



Schools Forum

**Thursday, 16 October 2014 4.00 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', is positioned above a grey rectangular stamp.

Chief Executive

*Please contact Ann Jones - Tel: 0151 511 8276 or email:
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday, 21 January 2015*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SCHOOLS FORUM

At a meeting of the Schools Forum on Monday, 23 June 2014 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present:

J. Rigby, Secondary Academy Representative
 M. Constantine, Special Schools Representative
 E. Cargill, Primary School Governor Representative
 J. Coughlan, Primary School Representative
 D. Stanley, All Through School Representative
 L. Feakes, School with Nursery Unit
 R. Collings, Primary Representative - Infant School
 K. Landrum, Primary Representative - VA School
 A. Brown, Nursery Schools Representative
 D. Anderson, Pupil Referral Unit
 A. McIntyre, Children & Enterprise
 A. Jones, Financial Services
 A. Jones, Democratic Services
 N. Unsworth, Financial Services
 A. Hough, Substitute for Dianne Moran (Primary Academy)
 L. Fox, Substitute for Pamela Wright (Secondary Academy)

Action

SCF1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Andrew Keeley and Syd Broxton.

SCF2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

SCF38 – Development of a Family Support Service – Ann McIntyre would write to those schools that had been identified as meeting the criteria outlining the support available and the contribution required by the schools.

Ann McIntyre

SCF47 – Early Years Funding 2014-15 – Anne Jones would advise members regarding the funding factor for low level SEN funding for PVI Nursery Schools.

Anne Jones

SCF3 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The following changes were noted with regards to the membership of Schools Forum:

- The Principal of Wade Deacon, Pamela Wright, would represent the Secondary Academy sector until

September 2014; she would then be replaced by Lynn Fox, the new Principal of the school. (*Lynn was in attendance at today's meeting as an observer, as Pam Wright could not attend*);

- Mark Dennett, the Pupil Referral Representative (PRU, has stepped down from the Forum and would be replaced by Drew Anderson the Principal. From September 2014 Nigel Hunt, the new Principal, would represent the PRU;
- A vacancy had been created for a Post 16 representative and Riverside College had been approached to represent; and
- Ellen Cargill's term had now ended creating a vacancy for a Small Primary School representative.

Members would be updated regarding the vacancies at the next Schools Forum meeting.

SCF4 DSG OUTTURN 2013-14

The Forum received the final Dedicated Schools Grant position for 2013-14 and was asked to note the amount of DSG carried forward into the 2014-15 financial year.

Members were advised therefore that the amount of unspent DSG from 2013-14 was £3,836,237, and this would be carried forward into the 2014-15 financial year.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum note that the amount of unspent DSG from 2013-14 being carried forward to 2014-15 is £3,836,237.

SCF5 CONTINGENCY UPDATE

The Forum was presented with an update on the value of the Dedicated School Grant contingencies for 2014-15.

The following was reported for each of the contingencies:

The General Schools Contingency – for 2014-15 was £351,454. A licenced deficit for Farnworth Primary School for £9,541 had been agreed, leaving a revised total of £341,913.

Pupil Growth Contingency – This was £180,000 for 2014-15.

High Needs Contingency – This was £1,226,420 for 2014-15. The carry forward balance for 2013-14 was £2,120,856, giving a total budget of £3,347,276. Funding had already been approved and allocated to Ashley School for Post-16 development, £110,000 and Post-16 High Needs Assessment £14,000. Funding of approximately £108,050 would be allocated to Cavendish for place funding error. The remaining balance of this contingency is £3,115,221.

Early Years Contingency – This was £730 for 2014-15. There was a carry forward budget of £821,813. After the deduction of the Early Years Enhanced budget of £80,000 and the support to Ditton Nursery of £54,427 the remaining balance was £688,116.

Central Contingency – The total carry forward from 2013-14 was £1,170,059. After deduction of the additional rates costs for The Grange of £170,580, additional rates cost for All Saints Upton of £33,378, The Grange redundancy costs of £117,010 and the EAL Provision of £146,828, there was a remaining balance of £702,254.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum notes the balances on each of the contingencies.

SCF6 PROTOCOL FOR CONSIDERING REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Forum received a report which set out the criteria for applications for financial assistance and the procedure to be followed.

Members were advised that the General Schools Contingency was the sum delegated to schools. Halton schools had agreed that this sum be de-delegated and managed centrally. The present budget was £351,454. It was noted that the carry forward balance from the Central DSG budgets had also been used to support requests for additional assistance by schools.

The Forum was advised that the funding should only be used in the following circumstances:

- Exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet;
- Schools in financial difficulties; and
- Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.

Further, applications could be considered by Schools Forum under the following circumstances:

1. Schools in financial difficulty that wished to apply for a licenced deficit (*the procedure for applying for a licenced deficit was attached to the report at Appendix A*);
2. Schools in financial difficulty, unable to access a licence deficit, applying for a deficit write off;
3. Formula error and other miscellaneous costs which schools could not be expected to fund from their own budget;
4. Additional costs relating to new, re-organised or closing schools (which could include the costs of any salary protection);
5. Emergencies and exceptional unforeseen costs where it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet;
6. Schools in special measures or where there were serious weaknesses;
7. Result of former poor leadership and management for a school which was now under new leadership; and
8. Significant loss of goods or equipment.

The report then advised that the procedure for applying for additional funding from the contingency was:

1. Schools must put a formal request for support in writing to the Operational Director – Children's Organisation and Provision, Children and Enterprise Directorate;
2. Schools must state clearly how they had met the eligibility criteria;
3. Schools must provide clear details (and financial values) of the circumstances underlying the application, the amount of contingency they were applying for and the rationale for the amount requested;
4. Applications could be made at any time during the year;
5. Urgent requests would be considered and determined by a sub group of the Schools Forum, the outcome would be reported to the next Schools Forum meeting;
6. The Headteacher of the school applying for funding may be asked to attend Schools Forum to explain their application and answer any queries;
7. Schools would be notified of the outcome of the Schools Forum decision within 5 working days of the meeting.

Members discussed the procedures for applying for funding mentioned above and suggested that more background information should be submitted with an application, to assist the Forum to make a decision. Specific details around evidence of the need for supply teachers and best value evidence were given as examples. It was also suggested that a pro forma / check list be compiled so that it could be referred to by the Forum when making a decision.

The importance of using sub groups for determining financial assistance requests was also discussed. It was noted that due to the timing of requests, it was not always possible to wait for the next Schools Forum meeting, so therefore a sub group, made up of volunteers, would be required. It was agreed that a sub group should be no less than 3 members of the Schools Forum and no more than 5 members. The sub group would also require delegated powers to make a decision on behalf of the Schools Forum. This was noted and agreed by members.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum

1. approve the proposed criteria for funding assistance;
2. agree to adopt the proposed procedures; and
3. agree to the introduction of a pro-forma/checklist to accompany applications for financial assistance.

SCF7 UPDATE ON REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Ann McIntyre presented the Forum with a business case for financial support for uniform at Fairfield Primary School.

A copy of the business case was circulated to members for consideration which explained that an amount of £13,114 was needed towards the cost of the new school uniform since the merging of the Junior and Infant Schools, which was an initiative of the Local Authority.

