

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 15th October 2013

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

SUBJECT: Split Site Allocation and Lump Sum

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an outline of the proposal to extend the age range of Fairfield Junior School and close Fairfield Infant School creating an “All Through Primary”. It outlines the proposed arrangements for the allocation of the lump sum factor and seeks permission to provide a split site allocation.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That School Forum

- 2.1 approve the principle of allocating a split site allowance;**
- 2.2 approve the proposed criteria and the suggested basis for calculating the split site allocation;**
- 2.3 approve the proposed allocation of 85% of the lump sum for merging schools.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Consultation is currently being undertaken on the statutory proposal to extend the age range of Fairfield Junior School and close Fairfield Infant School creating an “All Through Primary School.” The representation period for the proposal closes on 16th October 2013. The Executive Board of the Council will then consider the outcome of the statutory consultation at their meeting on 7th November 2013. If the Board approve the proposal the “All Through School” will commence on 1st January 2014. It is therefore suggested that School Forum consider the funding arrangements at the October meeting.

3.2 Prior to the introduction of the new funding formula in April 2013, Halton has always had a split site allocation within its funding formula. The previous allocation has been based on a rate for any split site primary schools where the buildings were more than 120 yards apart and two rates for secondary schools; one rate if the schools were more than 120 yards apart a higher rate for those more than 400 yards apart. The funding allocated was as follows:

- Primary Schools - £24,892;
- Secondary School – 120 yards - £44,137
- Secondary School - £126, 328.

- 3.3 Although over the years there have been a number of schools who have received the split site allocation e.g. in recent years Wade Deacon High School have benefited, in April 2013 there were no schools operating on a split site basis. It was therefore not necessary to agree split site criteria for April 2013.
- 3.4 Under the new funding formula it is permitted to have a split site factor however the EFA have proposed that authorities review their existing allocations and agree the criteria and lump sum with their School Forum.
- 3.5 In Halton it is suggested that a primary school will qualify for a split site allocation if the two sites are more than 110.75 metres apart. This is in line with the previous criteria of 120 yards. 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.
- 3.6 It is suggested that the 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.
- 3.7 If this proposal is approved by School Forum and the statutory proposal is agreed the split site allocation will be applied from April 2014. If the proposal is not agreed the formula will not be applied.
- 3.8 The funding guidance for 2014/2015 also provides further guidance on the position in terms of the lump sum allocation where two schools merge. Both schools will be allowed to keep 85% of the two lump sums for the next full financial year following the year in which they merge. It is therefore proposed that these arrangements are adopted in Halton and applied to Fairfield, is appropriate.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School Funding Reform Arrangements 2014/2015	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision