

## **2015-16 Budget Process Update/Consultation**

The Task and Finish group (5-16 formula) met to discuss some possible changes to the formula. These changes were mostly in relation to the principle of applying capping and reception uplift into the formula. Capping will minimise the reductions in schools budgets, by limiting the increases in other schools per pupil budgets. Reception uplift recognises reception children that start after the October census date but would be included in the January census date and therefore would have been funding under the "old" funding rules. The existing factors used within the formula were also discussed.

Recommendations from the group were to include capping and reception uplift into the formula, and maintain the existing factors.

The principles discussed in relation to capping and reception uplift, and the recommendations were put together in a consultation paper that went out to schools, with the consultation closing for responses on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. So far I have had 7 responses.

Following on from the initial Task and Finish meeting, the group met again to look at the possible levels that would be suitable to cap at, and the effect it would have on schools' per pupil budgets. The group recommends that capping be introduced at 3% in order to level out the variances across schools and to ensure that schools gaining keep up with inflation. This will be proposed at the November Schools Forum meeting.

The factors that will be used in the formula for 2015 /16 will be submitted to the DfE by the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

If approved at the next Schools Forum, capping and reception uplift will be included in the final submission to the DfE that will be made in January 2015.