

CONSULTATION ON FORMULA CHANGES

Contact Officers: Andrew Whitaker – Divisional Accountant, Children and Families

1. Purpose

To seek approval from the Schools Forum to consult on changes to the funding formula to be implemented from April 2012.

2. Recommendations

- a) That the Schools Forum agrees the publication of the consultation document to be issued to schools during the autumn term.
- b) That the results of the consultation are presented to the next meeting of the Schools Forum in December 2011.

3. Financial Impact

The consultation may impact on the funding of all schools from April 2012:

- The proposed changes to the funding of statemented pupils will impact on both the primary and secondary sectors. The proposal will result in more funding being delegated to schools initially and less funding being held centrally in the contingency.
- The proposed changes to the allocation of mainstreamed grants will impact on nursery, primary, secondary and special sectors. This may increase or decrease the amount of funding that each individual school will receive in future years.
- The KS1 class size funding proposal will delegate more funding to primary schools with KS1 pupils according to a formula. This will result in the removal of the central contingency.
- The Early Years funding proposals will only impact on nursery schools or primary schools with nursery classes.
- Amalgamating schools and trade union facilities time will only impact on amalgamating schools or schools with a union representative entitled to facilities time.

4. Issues

The draft consultation document is attached as Annex 1. The consultation document is split into the following sections:

1. Background
2. Changes to the Funding Formula
 - Funding for statemented pupils
 - Grants mainstreamed into the DSG
 - Funding for KS1 classes
 - Early Years funding
 - Amalgamating schools
 - Trade Union Facilities Time
3. Response Sheet

The deadline for responses is Friday 11th November. The results of the consultation are to be reported back to the Schools Forum at its next meeting on Thursday 8th December.