

Education Scrutiny Working Group 19th January 2017
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Outcome of consultation on proposed revisions to the Authority's Fair Funding Formula for Schools and Scheme for Financing Schools

The Group made the following observations to Cabinet/Management Team on 24th January 2017 in respect of the draft Cabinet Report.

1. Where changes are proposed for implementation 2017/18 it is **recommended that the impact is included.**
2. There are a number of proposals where the impact will be neutral (eg combining Clerical and Clerking allowance to an Administrative Allowance). However, some schools request more detail within their budget and oppose the change. It is understood that a pack is provided to schools outlining how the formula is calculated and it is **recommended that this pack should include sufficient detail of what each budget heading contains.**
3. With regard to the 0.6 lump sum for management time for small schools it is **recommended that it is made clear that this lump sum is provided for by a combination of management time and small schools protection.**
4. It appears that a number of schools have classrooms which cannot accommodate the class sizes that are proposed to be funded under this scheme. Schools in this position cannot be expected to educate pupils on a level of funding which they cannot accommodate and scrutiny have requested information on the number of schools which have classroom sizes too small for this funding level. In the meantime Cabinet are **recommended to make clear what options are available for schools with classrooms with a lower capacity than that at which it is proposed to fund.**
5. With regard to moving 'efficiencies' into Teaching Cost Allowance. The transparency in relation to class sizes is welcomed however the report notes that the proposal will have '*some impact on individual school budgets*'. It is understood that schools of a size between 85 and 145 are most likely to struggle with the funding currently provided with the formula and are, in effect, supporting small schools through the small schools protection scheme.

The group query the fairness of a large number of pupils (in both the medium and large sized primary schools) having to experience large class sizes to protect a small number of pupils in small schools. **It is recommended that the impact of this proposal on those schools where an impact will be felt is included.**

The Working Group have had sight of the final report to Cabinet and make the following comments:

The final report addresses observation 1 however, observations 2-5 remain outstanding

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group 19th January 2017

County Councillors D Jones, A Davies, R. Davies, M Mackenzie, S McNicholas and K. Roberts-Jones

Parent Governor Representatives A Davies and L Jenkin

Church Representative M Evitts