



**North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 7 July 2021**

**Agenda Item**

**DFE Consultation – Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula**

**1 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the latest consultation by the DfE on the future of the National Funding Formula for mainstream schools, which invites responses by 9th September 2022
- 1.2 To seek agreement from Schools Forum that the detailed response from the LA should be prepared through the Schools Block Sub-Group of the Schools Forum.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have been working towards a direct National Funding Formula for mainstream schools over many years. The formula has stayed a local one, but with fewer options for variations and with incremental changes to align all LAs and schools onto a single national funding formula.
- 2.2 Following consultation with all schools North Northamptonshire Council decided to adopt the National Funding values and factors for 2022/23. Every school were given an uplift through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2022/23 and this is expected to be the case again in 2023/24, with individual schools getting to a purely NFF driven formula allocation at various stages over the medium-term.
- 2.3 The change made in North Northamptonshire simplified much of the transitional arrangements that arise from the implementation locally of the NFF. The ESFA did still have some practical issues to consider on non-pupil related funding factors (i.e. splits-sites, NNDR, PFI, growth and falling rolls). They held a consultation, to which NNC responded during 2021, and they have considered the responses and are consulting again on the next steps for the NFF.
- 2.4 The consultation is found [here](#) but is provided as an [appendix](#) to this paper.

**3 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 3.1 Rather than work through the detail in Schools Forum, officers propose that the Schools Block sub-group is convened to consider a draft response to the paper. Once they are happy

with the contents, they can sign it off on behalf of Schools Forum, in order to meet the deadline for responses of 9th September 2022.

#### **4 Next steps**

- 4.1 Officers would convene the sub-group in late July 2022 for a single meeting. Representatives from Primary and Secondary schools are invited to participate in late July 2022 with membership agreed through North Northamptonshire Schools Forum.

#### **5 Financial implications**

- 5.1 North Northamptonshire Schools need to be aware of all the latest proposed changes made by the DFE so that they can submit a response which can influence the decisions made by the DFE.

#### **6 Legal implications**

- 6.1 Schools funding is governed by The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021. It is important to ensure decisions are made within the regulations set.

#### **7 Risks**

- 7.1 There's the risk that the interest of North Northamptonshire Schools are not considered if North Northamptonshire Schools Forum fail to participate in this consultation.

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