

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM (SPECIAL)
9 November 2017

Directorate of Children Learning and Skills

Langley Hall Primary Academy Trust (LHPAT)
Proposed Change to the Funding Formula for Exceptional
Circumstances Factor

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report considers a proposed change to the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2018-19 to include an exceptional circumstances factor for LHPAT.

Background

- 1.1 Schools Forum (SF) is reminded that the October meeting received a presentation from LHPAT making a business case for the council to apply for the above factor to be included in the 2018-19 schools funding formula, or NFF.
- 1.2 SF agreed that all schools should be consulted on this proposal and this report presents the outcome from the consultation to inform SF in its making its decision.
- 1.3 SF will be aware that under the Education Funding Agency's SF Powers and Responsibilities schedule it is for the council to propose and ultimately decide on changes to the funding formula.
- 1.4 The Council will make this decision taking into account the recommendation from SF.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum:
 - Decides whether to recommend a change to the formula having regard to the feedback from the consultation.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The consultation closed on 31 October and 27 schools replied to the single question:

Based on the information provided do you support the application to the ESFA for an exceptional premises factor to be included in the 2018-19 Slough schools national funding

formula, funded from a top slice of the Schools Block, to cover the additional rental costs incurred by Langley Hall Academy school?

- 3.2 Of the 44 schools eligible to participate 27 schools (61%) replied as follows:

Response	Number of Replies	% of Replies
Yes	0	0%
No	27	100%
Total	27	100%

- 3.3 The full list of schools who replied is listed at Appendix A.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The 10 October SF report 'Langley Hall Free School – Exceptional Circumstances Business Case' contains details regarding the request for an exceptional premises factor to fund the additional lease costs through a top-slice of the schools block. The report also included a business case from LHPAT in support of the application. School representatives made a verbal presentation at the meeting.
- 4.2 19 schools added comments in support of their answer and some of the comments are reproduced at Appendix B. Given the overwhelming rejection to making an application schools' comments were strongly against such a proposal.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 6.1 Monitoring Officer
The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.
- 6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources
The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.
- 6.3 Access Implications
There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable

Contact for further information

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Schools finance team

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Appendix A: Respondents to Consultation (27)

St Joseph's Catholic High School
Wexham School
Beechwood
Wexham Court Primary School
Ryvers
Willow Primary
Marish
Littledown School
Parlaunt Park Primary Academy
Haybrook College
The Langley Academy Trust
Holy Family Catholic School
Slough and Eton
Claycots School
Langley Grammar School
Pippins School
St Joseph's
The Westgate School
Foxborough Primary School
Upton Court Grammar School
Baylis Court School
Herschel Grammar School
Priory School
St Mary's CE Primary School
St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary
Colnbrook Primary School
St Anthony's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Appendix B: Sample of comments from schools in support of their consultation response

1. School 1
 - a. For the school and the Academy Trust this will be financially unsustainable and will impact on the educational provisions for our pupils.
2. School 2
 - a. Money is tight for all schools and many in Slough have seen annual reductions for more than 4 successive years. This isn't a one off request, but something needed on an annual basis for the length of the lease. The expansion of the school, whilst providing places that were likely to be needed, was not part of the school place planning strategy for SBC. A number of schools have additional financial pressures - PFI, old buildings requiring more upkeep than others, low numbers of pupils attracting funding through the low prior attainment and deprivation factors (which Slough rightly puts significant sums through). The MFG could mean that some schools are hit significantly harder by an exceptional premises factor than others.
3. School 3
 - a. We support Schools Forum and the Council to continue to lobby the ESFA to fund this capital premises cost of taking the lease on behalf of LHPAT. We do not support the top-slicing from the schools DSG block for the 21 years of the lease.
4. School 4
 - a. I think this is not a matter for schools to resolve. We are facing our own cuts and constraints, which have already meant that we have cut back on staffing and other site expenses. This cost should have been included initially and if not then all circumstances should have been considered at that time.
5. School 5
 - a. The school entered into the agreement on the basis that they could afford to do so and to ask us to fund it for the next 21 years is not reasonable. I feel very strongly that School Forum should not agree to this proposal.