

SCHOOLS FORUM

THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2021

At 2.00 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS, ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
5.	<u>SCHOOL BUDGET FUNDING 2022/23 CONSULTATION REVIEW</u> To receive the above report.	3 - 36

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Report Title:	School Budget Funding 2022/23 Consultation Review
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stuart Carroll - Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health
Meeting and Date:	Schools Forum 16 December 2021
Responsible Officer(s):	Kevin McDaniel - Director of Children's Services James Norris - Head of Finance Achieving for Children (RBWM)
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

Following the Schools Forum report dated 18 November 2021 and the subsequent consultation undertaken with schools in respect of the proposed school budget formula for 2022/23 the purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with:

- a summary and brief analysis of the results of the consultation
- details from the consultation to enable a decision on any changes to the school budget formula
- an update on the Growth Fund allocation 2022/23
- an update on the proposed de-delegation rates for 2022/23 (maintained schools only)

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

1.1 **RECOMMENDATION:** That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and:

- I. **Within the limits of the school budget allocation 2022/23 agrees to the factor changes as set out in 2.4 to 2.7**
- II. **Votes on the proposed de-delegation rates for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 6 and table 1 primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must vote separately for each phase (maintained schools only);**
- III. **Notes the planned Early Years formula consultation 2022/23**

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 School Funding is received through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) across four blocks, each with its own formula to calculate the funding to be distributed to each local authority.

- Schools Block – funds mainstream primary and secondary schools through the school formula, and growth funding for new growing schools/bulge classes
- High Needs Block – funds places in special schools, resource units and alternative provision, and top up funding for pupils with EHCPs in all settings including non-maintained, independent, and further education colleges
- Early Years Block – funds nursery schools, nursery classes in mainstream schools, and early year’s settings in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector through the free entitlement for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
- Central Schools Services Block – funds services provided by the local authority centrally for all schools, such as the admissions service

2.2 The DSG must be deployed in accordance with the conditions of grant and the latest School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Detailed guidance is contained within various operational guidance documents issued by the Education Funding & Skills Agency (EFSA). The latest Operational guidance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2022-to-2023>

2.3 At the Schools Forum on 18 November 2021 it was agreed that a consultation would be undertaken on the principles relating to a number of formula factors impacting on the Schools Budget allocation, funding formula for 2022/23 and migration towards the National Funding Formula (NFF).

2.4 The first three factors to be consulted on relate to those factors that for 2021/22 are currently below the National Funding Formula (NFF) rate. The impact on the Schools Budget share of increasing the unit rates to the NFF are shown in brackets.

- An increase in the school lump sum allowance of £4,298 to NFF £128,263 (£257,910)
- An increase in the deprivation factor Free School Meals Ever 6 (Secondary) of £6.65 to NFF (£8,350)
- Deprivation – Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) bands A & B (£nil currently; no pupils eligible)

2.5 The Looked after Children (LAC) formula factor is an optional factor. It is proposed that the LAC unit rate remains the same level as for 2021/22. Retaining the LAC unit rate has an estimated cost of £28,559.

2.6 The School funding operational guidance states that Local Authorities can set the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) percentage between +0.5% and 2.0%. The proposal for 2022/23 is to retain the MFG at 0.5% in line with Schools Forum

opinion of recent years. Increasing MFG to 2.0% would have an estimated increased cost of £218,000.

2.7 It was proposed that any further headroom could be used to further increase the school lump sum allowance of £4,709 to NFF £132,972 (£282,531).

2.8 The Department for Education has proposed to remove the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (the Grant) from the allocation paid directly to local authorities, and instead suggested that the improvement service is funded, like Academy schools, by a contribution from school budgets. The consultation therefore seeks the views of schools in respect of funding the service via de-delegation from school budget shares. The impact would have an estimated cost of £72,000 for 2022/23 increasing to £144,000 for 2023/24.

3. RESPONSES TO THE SCHOOLS CONSULTATION

3.1 For each question included in the consultation a summary and brief analysis of the results with schools feedback is set out in appendix A.

3.2 An extract of the original consultation document is attached as appendix B.

4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

4.1 The results of the consultation is shown in detail in appendix A. Consultation was on an individual school basis with a total of 12 schools (20%) responding, which was a significant reduction on the 2021/22 response rate of 39%. The percentages set out in 4.2 to 4.7 are based on those schools that responded to the consultation.

4.2 The proposal to retain the Looked After Children factor at the current rate was supported by 100% of schools.

4.3 Allocating any headroom to increase the lump sum allowance was supported by 83% of schools. Responses in favour of this approach reflected that it was beneficial to all schools, whilst those against stated that the focus of any headroom should be through a pupil led methodology.

4.4 Allocating any headroom to increase the free school meals Ever6 unit rate to NFF 2022/23 levels was supported by 67% of schools with 17% unsure and 17% against. The unsure responses stated that the focus of any headroom should be through a pupil led methodology.

4.5 Increasing the IDACI bands A and B unit rates to NFF 2022/23 levels was supported by 83% of schools with comments stating the need to continue to support the most deprived and in need of support.

4.6 Retaining the minimum funding guarantee at 0.5% was supported by 92% of schools, whilst the school against this approach stated that the

most equitable method of allocating budget should be through a pupil led methodology.

4.7 Funding the continuation of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering service at the current level through de-delegation was supported by 42% of schools, with 8% against and 50% unsure. The opposing and unsure responses stated that schools were already facing tight financial challenges and removal of the service would have an adverse impact on standards in schools.

4.8 The consultation results demonstrates the overwhelming support for retaining the LAC factor, allocating headroom to the schools as a lump sum whilst also increasing the Ever6, IDACI bands A and B unit rates. It also strongly supports retaining the Minimum Funding Guarantee at the lowest level of 0.5%.

