

Formula Review 2011-12

Schools Forum

29 April 2008

Author: Group Director, Children

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To inform Schools Forum that the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) have recently announced the launch of a review of the distribution formula for the dedicated schools grant (DSG) 2011/12.

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is requested:

- To note this report.
- To nominate members of the Schools Forum to form a Sub-Group who will lead on responding to consultations as a result of this review.
- To consider funding additional resources through the Schools Forum budget during 2010 to support the implementation of the proposed new formula.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The DCSF announced on 31st January 2008 the launch of a major review of the distribution formula for the DSG. This review will be split into a development phase and a consultation on specific proposals, further information can be obtained from www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsgformula/review/.
- 1.2 The DCSF have established a DSG Formula Review Group representing local authorities and schools. The aim of this group is to consider the development of a single transparent formula for the distribution of the DSG.
- 1.3 As a result of this review a new formula grant will be implemented to distribute funding to authorities. The consultation process will give authorities the opportunity to represent their views regarding the proposals.
- 1.4 The Local Authority proposes that a Sub-Group is created from members of the Schools Forum. The main purpose of this Sub-Group will be to consider and respond to the consultation process and make recommendations to the Schools' Forum as and when required.

Formula Review 2011-12

Schools Forum

29 April 2008

2. Detail

- 2.1 The DCSF have announced a full review of the distribution of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from 2011-12 to develop a more transparent distribution methodology for the DSG in the longer term. This new formula should distribute resources in line with relative needs, recognising the different costs of educating particular groups of pupils and providing education in different areas. As well as supporting schools and local authorities to raise the educational achievement and narrow the educational gap of all children and young people.
- 2.2 The core membership of the DSG Formula Review Group will include representatives from central and local government, teaching associations, unions representing support staff and governors' organisations. A full list of members is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The DCSF have proposed a timetable for the review, the key dates are shown below. The detailed timetable is shown at **Appendix B**.
- Jan 2008 Launch of the review
 - Jan 08 to Sept 09 Development phase
 - Jan – Mar 10 Consultation
 - Oct 2010 School funding settlement 2011-12 onwards
- 2.4 The main communication channel for the review will be the teachernet website as detailed above, although key stakeholders will receive emails when new information has been made available.
- 2.5 Shown in the timetable above, the consultation with stakeholders starts in January 2010 and lasts for 3 months. This will be a crucial time for authorities, as they will need to respond to the consultation within this timescale to ensure their views are represented. Therefore, it is recommended that Schools Forum identify a group of members, preferably covering all sectors, to form a Sub-Group similar to the one created to review the formula for 2008-11. This will allow detailed work to be carried out and draft responses prepared for the consultation by the Sub-Group before reporting back to the Schools Forum for final approval.
- 2.6 There may also be a need for additional resources to support the finance team during this consultation period to help interpret the proposals and respond to the consultation within the timescale. If this is required, it is recommended to Schools Forum that the funding of this interim post be funded through the Schools Forum budget.

Formula Review 2011-12

Schools Forum

29 April 2008

Alternative Options

- There are no alternative options this report is just to be noted.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There maybe a requirement to invest some money for additional resources to support the finance team during the consultation period, if approved this could be funded through the Schools Forum budget of £41k which will be contained within the overall Dedicated Schools Grant.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- There are none.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- Promise 45 "Schools will be at the heart of every community".

Consultees

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix A – Membership of the DSG Formula Review Group
- Appendix B – Detailed Timetable of the Review

Formula Review 2011-12

Schools Forum

29 April 2008

Appendix A

FORMULA REVIEW GROUP

MEMBERSHIP

NAME	ORGANISATION
Dugald Sandeman (Chair)	DCSF
Jonathan Anstey	DCSF
Brian Blagbrough	DCSF
Margaret Judd	DCSF
Sean McCearney	DCSF
Stephen Kingdom	DCSF
Sue Pickerill	DCSF
Cathy Roberts	DCSF
Andrew Wye	DCSF
Graeme Roberts	DCSF
Tony Foot	HM Treasury
Karen Sussex	CLG
Tim Priestley	Audit Commission
Kim Bromley-Derry	LGA/ADCS
David Smith	LGA/ADCS
Sarah Pook	LGA/ADCS
Roger Eggleton	LGA/ADCS
Stephen Lord / Jo Mennell	LGA/ADCS
Mike Heiser	LGA/ADCS
George Phipson/ Kathryn James	NAHT
Lindsey Wharmby	ASCL
Martin Johnson	ATL
Sampson Low	UNISON
Bob Johnson	NASUWT
Pete Allenson	Unite
Brian Strutton	GMB
Bill Simmonds	NBA
Geoff Rawnsley	NGA

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Karen Murray on 01793 465794 or Email kmurray@swindon.gov.uk.

Formula Review 2011-12

Schools Forum

29 April 2008

Appendix B

Outline Timetable

1. We propose the following timetable for the review:

July 2007	Launch review
End October 2007	Deadline for comments on terms of reference
Nov-Dec 2007	DCSF analyse responses
Jan 2008	Start review <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Launch website○ Publish detailed timeline
Feb 2008	Formula Review Group begins work
Jan 08-Sept 09	Development phase
Oct-Dec 09	Develop consultation proposals
Jan-Mar 10	Consultation
Apr-Jun 2010	Build up to decisions
July 2010	Ministers announce broad decisions
Oct 2010	School funding settlement for 2011-12 onwards.