Members discussed the request and voted to approve the request and to include the costs that would be incurred for Reception as well.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum approves the request for financial assistance from Fairfield Primary School.

SCF8 FAIR FUNDING CONFERENCE UPDATE

Anne Jones provided members with an update on the

information obtained following the Fair Funding Conference on 4 June 2014.

The following highlights were made:

- Early Years Pupil Premium was announced at £50m for 2015-16 for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds;
- There would be a consultation on savings of £200m (20%) of the Education Services Grant for 2015-16 and the impact this would have on key services;
- Consideration was given on how a NFFF could be introduced for 2015-16;
- Noted that pupil numbers were increasing which would be challenging for the next Government in itself but also the number and proportion of pupil with complex education needs would also rise;
- The EFA intend to announce final school block units of funding in the summer to enable local authorities to start consulting their schools before the summer holiday;
- The EFA could provide pupil referral units and alternative provision academies with greater stability by increasing their place funding from £8k to £10k;

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

SCF9 SCHOOL BALANCES

The Forum received a report which advised them of the level of balances brought forward from 2013-14 by Halton Schools. Attached to the report at Appendix A were the individual schools budget balances with comparisons to 2012-13. Appendix B detailed the Non-LMS balances brought forward into 2014-15.

Members were reminded that following discussion at the Schools Forum meeting in January 2013, the excess surplus balance limits previously imposed on schools were lifted for 2012-13 and had continued for 2013-14, on the understanding however that the balances were still to be monitored.

The Forum was advised that the level of balances in the individual Schools Budget held by Halton Schools brought forward into 2014-15 was £7,331,527. This was an increase of £161,477 to the balance carried forward into 2013-14 of £7,170,050.

A total of £356,575 non-LMS funds were carried forward into 2013-14 by schools. This balance had reduced

by £99,728 to give a balance of £263,181 to be carried forward into 2014-15.

Members noted that the balances for Fairfield and Cavendish only reflected a 9 month period not a 12 month period which had distorted the figures. The balance limit for academies at 12% would be confirmed as this was an estimate. Members also noted that there were a couple of schools with a deficit balance and should be approached as to why.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. the Forum requests that the schools showing a deficit be contacted for further information.

Anne Jones

SCF10 UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Further to the announcement last autumn that the Government was extending the eligibility to Free School Meals to include all infant pupils, an update on the new Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) grant for 2014-15 was provided to the Forum.

Members were advised that the conditions of grant paper from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) had been received together with the UIFSM calculator, which would allow staff to estimate the grant each school may receive for the academic year 2014-15.

The report provided information on:

- The provisional and final allocations;
- Dual Registered Pupils;
- Small Schools;
- Recovery of Overpayment;
- Grant Estimates;
- Grant Funding;
- Grant Carry Forward;
- Pupil Premium/Formula Deprivation Funding; and
- The Conditions of Grant document (attached to the report).

Members raised concerns over the entitlement to FSM and that the application procedure was not made clear to parents. It was noted that a schools' Pupil Premium Funding could be affected if parents do not sign up for FSM when they are entitled to them.

Also, clarification was needed with regards to the auto enrolment from those claiming housing benefit and the need to complete the form requesting FSM.

It was agreed that Ann McIntyre would make contact with the relevant officers in this regard and would convey responses to the Schools Forum.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SCF11 EARLY YEARS FUNDING

Anne Jones advised the amount of £730 would be added to the contingency of £90,000.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

SCF12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The schedule of Schools Forum meeting dates was attached and it was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 16 October 2014 at 4pm in the Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall.

Meeting ended at 5.48 p.m.

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

SUBJECT: Pupil Referral Unit Funding

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the changes to the funding of pupil referral alternative provision (AP) from April 2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the:

2.1 Local Authority’s AP Top Up Funding levels are noted;

2.2 Delegated AP early intervention funding from the high needs budget of £25,000 per school, across 8 high schools, is approved.

2.3 AP Engagement Service offer is noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Further to the previous reports on funding for Pupil Referral Units on 19th March 2013, 21st January 2014 and 17th March 2014 a comprehensive strategic review of AP is now completed. The key recommendations now being implemented are:

- One AP service with teams responsible for its delivery;
- A menu of provision that includes full and part time programmes, outreach and CPD with clear entry routes and criteria and agreed exit outcomes and delivered by specialist staff;
- Appropriate funding streams to support the revised model identified; and
- A robust quality assurance framework for all AP.

LA Commissioned Provision

The Bridge School is a 60 place KS3 & KS4 PRU. It currently receives a delegated budget of £8,000 per pupil place. Each pupil also receives a top up rate from the high needs budget. Top up rates differ and are dependent on the level of individual pupil need. National Consultation by the DfE on revised PRU funding proposes an increase to £10,000 per pupil place from September 2015.

The LA will commission all Day 6 permanent exclusion provision and up to 10 KS3 & KS4 In Year Fair Access Panel (IYFAP) places (within the existing protocol) from The Bridge School.

Currently when a school permanently excludes a pupil they are fined £9000. From April 2015 this will cease. The school will still be required to pay back the relevant AWPU following exclusion. Schools will also receive appropriate support from the LA commissioned provision (detailed below) at The Bridge School to reintegrate an excluded pupil. This proposal was presented and agreed at the 11-19 Partnership in June 2014.

The following LA AP Top Up Funding Model (for permanently excluded and IYFAP pupils) is proposed from April 2015

Key Stage 3 AP The Bridge School			
Level	Pupil need	Curriculum Offer	£ per annum
L1	Able to access groups, progress slightly below or meeting expectations, able to sustain transition to new school placement.	KS3 National Curriculum	£13,300
L2	Require small group approaches, progress not meeting expectations, significant Personal & Social (P&S) issues impacting on education, school absence.	KS3 National Curriculum + Personal & Social Development (PSD)	£17,480
L3	Require small group approaches with some 1:1 support to address significant barriers, P&S issues and inappropriate behaviours impacting on attendance and ability to engage.	KS3 National Curriculum + reintegration	£21,660
L4	Requires 1:1 support to address significant negative attitudes and a deficit in behaviour for learning. Long periods of absence. School phobic.	KS3 Bespoke 1:1 Support	On referral to respond to need.

Key Stage 4 AP The Bridge School			
Level	Pupil need	Curriculum Offer	£ per annum
L1	Year 11/late referrals unable to complete GCSEs. Able to access groups in core and options to an agreed transition pathway (post 16). Progress below expectations.	Alternative Provision (AP) + English, maths, science, ICT	£10,450
L2	Able to access groups in core GCSE and options to an agreed transition pathway (school/post 16). Progress meets/exceeds expectations.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT	£15,200
L3	Able to access groups in core and options to an agreed transition pathway (school/post 16). Progress meets/exceeds expectations. Significant P&S issues impacting on education, school absence.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT and PSD	£19,000
L4	Requires small groups with some 1:1 support to address significant barriers, P&S issues and inappropriate behaviours impacting on attendance and ability to engage.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT + reintegration	£22,800
L5	Requires 1:1 support to address significant negative attitudes and a deficit in behaviour for learning. Long periods of absence. School phobic.	Bespoke 1:1 Support	On referral to respond to need.

