

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference****E3498****Schools Funding Formula 2024-25**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
The Issue	The Local Authority is responsible for deciding the structure and values of the schools funding formula, following guidance from the DFE on the regulations applicable the school funding. This decision is relating to the make up of the formula for 2023-24 and will provide the funding allocations for both maintained and academy mainstream schools.
Decision Date	5 th January 2024
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To follow the formula set out in the report, adopting the new methodology of the National Funding Formula (NFF) and to utilise the factor values provided by the DFE, providing the resources are available.2. That should resources not allow the funding of the formula factors in full that a proportionate reduction of all allowable factors is made to reduce the allocations to fit the resources available.
Rationale for decision	<p>The Local Authority is continuing to mirror the National Funding Formula (NFF) as prescribed by the DFE. This approach has been followed for several years in line with the desires of both maintained schools and academies.</p> <p>The approach will ensure that school funding allocations are as close to the NFF as possible so that when the DFE take control of the formula decisions (DFE plans suggest 2026-27 financial year) the schools allocations from local decision making will not be significantly different thus avoiding turbulence in school budgeting.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>The overall funding allocation of resources for schools is provided by a ring fenced element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) known as the Schools Block.</p> <p>The methodology of the decision taken will ensure that schools allocation are contained within this block allocation.</p>
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation) Other Legal Considerations

Consultation undertaken	Cabinet colleagues; Trades Unions; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Full written consultation of schools and academies occurred during Autumn term. Results formally discussed and supported by schools forum.
Other options considered	<p>There are many options available to allocate funding to schools and schools forum discussed the strategy of following the NFF on several occasions.</p> <p>As part of that strategy several options for the allocation of the resources to schools were considered prior to the consultation of schools on the proposals in this report. Several alternatives were set out the in the schools consultation paper.</p>
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Cllr Paul May Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Date of Signature	5 th January 2024

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision