



1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report is to update North Northamptonshire Schools Forum of the proposed Split Site Policy for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) schools, funded from the Schools Block for 2023-24. The same policy criteria is proposed to be applied to fund Special Schools split sites but funded from the Special Schools Budget of the High Needs Block.

2 Background

- 2.1 The DfE has referred to split site funding specifically within the new school funding arrangements. It is recognised that these schools incur higher running costs, for example extra staffing costs due to travel between sites and the care and maintenance of 2 sites.
- 2.2 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) provided split site funding in three component elements, leadership costs, building care and maintenance and staff and pupil travel. A school may be entitled to one, two or all three. There is a fourth component level for Secondary Schools only, where the buildings are more than 5 miles apart and this is exclusive of, not in conjunction with, the other three elements. The funding in each of the component elements is a maximum allowing for lower amounts to be applied where circumstances warrant.

3 Financial Impact

- 3.1 The premises factor within the National Funding Formula (NFF) is made up of :
- PFI factor
 - rates
 - split sites and
 - exceptional circumstances.
- 3.2 There is currently no NFF rate set for the split site factor. The premises funding within the 2023-24 NFF allocation to Local Authorities is the levels of funding awarded for split sites to school in their 2022-23 Authority Proforma Tool (APT).
- 3.3 The total funding distributed through the schools funding formula for North Northamptonshire schools split sites in 2022-23 was £75k and this level is proposed for 2023-24 school budgets.

4 The Split Site Policy and Rates

4.1 Schools will be assessed at their request based on these criteria (including those schools currently in receipt of split site funding). The criteria to qualify for the funding elements are as follows:

- a) Where a school is more than 1 mile apart an allocation is given to support extra leadership costs including site management. Primary schools of less than 400 pupils in total or secondary schools of less than 1,500 pupils would be entitled to this element of funding. It is assumed larger split site schools should have sufficient scale to manage the efficient use of their site not to require this element of split site funding; and/or
- b) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic, funding will be given to support the extra pressure incurred by having 2 sites incurring higher fixed costs for the care, maintenance and operation of the buildings; and/or
- c) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic and there is daily movement of pupils between sites there will be a contribution towards the extra costs of staff and pupils' transportation between the 2 sites.
- d) Any Secondary schools with sites greater than 5 miles apart would receive split site funding equivalent to the Secondary lump sum funding amount.

4.2 Split Site Rates (same as for 2022-23)

Table 1: Split Site Funding Rates 2023-24

Phase	Criteria (a) Leadership Costs(*)	Criteria (b) Building Care & Maintenance	Criteria (c) Staff and pupil travel	Criteria (d) Secondary 5+ miles apart
Primary	Up to a maximum of £25,000	Up to a maximum of £20,000	Up to a maximum of £30,000	n/a
Secondary	Up to a maximum of £40,000	Up to a maximum of 25000	Up to a maximum of £50,000	Equivalent of the Secondary Lump Sum £ in 2023/24

Note: (*) applies where a Primary school is less than 400 pupils in total or a Secondary school is less than 1,500 pupils in total.

5 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6 Risks

6.1 There is a risk that not funding split sites appropriately leads to a greater financial burden on some schools than others. This creates the risk of financial instability, or inadequate cover for the safety of pupils travelling between sites or inadequate caretaking of a site and could lead to a school becoming less appealing to parents.

7 Recommendations for Schools Forum

7.1 That Schools Forum consider and support the proposed Split Site Policy.

8 Next Steps

8.1 Pending the outcome of the Implementation of the Direct National Funding Formula Consultation by the DFE the split site factor may need to change as per national guidance.

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