3.2 School Commissioned Provision

A temporary arrangement was agreed by the EFA in 2013/14 for early intervention Engagement Service provided by the PRU for pupils who

remained on roll of a school. This provision was funded by the LA through its High Needs Budget and involved no cost to the school.

- 3.5 The development of a revised Engagement Service through The Bridge School to offer a wide range of early intervention and alternative provision programmes is underway. The service will offer; a menu of provision that fulfils a robust Quality Assurance Framework (aligned with the OFSTED Inspection Framework), attendance reporting, a range of qualifications up to GCSE and to reflect the complex needs and vulnerabilities of the cohort the programmes will also offer Key Worker support and bespoke personal and social interventions. These will be available to schools through a SLA. The cost of this provision is as follows;

Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4 Engagement Service		
Curriculum Offer	£ per half day session	£ per annum (full time)
Alternative Provision (AP) including English, maths, ICT, sport, w/exp, vocational options.	£32.50	£12,350

- 3.6 £200,000 will be delegated to schools from April 2015 to meet their commissioning needs. For the 8 high schools this equates to £25,000 per school. Schools will be encouraged to purchase AP through the SLA from The Bridge School in order to support the further development and delivery of Alternative Provision Service in Halton and ensure the sustainability of the provision.

4.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision
LA Statutory Duties – Commissioning Alternative Provision 2014	DfE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision
Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-2016. Final Arrangements & DfE Funding Intentions. August 2014.	DfE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum an update on the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) Grant and the Free School Meal Service Level Agreement for 2014-15.**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) A decision is made regarding how the shortfall in funding is dealt with.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

The Education Funding Agency announced last Autumn that a new grant would be introduced to fund Free School Meals for all pupils in Years Reception to Year 2.

The conditions of grant were issued in May and presented at the School Forum meeting in June. The first payment of the grant was received at the end of June which has been fully distributed to eligible schools.

Free School Meal Service Level Agreement

The SLA charges were calculated before the end of the financial year to allow schools to make a choice of which SLA's they wish to purchase for the new financial year. As this calculation took place before the conditions of grant were issued, it was assumed that the grant would fund all infant pupils. Therefore the costs for these pupils were fully excluded from the SLA charges from September 2014.

As clarified in the conditions of grant, the UIFSM is only payable for infant pupils who are not currently eligible for Free School Meals as they are funded for within the Schools Block funding formula. The assumption made earlier in the year has resulted in a shortfall of charges for pupils currently eligible for Free School Meals. It has

been calculated that this shortfall amounts to approximately £224,000.

We have four options on how this can be treated:

- a) Schools pick up the cost from within their existing budget.
- b) Wait until the end of the financial year and only devolve additional funding to schools with UIFSM that will be in a deficit position at year-end. It is unknown how much additional funding would be needed.
- c) Devolve additional monies now to schools with UIFSM that are in financial difficulties.
- d) Devolve additional monies now to all schools with UIFSM who purchase services from the LA using monies carried forward from previous years.

Grant payments

The initial payment has been devolved to schools which covers the Autumn 2014 and Spring 2015 terms. The final allocation for 2014-15 will be calculated using both the October 2014 and January 2015 censuses. Following this calculation a further payment will be made to the local authority by 1st April 2015 which will cover the Summer term.

It should be noted that where a schools final allocation is lower than the payment made in June 2014, the difference will be deducted from the first payment of the UIFSM grant for the 2015-16 academic year.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Early Years Funding for the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector in 2015-16

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum a request for an increase in funding to the Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years providers in Halton

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the report be noted and
- (2) That School Forum acknowledges the increase in costs in the PVI sector and the required increase the overall funding provision by £100,000 for 2015-16.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Early Years Single Funding Formula was introduced in Halton in April 2011. The aim was to improve fairness and transparency in the way that funding is allocated to all providers. The method of calculating the formula changed for April 2013 with the introduction of the revised funding regulations.

3.2 Since 2010-11 the level of DSG funding has not increased in real terms. Although this has put a strain on all areas the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers of Early Years free entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds have been particularly hit by the lack of increase in funding.

3.3 PVI's by their nature employ some staff on the minimum wage. In 2010-11 the minimum wage for a person aged 21 or over was £5.93 per hour. From 1st October 2014 it is now £6.50 per hour. This is an increase of 9.61%. Within the maintained Early Years sector, employees are paid above the minimum wage.

3.4 The numbers of children taking up the free entitlement hours has increased over the same period from 743.11 full time equivalent (fte) children to 812.22 fte – a 9.3% increase.

3.5 The total funding allocated to the PVI sector has increased – from £2,465,488 in 2010-11 to £2,692,796 in 2014-15. This is an

increase of 9.2%.

3.6 While the total budget has almost kept up with the increase in participation, no account has been taken of the statutory increases in the minimum wage.

3.7 We also need to be aware of the new pension requirements that are coming into effect from April 2015 whereby the settings need to buy into a pension scheme on a staged basis between April 2015 and April 2017. This will require employers to incur set-up costs with finding a pension provider and then contribute 1% of employee earnings.

3.8 After careful consideration we are proposing to transfer £100,000 from the Primary budget to the PVI budget to allow for a small increase in the amount per hour paid. This will be an increase of 3.7% in their total funding. If we do not do this, there is an increased risk that some early years providers will no longer take in children under the free entitlement scheme as they will not be able to afford to do so. This in turn will require further provision from the maintained sector which by its nature is more expensive than the PVI sector.

3.9 In 2014-15 the total budget for primary Schools in Halton is £39,301,520. Therefore the reduction of £100,000 represents just 0.25% of primary school funding.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Excessive Water Charges

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report to the School Forum the information we have received in relation to water charges across the North West in comparison to other regions.

2.0 Recommendation

RECOMMENDED: That the report is noted and, that School Forum agrees, all schools are encouraged to write using the template letter to OFWAT. Also that School Forum agrees that a letter is sent to OFWAT from them.

3.0 Background

Sefton Council have been investigating for a while and they have noticed that schools in the North West are charged a significantly higher rate for sewerage/water compared to other areas. The Authority received an email from Sefton detailing their findings and the process they are now taking in order to try and reduce these costs.

- 3.1 Water service companies are able to charge differently for different parts of the bills they send out. In the North West a method that is proportional to the surface area of the school is used (which in the case of some schools is a considerable amount) and this is how United Utilities choose to bill our schools. Although it is legal to charge us so, it seems unfair that North West schools should be charged at such a higher rate than those of other areas in order to maintain the running of their schools. For example in 2012-13 North West schools paid about £27,000,000 for the year, whereas in the South East (which has similar numbers of schools and pupils) they paid only £11,000,000. Therefore the North West region paid £16,000,000 more in water fees. Obviously this will have an adverse effect on the amount of money that schools will have available to spend on pupils.
- 3.2 Although Sefton produced letter templates to United Utilities, it was suggested at the recent North West LMS Officers meeting that the letters should be sent to OFWAT instead, as it is felt that this will get more consideration. We have included a standard template letter. We have already prepared this template with the information for each school so that it can be emailed out for schools to personalise before sending on to OFWAT.

Chief Executive Officer

OFWAT
Centre City Tower
7 Hill Street
Birmingham
B5 4UA

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Complaint of unfair water charges

Recent analysis of Department for Education water and sewerage costs indicate that schools in the North West are currently being charged far more for their water and sewerage than schools in other areas.