4.9 The proposal to provide the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering service at the current level through de-delegation received a mixed response. The general comments from schools align with the RBWM response submitted as part of the DfE consultation in November 2021. It is notable that there is broad concern that its withdrawal would result in a reduction of support leading to falling standards across all schools. This is balanced by the simple concern that schools cannot afford this new burden despite the headlines of the restoration of funding to 2010 levels.

4.10 The pandemic has demonstrated that schools value local leadership from the Local Authority in many aspects of their operation. High performance is the result of many actions taken by school and authority leaders to create the right culture. The removal of this grant will strip the local community of essential support for school quality, so we are proposing to seek the de-delegation to underwrite this key service.

4.11 It is recommended that the school budget formula is updated to reflect all the changes as set out in 2.4 to 2.7 and the consultation responses in 4.2 to 4.10; including the proposal to plan to move the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering service to a de-delegated service. Following the conclusion of the DfE School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering service consultation RBWM will look at options to fund the service (including buy-back and pay as you go) with de-delegation being the fall-back position.

5. GROWTH FUNDING

5.1 The growth fund for 2021/22 is £877,000 with a forecasted expenditure of £320,000, the reported underspend is reflected in the latest monitoring reported to Schools Forum December 2021. The indicative level of funding for 2022/23 will be advised by the ESFA in December 2021. The current pupil growth funding commitments for 2022/23 are £110,000.

6. DE-DELEGATION RATES

6.1 In accordance with the Schools Revenue Funding 2022/23 Operational Guidance de-delegated services are for maintained schools only; funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval.

6.2 Schools Forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must vote separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally; the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase. They must vote on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued. There may be different decisions for each phase.

6.3 Any underspend on the de-delegated budgets will be retained within the Dedicated Schools Grant (Schools Block) and will be carried forward into the next financial year. A reconciliation of balances held will be undertaken during the summer term 2022 and a proportion of balances held will be repaid to the contributing schools with the balance being held in a ring-fenced fund.

6.4 The proposal is for 2022/23 to retain the maintained schools de-delegated unit rates at the current level. The largest fund within the de-delegation is the Maternity Pay estimated funding at £197,000 for 2022/23, however, although salaries and on-costs have increased, the overall charges to this account have decreased in the last three years. The proposed de-delegation rates for 2022/23 are shown in table 1. The final de-delegated budgets for 2022/23 will be known on the completion of the school formula Authority Pupil Tool (APT) due to be sent out to local authorities in December 2021.

6.5 The future funding of the School Improvement and Brokering Service is under consultation. If, as indicated by the DfE, the funding is reduced by 50% for 2022/23 the required de-delegation unit rate has been estimated and included in table 1.

Table 1 Proposed de-delegation unit rates 2022/2023

	Data	Unit Rate	Estimated Budget 2022/23
		£	£000
Primary			
Contingency	Per Pupil	15	107
Behaviour Support	Per IDACI	50	24
Staff Costs (maternity and divisional reps)	Per Pupil	25	179
School Improvement & Brokering	Per Pupil	10	70
Secondary			
Contingency	Per Pupil	N/A	N/A
Behaviour Support	Per IDACI	N/A	N/A

Staff Costs (maternity and divisional reps)	Per Pupil	25	18
School Improvement & Brokering	Per Pupil	10	7

7. EARLY YEARS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

- 7.1 The 2022/23 initial allocations for the Early Years block were announced in November 2021. Local authority basic funding rates have increased by 21p per hour for two year olds and 17p per hour for three and four year olds to £6.25 and £5.31 respectively.
- 7.2 Local authorities are required to consult providers on annual changes to their local formula. Schools forums must also be consulted on changes to local early years funding formulas, including agreeing central spend. The final decision rests with the local authority.
- 7.3 There will not be any significant changes to the local formula for 2022/23, therefore, a short consultation is planned to be undertaken during the spring term 2021. Only one submission will be accepted per setting and school, responses will be collated and anonymised before being considered by the appropriate Schools Forum.
- 7.4 As part of the consultation period a document providing guidance, context and the process for submission will be distributed to all settings and schools.

8. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 8.1 The financial implications are set out in sections 2 to 7.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The DfE Schools Operational guide states local authorities must continue to do their best, within the circumstances, to engage in open and transparent consultation with all maintained schools and academies in their area, as well as with their schools forums, about any proposed changes to the local funding formula, including the principles adopted and any movement of funds between blocks.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 There are no potential risks arising from this report.

11. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 11.1 Equalities. Equality Impact Assessments are published on the council's website. The Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the council to ensure that when considering any new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure the impacts on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public

groups, have been considered. There are no Equality Impact risks arising from this report.

11.2 Climate change/sustainability. There are no climate change/ sustainability risks arising from this report.

11.3 Data Protection/GDPR. There are no data protection/ GDPR risks arising from this report.

12.BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 This report is supported by the following background documents:

- Schools revenue funding 2022 to 2023 Operational guide:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2022-to-2023/schools-operational-guide-2022-to-2023>

13.CONSULTATION

13.1 There is no requirement for stakeholder consultation arising from this report.

14.TIMETABLE FOR IMPEMENTATION

14.1 Table 2 sets out the Schools Budget formula 2022/23 setting timetable.

14.2

Table 2 Schools Budget formula 2022/23 setting timetable

14.3

Key Activity	Deadline
Results of the consultation will be shared at the Schools Forum	16 December 2021
The Local Authority is required to submit the draft Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) to the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)	21 January 2022
The funding formula is subject to ratification by the Council	22 February 2022
Final school budgets are shared with schools	31 March 2022

