

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM (SPECIAL)
9 November 2017

Directorate of Children Learning and Skills

**Schools National Funding Formula 2018-19
Preparation**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report updates Schools Forum (SF) on the planning and preparation for the 2018-19 schools budget through the 'soft' National Funding Formula (NFF).

Background

- 1.1 The October SF received an update of on the NFF for 2018-19 that set out the proposed changes for next year and included a provisional timetable. This report confirms the date for the budget development Task Group and the approach in modelling the impact of any allowable local changes to the formula leading to final consultation with schools in January 2018 and submission of the APT by the 19th January.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum:
- Notes the approach to the 2018-19 schools budget development.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The next two financial years offer the opportunity to plan and prepare for the 'journey' towards the implementation of the 'hard' NFF in 2020-21. The Schools Block funding for 2018-19 and 2019-2020 will be the collated amount that schools would receive had the NFF been implemented immediately noting that the total funding is driven by the NFF rates, but will be distributed through the local formula.
- 3.2 In particular the planning and consultation with schools should ensure there is minimal turbulence arising from changes up or down to the amount of revenue funding schools will receive under the NFF. The DfE expect local authorities to transition towards the NFF during the next two years.

3.3 Within the DfE proposals for next year is the scope to model a number of outcomes under the auspices of the Schools Funding Task group. The first meeting is scheduled for 21st November as shown in the timetable below.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The revised budget preparation timetable is set out below:

Activity	Target Date/Completion
Build 2018-19 financial model	November
Consult schools	16 th to 30 th November
Schools Task Group meeting to consider consultation options	21st November
Collate consultation and Task Group responses	1 st December
Enter agreed model into APT	W/C 4 December
EFA publish initial schools block allocations	18 December
Complete final APT and check affordability	18 th December
SF consulted on final EYNFF rates post consultation	17th January
Submit final APT to DfE with agreed political ratification date if not already obtained	19 th January

4.2 The diagram below reflects the journey referred to in 3.1 above.

Journey to the NFF			
→			
Local Formula	Soft NFF		Hard NFF
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Current Status	Consistent Change	Consistent Change	No 'Cliff Edge'
	Minimal Change	Substantial Change	
	Substantial Change	Minimal Change	

4.3 The diagram illustrates how change could be addressed and managed over the budget development period.

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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