

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA.

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 5TH FEBRUARY 2020

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to recommend changes to the schools funding formula in how it distributes funding to schools.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To approve the proposed changes to the school funding formula as detailed in section 3 of the consultation document in appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 The school budget forum is the statutory body that oversees and proposed changes to the funding formula for schools. At the meeting in June members asked that a working group met to discuss all elements of the formula to ensure that they were distributing in the fairest way.
- 3.2 The working group met twice and from their review they agreed to consult on the following areas:
- Free School Meals (this does not affect any funding relating to deprivation or the Pupil Development Grant)
 - Payroll
 - Advertising
 - Administration
 - Foreign language assistants.
- 3.3 The reasons for this are outlined in Section 3 of the consultation document attached in appendix 1.
- 3.4 There is no proposal from this consultation to reduce the total funding going to schools, however given that the total budget will be distributed in a different way. Should this be agreed, there will be some schools who will gain and some that will lose. The financial summary of each proposal per school is shown in appendix 2. It should be noted that this is using the pupil numbers at January 2019, but will change each year. The implementation date, if agreed, is 1st April 2020.

- 3.5 The consultees are outlined in section 8 of this report, there were 6 responses including CYP Select Committee. The majority of responses were in favour of the changes. CYP Select Committee raised some concerns and these and the other responses are outlined in appendix 3 of this report.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

There were three options considered:

- 4.1 Status quo to make no changes to the formula, this was disregarded as there were some elements of the formula that were not distributing funds in the fairest way.
- 4.2 To consult on all elements of the formula (excluding Additional Learning Needs). The members of the working group decided to disregard this as there were a large majority of funding streams that distributed in the fairest way.
- 4.3 To consult on the elements listed above, this is the preferred option of the working group and agreed with the School Budget Forum.

5. REASONS:

To ensure that the funding formula for schools distributes funding to all schools in the fairest way.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There is no proposal through this paper to change the funding for schools. This is looking at how the funding is distributed. If agreed there will be some schools that will gain and some that will lose, this is based on the pupil numbers in January 2019. The individual schools affected are listed in appendix 2.

7. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

This is attached in appendix 4.

8. CONSULTEEs:

All Headteachers
Chairs of Governing Bodies
Members of the School Budget Forum
Senior Leadership Team
Departmental Management Team
Diocesan Directors
All Elected Members
CYP Select Committee.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Current funding formula
Current expenditure in schools
Individual school changes based on the January 2019 pupil numbers
Evidence from the working group
Consultation responses
The Schools Budget Share (Wales) Regulations 2010
Regional formula working papers.

10. AUTHOR:

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