15.CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory:</i>	<i>Statutory Officers (or deputy)</i>		

Adele Taylor	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	08-12-21	09-12-21
Emma Duncan	Deputy Director of Law and Strategy / Monitoring Officer	08-12-21	10-12-21
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)	08-12-21	
Elaine Browne	Head of Law (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	08-12-21	
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	08-12-21	08-12-21
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors</i>			
Duncan Sharkey	Chief Executive	08-12-21	
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place	08-12-21	
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of Children's Services	08-12-21	08-12-21
Hilary Hall	Executive Director of Adults, Health and Housing	08-12-21	09-12-21
<i>Heads of Service</i>			
Nikki Craig	Head of HR, Corporate Projects and IT	08-12-21	10-12-21
Louisa Dean	Head of Communications	08-12-21	

14.4

Councillor Stuart Carroll	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health	Consulted on contents on report: Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Schools Forum For Decision	No	Yes- due to the consultation only ending on Monday 6th December.

Report Author: James Norris - Head of Finance Achieving for Children (RBWM)

Consultation Document Schools Funding Formula 2022-23

Questions for Consultation

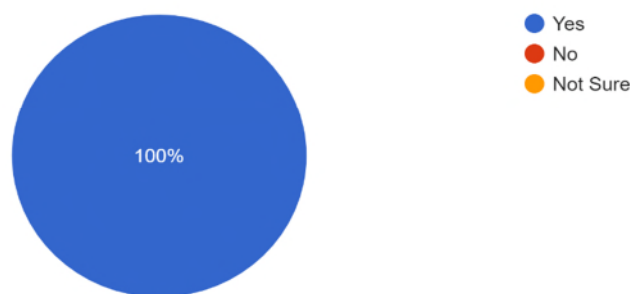
Looked After Children (LAC)

The Looked after children (LAC) factor is an optional factor. The DfE no longer uses a LAC factor in the NFF.

Senior officers this year do not propose to change LAC unit rate and LAC is to remain at the same level as for 2021/22, to assist schools with the challenges that have arisen since on the pandemic.

Question 1 - Looked after Children (LAC)

12 responses



Q1

Do you support the Looked after Children (LAC) formula factor remaining at the current unit rate?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Not sure

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	12	0	0	12
All schools equally weighted %	100	0	0	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	100	0	0	100

Summary of comments: No comments received

Use of any Headroom

Once all the compulsory elements of the formula are met in full and the proposal to retain LAC funding has been allocated to eligible pupils, any unallocated Schools Block Funding (excluding the Growth Fund) is then 'headroom'. A number of options have been considered and listed below for the allocation of any surplus balance:

Question 2: Lump Sum

Question 3: Deprivation – Free School Meals Ever6

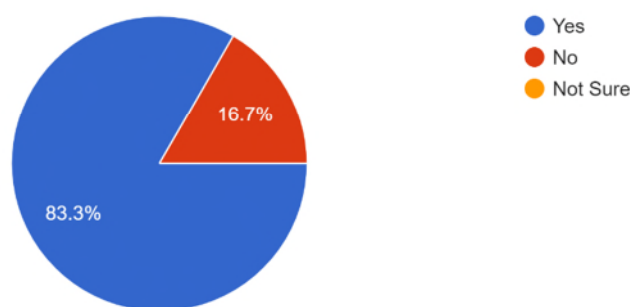
Question 4: Deprivation – IDACI, Bands A&B

Lump Sum:

Do you agree that headroom funding should be targeted at the school lump sum per school? Increasing the lump sum up to or above NFF level for 2022/23, if sufficient funds are available after meeting the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL).

Question 2: Lump sum per school?

12 responses



Q2.

Do you support targeting any headroom to Lump Sum?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Not sure

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	10	2	0	12
All schools equally weighted %	83	17	0	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	75	25	0	100

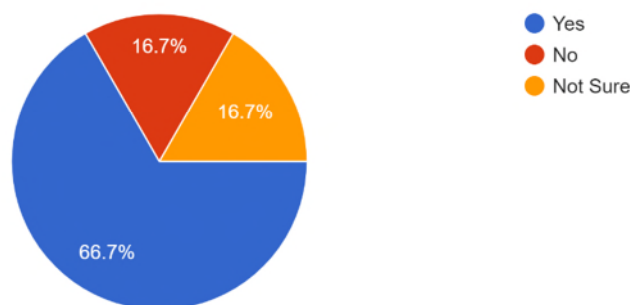
Summary of comments: The Secondary schools that disagreed with this approach feel the focus should be pupil led funding. Primary schools feel this approach is beneficial to all schools.

Deprivation - Free School Meals Ever 6 (FSM Ev6)

Schools receive funding for all secondary pupils who have been recorded as eligible for FSM at any time in the last six years through this factor (this includes all primary pupils who are currently eligible for FSM). The RBWB local formula factor for FSM Ev6 had until recently been a similar rate to the NFF + ACA rates for both sectors; however, for 2022-23 the Secondary rate is currently below NFF + ACA by £6.65 per eligible pupil.

Question 3: FSM Ev6

12 responses



Q3.

Do you support increasing FSM Ev6 Secondary unit rate to NFF level for 2022/23? If sufficient headroom is available

a) Yes

b) No

c) Not sure

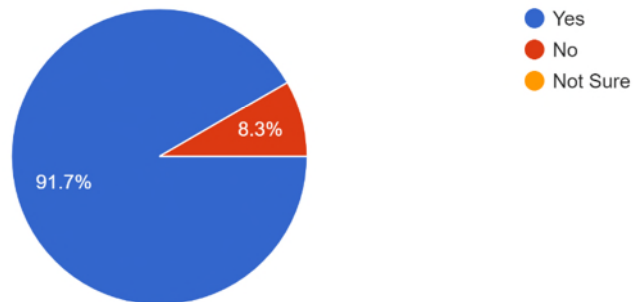
	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	8	2	2	12
All schools equally weighted %	67	17	17	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	71	19	10	100

Summary of comments: Two primaries were not sure, stating any headroom should be fairly distributed.

