



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 10 December 2019

2020/21 Schools Budget Update and Feedback from Schools Budget Consultation

Open

Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment

Key Decision: No

Agenda Item 2

Wards Affected: (All Wards); All	
Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children’s Services	
Report Authors: Tony Burton Head of Finance for Children’s Services and Education	
Purpose of the report	
The report provides an update to the report provided to Schools Forum on 12 November. It summarises changes and corrections to the budget share calculations. It also summarises responses to the budget consultation circulated after the Schools Forum meeting in November.	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Since the report on budget share calculations was presented to the Schools Forum in November further work has been undertaken to ensure DfE regulations are being met. Advice has been sought from DfE on how to treat a number of technical issues and a summary of changes, corrections and issues are included below for information
- 1.2. The budget consultation based on the reports submitted to November Schools Forum was circulated after the meeting to all maintained and academy primary schools, and all academy secondary schools in the borough. The consultation period closed on the 26th November and to date we have received 5 responses. Details of the responses are included in Appendix 1.

2. 2020/21 changes made to Initial Modelling

- 2.1. The modelling used the ESFA’s Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and operational guidance to model two allocation methods for 2020/21. These are:

Model 1 – Uses 2019/20 Local factor rates and applies them to 2020/21 APT

Model 2 – Uses area cost adjusted national Schools Block NFF rates and applies these to the 2020/21 APT.

- 2.2. Further work identified the following issues which required changes to the values input for each model.

- Growing and expanding Schools - Addition of funding for St John XXIII primary School originally not included – 30 pupils from September 2020
- Growing and expanding Schools - Correction of pupil numbers for Burlington Danes Primary Academy to reduce funding for expansion as number of classes has reduced from 2 to 1 from September 2019. DfE has advised that a change to the 2019/20 baseline figure that feeds into the 2020/21 budget is required in order to remove any protection from the MFG (Minimum Funding Guarantee). It is not possible to retrospectively change the budget allocation in 2019/20 for this school.

These changes do not have a significant effect the position previously reported for all other schools.

2.3. Split Sites factor has been identified as a potential problem following a detailed review of the factors included in the allocations.

- Split sites is a local factor which is discretionary and seeks to recompense schools for additional costs associated with operating on more than one site. Currently 2 schools received this factor in 2019/20 and the 2020/21 modelling so far has included amounts for these schools
- DfE is very clear in the operational guidance that any amounts paid must be justified. Currently we are writing to the 2 schools to provide evidence of the additional costs incurred so that a proposal for this factor can be put to Schools Forum for approval

2.4. The adjustments detailed in paragraph 2.2 have reduced the amount of funding available for falling rolls as quoted in the previous Schools Forum report from £0.254m to £0.131m.

3. Consultation responses Summary

3.1. The consultation period closed on the 26th November and to date we have received 5 responses including 4 maintained primary schools and one academy trust. The responses are summarised below with a more detail provided in Appendix 1.

3.2. Question 1 – Provisional modelling Preference

Response	No preference	Model 1	Model 2
Number of Responses	4	1	0

3.3. Question 2 – Falling Roll Provision – Agree a fund should be established

Response	Yes	No
Number of Responses	3	2

3.4. Question 3 – Falling Roll Funding request

Response	Yes	No
Number of Responses	3	2

3.5. Question 4 - Transfer 1% Schools Block to High Needs Block

Response	Yes	No Comment
Number of Responses	3	2

3.6. Question 5 – Proposed De-delegation and education function budgets

Response	Supportive	No Objection	No Comment
Number of Responses	2	1	2

3.7. Question 6 – Any other comments or feedback

Response	None	Falling Roles
Number of Responses	4	1

4. Key dates

4.1. Table 1 – key dates and next steps

Date	Activity
10 th December 2019	Schools Forum consider consultation feedback
December 2019	APT with October 2019 census data and final allocation released by ESFA
Week Commencing 6 th January 2020	School Budget Briefing's at Lilla Huset on final proposed model
14 th January 2020	Final Schools Forum decision on the 2020/21 schools budget allocations
January 2020	Deadline for submission of the final 2019 to 2020 APT to

	the ESFA.
January 2020	Leaders urgency decision for Council's approval of the 2020/21 Schools budget.
28 February 2020	Deadline for confirmation of school budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.

Appendix 1 - Summary of Consultation responses

		A	B	C	D	E
Q1	Provisional Modelling Views/Preference -	No	No preference, the overall impact on the budget is nearly the same and whatever the model the situation is challenging	No, the difference between the 2 models is minimal	Yes, Model 2 because the funding level is slightly higher	No Comment
Q2	Falling Roll Provision Comment/Feedback -	See Question 4	Falling rolls request around costs of restructuring	Agreed that such a fund should be established as per the ESFA guidelines	No	Yes
Q3	Falling Roll Funding Request	Yes. Details of roll fall provided	Yes. OFSTED = GOOD	Not planning to submit a Falling Roll application	No	Yes
Q4	Transfer of 1% SB to HNB	No objection but concern that this might be insufficient	The school support this. SEND children at the School including those with EHCPs represent 17%. Additional funding is needed above that of the EHCPs.	Agreed transfer as per the proposal	No comment	No Comment
Q5	Proposed De-delegated & Education Functions budget	No objection	The school support the principle of this	Proposal of De-delegated and Education Functions agreed	No comment	No Comment
Q6	Any other comments or feedback	None	The school hope that their application for Falling Roll funding will get a positive response		None	None

Report ends