

APPENDIX 3 – RESPONSE PROFORMA - RESPONSES

Formula area	I agree	I disagree	If you disagree, what is your proposal?
Free School Meals (ref 3.1)	5 Schools agreed Senior leadership team – no comment. Member agreed.		
Payroll (ref 3.2)	5 Schools agreed Senior leadership team – no comment. Member agreed.		
Advertising (ref 3.3)	5 Schools agreed Senior leadership team – no comment. Member agreed.		
Administration (ref 3.4)	5 Schools agreed Senior leadership team – no comment. Member agreed.		
Foreign Language Assistants (ref 3.5)	5 Schools agreed Senior leadership team – no comment. Member agreed.		

CYP SELECT COMMITTEE RESPONSE

Scrutiny of proposals to change the Schools Funding Formula

The report was brought to the committee to seek the views of members on the proposed changes to the funding formula for all schools, whilst this is under consultation. The lead officer advised that this review is a regular review in order to ensure the fairest distribution of funding to schools. The Schools Funding Forum had requested a working group review the formula and having undertaken the review, the forum has made the recommendations outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report. The officer explained that the rationale for the recommendations is outlined in section 3 of the consultation document attached in appendix 1 of the report.

The committee were advised that there were no proposals to reduce the overall funding, but that the recommendations outlined in the report proposed a redistribution of funds in a fairer way. The views of the select committee would be taken into account with the consultation responses when the Executive make a decision.

Challenge:

- My first question is around equity. I'm keen for everyone to be treated equally and I believe that whenever we get an opportunity to consider funding, we should address inequality and disadvantage. Some schools have to spend a lot of resources on addressing inequality, so I would be reassured if we could somehow acknowledge the effect of deprivation.

It is difficult, it's essentially the same pot of money and we are just redistributing it in a fairer way, but we will consider this. There are Welsh Government grants that address deprivation and the pupil deprivation grants that go to schools are one of these, but we will take this into account.

- Please can you offer more explanation into the rationale for the changes, the justification and explain the impacts on schools?

The officer described in detail the rationale for the recommendations, explaining that some schools received funding streams for services they no longer administered and that through consultation, the feedback of each school had been taken into account in making the recommendations.

Outcome and Chair's Conclusion:

The committee supported the proposals to change the schools funding formula in line with the findings and recommendations of the Schools Funding Forum's review. They acknowledged that the overall funding for schools is not being reduced, but that funds are being distributed in a fairer way. The committee requested:

- The officer considers how best to reflect the issue of deprivation.
- The Service Level Agreement on payroll is emailed to the committee.

The chair reminded the committee that all elected members can feed their individual comments through via the consultation process.