Deprivation – IDACI Bands A & B

The majority of the RBWM deprivation factors are above the NFF (+ ACA) for 2021-22. The IDACI 'Band A' and 'Band B' RBWM unit rates for 2021/22 are below NFF + ACA.

Question 4: IDACI
12 responses



Q4.

Do you support increasing the IDACI bands A and B unit rates to NFF levels? Ensuring that any children in the most deprived bands will in future be funded at the minimum of NFF. If not, please provide comments

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	11	1	0	12
All schools equally weighted %	92	8	0	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	83	17	0	100

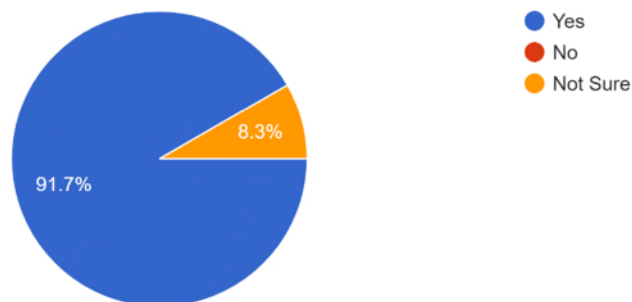
Summary of comments: Comments were that these are the most deprived and need support.

Impact on School Budgets – Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

A number of schools are in receipt of the MFG protection and will receive a minimum increase of 0.5% per pupil. MFG ensures that the school funding allocations excluding business rates and lump sum, divided by the school NOR are not lower than minimum levels specified by the government.

Question 5: Minimum Funding Guarantee

12 responses



Q5.

Do you agree that the Minimum Funding Guarantee top up should remain at +0.5%?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Not sure

	A	B	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	11	0	1	3
All schools equally weighted %	92	0	8	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	94	0	6	100

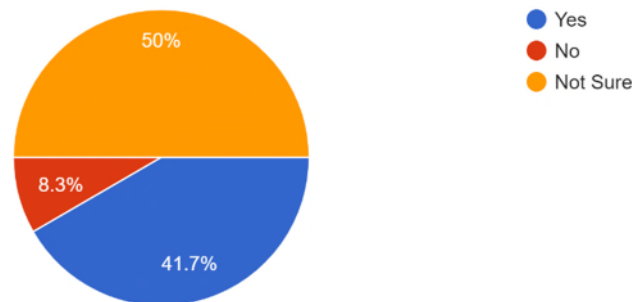
Summary of comments: One secondary school replied that the fairest way of distributing funding is via pupil led factors.

School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant

The proposals being consulted on are the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (the Grant), and the making of provision for funding of local authority school improvement activity via de-delegation from budget shares.

Question 6: School Improvement, Monitoring & Brokering Grant

12 responses



Q6.

Would you support the continuation of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering service at the current level via de delegation?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Not sure

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total
Number of Responses	5	1	6	12
All schools equally weighted %	42	8	50	100
Weighted by pupil numbers %	18	23	59	100

Summary of comments: Excluding academy responses as they are not affected by this change, the response from 6 primary schools is: 50% yes, 50% not sure. Schools felt they would be unable to afford the service. Additional financial impact on the schools budget position. Cessation of the service would have a direct negative impact on school standards.

Schools Funding Formula 2022-23 Consultation (22-11-21 to 06-12-21)

Purpose of the Consultation

At the meeting of 18th November 2021, the RBWM School Forum agreed to inform and consult all schools on the following:

- The migration to National formula funding and meeting the minimum funding per pupil.
- The optional formula factor for Looked After Children.
- Use of headroom funding
- The minimum funding guarantee

Your Schools Forum representatives will use your consultation responses to inform how they vote on the 2022-23 funding distribution methodology at the next Schools Forum in December

The consultation responses will be anonymised and published as part of the Schools Forum papers.

To help inform your response to the consultation a glossary (Appendix 3) and brief explanation of each question has been provided. It is important that you consider your consultation response carefully as the responses will be used to inform decisions about how money will be allocated to schools next year.

To illustrate the changes proposed in this paper, schools have been provided with the current local formula factor unit rates, the National Formula Funding unit rates including Area Cost Adjustment and the proposed unit rates for RBWM's local formula 2022-23. These are shown side by side for schools to clearly see the movement from year to year in Appendix 1 & 2.

The 2022-23 Schools actual final funding will be based on the October 2021 pupil Census, updated data.

If you would like to discuss the consultation further, please contact your Schools Forum representative. Details of Schools Forum representatives are shown below in Appendix 4

Schools are asked to complete and return the consultation document by 6pm on the 6th December 2021. As in previous years only one submission per school can be accepted.

Context

In July 2021 local authorities were notified of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocations for the Schools block, High needs and Central School services.

There is a significant amount of information published on the DfE's website (2022-23 operational guidance) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2022-to-2023>

In 2022 to 2023, as in previous years, each local authority is to continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. In July 2021, the DfE published a consultation on proposals for completing reforms of the funding system, whereby individual schools budgets would be set directly through one single national formula, rather than local funding formulae. This consultation proposes that, from 2023/2024, local authorities will be required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF, to smooth the transition. These requirements do not apply in

2022/2023, but local authorities can choose to move their local formulae closer to the NFF in advance of 2023/24.

