

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Kevin Guy, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 21 st December 2019	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3186
TITLE:	School Funding Formula 2020-21	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 Consultation document Appendix 2 responses from schools and Multi Academy Trusts Appendix 3 School forum notes on voting for November 26 th 2019 reports		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Following changes to the Schools Funding regulations by the DFE amendments to the School funding Formula are required

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 Agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +1.84% change in pupil funding in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20**
- 2.2 Agree that the LA will not set a Cap on Gains for 2020-21**
- 2.3 Agree that the LA increase the 2020-21 local formula funding core factor values as close as it can to the 4% (set out in DFE Guidance) except for the free school meals factor which will be increased at inflation (defined by the DFE)**
- 2.4 Agree that the LA use the NFF methodology to calculate mobility in the local formula for 2020-21**

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 On Friday, 30 August, the government announced an investment of over £14 billion in primary and secondary education between now and 2022-2023.
- 3.2 The funding package for 5 to 16 year olds in schools includes £2.6 billion for 2020-2021, £4.8 billion for 2021-2022, and £7.1 billion for 2022-2023 compared to 2019-2020. This will bring the schools budget to £52.2bn in 2022-2023.
- 3.3 Officers have estimated that B&NES may receive £5.9 million additional funding into the school's block for 2020-21.
- 3.4 As in previous years, each local authority will continue to set a local school's formula in 2020-21, in consultation with schools and academies, in order to calculate the distribution of funding available for mainstream schools. While local authorities will continue to have discretion over the design of the majority of their funding formulae, the DFE intend to make the minimum per-pupil funding (MPPF) levels a mandatory factor in local formulae.
- 3.5 The government has confirmed its intention to move to a single 'hard' national funding formula to determine every schools budget and will work closely with local authorities and other stakeholders in making this transition in the future.
- 3.6 Local Authorities must continue to engage in open and transparent consultation with all maintained schools and academies in their area, as well as with the Schools Forum, about any proposed changes to the local funding formula including the principles adopted and any movement of funds between blocks.
- 3.7 The DFE have confirmed that the 2020-21 National Funding Formula (NFF) will continue to have the same funding factors that were used in 2019-20 and that they will continue to implement the NFF formula to address historic underfunding and move to a system where funding is based on the needs of the pupils on roll at a school.
- 3.8 The proposals put forward in a consultation with schools were consistent with the implementation of the National Funding Formula principles set out by the DFE.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The DFE have stipulated specific factors will be set by the DFE and Local Authorities will not be allowed to deviate from these values.
- 4.2 The DFE are also encouraging Local Authorities to implement their local formulae in line with the NFF plans.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 There are no specific resource implications as a result of these decisions as the funding provided for schools is paid to the Local Authority as an element of the Dedicated School Grant and the decision being made is the distribution of the grant to schools.

- 5.2 As part of the consultation with schools and the Schools forum the Forum has agreed to transfer 0.5% of the Schools block of funding to the High Needs block. This transfer is estimated at £556,000 and will help support the pressures being observed in the special needs elements of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 5.3 This paper sets out the distribution methodology of the remainder of the Schools block between the mainstream schools

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 No specific implications for climate change result from this report.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Many options are available to distribute the funding to schools through the funding formula. The Local Authority has consulted schools on moving to the national Funding Formula over the past few years and major changes to the local formula have been made in prior years.
- 8.2 These decisions continue to move the local formula towards the National funding Formula and adopt the recommendations of the DFE into our local formula.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Consultation has occurred initially through the Schools Forum who recommended this course of action to officers.
- 9.2 Officers then consulted schools and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) with a formal consultation paper. See Appendix 1
- 9.3 The replies to the consultation paper are school as Appendix 2.
- 9.4 There was unanimous approval of the course of action proposed from schools.
- 9.5 Following this consultation, the Forum has voted unanimously to recommend the decisions logged to the cabinet member. See Appendix 3

Contact person	<i>Richard Morgan 01225 395220</i>
Background papers	<i>DFE Guidance to Local Authorities on school Funding.</i> www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2020-to-2021
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