

Decision Maker: EDUCATION BUDGET SUB- COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 16 October 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS REGARDING FAIRER FUNDING FOR 2015/16

Contact Officer: Amanda Russell, Head of Schools Finance Support
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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.2 The report provides details of the outcome of consultation with schools, and the changes to the proposed funding distributions following the release of Department for Education final funding allocation for 2015/16.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Education Budget Sub Committee is requested to consider the consultation responses and the proposed distributions methodology.

2.2 The Portfolio Holder for Education is requested to agree the proposed distributions methodology as supported by the Executive Director for Education, Care and Health Services and the Schools Forum.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Dedicated Schools Grant
 4. Total current budget for this head: £228m
 5. Source of funding: DSG
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): n/a
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): n/a
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 At its meeting in June 2014, the Schools Forum considered a report outlining the proposed allocation of the additional funding coming to Bromley in 2015/16 as part of the Fairer Funding review. The Schools Forum considered a number of options put forward by the LA and the Schools Forum Working group, and there was a further option tabled by a member of the Forum. It was agreed that the LA would go out to consultation with one option from the initial proposals and the further option.
- 3.2 The consultation document was issued to all schools, and also sent to all Chairs of Governors. A detailed analysis of the consultation responses is attached at Appendix 1. This shows a clear divide between the views of primary and secondary schools. There are no responses from special schools as this review does not impact on their funding.
- 3.3 On the 17th July the Department for Education issued updated information regarding the Fairer Funding proposals which included an increase in the overall amount of funding allocated to Bromley and changes to the Minimum Funding Levels which provide the underlying basis for this funding. Full details of this information can be found at the attached link.

[Fairer schools funding: arrangements for 2015 to 2016](#)

Also attached at Appendix 1 is the calculation of the Schools Block Unit of Funding (SBUF) which details the amount of funding that Bromley will receive on a per pupil basis for 2015/16. This figure has now been finalised at £4,552.73, however the pupil numbers used in the overall calculation detailed here will be updated to reflect the October 2014 census number of the final allocation. This sheet also shows the revised Minimum Funding Levels that have been used within this calculation.

- 3.4 The original additional allocation of funding notified to Bromley was £19.1m – details of how this was calculated was detailed in the previous report. The final allocation is now confirmed at £19.5 m – this can be seen at Annex B of the main document accessed from the link above. The main reason for the increase in funding is that the new calculation used 13/14 pupil numbers (ie based on October 2013), whereas the original calculation was based on 12/13 pupil number (ie based on October 2012 census). However there are also some changes to the Minimum Funding Levels – this can be seen in detail on Appendix 1 – MFL Comparisons. Most of the changes are fairly minimal apart from two exceptions:
- Primary Prior Attainment – this has reduced from £877 to £669 per pupil. This is because the original calculations used 73 points as the measure of low attainment whereas the final allocation is based on 78 points.
 - Secondary Prior Attainment – This has reduced from £1,960 to £940 per pupil. This is because the original figures were based on 2012/13 data where the measure of data was pupils not attaining in English and Maths. The revised data reflects the change to English or Maths which came in from 2013/14. This resulted in a big increase in the numbers of eligible pupils, as a result of this per pupil funding went down (nb Bromley funding decreased from £2,500 to £1,000 per pupil).
- 3.5 Unfortunately because this information was not released until the 17th July, it was too late to update the consultation data which was sent out on 4th July, with a closing date for responses by 25th July. Appendix 2 shows a full analysis of all the responses received including comments from individual schools. However, as every consultation response received favours the one of the two options consulted upon which most benefits the sector (primary or secondary) or the individual school which the responders represent, it is probably fair to assume that any fresh consultation would have followed the same pattern of response.

3.6 The two models that were consulted on originally have both been remodelled using the new figures. Full details of this can be seen at Appendix 3, which shows the original figures for options one and two, and the revised figures for each option. However the underlying principles remain the same for each option, as detailed below:

- Option 1 – all schools funded at the higher level of either current Bromley funding or new DfE Minimum Funding Level – where there is not sufficient additional funding to support this, the lump sum has been adjusted for all schools.
- Option 2 – following the principles put forward at the previous meeting, the additional funding has been split 60:40 between primary and secondary schools, and the per pupil figure of £471 has been added to the AWPU value for all Key Stages. However, as this does not bring the Primary AWPU upto the DfE Minimum Funding Level, deprivation funding has been adjusted down to the DfE MFL.

Appendix 4 replicates the table that was presented to the Forum at the last meeting in support of Option 2.

3.7 Full details of the individual funding levels can be seen in the table at Appendix 1. This table also shows the funding levels for other neighbouring Local Authorities as a comparison. The impact of the remodelling is that more funding is directed towards primary schools, more so in revised option 1 than 2. This is due mainly to the impact of the changes to the DfE MFLs for Prior Attainment.

3.8 LA Officers have met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum who make up the Sub Group to discuss these issues at length and to agree the revised options to be put forward at the next meeting. All parties agreed that although it would have been good if the revised options could have been sent out to all schools as part of a new consultation, the time constraints imposed by DfE meant that this was not possible.

3.9 The revised options have also been presented to Terry Parkin, Executive Director of ECHS and his senior management team. After some discussion, the SMT agreed to support Option 1 as they felt it provided an opportunity to recognise and to address the underfunding of all schools within Bromley, but with particular focus on Primary schools.

3.10 The Schools Forum discussed this issue at their meeting on the 25th September and after being put to a vote it was agreed that the Forum would support Option 1. The Education Budget Sub Committee is therefore asked to confirm that Option 1 will form the basis of the Funding allocation for 2015/16.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy, Legal and Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	