

Report subject	<b>School Funding Consultation 2023-24</b>
Meeting date	13 December 2022
Status	Public
Executive summary	This report includes the school funding consultation document for 2023-24. Responses are in the process of being collated for reporting at the January 2023 Schools Forum meeting at which final decisions will be made regarding allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023-24.
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>Schools Forum note the issues raised and options included in the consultation with schools for 2023-24.</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	School Forum can provide initial feedback on any issues raised within the consultation in preparation for January 2023 decision-making.
Portfolio Holder(s):	<p>Mike White, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p> <p>Nicola Green, Cabinet member for Council Priorities and Delivery</p>
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

## Background

1. The school funding consultation for 2023-24 was open for three weeks from 11 November to 2 December 2022 with responses made on-line. The consultation paper is included as an appendix to this report.

2. A meeting with schools was held during the consultation period and this was well attended with a good level of participation in seeking to fully understand the options under consideration.
3. The results of the consultation will be available for the 13 January meeting. In the meantime, Schools Forum members are invited to comment on any aspects included in the consultation.

### **Options Appraisal**

4. The consultation document includes options to release funding from the mainstream national funding formula (NFF) to contribute to the shortfall for pupils with high needs. The option of transferring only surplus funding (all schools receive their NFF allocations in full) is considered alongside methods to release funding by adjusting the NFF unit values and mechanisms.
5. Also included are options to adapt the NFF should there be insufficient funding when the final data is received in late December.

### **Summary of financial implications**

6. The summary financial impact of the options is shown within the main document and for each school in the appendices. The impact will be assessed again in January when further information has been received in December from the DfE.

### **Summary of legal implications**

7. Schools must be consulted on the funding formula to be adopted by the council to fund mainstream schools, with the final outcome to be provided to the DfE by mid-January 2023.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

8. There are no staffing implications arising from this information report.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

9. There are no sustainability issues arising from school funding changes.

### **Summary of public health implications**

10. There are no public health issues arising.

### **Summary of equality implications**

11. This is an information report with no equality implications. In terms of the NFF, the DfE has undertaken and published a full impact assessment of the changes made for 2023-24.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

12. The funding shortfall for pupils with high needs within the Dedicated Schools Grant remains a significant risk for the council with options for a contribution from the mainstream school NFF again being considered despite the low increase in funding for most BCP schools in 2023-24.

## **Background papers**

The details of school funding and links to government documents are included in the consultation paper appended to this report.

## **Appendix**

School Funding Consultation Paper 2023-24