



Haringey Council

The Children and Young People's Service

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 25th March 2014

**Agenda Item
6**

Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report Title: Consultation on Schools Funding in 2015-16.

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Purpose:

To inform members of the recently released consultation 'Fairer Schools Funding in 2015-16' and give an overview of its proposals.

Recommendations:

That members agree one of the options set out in Section 4.

1. Introduction.

- 1.1. The DfE have been considering the introduction of a national school funding formula coupled with a redistribution of school funding in England; this was to address perceived funding anomalies between local authorities and schools in different parts of the country. It was expected that the changes would be introduced in April 2015.

2. Consultation.

- 2.1. The DfE released its consultation document 'Fairer Schools Funding in 2015-16' on 13 March 2014. The proposals it contains are limited, covering only the introduction of a minimum funding level for each local authority. It makes it clear that the proposals do not represent the implementation of a national funding formula but that this will be introduced when the time is right and when spending plans can be set for several years in advance.
- 2.2. The minimum funding level uses a formula with seven factors based on values taken from local authority 2014-15 returns and adjusted by a hybrid area cost adjustment:
 - Age weighted pupil unit,
 - Deprivation factor,
 - Looked after children factor,
 - Low attainment factor,
 - English as an additional language factor,
 - Lump sum per school,
 - Sparsity factor.
- 2.3. The consultation identifies 62 LAs that will require additional funding to bring them to the minimum funding level. The DfE will fund all local authorities in 2015-16 at least at the same cash level per pupil as in 2014-15 and plans to allocate an additional £350m in 2015-16 to fund the minimum level.
- 2.4. The consultation also includes details of the proposed hybrid area cost adjustment to be used.

3. Impact on Haringey Schools.

- 3.1. Haringey's funding was increased for 2013-14 and 2014-15 by the application of the hybrid area cost adjustment in those years. The current proposals do not affect our funding allocation.

4. Response to the Consultation.

- 4.1. The consultation closes on 30 April 2014, before the next Schools Forum. As we have not yet reviewed the proposals in detail we are

asking the Forum's view on how to respond. Options are set out in the following paragraphs.

- 4.2. To convene a special meeting of the Forum to agree a response. Our initial reading of the consultation indicates that it is very limited in scope with no proposed impact on Haringey and therefore this seems unnecessary.
- 4.3. To set up a working party to meet in April to agreed a response by the Council in consultation with the Forum.
- 4.4. To agree a response by the Council in consultation with the Forum via e-mail correspondence with Forum members.