

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

11th January 2022

ITEM NO 4

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2022/23 AND GROWTH FUND 2022/23

Purpose of Report

1. To update and agree the school funding formula and the growth fund for 2022/23

Background

2. The Local Authority received the school budget share tool on 20th December which includes the October 2021 census information. This tool and the enclosed datasets are required to be used to set the 2022/23 school budget formula.
3. The Local Authority also received the DSG allocations for 2021/22 on 16th December.
4. The schools block allocation for 2022/23 of £76,231,183 is after the adjustment for rates. **Appendix 2**
5. Within the schools block allocation for 2022/22 Darlington is to receive £213,620 of funding for growth. It is estimated that the growth fund requirement in 2022/23 will only be £100,000 therefore there will be £113,620 of “spare” growth allocation, this has enabled us to afford the NFF values.
6. Using all the updated NFF unit values, for all the NFF factors, the cost of the Darlington school budget share for 2022/23 is £16,492 less than the allocations received for the primary, secondary and premises elements of the schools block in 2021/22. This surplus is proposed to be held within the schools block for future years.

The Formula

7. The revised datasets and modelling tool (APT) were provided by the Education, Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 20th December to enable local authorities to submit their revised funding formula in line with the 21st January deadline.
8. The final funding formula uses the datasets provided by the ESFA, collected at the October 2021 census. The regulations stipulate that these datasets must be used in completing the funding formula.

9. A minimum funding guarantee (MFG) of 2.0% has been used within the 2022/23 budget share calculation. This is the maximum MFG allowable under the ESFA formula rules for 2022/23.
10. All of the increased NFF unit values for 2022/23 have been included within the proposed Darlington formula for 2022/23 at the national rates.
11. The table below shows the 2022/23 and 2021/22 unit values used within the Darlington formula, this allows comparison to be made between the two years rates. In addition, the table shows the NFF unit values for 2022/23, which show that Darlington's unit values are the same as the NFF in 2022/23.
12. At this stage the Government has communicated that it does still intend to implement the hard formula, though a date has not been fixed for this at present.
13. All academy schools are funded direct by ESFA, based upon the budget share calculated by the Local Authority. If there are any special funding arrangements between ESFA and the academy, the actual general academy grant (GAG) received by the academy may differ.

Factor	Darlington Formula 2021/22 £	Darlington Formula 2022/23 £	NFF 2022/23 £	Difference to NFF 2022/23 £
AWPU - Primary	3,123	3,217	3,217	Nil
AWPU - Key Stage 3	4,404	4,536	4,536	Nil
AWPU – Key Stage 4	4,963	5,112	5,112	Nil
Minimum Per Pupil – Primary	4,180	4,265	4,265	Nil
Minimum Per Pupil - Secondary	5,415	5,525	5,525	Nil
Deprivation – FSM – Primary	460	470	470	Nil
Deprivation – FSM 6 – Primary	575	590	590	Nil
Deprivation – FSM Secondary	460	470	470	Nil
Deprivation – FSM 6 – Secondary	840	865	865	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Band A	620	640	640	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Band B	475	490	490	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Band C	445	460	460	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Band D	410	420	420	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Band E	260	270	270	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI - Primary Bands F	215	220	220	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band A	865	890	890	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band B	680	700	700	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band C	630	650	650	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band D	580	595	595	Nil
Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band	415	425	425	Nil

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Deprivation – IDACI – Secondary Band F	310	320	320	Nil
EAL - Primary	550	565	565	Nil
EAL - Secondary	1,485	1,530	1,530	Nil
Prior Attainment – Primary	1,095	1,130	1,130	Nil
Prior Attainment – Secondary	1,660	1,710	1,710	Nil
Mobility – Primary	900	925	925	Nil
Mobility - Secondary	1,290	1,330	1,330	Nil
Lump Sum	117,800	121,300	121,300	Nil
Sparsity Primary	45,000	55,000	55,000	Nil
Sparsity Secondary	70,000	80,000	80,000	Nil

Growth Fund

14. It is proposed that the growth fund will operate in 2022/23 in the same manner as to that agreed by Forum for 2021/22. The criteria for accessing the fund, is therefore proposed to operate in 2022/23 as follows,
- i. Schools/Academies will only be able access the fund where they have had an increase in their PAN at the request of the Local Authority to meet a lack of available space in the local area as part of the planned changes covered in the SOP.
 - ii. The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased places on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN.
 - iii. For agreed growth in one year group, the additional number of places will be determined from the number of pupils on roll on the autumn census taking up a place in the additional class(s).
 - iv. For agreed growth across a number of year groups, the additional number of places will be determined by comparing the number of pupils on the roll at the census for each term in comparison to the number of pupils funded in the individual school budget share (i.e. the last October census).
 - v. All places are funded once the increase in the pupil admissions (in line with the PAN) reaches 10 places
 - vi. The amount to be funded per a pupil will be based on the “Basic Entitlement Funding” (AWPU) for the age group of the pupil.
 - vii. Funding will be made for each term within that financial year, the school/academy has not received funding for this growth in places. (i.e. not funded within their existing school budget share).

- viii. It is proposed that any increases in admissions that fully meet the agreed criteria are funded automatically, rather than to be considered by School Forum.
 - ix. It is proposed that where a growth fund application requires a different approach, that these applications are presented to Forum with additional information in order that a separate decision can be made concerning that's schools access to the growth fund.
 - x. Where there is a dispute over the funding amount, this will be presented to Forum for a final decision.
 - xi. Schools Forum will be presented with updates on the spend against budget in year to allow budget monitoring and to inform for future years growth fund budget builds.
15. It is proposed that a growth fund of £100,000 be created for 2022/23.

Recommendations

- 16. That Forum notes the funding formula budgets for 2022/23.
- 17. That Forum approves the growth fund criteria and budget for 2022/23.

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