

# DECISION PAPER

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**SUBJECT:** Primary and Secondary School Funding Formula 2014-15 - Mobility Factor Update and Central Expenditure requests

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

**RECIPIENT:** Schools Forum

## SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the mobility factor to be included in the proposed Primary and Secondary School Funding Formula considered by the Schools Forum on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. A further option is now recommended. Approval is also sought for funding of central expenditure items from the Schools Block.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Forum:

- i. Recommends the preferred mobility factor basis of allocation.
- ii. Approves the funding of the central expenditure items listed in paragraph 8 from the Schools Block.
- iii. Recommends whether to approve the de-delegation of a centrally held Trade Union Duties budget at a rate of up to £3.59 per pupil in 2014/15.

## REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Department for Education has set a deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 for Local Authorities to submit their proposed 2014-15 schools funding formulas. The Forum, at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013, considered and reached agreement on the elements included in the proposed funding formula with the exception of the mobility factor. Whilst it was agreed that a mobility factor should be included, further consideration of alternative options was requested. Approval is also requested for items to be funded from the central expenditure of the Schools Block.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Four options for the allocation of a mobility factor were presented to the Forum for consideration at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 as follows:
  - Option 1 – allocate £679 per mobile pupil, the same as 2013/14. Unallocated funding per phase is then redistributed through per pupil funding.
  - Option 2 – increase the amount per mobile pupil to £2,073 for Primary and £5,920 for Secondary in order to allocate the same amount of money given to those schools with mobility over 10% in 2013/14. Unallocated funding per phase is then redistributed through per pupil funding.
  - Option 3 – Mobility factor is not used. Unallocated funding per phase is then redistributed through per pupil funding.
  - Option 4 - Mobility factor is not used. Unallocated funding per phase is then redistributed through prior attainment funding.

- Options 3 and 4 were discounted on the basis that a mobility factor was required. It was agreed that a further option, looking to increase the per pupil amount of option 1 (£679) but differentiating between primary and secondary schools as per option 2, should be considered.

**BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:**

- Mobility factor

At the last Forum further work was requested looking to provide an increase on the current year mobility allocation of £679 per pupil (Option 1) but to provide a rate that differentiates between Primary and Secondary School (Option 2) with any residual unallocated funding per phase being redistributed through per pupil funding.

- A further option has been derived on this basis. A percentage increase in increments of 25% changes in the rates between Option 1 and 2 were considered. The two options that gave the most equitable outcomes for the majority of schools were the options that gave an increase of 25% on option 1 (option 1a) and 50% on option 1 (option 1b). These are shown in the table below:

	Option 1	Option 1a	Option 1b	Option 2
Primary Mobility Rate	£679.00	£1,028.00	£1,376.00	£2,073.00
Primary Per Pupil Rate	£47.03	£41.35	£35.62	£24.34
Secondary Mobility Rate	£679.00	£1,988.00	£3,300.00	£5,920.00
Secondary Per Pupil Rate	£42.27	£37.60	£32.93	£23.60

- All options assume the same amount of funding to be made available for the mobility factor as 2013/14 £1,433,200 (£996,700 for Primary and £436,500 for Secondary) using the number on roll as at October 2012 totalling 26,928. Appendix A shows the original Option 1 and Option 2 and the new Options 1a and 1b broken down by individual schools.
- Schools with the highest mobility gain the most under Option 1b however; under this option the majority of schools who have less than 10% mobility receive less funding. Option 1a would seem to offer the most equitable position, with changes to individual school funding falling into a narrower band of variation. Schools who marginally qualify for 10% funding do not gain under any option with Option 1a offering the lowest amount of reduction in their funding.

8. Contributions from the Schools Block to school focused services delivered by the Council

Schools Forum members are asked to provide a decision on proposals to continue to fund the following central services from the Schools Block.

- Admissions function (£422,100)
- Family and Parenting Practitioners (£426,800)
- Preventative Social Care Workers (£200,000)
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) licences purchased nationally by DfE (£44,300)

9. As mentioned at the last meeting, from April 2014 schools will no longer be required to contribute to the council's Carbon Reduction Commitment. However the DfE has informed local authorities that the funding for this (£160,000 for Southampton) will be deducted from the Delegated Schools Grant and therefore cannot be delegated to schools as previously stated.

10. De-delegation of funding for centrally held Union Duties Budget

The Forum is asked to consider the letter received from Trade Union representatives (Appendix B) requesting the establishment of a Union Duties budget for maintained schools. This year the money has been delegated to schools and a Service Level Agreement offered. Under the proposal put forward for next year an amount per pupil would automatically be de-delegated from maintained schools to create a centrally held Union Duties budget. Academies would continue to have the option to buy in to this budget, via a contractual arrangement.

11. In addition, a further change is proposed to provide a central provision for Unison and GMB Union Duties representing non-teaching staff in schools. The introduction of Equal Pay will inevitably increase the need for union support for non-teaching staff. The proposal is to provide for 1.7 FTE of staff to support both members of the GMB and Unison. Representation for Unite is not required at this time.

12. The proposed rate per pupil is therefore made up of two elements and is detailed in the table below:

<b>Trade Union Facility</b>	<b>Basis of Calculation</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>NOR (all schools) Oct 2012 – 26,928 Rate Per Pupil</b>
Teacher Union Facilities	266 supply days @ £218 per day	£58,000	£2.16
Unison & GMB	1.7 FTE including on costs & PA support	£38,600	£1.43
<b>Total</b>		<b>£96,600</b>	<b>£3.59</b>

