

Schools Forum

6 November 2023

2024-25 Schools Funding Consultation

This report is for decision (ALL)

1. Recommendations:

That school forum members approve:

- 1.1 The 2023/24 Draft Schools Funding Consultation document

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To present and get approval of the 2024/25 Draft Schools Funding Consultation document to be issued to schools and academies.
- 2.2 Schools Forum should note that Sandwell's basic entitlement factors for primary schools and KS3 are significantly higher than the equivalent National Funding Formula factors. This will have impact on setting the level minimum funding guarantee (MFG) and may lead to capping and scaling to make the funding fit within the available overall Schools Block budget.

3. Report Details

- 3.1 The Consultation Document for schools for 2024/25 includes the following 7 questions.

QUESTION 1 (ALL SCHOOLS)

- 3.2 THREE options have been modelled at the request of Schools Forum at the last meeting.

Question 1 - Please indicate the option you prefer to use for calculating school funding for 2024/25:

- OPTION 1 – Minimum Transition
- OPTION 2 – Accelerated Transition
- OPTION 3 – National Funding Formula Factor Values

- 3.4 There is an assumption at this stage that we will allocate £1.60m for Growth Fund and that Schools Forum and all schools will support the top-slice of the Schools Block to fund the Attendance service to £0.512m.
- 3.5 There is also an assumption that the De-delegated and Education Functions options proposed by Officers will also be accepted.

QUESTION 2 (ALL SCHOOLS)

- 3.6 At the end of the 2022/23 financial year there was a Pupil Number Growth (PNG) Funding carry forward of £0.282m. The PNG required for 2024/25 is estimated to be £1.90m and so it is proposed that the growth funding be set at £1.6m (rounded) within this consultation.

Question 2 - Do you agree to the use of the Brought Forward of a £0.282m to set the Pupil Number Growth Fund at £1.60m?

YES

NO

QUESTION 3 (ALL SCHOOLS)

- 3.7 Two Falling Rolls Fund modelling options were presented to the schools forum at their meeting of 2nd October 2023. The criteria for allocating this fund was approved (Option 2). It should be noted that the modelling was based on the comparison census data for 2021 and 2022 and very few schools attracted this funding for the modelling purposes. This will be repeated again for census data 2022 and 2023 and the results presented in December.

Question 3 - Do you agree to the introduction of a Falling Rolls Fund?

YES

NO

QUESTION 4 (ALL Schools)

3.8 The Attendance Service is a legitimate function that can be funded from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) and is a statutory service from the LA for ALL schools.

Question 4 - Do you agree to the top slice of £512,000 from the Schools Block to the Central Schools Services Block (see Q5 re CSSB5) to fund the Attendance Team?

YES

NO

QUESTION 5 (ALL Schools)

3.9 The provisional 2024/25 funding allocation for the CSSB was announced in July 2023 by the DfE and is £2.350m. This is made up of £2.257m of on-going responsibilities and £0.093m of historic commitment

CSSB1	Statutory/Regulatory/ Education Welfare/Asset M	£1,801,593
CSSB2	Schools Forum	£3,000
CSSB3	Admissions Services	£452,600
CSSB4	Historical Commitment - Pensions Administration	£93,376
	TOTAL CSSB (Provisional - Updated Decemb	£2,350,569
CSSB5	Safeguarding & Attendance (ALL Schools)	£512,000

Question 5 - Do you agree with the indicative allocation of the Central Schools Services Block funding proposals? (For each proposal)

YES

NO

QUESTION 6 (MAINTAINED ONLY SCHOOLS)

3.10 There are 5 de-delegated proposals to be considered by maintained schools:

DD1	Health and Safety Licenses and Subscriptions	£5,800
DD2	EVOLVE Annual Licence Fee	£7,300
DD3	Union Facilities Time	£159,000
DD4	School Improvement Services	£150,000
DD5	Schools in financial difficulty	£100,000
	TOTAL DD	£422,100

Question 6 - Please indicate YES / NO if you agree with the de-delegated proposals

QUESTION 7 (MAINTAINED ONLY SCHOOLS)

3.11 There are 2 Education function proposals to be considered by maintained schools.

EF1	Education Benefits Team	£134,000
EF2	Children's Clothing Support Allowance	£33,000
EF3	Safeguarding & Attendance	moved to CSSB5
	TOTAL EF	£167,000

Question 7 - Please indicate YES / NO if you agree with the de-delegated proposals

Responses

3.12 The Draft Schools Funding 2023/24 Consultation document is attached.

3.13 The Modelling Options are attached in their entirety and will be available for individuals to access in due course.

3.14 The deadline for stakeholders to respond is **noon on Monday 27th November 2023 (subject to change).**

4. Recommendations

4.1 That school forum members approve the Schools Funding 2024/25 Consultation document so that it can be issued to schools and academies and other interested stakeholders.

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Date: 30/10/2023