The North West of England has very similar numbers of schools/pupils as the South East of England. However, whilst the water and sewerage bill for the North West Schools is around £27 million per year, it's just £11 million in the South East.

Our school The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, we paid **INSERT FIGURE HERE** per pupil in 2012/13, whereas the average for the whole of England is £17.61 per pupil. This means that our school is likely to have paid much more every year compared to similar schools in other areas.

Whilst we accept it is difficult to compare how one company charges in one area with another company in another area, we believe these charges are due to United Utilities surface water drainage charges being applied to large sites like our schools.

We understand United Utilities has an obligation to treat non-household customers fairly. We do not accept that it is fair that facilities such as schools should have such a degree of variance across England.

We hope that OFWAT will agree with our school and Halton Borough Council that this situation should change going forward. We request that OFWAT support our view to find a solution that is fairer.

Yours sincerely

LA name	Region	Number of Pupils (FTE)
Knowsley	North West	19733
Cumbria	North West	49793.5
Halton	North West	14253.5
St. Helens	North West	22423
Warrington	North West	25299.5
Liverpool	North West	51771.5
Isles of Scilly	South West	261
Blackpool	North West	14643.5
Lancashire	North West	141800.5
Bury	North West	26533.5
Stockport	North West	33091
Cheshire East	North West	38148.5
Trafford	North West	24005.5
Wirral	North West	32936.5
Slough	South East	13225.5
Manchester	North West	57665.5
Sefton	North West	31085
Bolton	North West	39739.5
Northumberland	North East	35609.5
Tameside	North West	26359.5
Rochdale	North West	30880
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	25938
Oldham	North West	31653
Durham	North East	52513
Redcar and Cleveland	North East	16142
North Tyneside	North East	26582.5
Salford	North West	27379.5
Cheshire West and Chester	North West	36688
Gateshead	North East	18488
Blackburn with Darwen	North West	21518
Sunderland	North East	27596.5
Stockton-on-Tees	North East	25842
Middlesbrough	North East	16218
South Tyneside	North East	18305.5
Hartlepool	North East	14219.5
Nottingham	East Midlands	21349.5
Devon	South West	64836
Solihull	West Midlands	21776
Wolverhampton	West Midlands	31776.5
Rutland	East Midlands	2143.5
Staffordshire	West Midlands	97444
Cornwall	South West	43532
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	66853.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	Inner London	11920
Torbay	South West	8785.5
Plymouth	South West	23053
Derbyshire	East Midlands	88097.5

Leicestershire	East Midlands	42654
Bedford	East of England	15373
Grand		5417425.5
Darlington	North East	3400.5
Poole	South West	14692
Southampton	South East	21720
Medway	South East	23885
Kent	South East	136543.5
Birmingham	West Midlands	133279
Dudley	West Midlands	40042.5
Derby	East Midlands	27976
North Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	13803
Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	25839.5
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands	27441
Central Bedfordshire	East of England	18508.5
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yorkshire and the Humber	29809.5
Leeds	Yorkshire and the Humber	86167
Gloucestershire	South West	44088
Wiltshire	South West	38945.5
Isle of Wight	South East	14064.5
Wandsworth	Inner London	23428
Coventry	West Midlands	37955
Leicester	East Midlands	44193
Shropshire	West Midlands	33154.5
Walsall	West Midlands	26573.5
Warwickshire	West Midlands	53395.5
Wigan	North West	39030
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands	20714.5
Herefordshire	West Midlands	14072.5
Cambridgeshire	East of England	45609
Bath and North East Somerset	South West	14172.5
Bromley	Outer London	18760.5
Calderdale	Yorkshire and the Humber	21127.5
East Sussex	South East	50500.5
Hackney	Inner London	24138.5
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	71902
Portsmouth	South East	22874
Rotherham	Yorkshire and the Humber	35045.5
Greenwich	Outer London	32194
Lambeth	Inner London	26855.5
Southwark	Inner London	24100
Sheffield	Yorkshire and the Humber	54905.5
Sandwell	West Midlands	36863
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	38597
Brighton and Hove	South East	28930.5
Islington	Inner London	19990
Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber	50296.5
South Gloucestershire	South West	29621.5
Somerset	South West	42453.5
Westminster	Inner London	11588

Haringey	Inner London	27818.5
North Somerset	South West	17757
Dorset	South West	42991.5
West Sussex	South East	86825
West Berkshire	South East	18235.5
Bristol, City of	South West	28371
Kensington and Chelsea	Inner London	10780
Wakefield	Yorkshire and the Humber	28432.5
Barking and Dagenham	Outer London	35732
Southend-on-Sea	East of England	16625.5
Lincolnshire	East Midlands	45644
Bradford	Yorkshire and the Humber	77043
Brent	Outer London	29855
Hampshire	South East	134812
Essex	East of England	112227
Worcestershire	West Midlands	50337.5
Wokingham	South East	19497
Swindon	South West	15071
Thurrock	East of England	11659.5
Norfolk	East of England	85660
Tower Hamlets	Inner London	38776.5
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	59961.5
Waltham Forest	Outer London	28545.5
Milton Keynes	South East	26299
Suffolk	East of England	69571
Havering	Outer London	23095
Richmond upon Thames	Outer London	15575.5
Bexley	Outer London	19847.5
Peterborough	East of England	21504
Hounslow	Outer London	26185
Bournemouth	South West	11136
Barnet	Outer London	33964
Kingston upon Thames	Outer London	12309.5
Reading	South East	12056.5
York	Yorkshire and the Humber	21236
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	14044.5
Camden	Inner London	21361
Enfield	Outer London	45276
Buckinghamshire	South East	47008.5
Croydon	Outer London	34905
Bracknell Forest	South East	15142.5
Ealing	Outer London	41341.5
Newham	Inner London	49304.5
Hertfordshire	East of England	115800.5
Luton	East of England	26951
Surrey	South East	113125.5
Hillingdon	Outer London	25101.5
Oxfordshire	South East	60431
Lewisham	Inner London	32807.5
Harrow	Outer London	21631.5

North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	7468
Merton	Outer London	23482.5
Redbridge	Outer London	45344.5
Sutton	Outer London	18000
City of London	Inner London	222
Barnsley	Yorkshire and the Humber	22057

Water and Sewerage Charge Per Pupil Costs Ranked by LA 2012-13

E15 Water and sewerage	Water and Sewerage charge per pupil	Rank
£910,475.11	£46.14	1
£1,921,597.84	£38.59	2
£538,496.92	£37.78	3
£807,544.98	£36.01	4
£900,648.00	£35.60	5
£1,830,309.92	£35.35	6
£9,127.32	£34.97	7
£509,987.00	£34.83	8
£4,910,883.36	£34.63	9
£912,277.06	£34.38	10
£1,116,594.77	£33.74	11
£1,279,683.60	£33.54	12
£800,053.95	£33.33	13
£1,096,773.53	£33.30	14
£435,277.49	£32.91	15
£1,888,560.64	£32.75	16
£1,012,548.39	£32.57	17
£1,252,586.87	£31.52	18
£1,094,925.00	£30.75	19
£798,843.65	£30.31	20
£926,921.00	£30.02	21
£744,444.89	£28.70	22
£905,133.12	£28.60	23
£1,498,335.12	£28.53	24
£458,319.87	£28.39	25
£746,282.38	£28.07	26
£752,183.02	£27.47	27
£969,519.00	£26.43	28
£488,035.20	£26.40	29
£565,778.17	£26.29	30
£716,004.97	£25.95	31
£633,728.32	£24.52	32
£381,189.73	£23.50	33
£423,745.90	£23.15	34
£326,803.14	£22.98	35
£484,873.00	£22.71	36
£1,302,733.60	£20.09	37
£436,938.00	£20.07	38
£634,469.13	£19.97	39
£42,254.04	£19.71	40
£1,895,411.20	£19.45	41
£843,239.89	£19.37	42
£1,261,322.88	£18.87	43
£224,059.27	£18.80	44
£162,639.16	£18.51	45
£421,658.12	£18.29	46
£1,581,578.90	£17.95	47