The schools national funding formula (NFF) has been updated for 2022/23 with new factor values.

The key changes are:

- The core factors in the NFF (such as basic per pupil funding, additional needs and deprivation) will increase by 3%.
- The minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPL) will increase by 2%, compared to 2021/22.
- As a result of the 2% uplift in MPPL each primary school will receive at least £4,265 per pupil, and every Secondary school at least £5,525.

RBWM along with many other local Authorities, run a local formula and have been working towards changing formula unit rates to move closer to or mirror, the NFF. Each year each local authority consults with the Schools Forum and the individual schools on proposals to change the local formula.

School Funding Guarantees

In addition to the main factors listed in the formula for schools funding there are two school funding guarantees. All local authorities apply these guarantees unless a decision is made by the authority to consider and request disapplication from the DfE.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a per pupil protection to ensure funding between years does not decrease below a certain percentage. A range of 0.5% to 2% per pupils is set by the ESFA. NFF is currently set at 2% and the RBWM local formula at +0.5%.

The Minimum per pupil level funding (MPPL) is a guarantee that for every pupil on roll the school receives a minimum amount via the pupil led factors within the formula. Table 1 (see section below) sets out 2022/23 rates per sector. The minimum funding per pupil for primary and secondary is a compulsory factor.

The factors that make up the MPPL are:

- Age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)
- Free School Meals
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
- English as additional Language (EAL)
- Mobility
- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Low Prior Attainment (LPA)
- Lump Sum

This consultation paper does not repeat much of the background to the NFF which can be found via the links above, however, it is worth reiterating that the notional allocations published by Government are not what individual schools will receive in 2022-23. School allocations depend on the local formula which will be reflective of this consultation and the October 2021 pupil number changes.

Schools Forum members and RBWM are seeking schools view on the changes to the local Schools formula for 2021-22 financial year. This consultation will inform decisions on the local formula for 2021-22. Academies and Free Schools are reminded that although their funding comes directly from

the Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) it is based upon the local formula and so these changes will impact on all school's funding.

If you would like to discuss the consultation further please email the Bursar Support Team at the following address and they will direct your enquiry to the appropriate officer to respond.

Bursar.support@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Consultation Focus

The 2022-23 final formula for 2022-23 will meet the increase in the Minimum per pupil level funding and the RBWM local factors at NFF levels for 2021-22 will be updated to reflect the inflation increases for 2022-23. The consultation questions focus on changes to formula factors that are not currently at NFF levels in 2021-22.

Taking into consideration previous Schools Forum discussions and decision making, it is proposed that consultation with schools will focus on formula changes with the minimum volatility.

Looked After Children deprivation factor – targeting local priorities

The Looked after children (LAC) factor is an optional factor. The DfE no longer uses a LAC factor in the NFF.

In recent years the unit rate for this factor has been decreased as RBWM is working towards meeting the NFF expected hard formula, the implementation of which has been delay for a number of years. Senior officers this year do not propose to change LAC unit rate and LAC is to remain at the same level as for 2021/22, to assist schools with the challenges that have arisen since on the pandemic. The 2021/22 consultation outcome responses demonstrated that 92% of schools agreed to maintain 2020/21 rates and schools had reflected on the COVID pandemic expressing this cohort of pupils needed continued additional support

Headroom Options:

Once all the compulsory elements of the formula are met in full and the proposal to retain LAC funding has been allocated to eligible pupils, any unallocated Schools Block Funding (excluding the Growth Fund) is then 'headroom'. A number of options have been considered and listed below for the allocation of any surplus balance (Table 2 set out in section below):

Increase in the lump sum allowance

The RBWM local formula lump sum for 2021-22 is currently £123,965 per school. RBWM have over the last few years worked towards moving the RBWM unit rates closer to the NFF. Lump sum for both factors is below the 2022-23 newly published NFF of £128,263. Targeting headroom to the lump sum rate will benefit both sectors, including those in receipt of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Deprivation - Free School Meals Ever 6 (FSM Ev6)

Schools receive funding for all secondary pupils who have been recorded as eligible for FSM at any time in the last six years through this factor (this includes all primary pupils who are currently eligible for FSM). The RBWB local formula factor for FSM Ev6 had until recently been a similar rate to the NFF + ACA rates for both sectors; however for 2022-23 the

Secondary rate is currently below NFF + ACA by £6.65 per eligible pupil.

Deprivation – IDACI Bands A & B

The majority of the RBWM deprivation factors are above the NFF (+ ACA) for 2021-22. The IDACI 'Band A' and 'Band B' RBWM unit rates for 2021/22 are below NFF + ACA.

For 2021-22 bands A & B did not include any eligible children and therefore had no financial impact for the schools. For 2022-23 the numbers of eligible children are not yet known.

Impact on School Budgets

Schools will receive the increase in the minimum per pupil level funding per pupil and any headroom allocated as per the options listed. The per pupil funding will be based on the school submitted October 2021 CENSUS data.

A number of schools are in receipt of the MFG protection and will receive a minimum increase of 0.5% per pupil. MFG ensures that the school funding allocations excluding business rates and lump sum, divided by the school NOR are not lower than minimum levels specified by the government.

Schools De delegation:

School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant

The government have recently released a statement and consultation relating to possible changes to the funding arrangements for the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering grant.

The proposals being consulted on are the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (the Grant), and the making of provision for funding of local authority school improvement activity via de-delegation from budget shares. The government anticipates that this will give more control (via Schools Forums) to school leaders, and will mean that the maintained sector reflects the approach taken by most Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs).

