

DFE CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

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1. Purpose

To provide members of the Schools Forum with an opportunity to shape the response Milton Keynes Council will be making to the national consultation on school funding.

2. Recommendations

That members of the Schools Forum identify any key points they suggest should be included in the response.

3. Issues

On the 19 July 2011 the Secretary of State launched the second part of the consultation on school funding reform. The consultation is significant and technically detailed, containing 54 pages plus annexes and a request for responses to 48 questions. The closing date for comments is 11 October 2011.

The document sets out proposals for a new funding system, the contents of a new national formula and future funding arrangements for the Pupil Premium, early years provision and High Cost Pupils. It also attempts to clarify the responsibilities of local authorities, schools and academies in relation to central services. The full consultation documents are attached at Annexes 1 and 2.

During the meeting there will be an opportunity for members of the Schools Forum to consider each section of the consultation in turn and to raise key points. Members may wish to consider all areas of this consultation as it represents a significant change to the way local authorities and schools are funded. **However, particular attention to the following questions:**

Questions 3 and 4 Which questions which factors should be allowable in a local funding formula and suggest that the ratio of funding between primary and secondary sectors is fixed within a set range.

Question 6 Which suggests Schools Forums should be given further decision making responsibilities.

Question 15 Which questions what approach should be taken in relation to the method of allocation of funding to local authorities.

- Question 18 Which suggests transitional arrangements to minimise the turbulence of funding in schools caused by these changes.
- Question 19 Which questions what arrangements should be put in place to allow funding to be held centrally for some services.
- Questions 23 to 30 Section 6 proposes significant changes to the way high cost pupils are funded in all settings.
- Question 40 Which questions if the Early Years Single Funding Formula should be simplified.
- Question 45 Which discusses the best FSM measure to use to allocate funding for the Pupil Premium.
- Question 47 Which questions when the proposed reforms should be implemented.