£752,852.09	£17.65	48
£269,717.41	£17.54	49
£93,619,751.01	£17.28	50
£58,585.76	£17.23	51
£251,846.06	£17.14	52
£368,465.98	£16.96	53
£404,548.06	£16.94	54
£2,295,733.44	£16.81	55
£2,206,657.00	£16.56	56
£661,211.00	£16.51	57
£460,807.00	£16.47	58
£226,901.00	£16.44	59
£420,244.20	£16.26	60
£440,440.53	£16.05	61
£295,592.07	£15.97	62
£475,119.00	£15.94	63
£1,371,460.16	£15.92	64
£693,250.48	£15.72	65
£611,642.70	£15.71	66
£220,481.70	£15.68	67
£362,399.83	£15.47	68
£582,774.77	£15.35	69
£677,371.05	£15.33	70
£505,604.29	£15.25	71
£402,656.04	£15.15	72
£802,794.57	£15.03	73
£582,792.78	£14.93	74
£309,183.90	£14.93	75
£208,666.23	£14.83	76
£672,972.78	£14.76	77
£209,026.08	£14.75	78
£273,476.98	£14.58	79
£307,857.39	£14.57	80
£734,971.69	£14.55	81
£351,145.97	£14.55	82
£1,043,413.42	£14.51	83
£331,662.31	£14.50	84
£498,586.14	£14.23	85
£456,928.93	£14.19	86
£381,056.33	£14.19	87
£339,070.35	£14.07	88
£772,437.80	£14.07	89
£514,516.84	£13.96	90
£535,290.59	£13.87	91
£397,912.51	£13.75	92
£274,048.33	£13.71	93
£684,155.38	£13.60	94
£402,251.87	£13.58	95
£574,731.43	£13.54	96
£155,940.60	£13.46	97

£367,816.91	£13.22	98
£233,320.98	£13.14	99
£559,086.17	£13.00	100
£1,104,930.79	£12.73	101
£231,458.43	£12.69	102
£359,652.38	£12.68	103
£136,234.94	£12.64	104
£357,598.00	£12.58	105
£442,855.74	£12.39	106
£203,018.90	£12.21	107
£553,431.69	£12.12	108
£932,789.28	£12.11	109
£361,107.53	£12.10	110
£1,621,341.19	£12.03	111
£1,347,357.13	£12.01	112
£603,476.48	£11.99	113
£229,710.63	£11.78	114
£176,152.68	£11.69	115
£136,019.97	£11.67	116
£998,788.67	£11.66	117
£451,308.84	£11.64	118
£694,772.43	£11.59	119
£322,698.61	£11.30	120
£296,531.62	£11.28	121
£780,865.86	£11.22	122
£259,063.60	£11.22	123
£174,289.10	£11.19	124
£219,695.86	£11.07	125
£231,637.97	£10.77	126
£281,180.07	£10.74	127
£119,393.62	£10.72	128
£362,325.26	£10.67	129
£130,118.92	£10.57	130
£127,216.46	£10.55	131
£221,234.43	£10.42	132
£143,517.89	£10.22	133
£217,107.11	£10.16	134
£457,150.33	£10.10	135
£470,546.80	£10.01	136
£343,225.14	£9.83	137
£148,842.85	£9.83	138
£405,405.91	£9.81	139
£474,423.12	£9.62	140
£1,111,128.75	£9.60	141
£253,159.52	£9.39	142
£1,054,535.07	£9.32	143
£232,483.18	£9.26	144
£552,673.51	£9.15	145
£298,839.16	£9.11	146
£193,947.75	£8.97	147

£65,308.98	£8.75	148
£204,969.25	£8.73	149
£383,301.70	£8.45	150
£142,749.17	£7.93	151
£1,562.27	£7.04	152
£150,343.17	£6.82	153

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

SUBJECT: **Capital Funding – Basic Need**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the allocation of Basic Need Capital and seeks approval for a bid process for Responsible Bodies based on Strategic Needs.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

2.1 **(a) School Forum approve the bid process outlined in the report for Responsible Bodies based on Strategic Needs.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Basic Need allocation supports the capital requirements for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies and by establishing new schools. In Halton the pupil forecast data is used to determine if there is a need to provide additional school places in order to meet demand by comparing forecast data with school capacity data.

3.2 Since 2011/2012 Halton has used this funding to support Basic Need capital projects at Lunts Heath, Windmill Hill, St Bede’s Infant and Junior, Weston Primary. In addition, funding has been invested in the project to provide post-16 facilities for Ashley school.

3.3 The recent analysis of forecast and school capacity data shows that there is not an immediate pupil place Basic Need issue to address within Halton. From the funding available up to 2015 it was therefore agreed at the Executive Board of the Council on 4th September 2014 that funding of £1.4 million will be allocated towards meeting the building and organisational issues at the newly combined Fairfield primary school. £474,818 will be set aside to allow the other Responsible Bodies to submit applications to the authority to address their strategic building needs. The £936,409 2016/2017 allocation will be reserved to respond to pupil place planning/demographic issues arising in each primary or secondary sectors.

- 3.4 Applications will be invited from the Diocese, Individual Academy Trust and Multiple Academy Trusts. It will not be possible to consider applications from schools/academies that have been rebuilt within the last five years nor from schools/academies where plans have been approved to rebuild the school/academy within the next five years.
- 3.5 An application bid must be submitted for each project. The form is attached to this report as Appendix A. All bids will be capped at £50,000 per school/academy and the following criteria will be applied if the total amount of bids received exceeds £474,817. Applicants will be requested to detail the amount of investment in capital works since April 2011. The total capital investment per school will then be divided by the number of pupils on roll (excluding nursery and sixth form pupils and students) to calculate a per pupil investment figure. This will then provide a score. Please see the table below:

Investment per pupil	Score
< £500	8
£501 - £750	7
£751 - £1,000	6
£1,001 - £1,250	5
£1,251 - £1,500	4
£1,501 – £1,750	3
£1,751 - £2,000	2
>£2,000	1

- This score will then be added to the percentage of free school meal figure per school, based on the May 2014 census, to create an overall score. Funding will then be prioritised based on the highest scores.
- 3.6 Once a bid has been approved by the LA each responsible body will then cash flow the project and claim re-imbursement on production of invoices on completion of the work.



Capital Development Team



BID FOR BASIC NEED CAPITAL 2014/15

Note : All relevant sections must be completed.