The consultation is proposing the full removal of the Grant from 1 April 2023, with a 50% reduction from 1 April 2022. The regulations allowing de-delegation would be in place from 1 April 2022. RBWM is currently in receipt of £144,739 grant for the financial year 2021/22. If the grant reduces by 50% for 2022/23 the estimated cost of de delegation for 2022/23, based on the October 2020 maintained pupil numbers, is £10 per pupil.

The government consultation can be found at the following link:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/simb-grant-team/local-authority-school-improvement-funding-reform/>

Closing date for all responses is the 26th November 2021; Achieving for Children will submit a response on behalf of the Local Authority

Consultation Questions

There are a six in principle questions on which we would like schools responses to.

Please see supporting information:

- The RBWM local formula unit rates for 2021-22
- NFF unit rates including the area cost adjustment (ACA) for 2022-23

Table 1

The Minimum per pupil level funding (MPPL) is a guarantee that for every pupil on roll the school receives a minimum amount via the pupil led factors within the formula. Table 1 (see section below) sets out 2022/23 rates per sector. The minimum funding per pupil for primary and secondary is a compulsory factor.

Table 1: DSG Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels

Year Groups	Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels £
Primary	4,265
KS3	5,321
KS4	5,831

Table 2

Once all the compulsory elements of the formula are met in full and the proposal to retain LAC funding has been allocated to eligible pupils, any unallocated Schools Block Funding (excluding the Growth Fund) is then 'headroom'. A number of options have been considered and listed below for the allocation of any surplus balance

Options	2021-22	2022-23	Increase	Oct 2020 data	2022-23
Use of Headroom Funding	RBWM Unit Rate	Proposed Unit Rate	Movement In Unit Rate	Estimated Total Cost	Published NFF & ACA
	£	£	£	£	£
A) Lump sum per school - NFF	123,965	128,263	4,298	257,910	128,263
B) Lump sum per school - Above NFF	123,965	132,972	9,007	540,441	128,263
C) FSM Ever 6 - Secondary to NFF	908.00	914.65	6.65	8,350	914.65
D) IDACI Band A - Primary to NFF	600.00	676.74	76.74	0	676.74
E) IDACI Band A - Secondary to NFF	840.00	941.09	101.09	0	941.09
F) IDACI Band B - Secondary to NFF	730.15	740.18	10.03	0	740.18

Appendix A

		RBVM Local Formula 2021-22			National funding formula (NFF) 2022-23 base rates, NO ACA		National funding formula (NFF) base rates with ACA 2022-23		
							ACA 1,057,400		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AVPU)	MPPL	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	MPPL
Primary (Years R-6)	4,180.00	3,300.82		37,385,087	3,217.00		3,401.66		4,265.00
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	5,215.00		4,654.76	24,814,526		4,536.00		4,796.37	5,321.00
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	5,715.00		5,245.59	16,764,906		5,112.00		5,405.43	5,831.00
DEPRIVATION - Income Deprivation Affecting Children & Free School Meals		Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	
FSM		475.26	475.26	952,421	470.00	470.00	496.98	496.98	
FSM6		744.00	908.00	2,131,724	530.00	865.00	623.87	914.65	
IDACI Band F		276.66	362.29	402,877	220.00	320.00	232.63	338.37	
IDACI Band E		345.93	479.90	31,788	270.00	425.00	285.50	449.40	
IDACI Band D		518.90	671.80	38,018	420.00	595.00	444.11	629.15	
IDACI Band C		539.50	702.69	2,484	460.00	650.00	486.40	687.31	
IDACI Band B		560.09	730.15	-	490.00	700.00	518.13	740.18	
IDACI Band A		600.00	840.00	0	640.00	890.00	676.74	941.09	
DEPRIVATION- Looked After Children & English as an additional Language		Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	
LAC X March 16		475.00	475.00	28,559	0	0	0	0	
EAL 3 Primary		581.32		580,453	565.00		597.43		
EAL 3 Secondary			1,569.56	278,238		1,530.00		1,617.82	
Mobility		951.25	1,363.45	38,600	925.00	1,330.00	978.10	1,406.34	
DEPRIVATION - LOW PRIOR ATTAINMENT		Weighting	Amount per pupil	Allocations	Weighting	Amount per pupil	Weighting	Amount per pupil	
Primary Low Attainment		1,157.35		3,207,832	1,130.00		1,194.86		
Secondary low attainment (year 7)	£64.53	64.53							
Secondary low attainment (year 8)	£63.59	63.59							
Secondary low attainment (year 9)	£58.05	58.05	1,754.52	3,240,546		1,710.00		1,808.15	
Secondary low attainment (year 10)	£48.02	48.02							
Secondary low attainment (year 10+11)									
LUMP SUM		Lump Sum per Primary	Lump Sum per Secondary	Allocations	Lump Sum per Primary	Lump Sum per Secondary	Lump Sum per Primary	Lump Sum per Secondary	
7) Lump Sum		123,965	123,965	7,437,870	121,300	121,300	128,263	128,263	
		Schools Block Formula		98,931,078					
		Rates		1,050,803					
		minimum per pupil		544,345					
		MFG Balance @ +0.5%		91,578					
		scaling		6.00%					
		capping		0.05%					
		Ratio		1.292					

