

School Funding Arrangements for 2016/17  
Report No: 13

**SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

**1. DfE Documents – School funding in 2016-17**

- 1.1 Following the update in the Governing Bodies termly pack and the Chancellor's Statement to Parliament in November 2015, this briefing confirms the Government's intention to maintain the current funding arrangements for 2016/17.
- 1.2 The key points, for school funding, contained in the Chancellor's statement included:
- protected in cash terms;
  - maintaining the funding for universal infant free school meals;
  - the Government's continued commitment to move towards a national funding formula. It is envisaged that the DfE will be publishing their initial proposals in the early part of next financial year.
- 1.3 The DfE are considering some changes to the Scheme for Financing.

**2. Local Arrangements**

- 2.1 In light of the confirmation by the Government and feedback from some schools, the local arrangements were reviewed. Although it is not possible to consider fundamental changes to the local funding formula nor advisable in advance of the publication of the proposals for the national funding formula, concerns have been raised by primary schools that have expanded and now operate on split sites.

The Local Authority has considered the concerns and is now seeking a change in the criteria for the growth fund in relation to permanent schools developed on a split site.

**2.2 Current Arrangements**

The current criteria for the growth fund includes a nominal amount of £25k for schools that have expanded and using off site facilities. This funding aims to meet the additional cost incurred for:

- Split Site Allocation (£25k in 2013-14)
- Rent Allocation (Based on actual)
- Rates Cost (Based on Actual)
- Any additional costs specific to individual provision (e.g. minibus £20k)

The above criteria does not allow for new purpose built expansions on a separate site not close to the home school. These schools have reported that they are incurring other costs associated with the management of the new site.

2.3 The costs for the schools have been assessed and benchmarked with the funding provided by other London authorities.

The Local Authority reviewed and considered the information provided by the schools on the additional costs they were incurring. It was noted that the schools were incurring additional costs other than those identified in paragraph 2.2 above due to operating on a split site.

Information was gathered from 14 other London authorities. The benchmarking found that:

- the Enfield rate for a primary split school was the lowest
- the range of the funding allocated for this factor was £25k to £135k

In order to allocate the split site funding, most of the other local authorities have a condition which the school must meet. The most common ones are:

- the two sites are divided by a public highway
- at least 0.5km apart
- the split site funding must not exceed the lump sum within the schools formula

The current funding provided to secondary schools is £164k.

#### 2.4 Proposal

It is proposed that the amount provided to a primary school on split site is increased from £25k to £60k. It was found from the analysis of the information provided by the school as the level of cost a school would incur and also it was the average of the funding provided by other local authorities.

It is also proposed, in line with other local authorities, the following criteria is considered to the allocation of this funding:

- the two sites are divided by a public highway
- at least 0.5km apart

No change is proposed to the arrangements for secondary schools.

3.0 Views are sought on the proposals contained in paragraph 2.4.