Section 1: Responsible Body Details

Responsible Body:

Section 2: Details of Project

Please provide details of the proposed works.

Please provide an estimate for the works:

Section 3: Justification for project

Please detail how this project will meet each factor (if applicable) listed below:

3 (a) Address suitability issues & provide improvements to teaching & learning

3 (b) Have a significant measurable impact on raising standards, educational outcomes & school performance

3 (c) Support teaching & learning through ICT

Please detail how this project will meet each factor (if applicable) listed below:

3 (d) Help to reduce any identified gaps in attainment

3 (e) Secure inclusion by further enhancing provision for pupils with special educational needs & early intervention

3 (f) Promote healthy eating & increase participation in sports & physical exercise

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Schools Block Funding Formula for 2015-16

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform School Forum of the decisions required for the Schools Block funding formula for the financial year 2015-16.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) That we continue to use one value for Primary, one value for KS3 and one value for KS4 pupils as per our 2014-15 formula.
- (3) That we continue to use a mix of FMS6 and IDACI with differing cash values between the primary and secondary phases.
- (4) That we continue to use this factor for both primary and secondary phases with the old EYFSP framework for Years 3 – 6 at 73 points or less.
- (5) That we continue to use the Looked After Children factor.
- (6) That a decision is taken on whether to retain the cash value at the same level reducing another factor to fund the overall increase or keep the overall budget for LAC at the same level and reduce the cash value.
- (7) That we continue to not use the EAL factor.
- (8) That we continue to not use the Pupil Mobility factor.
- (9) That we continue to use the Lump Sum factor at the same level as 2014-15.
- (10) That we continue to use the Split Site factor and retain the criteria for eligibility and funding as current.
- (11) That we continue to fund LA Rates on the latest estimate of actual cost available.
- (12) That we continue to use the PFI factor at the same cash value per pupil as previously agreed.
- (13) That we continue to set Notional SEN at 5% of each funding factor used.
- (14) That maintained primary school representatives decide which items they wish to be de-delegated for 2015-16.
- (15) That maintained secondary school representatives decide which items they wish to be de-delegated for 2015-16.
- (16) That we continue with the centrally retained services as detailed in paragraph 3.13.
- (17) That we continue with the Pupil Growth Fund at the same level as for 2014-15 with the same eligibility criteria.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Requirements and changes for 2015-16

The Education Funding Agency has issued guidance on the Schools Block Funding Formula requirements for 2015-16. This includes how the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will distribute an additional £390m to the least fairly funding local authorities. To do this, they have calculated the level of schools block funding needed to provide the minimum funding level for the formula factors. However there is no expectation at this stage that local authorities should implement these minimum funding levels in their formula.

The changes made to the funding factors by the EFA for 2015-16 are:

- Sparsity Factor – average year group sizes will be used to determine a school's eligibility instead of overall school size.
- Lump Sum – local authorities may apply for an exceptional factor to pay a further allowance to amalgamating schools in the second year after amalgamation.

3.2 DSG funding for 2015-16

Minimal information has been received about the level of Dedicated Schools Grant funding we can expect to receive for 2015-16 but indications are that it will again not include any increase except for any increase in the number of pupils.

3.3 Draft funding formula

The draft funding model needs to be submitted to the EFA by 31st October 2014. The model is based on the 2014-15 funding allocations and the October 2013 census data. The emphasis in the draft funding model is on the method, principles and rules that we adopt in building our funding formula.

3.4 Consultation

We are required to consult with schools on any proposed changes to the funding formula. A questionnaire was circulated to all schools in the schools e-circular on 8th September. The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions covering the funding factors simply asking if schools were happy with the current approach. The Questionnaire is attached as Appendix A.

Only five Primary Head Teachers responded and their responses are detailed in Appendix B. It is therefore proposed to continue with the current funding formula.

3.5 Cash values of funding factors

Actual cash values for 2015-16 can only be determined following receipt of the October 2014 census data and indicative funding settlement for 2015-16, due in the week before Christmas. It is therefore essential that all schools ensure their October census data is as accurate as possible. Any errors will result in errors in their

funding calculation which we will not be allowed to correct.

3.6 Pupil number variation

A recognised issue on the census data as it is returned to Halton for the calculation of the funding formula is the pupil numbers by phase at The Grange All Through School on the FSM6 funding factor. For all other funding factors the pupil numbers are correctly identified by primary or secondary phase. For the FSM6 factor, the data only gives us the number of pupils across both phases. As we have different cash values for this factor between the phases, this causes a potential loss in funding. For 2014-15 we were allowed to correct this error and fund the school on the actual FSM6 figures. We have therefore submitted a request to the EFA that we are allowed to correct the FSM6 numbers for The Grange for 2015-16.

3.7 Additional Lump Sum Allowance

For 2014-15 we were allowed to apply an additional 85% of the lump sum factor to a school that had amalgamated during the previous financial year. Fairfield Primary school qualified for this payment and received it. For 2015-16 we can apply to the EFA for an exceptional factor to pay a further allowance to amalgamating schools in the second year after amalgamation. As the school will continue to incur additional costs directly relating to the amalgamation (as opposed to being on a split site) we have put in such a request.

3.8 Primary/secondary ratio

The ratio of primary to secondary funding per pupil is identified through the funding formula tool. The average across all local authorities in England is 1:1.27. In Halton we have a ratio of 1:1.41 for 2014-15. This is in part due to the number and value of Standards Funds that were payable to secondary schools in the borough. While there is no current proposal by the EFA to prescribe constraints on the ratio for 2015-16, it has not been ruled out for future years.

We are therefore looking to start reducing our ratio by transferring £500,000 of secondary school funding to the primary phase. This should reduce the ratio to approximately 1:1.37 while causing no significant increase in the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee required by secondary schools – i.e. it will cause a reduction in funding of no more than 1.5% per pupil. We are proposing that funding is taken from and given using the Basic per pupil factor. Using the 2014-15 budgets as a basis for modelling, this equates to a reduction of approximately £75.00 per secondary pupil and an increase of approximately £51.00 per primary pupil.

This movement of funds was not included in the original consultation questionnaire so an additional consultation is being carried out and the results will be tabled at the meeting. We are mindful of the impact this will have across the school phases and therefore we believe a staged approach moving towards the national average will

be less disruptive financially for our schools and settings.

3.9 Funding Factors

Basic per pupil entitlement – there is a minimum requirement of £2,000 per pupil in Primary and £3,000 per pupil in Secondary. For 2014-15 our cash values were £2,545.44 per Primary pupil, £4,364.56 per KS3 pupil and £4,563.62 per KS4 pupil.

Recommendation (2): that we continue to use one value for Primary, one value for KS3 and one value for KS4 pupils as per our 2014-15 formula.

Deprivation – we are able to use Free School Meal current eligibility, Free School Meals Ever 6 eligibility, Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) which uses the child's home (or main home) postcode to identify levels of deprivation or a mix of one of the FSM identifiers plus IDACI.

Recommendation (3): that we continue to use a mix of FMS6 and IDACI with differing cash values between the primary and secondary phases.

Prior Attainment – we can apply this to primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development within the early years foundation stage profile and for secondary pupils not reaching Level 4 at KS2 in either English or Maths. For the EYFSP under the old framework which affects pupils in years 3 – 6, we also have the choice to apply funding to pupils attaining 78 points or less, or 73 points or less.

