

**FAIR FUNDING CONSULTATION OUTCOMES 2018-19 AND 2019-20**  
**WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM ISSUES, DECISIONS AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2017**

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 7 September 2017 for the overall outcomes of the Department for Education (DfE) policy direction for the National Funding Formula (NFF) and for consideration of potential local consultation issues for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- On 12 October 2017 for the detailed outcomes of the Department for Education (DfE) policy direction for the National Funding Formula (NFF) and for consideration of the detailed consultation issues for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- On 29 November 2017 for the outcomes of the local consultation issues launched on 17 October 2017.

The main areas discussed are detailed in the following sections.

**CONSULTATION ISSUES CONSIDERED AT THE WORCESTERSHIRE**  
**SCHOOLS FORUM ON 12 OCTOBER 2017**

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered and debated the Secretary of State NFF announcements and the WCC draft consultation document and questionnaire as required.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum approved the draft consultation and questionnaire including two options for the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) for 2018-19 and 2019-20, other consultation matters and for its circulation to all schools and other consultees.

In doing this the Worcestershire Schools Forum noted with either LSFF option individual school budget allocations will differ between 2017-18 and 2018-19/2019-20 due to: -

- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) baseline having to roll forward with its start point being the 2017-18 budget.
- Any MFG and capping calculation for 2018-19 and 2018-19 having to be based upon this revised data.
- Data not yet available from the October 2017 and 2018 censuses and other 2017 and 2018 DfE data sets, including prior years, which has to be used for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 allocations.
- Low Prior Attainment Key Stage 2 assessment for secondary aged pupils – further national weightings introduced by the DfE.
- The final Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant quantum for 2018-19 and 2019-20 which will not be notified by the DfE until late December 2017 and 2018.
- The LSFF option that is implemented and in Option 2 the use of the required NFF parameters.

## **CONSULTATION OUTCOMES CONSIDERED AT THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM ON 29 NOVEMBER 2017**

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered the issues for: -

- The 2 options for the LSFF in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The consultation outcomes for each of the 3 other consultation questions.
- Summaries of the key consultation issues raised by schools.
- The recommended actions as detailed in this report paragraphs 32 to 42 and accompanying **Appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5**.

Overall, the Worcestershire Schools Forum was encouraged by the very high level of responses (42%) across all the sectors. The Worcestershire Schools Forum noted how this varied by sector and in particular it was highest in the secondary sector and lowest in the primary sector. The Worcestershire Schools Forum concluded this was a consequence of the options offered for the LSFF for the existing local formula or the move to the NFF parameters.

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

#### **Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) 2018-19 and 2019-20**

The Worcestershire Schools Forum considered the summary of the overall consultation responses as detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report. The Worcestershire Schools Forum further considered and discussed all the summaries of all the main issues made by schools on the LSFF as detailed in **Appendix 3** of this report.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum noted and commented as follows: -

- There were different views within the Worcestershire Schools Forum membership on the 2 options for the LSFF and also within schools and phases responding to the consultation.
- The consultation was on principles of staying with the current local model or moving to the NFF parameters as far as is practicable and affordable in the local formula.
- Concerns that although the DfE NFF illustrations were available the lack of a robust national modelling tool had not helped LAs and WCC in the consultation process.
- Whatever option is chosen for the LSFF there is still not enough resource in the school funding system to support demands and cost pressures.
- Concerns that schools will continue to have significant cost pressures and in particular the continued effect of reductions in Post 16 funding for school sixth forms.
- The potential effect on those schools not well served by the NFF predicted to be at or close to the funding floor of +0.5% per pupil and in particular this impacting more in the primary sector.
- WCC needing to consider the future impact of either option chosen on its current school organisation.
- If either option were implemented then the need for a +0.5% per pupil funding floor was supported for stability purposes and for option 2 there would be a need for a cap as detailed in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 NFF for affordability purposes.

Taking account of the above the Worcestershire Schools Forum concluded on whatever option was agreed and implemented it would not be possible to get consensus within the group and across all schools and phases. However, the Worcestershire Schools Forum respected the consultation outcomes on a high turnout from a significant number of schools across all phases and concluded overall that this gave credence to the most favoured option 2.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum on a majority decision resolved to endorse Option 2 for the LSFF in 2018-19 and 2019-20 and to move as far as is affordable and practicable to the NFF parameters using the DfE required data sets and formula factors as detailed in paragraph 34 of this report, noting the potential impact of this on individual school allocations discussed at its previous meetings.

In doing this the Worcestershire Schools Forum **noted** the requirements of the NFF would be introduced in 2018-19 and 2019-20 as far as affordable and practicable including the effect in both years of: -

- The actual schools block DSG allocated.
- The prescribed sector minimum funding levels per pupil.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of +0.5% per pupil in each year.
- The need for a relevant cap estimated to be 3% per pupil in each year for affordability purposes.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum **further noted** the estimated Local Schools Funding Formula NFF units of resource and estimated capping % may need to be adjusted in January 2018 and January 2019, as required, to take account of:

- October 2017 and 2018 census data impact and requirements including use of estimated data for changes in school age ranges if required.
- Other DfE prescribed 2017 and 2018 data changes including those from prior years.
- The final Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Statutory requirements relating to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)/Capping and the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

As in previous years the formula model for 2018-19 and 2019-20 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 2 – 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 in 2018-19 and 2019-20 as detailed in this report in paragraphs 36 to 38 together with the method of delegation or de-delegation proposed.

### **Consultation Question 3 - 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 **unanimously resolved not to approve** any further de-delegation to allow central retention of some Schools Block funding in 2018-19 and 2019-20 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 as detailed in this report paragraph 39.

### **Consultation Question 4 – 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.

The Worcestershire Schools Forum noted the outcomes of the consultation results which supported continued central retention overall but that some schools had raised issues on transparency and service provision. It was felt there needed to be ongoing dialogue and debate with WCC on the issues raised.

In line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, the Worcestershire Schools Forum **unanimously resolved to approve** the continued central retention in 2018-19 and 2019-20 of the centrally retained services as detailed either limited to the 2017-18 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 40 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 **actual**.
- Co-ordinated admissions scheme – £0.70m **actual**.
- Servicing of the Schools Forum – £0.06m **actual**.

- Services previously funded by the retained rate of the Education Services Grant – £1.16m **actual**.

### **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.