

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	4 APRIL 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	FAIRER SCHOOLS FUNDING IN 2015-16
REPORT BY:	SCHOOL FINANCE MANAGER

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide – all schools

Purpose

To consider the response to the DfE consultation on the 2015-16 school funding arrangements.

Recommendation

THAT Schools Forum consider a response to the DfE consultation paper.

Alternative Options

- 1 The alternative option is not to respond to the consultation. By not responding Herefordshire risks the Department for Education (DfE) ignoring Herefordshire's views to the detriment to our schools.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The Authority has received a consultation paper from the DfE on the 2015-16 School Funding Arrangements and School Forum's response will be important in helping shape national policy.

Key Considerations

- 3 The DfE Consultation paper "Fairer Schools Funding in 2015-16" is attached as an appendix alongside a blank copy of the Response Form. Schools Forum will receive a presentation at the meeting on the proposed response for discussion in more detail as further information will be received from the DfE at a briefing on 26th March and will be included in the presentation to forum.
- 4 For ease of comparison, the DfE's indicative national formula is set out below alongside Herefordshire's school funding values for 2014/15.

Herefordshire school Funding values	2014/15 Value (£)	DfE Indicative minimum funding level 2015-16
Primary per pupil funding (AWPU)	2,759	2,845
Secondary per pupil funding (KS3)	3,583	3,951
Secondary per pupil funding (KS4)	4,512	4,529
Deprivation Ever-6 Free school meals – secondary	2,280	1,080
Deprivation Ever-6 Free school meals – Primary	2,820	893
Looked After Children	1,300	1,009
Low Cost High Incidence SEN primary	228	878
Low Cost High incidence SEN secondary	148	1,961
English as Additional Language - Primary	405	505
English as Additional Language – secondary	405	1,216
Lump Sum - Primary	99,000	117,082
Lump Sum – Secondary	118,750	128,189
Sparsity	14,000	53,988
Pupil mobility	0	0
London Fringe	n/a	n/a
Post-16 DSG funded pupils	n/a	n/a
PFI factor	190,000	Included above
Business Rates	at cost	Included above

5 Further information will be provided to members at the meeting.

6 It is heartening that at long last the f40 campaign has been successful in delivering a £2.6m funding increase for Herefordshire schools in 2015/16. The f40 will continue to lobby government to ensure that the national funding formula is fair for low funded rural counties like Herefordshire. The funding of the lump sum and small rural schools is particularly important for Herefordshire and will be considered in detail by the Budget Working Group when the detailed supporting information is received from the DfE.

Community Impact

- 7 The community impact will be assessed by the DfE nationally. Locally Herefordshire will continue the work to improve funding for Herefordshire schools and to make the best of the national funding opportunities. It is important to respond to all DfE consultations to press the local case for improved school funding.

Equality and Human Rights

- 8 There is widespread recognition that the current school funding system is unfair and out of date. The DfE is committed to addressing this so that, across the country, schools have a fair funding allocation that equips them to provide a world-class education. Herefordshire and the f40 group are working with the DfE to ensure this happens.

Financial Implications

- 9 The DfE have announced an indicative £2.6m increase in schools block DSG for Herefordshire equivalent to a 2.9% increase from £90.9m to £93.5m. At this stage it is still unclear how the DfE have calculated the indicative minimum funding levels and to what extent it will be affordable within Herefordshire's increased DSG.

Legal Implications

- 10 There are no legal implications arising from this consultation

Risk Management

- 11 The DfE will publish detailed guidance in the summer following the conclusion of this consultation which will be considered by the Budget Working Group and School Forum as part of the 2015/16 budget consideration.

Appendices

- 12 Department for Education consultation paper "Review of 2015-16 Fairer Schools Funding in 2015 -16" and response form.

Background Papers

- 13 None.