Appendix B

RBVM Local Formula 2021-22					2022-23 APT Factors already @ National Funding Factors LEAVE IDACI + FSM6 @ 21-22 rates INCREASE Lump Sum to NFF		
					MODEL 1		
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	MPPL	£		Allocations	£		
		Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil		Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations
Primary (Years R-6)	4,180.00	3,300.82		37,385,087	3,401.66		38,527,201
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	5,215.00		4,654.76	24,814,526		4,796.37	25,569,448
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	5,715.00		5,245.59	16,764,906		5,405.43	17,275,754
DEPRIVATION - Income Deprivation Affecting Children & Free School					Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations
FSM		475.26	475.26	952,421	496.98	496.98	995,948
FSM6		744.00	908.00	2,131,724	744.00	908.00	2,131,724
IDACI Band F		276.66	362.29	402,877	276.66	362.29	402,877
IDACI Band E		345.93	479.90	31,788	345.93	479.90	31,788
IDACI Band D		518.90	671.80	38,018	518.90	671.80	38,018
IDACI Band C		539.50	702.69	2,484	539.50	702.69	2,484
IDACI Band B		560.09	730.15	-	560.09	730.15	-
IDACI Band A		600.00	840.00	0	600.00	840.00	0
DEPRIVATION- Looked After Children & English as an additional Language					Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations
LAC X March 16		475.00	475.00	28,559	475.00	475.00	28,559
EAL 3 Primary		581.32		580,453	597.43		596,539
EAL 3 Secondary			1,569.56	278,238		1,617.82	286,793
Mobility		951.25	1,363.45	38,600	978.10	1,406.34	39,698
DEPRIVATION - LOW PRIOR ATTAINMENT					Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Allocations
Primary Low Attainment		1,157.35		3,207,832	1,194.86		3,311,799
Secondary low attainment (year 7)	£64.53	64.53					
Secondary low attainment (year 8)	£63.59	63.59					
Secondary low attainment (year 9)	£58.05	58.05	1,754.52	3,240,546		1,808.15	3,339,599
Secondary low attainment (year 10)	£48.02	48.02					
Secondary low attainment (year 10+11)							
LUMP SUM					Lump Sum per Primary School	Lump Sum per Secondary	Allocations
7) Lump Sum		123,965	123,965	7,437,870	128,262.67	128,262.62	7,695,780
Schools Block Formula					Schools Block Formula		
Rates					RATES estimate 2020-21		
minimum per pupil					minimum per pupil		
MFG Balance @ +0.5%					MFG Balance @ +0.5%		
scaling					scaling		
capping					capping		
Ratio					Ratio		
					1.292		
					1.285		

ACA – Area Cost Adjustment. The provisional Schools Block allocations to each local authority the funding for the schools block includes the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) to reflect differences in cost between different parts of the country. For RBWM the **ACA is 1.05613**

AWPU or Basic Entitlement The “basic entitlement” is the sum allocated to a school for any pupil at a specific key stage. This was formerly known as the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) The funding source for the total Schools Budget from July 2020.

DfE The Government’s Department for Education, which prescribes on schools funding issues

Delegated budget Budget which a school’s governors may spend as they determine, for the benefit of the school. It may also be spent, in limited circumstances, for the benefit of pupils at other schools.

EAL English as a second language

ESFA The Education and Skills Funding Agency is the body currently responsible to the DfE for maintaining the policy framework for funding LAs and academies, co-ordinating the funding of post 16s in school sixth forms and colleges and for maintaining the post 16 funding formula. (These roles were previously undertaken by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for schools and 16-19 education providers.

FSM6 (or “ever 6 FSM”). Children who have been eligible for free school meals on a termly school Census date within the last six years, even if they are not currently eligible. This is an indicator of deprivation increasingly used by the DfE for school funding and accountability purposes.

HNB High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant, intended to fund services for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

IDACI Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, government index often used as a proxy indicator of deprivation

LA The Local Authority

LAC Looked After Pupils

LPA Low Prior attainment

MFG Minimum Funding Guarantee – a rate set by the Government each year, which represents the maximum percentage reduction per pupil which each school should receive in its new budget

MPPL (Minimum per pupil funding level) This is a minimum average funding level per pupil which each school will receive under the National Funding Formula if the individual formula factors would otherwise generate less than this

NFF The National Funding Formula, introduced by the DfE at LA level in 2018/19. From April 2018 RBWM’s schools funding formula will be expected to migrate towards the NFF.

Schools Forum Representatives

School / Non School	Sector	Type Of Member	Representative
School	Academy	Headteacher	Martin Tinsley (Chair)
School	Academy	Headteacher	Maggie Callaghan
School	Academy	Headteacher	John Fletcher
School	Academy	Headteacher	Isabel Cooke
School	Academy	Headteacher	Catherine Thomas
School	Academy	Headteacher	Andrew Morrison
School	Academy	Headteacher	Vacant
School	Academy	Governor	Vacant
School	Academy (Free School)	Governor	Vacant
School	Maintained Nursery	Headteacher	Sarah Cottle
School	Maintained Primary	Headteacher	Mike Wallace
School	Maintained Secondary	Headteacher	Chris Tomes (Vice chair)
School	Maintained Special	Headteacher	Joolz Scarlett
Non School	Non Schools 16-19	Non Schools	Amanda Dean

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Essential information

Items to be assessed: (please mark 'x')

Strategy		Plan		Project		Service procedure	X
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Responsible officer	James Norris	Service area	Finance	Directorate	Achieving for Children
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Stage 1: EqlA Screening (mandatory)	Date created: 08/12/2021	Stage 2 : Full assessment (if applicable)	Date created :N/A
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Approved by Head of Service / Overseeing group/body / Project Sponsor:

"I am satisfied that an equality impact has been undertaken adequately."

Signed by (print): Kevin McDaniel

Dated: 08/12/2021

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Guidance notes

What is an EqlA and why do we need to do it?

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.
- Fostering good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.

EqlAs are a systematic way of taking equal opportunities into consideration when making a decision, and should be conducted when there is a new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure in order to determine whether there will likely be a detrimental and/or disproportionate impact on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups. All completed EqlA Screenings are required to be publicly available on the council's website once they have been signed off by the relevant Head of Service or Strategic/Policy/Operational Group or Project Sponsor.

