

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
25th January 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder
for Education**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Sandra Davies

**The Fair Funding Formula – this document is usually circulated for
consultation around the Christmas season – to my knowledge this has not yet
been out for consultation: when will this be circulated?**

Answer

Under the Schools Forum (Wales) Regulations 2003 every local authority must have a local schools budget forum (known as a schools forum). Schools forums are key to developing informed and confident dialogue between authorities and their schools on budgetary issues including schools' funding levels for the coming years, pressures on future years' budgets, changes to local funding formula and reviewing contracts/service level agreements for services to schools.

Local authorities are required to consult their schools forum annually on matters relating to their Schools Budget and changes to their Scheme for Financing Schools. Authorities can also consult their forums on other matters concerning the funding of schools, for example the financial implications of arrangements for free school meals, arrangements for insurance and arrangements for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school. The most recent meeting of the Schools Forum was on 23rd January and their advice will be formally presented to Councillors as part of the budget setting for 2018-19.

In addition, the Local Authority is undertaking a full activity-led review of the School Funding Formula. Doing this does not generate new funding for the Local Authority or schools, but will ensure that we continue to make the fairest possible distribution of available funding between schools.

Given reductions in specific grants this year and the continuing pressure on public service budgets it continues to be a challenging time for School Governing Bodies to meet their statutory responsibilities not to develop a budget deficit and maintain high quality learning opportunities for our children and young people. We remain grateful for all of their voluntary efforts to fulfil their statutory governance responsibilities. We also all remain committed to prioritising school funding in these challenging times.

