

SCHOOLS FORUM - 24 APRIL 2014

Title of paper:	SUB GROUP ESTABLISHMENT
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Alison Michlaska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults
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Other colleagues who have provided input:	None
Summary During the implementation of the National Formula Funding Review of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) a Schools Forum sub group was formulated to recommend the factors to be used to allocate the DSG. This sub group undertook the review in 2012/13 and it is now appropriate for a sub group to be reformed to ensure that the factors being used are still fit for purpose in allocating the DSG. The principle to establish this sub group was agreed in a Schools Forum report on 13 January 2014.	
Recommendation(s):	
1	To agree the members of the sub group.
2	To note that the sub group has no decision making powers and will make recommendations which Schools Forum will have to formally approve at a future meeting.

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 To ensure the factors used to distribute the DSG are still fit for purpose.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 The implementation of the National Formula Funding Review reduced the amount of factors being used to allocate DSG and provided a national framework of factors to use. As part of the process a Schools Forum sub group was developed to ensure the correct factors were used, that this provided minimum disruption to schools budgets and resulted in budgets which could be contained within the allocation of DSG for Nottingham.

2.2 This process took place in 2012/13 to support the establishment of the 2013/14 budget. The 2014/15 has been set on the same factors and it is now appropriate to review them ready for the 2015/16 budget setting process.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To leave the factors used to allocate the formula as they are but this may create budget pressures within schools.

4. OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 To allocate budgets to schools on factors that reflects the local educational issues in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Financial Regulations 2013.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 5.1 It has become apparent that a number of factors need reviewing to ensure they are fit for purpose for allocating DSG. Areas that need to be considered when undertaking this review are:

- the increase in pupil numbers,
- an increase in split sites and the associated costs.
- changes to legislation, for example changes to the Prior Attainment Criteria, is the change to the factor appropriate for the future.
- is the mobility factor appropriate?
- the treatment of Trade Union for 2015/16?

- 5.2 The re-modelling of any factor into a school budget will still need to balance back to the DSG allocation issued by the Education Funding Agency.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 need to apply to the budget setting process.

7. OBSERVATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY COMMUNITY TEAMS

- 7.1 Not required

8. HR ISSUES

- 8.1 None

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

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10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 10.1 None

11. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 11.1 Schools Forum report and minutes - Schools Budget 2014/15 - 13 January 2014