Recommendation (4): that we continue to use this factor for both primary and secondary phases with the old EYFSP framework for Years 3 – 6 at 73 points or less.

Looked After Children – a single cash value can be applied for any child who has been looked after for one day or more as recorded on the local authority SSDA903 return at 31st March 2014. This is mapped to the January school census enabling the identification of the number of looked after pupils in each school.

There was discussion last year regarding the increases we are seeing in the number of looked after children in the borough. We are expecting to see a continuing rise in these numbers for 2015-16. Therefore, we need to once again decide whether to keep the funding value at the same level of £1,517.25 per pupil. To do this we would need to reduce the cash value in another factor or factors. We could keep the overall budget for LAC at the same level and reduce the cash value to accommodate the increase in numbers.

Recommendation (5): that we continue to use the Looked After Children factor.

Recommendation (6): that a decision is taken on whether to retain the cash value at the same level reducing another factor to fund the overall increase or keep the overall budget for LAC at the same level and reduce the cash value.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) – pupils may be funded for up to three years after they enter the statutory school system. As we have a Service Level Agreement funded centrally for this provision we do not use this factor in Halton.

Recommendation (7): that we continue to not use the EAL factor.

Pupil Mobility – counts pupils who enter a school during the last three years but did not start in September or January for Reception pupils. A threshold is applied and only mobility in excess of 10% of pupil numbers are funded. We do not use this factor in Halton.

Recommendation (8): that we continue to not use the Pupil Mobility factor.

Local authorities are required to allocate no less than 80% of the delegated schools block funding through the above factors. In Halton for 2014-15 we allocated 84.84% of funding through these factors so comply with this requirement.

Sparsity – this was introduced for 2014-15 but due to tight criteria set out by the EFA, no schools in Halton qualify for funding under this factor.

Lump Sum – we are allowed to set a different lump sum for primary and secondary schools up to a maximum of £175,000 for each phase. For 2014-15 we have a lump sum of £125,570 for secondary schools and £129,570 for primary schools.

Recommendation (9): that we continue to use the Lump Sum factor at the same level as 2014-15.

Split Sites – a factor re-introduced for 2014-15 following the amalgamation of Fairfield Junior and Infant schools. The criteria is that a primary school will qualify if the main buildings are more than 110.75metres apart. Split site funding will be payable to all schools and recoupment academies that meet the criteria, however it is not applicable to those schools sharing facilities, federated schools and schools with a remote sixth form.

Split site funding is calculated as follows:

- a lump sum payment equivalent to a primary administrative post;
- 10% of the allocation for the Headteacher and the deputies of both schools; and
- The cost of standing charges for the water and energy for one of the two sites.

Recommendation (10): that we continue to use the Split Site factor and retain the criteria for eligibility and funding as current.

LA Rates – these must be funded at the authority's estimate of the actual cost. In Halton, we request details of the Rates uplift each year and build that into the final funding allocations which minimises the number of adjustments that are needed.

Recommendation (11): that we continue to fund LA Rates on

the latest estimate of actual cost available.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts – to support schools which have unavoidable extra premises costs because they are a PFI school. Allocations are based on objective criteria as agreed at School Forum before the new funding regulations came into place. Only one school qualifies for funding under this factor at £190.58 per pupil.

Recommendation (12): that we continue to use the PFI factor at the same cash value per pupil as previously agreed.

London Fringe – a factor to support schools which have to pay higher teacher salaries because they are in the London Fringe area. This does not apply to Halton schools.

Post-16 – this is a per-pupil value which continues DSG funding for post-16 pupils up to the same level provided in 2014-15. In Halton we do not use DSG funding to support Post-16 pupils so this factor cannot be used.

3.10 Minimum Funding Guarantee

The EFA have confirmed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue at minus 1.5% on a per pupil basis. Therefore no school will lose more than 1.5% of its funding except for pupil number reductions.

To allow for the continued transition to the revised funding formula, local authorities are again allowed to apply a capping or scaling factor to gains to ensure the formula is affordable. For 2014-15 we were able to set our funding formula without the need for capping or scaling and we are hopeful that this will be repeated for 2015-16. The MFG will continue beyond 2015-16 but no indication has been given as to what level will be set.

3.11 Notional SEN

We are required to submit on our draft funding formula the level of Notional SEN against each funding factor that we use. For 2014-15 we used 5% of each funding factor.

Recommendation (13): that we continue to set Notional SEN at 5% of each funding factor used.

3.12 De-delegated Funds

School Forum members are required to decide which funds will be de-delegated for the 2015-16 financial year. Only School Forum members of maintained schools are allowed to vote on the de-delegation for their own phase. In 2014-15 the de-delegated funds cover:

- Contingencies – at £17.01 per primary pupil and £14.80 per secondary pupil giving an estimated total of £207,807.
- Free School Meal eligibility – at £1.47 per FSM6 pupil in both primary and secondary giving an estimated total of £7,519.
- Staff costs supply cover – at £2.18 per primary pupil and

£1.89 per secondary pupil giving an estimated total of £26,611.

- Licences – at £2.91 per primary pupil, £3.40 per secondary pupil and £5.64 per Post 16 pupil giving an estimated total of £48,888.

Recommendation (14): that maintained primary school representatives decide which items they wish to be de-delegated for 2015-16.

Recommendation (15): that maintained secondary school representatives decide which items they wish to be de-delegated for 2015-16.

3.13 Centrally retained services

Schools Forum approval is required each year to confirm the amounts on each line. The lines are:

- Pupil Growth Fund – see 3.14 below
- Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue (CERA) at £431,330.
- Contribution to combined budgets at £46,650 for Safeguarding

Recommendation (16): that we continue with the centrally retained services as detailed in paragraph 3.13.

3.14 Pupil Growth Fund

We are required to gain agreement regarding the Pupil Growth Fund. Following extensive discussion for 2014-15 it was decided that we would set the Primary Pupil Growth fund at £100,000 and the Secondary Pupil Growth fund at £80,000. To qualify for Pupil Growth funding a school needs to have 15 or more pupils on their October census data compared to the previous October census which was used for budget setting purposes.

Recommendation (17): that we continue with the Pupil Growth Fund at the same level as for 2014-15 with the same eligibility criteria.

3.15 Timetable

We are required to submit the draft funding formula by 31st October, the final funding formula by 20th January 2015 and the notification of Schools Block budget to maintained schools by 27th February 2015.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

Schools Block Funding Reform Consultation – Funding Formula for 2015-16

The new funding formula was introduced in April 2013 with a limited number of funding factors and clearly defined criteria for their application. For April 2014 we were given the opportunity for minor changes which, in Halton, we chose not to use. Unfortunately the indications are that once again there will be no increase in funding to the authority.

We are only consulting on the Schools Block funding factors. These cover primary and secondary pupils in mainstream schools. This consultation does not cover High Needs funding (for special schools, special units, AP and top-up funding) or Early Years funding (for nursery schools, nursery units and PVI provision).

We need to look at what formula factors and criteria for those factors we wish to use for 2015-16. Below is an overview of each factor and criteria. We need you to tell us what you think. What we are looking for is an agreement of the factors and criteria, not the cash values. The cash values will not be known until the October census data is released to us along with the indicative DSG budget in December.

