

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
3 July 2013

School Funding 2014-15
(Director of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the DfE's decisions regarding school funding in 2014-15.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum notes the DfE's decisions regarding school funding in 2014-15 and any the affect Slough's formula.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To assist the Schools' Forum in its on-going review of the funding formula.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The DfE paper makes a number of decisions affecting the 2014-15 funding formula and the allowable factors. The paper makes it clear that there is an aim to introduce a national funding formula in the next spending period though it is not clear whether the formula will be administered nationally or locally. The decisions, and their effect on Slough, are listed below.

- 5.2 In 2014-15 all local authorities will be required to allocate at least 80% of their school block funding through pupil-led factors.

Effect on Slough: Slough already allocates 95.6% through pupil-led factors.

- 5.3 In 2014-15 all local authorities must set AWPU rates of at least £2,000 for primary and £3,000 for Secondary.

Effect on Slough: Slough's current AWPU rates are £3,150 for Primary and £3,908 and £4,584 for Secondary.

- 5.4 The EYFSP will be retained as the main indicator for prior attainment for primary pupils. Pupils will qualify for the prior attainment factor

where they have not achieved a good level of development. This will include all those who have not achieved the expected level of development in all 12 prime areas of learning as well as maths and literacy.

Effect on Slough: there should not be an overall effect but individual schools may be affected.

- 5.5 The Secondary prior attainment indicator will be changed from pupils who do not achieve level 4 in English and maths to pupils who do not achieve level 4 in either English or maths.

Effect on Slough: Nationally the DfE believes that the number of pupils included in this factor will increase from 10% to 21%. While it will not affect the overall funding available it probably will affect individual schools. Slough's current % is 10.3% so it is likely the increase will follow national figures and that would reduce the unit value unless more money is put into this factor.

- 5.6 In 2014-15, local authorities that use the looked after children factor will be required to use a single day or more measure for both primary and secondary children.

Effect on Slough: Slough does not use the looked after children factor. It should be noted that this change is to facilitate the move towards a national funding formula.

- 5.7 In 2014-15 a 10% threshold will be applied to the mobility factor so that it will only support schools that experience a significant change in their pupil numbers.

Effect on Slough: In 2013-14 all 28 primary schools and all 11 secondary schools received funding through the mobility factor. Applying the 10% threshold, based on 2013-14 figures, will mean that 12 primary schools and no secondary schools will receive funding in 2014-15.

- 5.8 In 2014-15 the maximum lump sum allowed will be £175,000 and local authorities will be allowed to differentiate between primary and secondary schools. Where schools merge they will be allowed to keep 85% of the two lump sums for the following financial year.

Effect on Slough: Slough's lump sum is £55,000 and historically there has not been much difference between the primary and secondary figures.

- 5.9 Local authorities will be allowed to top-slice the DSG to create a small fund to support schools with falling rolls in exceptional circumstances. This can be top-sliced from, and used to support, academies in the

same way that the growth fund is. Only schools that are considered by Ofsted to be good or outstanding can be supported.

- 5.10 There is also going to be one change to the Schools' Forums' regulations. All Forums will be required to include an elected representative from an institution (other than a school or academy) providing education beyond age 16 (but also may be providing education for 14-16 year olds). This will replace the current requirement for a representative from the 14-19 partnership.
- 5.11 The high needs threshold of £6,000, already used by Slough, will be a requirement for all local authorities from 2014-15.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013-14 Arrangements and Changes for 2014-15. (DfE paper already distributed)

Contact for further information

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