

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Education Budget Sub-Committee
Tuesday 8 April 2014**

CONSULTATION - FAIRER SCHOOLS FUNDING 2015/16

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1. Summary

1.1 The information item outlines the details of the recently released documentation on fairer schools funding released by the DfE and its initial findings.

2. THE BRIEFING

2.1 The DfE have recently released an important announcement regarding the next phase of school funding reform for 5 to 16 year olds, which will begin to address the unfairness of the current funding system and provide some help to authorities that are the least fairly funded.

2.2 The DfE are planning to allocate an additional £350m funding to schools in 2015-16 to distribute this funding to local authorities most in need. The DfE will maintain a minimum funding level for every pupil and every school which means that no local authority's and no school's level of funding per pupil will fall as a result of this proposal.

2.3 As Bromley has been one of the lowest funded authorities in London, it has anticipated for a number of years that we would benefit from the proposed funding changes and the consultation document supports this. Appendix B of the consultation document shows indicative minimum funding levels under the new proposals which shows that Bromley could benefit from an increase of around £19m additional funding, being the highest increase in percentage terms.

2.4 It is important to note that the DfE clearly states that these proposals do not represent implementation of a national funding formula, but will put the government in a stronger position to implement a national funding formula when the time is right. It is also important to note that this proposal relates to 2015-16 only – beyond then the allocation of funding between local authorities will be a matter for the next spending review.

2.5 The full consultation document and response form can be access at the following link and is also attached at appendices 1 - 5:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fairer-schools-funding-2015-to-2016>

2.6 The amount of additional funding that LAs could receive has been calculated by setting a minimum funding level for each of the funding elements as follows:

- Basic per pupil amount – Primary: £2,845; KS3: £3,951; KS4: £4,529
- Deprivation – between £893 and £1,974
- Looked after children - £1,009
- Low prior attainment – primary: £878 ; secondary : £1,961
- EAL – primary: £505 ; secondary : £1,216
- Lump sum – primary: £117,082 ; secondary: £128,189
- Additional sparsity sum for small schools – up to £53,988
- An area cost adjustment to increase minimum funding levels in areas with higher labour market costs e.g. London Weighting – full details of the rationale behind this calculation can be seen at Appendix C of the consultation document

2.7 These figures have been used to calculate the indicative funding levels for local authorities – an example of this can be seen at paragraph 1.2.1 of the main fair funding consultation. A breakdown of the exact calculation for each LA has been requested and is expected to be issued shortly.

2.8 It is important to note that these funding levels have been used to calculate the LA overall funding and may not be the amounts that will be used in the funding formula for individual schools for 2015-16. At this stage the consultation should be viewed from an overall LA perspective as opposed to individual school level as it is not feasible to do any detailed modelling at this stage.

2.9 A meeting of the Schools Forum will be held in April and this information will be shared. It will allow Schools Forum Members to contribute to a proposed joint consultation response. It is also hoped that the additional meeting will also allow Forum members to contribute to the forward planning of any detailed modelling to be carried out during the summer term.