services Grant – £1.16m **estimated**.

Overall

In terms of all their deliberations and decisions above, the Worcestershire Schools Forum resolved that these be communicated to the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet as required.