

Date of meeting:	Thursday 17 November 2022
Title of report:	2023/24 School Funding Consultation Results
Type of report: Delete as required	For decision
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	<p>This report provides the results of the 2023/24 School Funding Consultation that ran from xx September to 9th November 2022. The report requests the Schools Forum to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the options consulted on should be endorsed in relation to the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee; • The methodology to be used for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values
Budget / Risk implications:	Individual school budget levels for the 2023/24 financial year.
Recommendations:	<p>As detailed in Section 4, in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The options endorsed by the Schools Forum in relation to the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee, and the methodology to be used for allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values for the 2023/24 financial year.
Voting requirements:	All Schools Forum members
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Additional comments provided in school / academy Consultation responses.
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**NORTH YORKSHIRE
SCHOOLS FORUM**

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1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the results and responses received from schools and academies to the 2023/24 School Funding Consultation.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum is asked to consider:
 - i. The results of the Consultation and the responses received.
 - ii. Which of the options consulted on should be endorsed in relation to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), and the methodology to be used for allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting in September, the Forum considered the information provided by DfE in July 2022 in relation to National Funding Formula (NFF) developments for the 2023-24 financial year. The key NFF updates for the next financial year are as follows:
 - The core factors in the schools NFF (such as the basic entitlement, and the lump sum that all schools attract) will increase by 2.4%.
 - Additional support is directed to disadvantaged pupils, with the FSM6 and IDACI factors in the schools NFF increasing by 4.3% compared to their 2022/23 values.
 - Rolling the 2022-23 school supplementary grant into the schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets. Appropriate adjustments have been made to NFF factor values to reflect this, adding £97, £137 and £155 to the primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4 per pupil funding factors respectively; £85 and £124 to the primary and secondary FSM6 factors; and £3,680 to the school lump sum.
 - The minimum per pupil funding levels will ensure that every primary school receives at least £4,405 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,715 per pupil. The minimum per pupil funding levels are mandatory in 2023/2024. The funding values include £119, £155 and £173 per primary, KS3 and KS4 pupil respectively for the rolling in of the schools supplementary grant, plus a further 0.5% increase. The average amounts in respect of the supplement grant reflect the average level of funding these schools currently attract through the grant.
 - Every school will be allocated at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its 2022-23 baseline (increased to take account of the rolling in of the schools supplementary grant)
 - Local authorities are able to continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in local formulae, which in 2023-24 must be between +0% and +0.5% (comparable values for 2022/23 were +0.5% and +2.0%)
 - Following the cancellation or incompleteness of assessments in summer 2020 and summer 2021 due to COVID-19, this data is unable to be used as part of setting a low prior attainment factor in local funding formulae. Instead, the 2019 assessment data will be used as a proxy for assessments which would have taken place in 2020 and 2021.
 - Local authorities continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with school's forum

approval. A disapplication request is required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without school's forum approval.

- 2.2 North Yorkshire County Council is not requesting a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs budget for the 2023/24 financial year.

3.0 **RESULTS OF THE LOCAL CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 52* responses have been received to the Consultation, as shown below.

LA Maintained Primary	39
LA Maintained Secondary	6
Primary Academy	3
Secondary Academy	2
Academy Trust	2
	52

(68 schools and academies are represented in the responses received providing an overall response rate of 18.84% (20.36% LA maintained schools, 16.43% academies). 293 schools / academies are not represented in the consultation responses.

*Duplicate and anonymous responses have been disregarded from the consultation results.

- 3.2 The Consultation requested the views of schools and academies on options related to the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and the methodology to be used for allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values. The consultation results are detailed in the table below:

Option	MFG %	No. Responses Received Supporting Option	No. Schools Represented in Responses Supporting Option
Option 1	0%	10	10
Option 2	0.5%	42	58
		52	68
Option	Methodology for the Allocation of Any Surplus Funding		
Option 1	Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) values increased	27	27
Option 2	Lump Sum Formula Factor Value increased	25	41
		52	68

A number of schools and academies also provided additional comments to support their responses. These comments are detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report

- 3.3 The majority of the responses (and the number of schools represented by the responses) received to the Consultation indicated support for a MFG of 0.5%. In terms of the methodology to be used for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values, the majority of responses supported AWPU as the preferred methodology for distribution. However, the responses indicating a preference for a lump sum methodology represent a higher number of schools: 41 schools compared to 27 schools preferring the AWPU methodology.
- 3.4 In 2018/19, the decision was made by the North Yorkshire Education Partnership (now Schools Forum) to implement a funding formula that reflects the NFF principles and the associated transitional arrangements. A 0.5% MFG best reflects the DfE 'direction of travel' and reflects the level of funding increase provided by the DfE to the minimum per pupil level funding. In terms of the distribution methodology for the allocation to school budgets of any surplus funding available within the Schools Block DSG after the calculation of the school funding formula using NFF values, a lump sum methodology would generally benefit smaller schools and an AWPU methodology would generally provide greater funding benefit to larger schools. The setting of the MFG level is the prime decision, with the surplus funding allocation methodology decision representing a secondary consideration.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Following the consultation with all schools and academies in North Yorkshire, the Forum is asked to:
- a. Consider which of the options consulted on should be endorsed by the Schools Forum.

STUART CARLTON
Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

2023/24 School Funding Consultation – Additional Comments

School Type	Comment
LA Maintained Primary School	The cost of living crisis has severely affected Schools. Please think about providing some funding to cover the additional costs involved, such as energy bills. The biggest cost is staff, especially children that need an adult with them, even with a ECHP it would only cover a third of the cost of a Teaching Assistant, more funding needs to be available for this.
LA Maintained Secondary School	There are clear headwinds of massive cost pressures coming through the system. We have not got stability of knowing what they all are, only that it will be insufficient to operate on current models without urgent uplift to the formula.
LA Maintained Primary School	Funding needs to match the increased costs that are facing us. Our budget in the past has been able to cope with rising costs, but not any more. We need to see a rise in support and a huge investment in SEN provision and funding.
LA Maintained Secondary School	As the new Headteacher of a very small school with a large licenced historic deficit, but good in-year budget management, just that the Authority continues to represent the views of small, rural schools at national level as the White Paper seemed to acknowledge the challenges we face but we have not seen anything further on the national agenda that reassures me in this regard.
Secondary Academy	I think a lump sum of the same amount for all schools regardless of their size could have a disproportionately positive effect on smaller schools and so a pro rata'd per pupil payment seems fairer. This is a point of principle, where I would be saying the same thing if a lump sum payment was required from schools, where there would then be a disproportionality negative effect on smaller schools.