As ever, we are up against a deadline so we need your responses by Friday 19th September 2014 at the latest. Failure to meet this deadline will mean that your response will miss being taken into account in the report to School Forum in October.

Question 1

Age-weighted pupil unit – this is a mandatory factor and we are allowed one value for primary-aged pupils and either one value for secondary-aged pupils or one value for KS3 and a separate value for KS4.

In Halton we use one value for Primary, one value for KS3 and one value for KS4.

1. Are you happy that we continue to use separate values for KS3 and KS4? **Yes / No**

Question 2

Deprivation – this is a mandatory factor although we have the option of which criteria is used. The options are:

- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) only
- Free School Meal current eligibility only
- Free School Meal Ever 6 only
- A mix of IDACI and FSM current eligibility
- A mix of IDACI and FSM6

In Halton we use a mix of IDACI and FSM6 on a roughly 50/50 basis.

2. Are you happy that we continue to use a mix of IDACI and FSM6? **Yes / No**

If no, which option would you prefer? _____

Question 3

Prior Attainment – this is an optional factor used as a proxy indicator for low level, high incidence special educational needs. If used, it is applied to primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development within the early years foundation stage profile and for secondary pupils not reaching Level 4 at KS2 in either English or Maths.

In Halton we chose to use this factor.

3. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to Prior Attainment be added? _____

Question 4

Looked After Children – this is an optional factor. Funding may be given for any child who has been looked after for one day or more as recorded on the local authority SSDA903 return at 31 March 2014. The data is then mapped to schools using the January census data. One value is used for both primary and secondary pupils.

In Halton we chose to use this factor.

4. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to Looked After Children be added? _____

Question 5

English as an Additional Language – this is an optional factor. EAL pupils may attract funding for up to three years after they enter the statutory school system. We can choose to use indicators based on one, two or three years and there can be separate values for primary and secondary pupils.

In Halton we chose not to use this factor (service bought in as SLA).

5. Are you happy that we continue to NOT use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, from which factor should funding be taken? _____

Question 6

Pupil Mobility – this is an optional factor. This factor counts pupils who entered a school during the last three academic years but did not start in August/September (or January for reception pupils). A threshold is applied of 10% so only movement of above 10% of pupil numbers in a school would attract funding.

In Halton we chose not to use this factor.

6. Are you happy that we continue to NOT use this value? **Yes / No**
If no, from which factor should funding be taken? _____

Question 7

Lump Sum – this is an optional factor. A separate value can be set for primary and secondary. The maximum lump sum allowed is £175,000.

In Halton we chose to use this factor with separate values for primary and secondary schools.

7. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to Lump Sum be added?

Question 8

Split Sites – this is an optional factor to support schools which have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites. Allocations are based on objective criteria for the definition of a split site and the amount payable.

In Halton we chose to use this factor with a qualifying criteria of school buildings being more than 110.75 metres apart, but not payable to schools sharing sixth form facilities, federated schools and schools with a remote sixth form. The funding is calculated as a lump sum equivalent to a primary administrative post plus 10% of the allocation for the Head Teacher and deputies of both schools and the cost of standing charges for the water and energy for one of the two sites.

8. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to Split Sites be added?

Question 9

LA Rates – this is an optional factor but used by all authorities in 2014-15. LA Rates must be funded at the authority's estimate of the actual cost. Adjustments to rates may be made within the financial year to reflect actual cost.

In Halton we chose to use this factor.

9. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes / No**

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to LA Rates be added?

Question 10

Private Finance Initiative contracts – this is an optional factor to support schools which have unavoidable extra premises costs because they are a PFI school. Allocations must be based on objective criteria.

In Halton we chose to use this factor to reflect the additional costs a PFI school incurs

10. Are you happy that we continue to use this value? **Yes /**
No

If no, to which factor should the funding currently attributed to PFI be added?

Notes

There are also funding factors for Sparsity, London Fringe Authorities and Post-16 provision historically funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. No schools in Halton qualify for funding under these factors.

Please e-mail your responses or any queries on the questionnaire to Anne.Jones@halton.gov.uk by Friday 19th September.

Appendix B

School Block Funding Formula Consultation responses 2015-16							
School		A	B	C	D	E	
Question							
1	AWPU - are you happy that we continue to use separate values for KS3 and KS4?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
2	Are you happy that we continue to use a mix of IDACI and FSM6?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	no response	
3	Are you happy that we continue to use the Prior Attainment factor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
4	Are you happy that we continue to use the Looked After Children factor?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
5	Are you happy that we continue to NOT use the English as an Additional Language factor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
6	Are you happy that we continue to NOT use the Pupil Mobility factor?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
7	Are you happy that we continue to use the Lump Sum factor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
8	Are you happy that we continue to use the Split Sites factor?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
9	Are you happy that we continue to use the LA Rates factor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
10	Are you happy that we continue to use the PFI factor?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
	Comments						
4	I don't know but currently it is too complicated accessing PPG monies for LAC						
6	Take funding from Lump Sum - 'Pupil mobility is very high here and they invariably come because they have had problems elsewhere.'						
8	No comment made						
1	If we have one value for primary we should have one value for secondary						
2	Does not agree with any option, especially IDACI funded on school postcode						
10	No, funding generated should be allocated to age weighted						

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th March 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Grant allocations for 2014-15

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum an update on the grant allocations relating to schools for the 2014-15 financial year.**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report is noted.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Dedicated Schools Grant: DSG – Halton has received a total amount of £101,744,000. This includes an amount of £22,111,186 that is distributed directly to Academies. Therefore for central services and maintained schools there is a remaining balance of £79,662,414. There is a remaining amount of £3,836,237 carried forward from 2013/14. This makes the total available grant of £83,498,651.

Pupil Premium: PP – Halton is receiving £8,491,035 which includes FSM6, Post LAC, Service Children and LAC. The LAC element is £209,000. Of the remaining Halton will receive £6,643,435 for the other elements, with the balance going directly to the Academies.

Sixth form – This funding is received for St Chad's, Saints Peter and Paul, Ashley and the 6th form in non-maintained schools and independent schools. The grant for this financial year is £1,484,960. The grant is allocated to schools for each academic year but we have to ensure that it is paid to the schools and recorded for on a financial year basis.

Additional Grant to Schools: AGS – There are 2 elements to this grant and so far we have only received the Primary PE and Sports Grant which is a total of £175,082. We have not heard anything in relation to the Secondary PE Teacher Release Grant funding.

Universal Infant Free School Meals: UIFSM – We have received the first payment of £724,742 and this has been devolved out to the schools. Please see the later report on UIFSM.

NCTL – This grant was payable to The Bankfield for part of the last financial year 13/14, and we have received £56,982 this financial year, which was received during the Summer term. No further payments are due under this grant.

Devolved Formula Capital: DFC – The allocation for this financial year is £278,180. This is only for the non-voluntary aided schools as they have their allocations paid directly to their dioceses and not to the local authority. We have 18 non VA schools in the borough. The DFC requires schools to spend the allocation within 3 financial years of receiving it. Within Halton Financial Management Team we keep a check on the balances and alert schools if we believe it may not be spent by the deadline.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None