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North Tyneside Council

# Briefing note

**To:** Schools Forum **Author:** Sue Graham, Finance, ENGIE

**Date:** 13 December 2017

**Title of Briefing:** 2018-19 Schools Block Local Consultation Response

## Background

- 1.1 In 2018-19 & 2019-20 the local authority will receive its funding based on the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF). During this transitional period local authorities will continue to set a local formula to distribute funding to individual schools. The NFF is proposed to be implemented in 2020-21.
- 1.2 At the last schools forum meeting in November we considered feedback from a Sub Group of Schools Forum which met in October 2017 to consider how a local formula should be applied.

- 1.3 The Sub Group consists of the following members:

David Baldwin, David Watson, Steve Wilson, Gavin Storey, Andrew James, John Newport, Phillip Sanderson, Steve Baines, Jim Stephenson, Sharron Colpitts-Elliott, Colleen Ward, Peter Gannon, Warwick Stephenson and Peter Thorpe.

- 1.4 The local authority remains responsible for making decisions on the local formula and as in previous years must consult with all schools and its Schools Forum about proposed changes to the local formula. Feedback from Schools Forum was received on proposed questions to be included within the consultation with all schools.

## Action Taken

- 2.1 Following Schools Forum on the 15 November 2017, revisions were made to the consultation document and it was emailed to all schools on 22 November with a request for responses to be returned by 4 December.

2.2 A total of 13 responses were received but some responses covered groups of schools so the total number of schools represented within the consultation was 31. The Sub Group met on the 6 December and considered the consultation responses.

2.3 The responses are summarised in the following table

**Table 1: Summarised Consultation Responses**

Question	Main view expressed	No. of responses in line with this	Other concerns raised
1. Level of stability?	Stability should be maintained to allow schools to plan for NFF	29	Some flexibility for HN, recognise significant deficits and pressures on secondaries,
2. Support movement to HN block up to 0.5%?	Yes if absolutely necessary	30	Concerns about ARP funding
3. How quickly move to NFF factors?	Slowly as possible, some small transition may be appropriate	29	Small proportional change to avoid cliff edge, support and training needed for transition
4. Continue with current NT basic entitlement?	Maintain current rates as long as possible	29	Graduated transition based on affordability
5. Move to single FSM and Ever 6?	Using two factors might reduce lag but be cautious	16	Maintain current approach for stability (6)
6. What should single FSM rate be?	various	28	various
7. Comments re lump sum?	Maintain current lump sum as long as possible	29	Current rates fairly represent real costs, worried about significant negative impact
8. Change any other factor values?	Maintain current rates	29	Concerns re ARP funding, worries about increased focus on deprivation, cap gains to fund MFG at current rates
9. Change MFG limits?	Current values should be maintained	29	Limit gains and no losses >1.5%
10. How to allocate additional 18/19 funds?	Distribute through basic entitlement to all children – equivalent	18	Ensure ARP is supported, should be used to support secondary

	proportions per KS		schools/schools in deficit
11. Introduce min per pupil factor?	Yes in line with basic entitlement in current NT formula/maintain stability	27	Should work towards minimum per pupil funding
12. Any other comments?	Replicate NT formula as far as possible – maintain stability or no further comment	29	Challenge the lump for through schools, need clarity for 3 years, need modelling, review de-delegated amounts concern re LA protecting secondaries and disadvantaging primaries.

Abbreviations used:-

NFF – National Funding Formula

HN – High Needs

ARP – Additionally Resourced Provision

NT – North Tyneside

FSM – Free School Meals

KS – key stage

MFG – Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 2.4 The consensus at the Sub Group meeting was an agreement that the overwhelming message was one of maintaining stability by using existing North Tyneside local factors for as long as possible. Any additional funding should be distributed through basic entitlement proportionate to values for each key stage.
- 2.5 The Local Authority undertook to perform modelling of the indicative 2018/19 allocations on that basis in advance of receiving the final DSG amounts based on the updated October 2017 census.
- 2.6 Concerns were raised about the support required by schools to help them understand the impact of the National Funding Formula in 2020/21 and the changes each school will need to make to ensure a balanced budget.

### **Recommendations for the Forum**

The Forum is asked to note the consultation responses received from schools.