
Schools Funding Formula 2021/22

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 7th December 2020

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Item for: Decision **By:** All School Members and Early Years PVI Rep / All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set out the results from the consultation with all schools on the proposed primary and secondary school funding formula for 2021/22 and to make a final decision.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Agree the following for setting the school funding formula for 2021/22, to go as a recommendation for political ratification:

- (1) To mirror the DfE's 2021/22 National Funding Formula to calculate the funding allocations
- (2) To award a lower increase to the schools sparsity factor in the local formula (Appendix A)
- (3) To address any surplus or shortfall in funding by adjusting the AWPU values
- (4) To apply a top slice of 0.25% to the schools' funding, in order to support High Needs (Appendix A)
- (5) To approve the criteria for additional funds as per the consultation (Appendix B:D)
- (6) To approve the proposed de-delegations.

2.2 The above proposals will be politically ratified by Individual Decision.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction

3.1 2021/22 is the fourth year of the National Funding Formula (NFF). The government has confirmed its intention to move to a single 'hard' NFF to determine every school's budget, and will work closely with local authorities and other stakeholders in making this transition in the future.

3.2 As in previous years, each LA will continue to have discretion over their schools funding formulae, in consultation with local schools. The LA is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula. Political ratification must be obtained before the 21 January 2021 deadline.

4. Consultation responses

4.1 The responses to the consultation are shown below. 34 responses were received.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Do you agree that, subject to final affordability, West Berkshire should mirror the DfE’s 2021/22 NFF and that this formula should be used to calculate funding allocations?	Do you agree that, as an exception to following the NFF, the authority should award a lower increase to the primary schools sparsity factor, and allocate the remaining funding across all primary schools?	Do you agree that any shortfall in funding is addressed by using Option 1, reduced AWPU values?	Which of the following options would you support regarding a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2021/22? a) 0% b) 0.25% c) 0.5%	Do you agree with the criteria to access additional funds outside the school formula?	Do you agree with the proposed services being de-delegated?
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.5	Yes	Yes
Yes	No, follow NFF	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	n/a	Yes	0	Yes	n/a
Yes	No	Yes	0	n/a	n/a
Yes	No	Yes	0	n/a	n/a
Yes	No	Yes	0	n/a	n/a
Yes	?	Yes	?	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	?	Yes	?	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	No use full NFF	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	No use full NFF	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	No use full NFF	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0.25	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	n/a
Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	n/a
Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	n/a
Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	n/a
34 yes	22 yes 9 no	34 yes	22 = 0.25% 9 = 0% 1 = 0.5%	31 yes	26 yes

5. Indicative allocations

5.1 The indicative allocations based on the lower sparsity for primary and then a 0.25% transfer to the High Needs Block are shown in Appendix A. It should be noted that allocations will still change as a result of the October census.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Based on the consultation responses, the recommendations are set out in section 2. These proposals were supported by Heads Funding Group at their meeting of 24 November 2020.

6.2 The final formula will be allocated according to the principles above and will be subject to political ratification in January 2021, with the formula to be submitted to ESFA by 21 January 2021.

