

(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)

(Tuesday 20 October 2015)

| | |
|--|---|
| Title: School Forum Report | |
| Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR | |
| Open | For Decision / For Information |
| Wards Affected: All | Key Decision: No |
| Report Author: Patricia Harvey Senior Professional – High Needs block | Contact Details: Tel: 020 8724 5086 E-mail: patricia.harvey@lbbd.gov.uk |
| Accountable Divisional Director: Jane Hargreaves – Divisional Director (Education) | |
| Accountable Director: Helen Jenner – Corporate Director (Children’s Services) | |
| Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (Background)2. The proposed Schools Funding Formula model for 2016-17 | |
| Recommendation(s) The Schools Forum is asked: <ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) To discuss and agree the proposed school funding model for submission to the Department for Education (DfE) and maintain the Primary to Secondary ratio 1:1:31 (ref 2.3). | |
| Reason(s) None | |

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The School Forum is a decision making and consultative body in relation to matters concerning schools' budgets as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2012 and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. The Forum is required to meet at least four times a year.
- 1.2 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham School Forum meet five times per academic year and meetings dates were agreed at the meeting 25 June 2015.
- 1.3 This meeting 20 October 2015 is a special agreed meeting to discuss and approve the school formula model 2016/17 for submission to the Education Funding Agency (EfA) by 31 October 2015.

2. Schools Funding Formula

- 2.1 The latest published (July 2015) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2015-16 following confirmation of growth is a detailed in Table 1 and reported at the last meeting:-

| Funding Blocks | Reported June 2015 | Growth / (Deductions) | Retained c/fwd | HNB Savings | Revised Blocks |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 2 Year Old Funding | 8,070 | (1,847) | 1,018 | | 7,241 |
| Early Years block | 12,668 | 488 | 129 | | 13,285 |
| High Needs block | 27,789 | | 1,258 | (1,315) | 27,732 |
| Schools block | 183,594 | 418 | 696 | | 184,960 |
| TOTAL | 232,121 | (941) | 3,101 | (1,315) | 232,966 |
| DSG prior years carry forward balances | | | 7,733 | | |
| TOTAL 2014-15 DSG balance | | | 10,834 | | |

- 2.2 It is proposed to use the same 10 factors as in previous years with the same level unit values as 2014-15, subject to the overall DSG commitments being affordable; however £1.2m was top sliced from the schools block last year in support of the High Needs block reporting pressures, and it was agreed at the last meeting to re-distribute this within the formula factors for 2016/17 across lump sum factor (all schools will gain) and to readdress the funding differences in the split site funding.

2.3 Factor changes

- 2.4 Lump sum increase rate from £135k per school to £160k per school. All sectors will gain an additional £25k funding within the formula.
- 2.5 Split site funding changes, currently £100k funding for primary schools with split sites and £216k funding for secondary schools. It has been proposed to increase primary schools with split sites to £160k (additional £60k) and reduce secondary schools with split sites to £200k (reduction of £16k) and agreed at the last meeting of the criteria for split sites to remain the same, i.e. *the local authority's formula includes a factor to provide additional funding to schools which operate on and own*

more than one site. All schools and academies which meet the criteria will be eligible for split site funding. A split site school will be defined as one where there is a road between sites used for curriculum purposes.

- 2.6 The proposed model includes the latest known data information but may be subject to changes from the DfE.
- 2.7 Funding formula gains are capped at 3.11% as per 2015-16 model.
- 2.8 The proposed model maintains the Primary to Secondary ratio 1:1:31 as agreed at the last meeting.
- 2.9 It should be noted that the model is:-
 - 2.9.1 Modelled on provisional census data subject to review by the Data Management Team.
 - 2.9.2 Several schools have not yet submitted their data, so, the latest data count from May has been rolled forward and assumed new reception classes are full.
 - 2.9.3 It does not reflect any other demographic changes (FSM, etc) that could be reflected in the final dataset provided by the DfE.
 - 2.9.4 Approval (along with the relevant changes) to dis-apply MFG protection in relation to the new all-through schools from the DfE is still outstanding and not currently reflected in the model.
 - 2.9.5 There could still be adjustments in relation to NNDR and PFI changes.
 - 2.9.6 The model is working estimates based upon updated pupil information and **not** final allocations.
 - 2.9.7 The model is subject to final approval from the DfE.
- 2.10 Appendix A attached details the model and school funding allocations.

| |
|--|
| <p><i>(i) Decision required – Schools Forum approve the 2016/17 school formula model for submission to the DfE.</i></p> |
|--|

3 Options Appraisal

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The School Funding Formula is contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the Forum. The Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the Local Authority must or may consult the Schools Forum and those in respect of which the Schools Forum can make decisions. These Regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed early years provision in England, for the financial year 2013/14.

7 Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** - None
- 7.2 **Contractual Issues** - None
- 7.3 **Staffing Issues** – None
- 7.4 **Customer Impact** – None
- 7.5 **Safeguarding Children**- None
- 7.6 **Health Issues** - None
- 7.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** – None
- 7.8 **Property / Asset Issues** – None

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

List of appendices:

Appendix A – 2016/17 Formula model and school allocations