

**PART ONE - PUBLIC**

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

**Date:** **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

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

**Title:** **HIGH NEEDS FUNDING CONSULTATION**

**Contact Officer:** David Bradshaw, Head of Finance, david.bradshaw@bromley.gov.uk

**Chief Officer:** Director of Children's Services

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for report

This report provides details of the High Needs Funding consultation and the Councils proposed response.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**The Schools Forum are asked to**

- i. **Review the consultation and the draft response;**
- ii. **Agree to a joint response or submit their own response back to the Department for Education (DfE).**

a) **COMMENTARY**

- 1.1 On the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 DfE announced a consultation seeking views on proposed initial changes to the High Needs National Funding Formula (NFF) as part of a longer term review of the NFF. The document is attached is Appendix 1
- 1.2 The high needs National Funding Formula (NFF) calculates funding allocations to local authorities for children and young people in England with complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or who require alternative provision (AP).
- 1.3 This consultation forms the first stage of a longer term review of the High Needs NFF. This review will be taken forward following the SEND review, and will consider how the distribution of High Needs funding can be improved, to achieve the highest quality support for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 1.4 The consultation ends on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and responses to the questions need to be submitted by this date.
- 1.5 As with other consultations the Council have formulated a provisional response. The Schools Forum are being asked to review this and agree a joint response back to DfE. Alternatively, the Schools Forum can submit their own response.
- 1.6 There are six questions being asked. The question set and the provisional response to these are contained in Appendix 2