What are the "protected characteristics" under the law?

The following are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability (including physical, learning and mental health conditions); gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

What's the process for conducting an EqlA?

The process for conducting an EqlA is set out at the end of this document. In brief, a Screening Assessment should be conducted for every new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure and the outcome of the Screening Assessment will indicate whether a Full Assessment should be undertaken.

Openness and transparency

RBWM has a 'Specific Duty' to publish information about people affected by our policies and practices. Your completed assessment should be sent to the Strategy & Performance Team for publication to the RBWM website once it has been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group. If your proposals are being made to Cabinet or any other Committee, please append a copy of your completed Screening or Full Assessment to your report.

Enforcement

Judicial review of an authority can be taken by any person, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) or a group of people, with an interest, in respect of alleged failure to comply with the general equality duty. Only the EHRC can enforce the specific duties. A failure to comply with the specific duties may however be used as evidence of a failure to comply with the general duty.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Stage 1 : Screening (Mandatory)

1.1 What is the overall aim of your proposed strategy/policy/project etc and what are its key objectives?

The overall aim of the report is to provide the Schools Forum with:

- a summary and brief analysis of the results of the consultation
- details from the consultation to enable a decision on which budget model should be implemented
- an update on the Growth Fund allocation 2022/23
- an update on the proposed de-delegation rates for 2022/23 (maintained schools only)

1.2 What evidence is available to suggest that your proposal could have an impact on people (including staff and customers) with protected characteristics? Consider each of the protected characteristics in turn and identify whether your proposal is Relevant or Not Relevant to that characteristic. If Relevant, please assess the level of impact as either High / Medium / Low and whether the impact is Positive (i.e. contributes to promoting equality or improving relations within an equality group) or Negative (i.e. could disadvantage them). Please document your evidence for each assessment you make, including a justification of why you may have identified the proposal as “Not Relevant”.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Protected characteristics	Relevance	Level	Positive/negative	Evidence
Age	Yes	Low	Positive	This report does impact on pupils within this protected characteristic; however, as school funding is on a formula basis impact has already been considered within previous reports and decision making processes
Disability	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Gender re-assignment	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Marriage/civil partnership	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Race	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Religion and belief	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Sex	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
Sexual orientation	No			There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.

Outcome, action and public reporting

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Screening Assessment Outcome	Yes / No / Not at this stage	Further Action Required / Action to be taken	Responsible Officer and / or Lead Strategic Group	Timescale for Resolution of negative impact / Delivery of positive impact
Was a significant level of negative impact identified?	No	None		
Does the strategy, policy, plan etc require amendment to have a positive impact?	No	None		

If you answered **yes** to either / both of the questions above a Full Assessment is advisable and so please proceed to Stage 2. If you answered “No” or “Not at this Stage” to either / both of the questions above please consider any next steps that may be taken (e.g. monitor future impacts as part of implementation, re-screen the project at its next delivery milestone etc).

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Stage 2 : Full assessment

2.1 : Scope and define

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

2.1.1 Who are the main beneficiaries of the proposed strategy / policy / plan / project / service / procedure? List the groups who the work is targeting/aimed at.

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2.1.2 Who has been involved in the creation of the proposed strategy / policy / plan / project / service / procedure? List those groups who the work is targeting/aimed at.

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2.2 : Information gathering/evidence

2.2.1 What secondary data have you used in this assessment? Common sources of secondary data include: censuses, organisational records.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

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2.2.2 What primary data have you used to inform this assessment? *Common sources of primary data include: consultation through interviews, focus groups, questionnaires.*

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Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Protected Characteristic	Advancing the Equality Duty : Does the proposal advance the Equality Duty Statement in relation to the protected characteristic (Yes/No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Negative impact : Does the proposal disadvantage them (Yes / No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Please provide explanatory detail relating to your assessment and outline any key actions to (a) advance the Equality Duty and (b) reduce negative impact on each protected characteristic.
Age					
Disability					
Gender reassignment					
Marriage and civil partnership					
Pregnancy and maternity					
Race					
Religion and belief					
Sex					
Sexual orientation					

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Protected Characteristic	Advancing the Equality Duty : Does the proposal advance the Equality Duty Statement in relation to the protected characteristic (Yes/No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Negative impact : Does the proposal disadvantage them (Yes / No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Please provide explanatory detail relating to your assessment and outline any key actions to (a) advance the Equality Duty and (b) reduce negative impact on each protected characteristic.
Age					
Disability					
Gender reassignment					
Marriage and civil partnership					
Pregnancy and maternity					
Race					
Religion and belief					
Sex					
Sexual orientation					

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review

Foster good relations

Protected Characteristic	Advancing the Equality Duty : Does the proposal advance the Equality Duty Statement in relation to the protected characteristic (Yes/No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Negative impact : Does the proposal disadvantage them (Yes / No)	If yes, to what level? (High / Medium / Low)	Please provide explanatory detail relating to your assessment and outline any key actions to (a) advance the Equality Duty and (b) reduce negative impact on each protected characteristic.
Age					
Disability					
Gender reassignment					
Marriage and civil partnership					
Pregnancy and maternity					
Race					
Religion and belief					
Sex					
Sexual orientation					

2.4 Has your delivery plan been updated to incorporate the activities identified in this assessment to mitigate any identified negative impacts? If so please summarise any updates.

These could be service, equality, project or other delivery plans. If you did not have sufficient data to complete a thorough impact assessment, then an action should be incorporated to collect this information in the future.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EqlA: Schools Budget Funding 2022/23 and consultation review