

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
12th November 2019

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

2020-21 Schools' Block Consultation Outcome

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report follows on from the paper presented at the October Schools' Forum and provides the outcome of the 5-16 Schools Revenue funding consultation for 2020.21 on the two agreed options endorsed by the Schools Task Group.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum **note** the level of responses to the consultation with all 44 schools:
- 31 responses (70%) of which;
 - 24 in favour of **OPTION 2** – 85% movement to NFF factor rates with a +0.5% MFG.
 - 7 in favour of **OPTION 1** – 65% NFF factor rates 'as-is' with a +0.5% MFG.
- 2.2 That Forum takes into consideration the outcome of the consultation and **recommends** the implementation of the preferred option.
- 2.3 Under both options all schools will receive a per pupil increase over 2019-20 levels, which is separate to increases/decreases to numbers of pupils.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This the third 'soft' year of the implementation of the National Funding Formula. The DfE are, in the third year, progressing this ambition by hardening parts of the formula such as the minimum per pupil values. Whilst the intention for a 'hard' NFF is still intended for 2021-22, the DfE has not formally confirmed that this will happen and based on this, the LA is adopting another stepped approach towards it rather than implement it fully. It is also unclear what implications there are to future levels of local funding if the NFF was implemented in full.

Until the DfE has made clear on any local implications, Slough should carefully consider the choice to move to it. Second to this, primary legislation needs to be amended and approved to implement the NFF, which needs to be factored into the timescales.

- 3.2 The Task Group meeting held on the 21st October 2019 agreed that Option 2 was the option that provided the least amount of overall turbulence to schools year- on- year illustrative budgets, whilst moving further towards the NFF and therefore was considered the most sensible option to adopt.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Various options were considered at the first two Task Group meetings, which were whittled down to the two that went to consultation as approved at the Third Task Group.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 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 Finance and 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 Concluded on the 18th October 2019.

Contact for further information

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