

Report No.  
ED14051

## London Borough of Bromley

### PART ONE - PUBLIC

---

**Decision Maker:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** **CONSULTATION – FAIRER SCHOOLS FUNDING IN 2015-16**

**Contact Officer:** Mandy Russell, Head of Schools Finance Team  
Tel: 0208 313 4806 E-mail: amanda.russell@bromley.gov.uk

**Chief Officer:** Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services

**Ward:** Wards

---

1. Reason for report

This report outlines the details of the consultation document released by the DfE and proposes a response document to be submitted by the Local Authority.

---

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**The Schools Forum are invited on comment on the proposed response document.**

### 3. COMMENTARY

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.

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.

As a floor funded authority, Bromley 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. In view of this, the LA felt it was extremely important to share this information with the Schools Forum at the earliest opportunity to allow Forum Members to contribute to the proposed consultation response. It is hoped that the additional meeting will also allow members to contribute to the forward planning of any detailed modelling to be carried out during the summer term.

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.

The full consultation document can be access at the following link and is also attached at appendices 1 - 4:

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

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 eg London Weighting – full details of the rationale behind this calculation can be seen at Appendix C of the consultation document

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 - a breakdown of the exact calculation for each LA is expected to be issued shortly.

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.

The consultation focusses on these over-arching principles and the LA responses have been prepared on this basis. A copy of the draft response form is attached at appendix 5.

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and comment on the proposed responses.