

## **Cabinet – 18 October 2022**

### **Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Statham, Education and Skills

**Related portfolios:** Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

**Service:** Children's Services: Education

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Aim**

1.1 The schools local funding formula is the process that is utilised (informed by national guidance which details the funding factors that can be incorporated) to allocate the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding that the Council receives to the mainstream schools in the Borough of Walsall. The Department for Education (DfE) requires all Local Authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, to finalise a schools local funding formula for the following financial year by the third week in January each year. Due to the timing of Schools Forum and Cabinet meetings, agreement of the proposed direction for consideration in relation to the 2023/24 local funding formula requires agreement in advance of the Department for Education informing the Local Authority of its Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023/24 year, which is not expected to be provided until the last week of December 2022.

#### **2. Summary**

2.1 The implementation of the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) commenced from April 2018 to allow for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need).

2.2 Allocations for each school have been calculated nationally by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) under the values associated with the NFF but the local authority has still been able to operate a local funding formula to calculate individual school budgets due to national delays in implementing the NFF in full.

2.3 Following delays in the implementation of the National Funding Formula, consultations on completing the Reforms to the NFF have taken place during the

last year. The Government's response to these consultations is that it is the intention to move forward with plans to implement the NFF in full but with a period of managed transition to avoid unnecessary and unexpected disruption to schools.

- 2.4 The transition will involve bringing any LA's local formulae that does not already mirror the NFF progressively closer to the NFF over time. In line with this the approach that authorities are required to follow for 2023/24 is for them to ensure all allowable NFF factors are used in their local formulae and move each local formula factor value (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values). Protections within the funding system (such as the minimum funding guarantee) will be maintained to minimise disruption for schools.
- 2.5 The Government's expectation is for all local authorities to have moved to full NFF within the next five years – that is, by the 2027/28 funding year. They do, however, hope that the move can happen sooner – but have confirmed it will not be later than this.
- 2.6 In support of ensuring these requirements were met a working group of Schools Forum members reconvened to review the options available for revising and setting the local funding formula for 2023/24 with a view to identifying routes to move to the implementation the full NFF going forward.
- 2.7 This report summarises the options reviewed by the working group and identifies that as all allowable NFF factors are not currently present in the existing local formula a full consultation with all schools will be required for the authority to be able to ensure the local formula for 2023/24 meets the regulations set out by government. The working group are supportive of these options being used in a full consultation with schools, and support from Schools Forum for this option was requested at their meeting on 18 October 2022.

### **3. Recommendations**

Subject to outcome of the discussion of Walsall's Schools Forum at their meeting on 18 October 2022:

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes that as there is a requirement to utilise all allowable factors in the local formula for 2023/24, a full consultation exercise with all mainstream schools in Walsall will be required (as there is a need to include the two factors that are not currently utilised – Free School Meals 6 and Pupil Mobility).
- 3.2 That Cabinet notes the work undertaken by officers and the working group containing members of Schools Forum, and the recommended list of funding formula options proposed, and approves that these options are utilised in a full consultation with all mainstream primary and secondary schools in Walsall.
- 3.3 That Cabinet notes the outcome of the consultation will be reported back to Schools Forum and Cabinet in December 2022 to allow a final decision to be made with regard to the formula that will be utilised to distribute funding to mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2023/24.

## 4. Report detail - know

### **Context**

- 4.1 The DfE undertook consultations in July 2021 'Fair school funding for all: completing reforms to the National Funding Formula' and June 2022 'next stage of completing the reforms to the National Funding Formula'.
- 4.2 The Government's response to the first consultation confirmed their intention to move forward with plans to implement the full NFF with a view for enforced transition to bring local authority formulae closer to the NFF from 2023/24.
- 4.3 The transition will involve bringing any LA's local formulae that does not already mirror the NFF progressively closer to the NFF over time. In line with this the approach that authorities are required to follow for 2023/24 is for them to ensure all allowable NFF factors are used in their local formulae and move each local formula factor values (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values).. Protections within the funding system (such as the minimum funding guarantee) will be maintained to minimise disruption for schools.
- 4.4 In line with the previous direction for the local funding formulas recommended by Schools Forum and supported by Cabinet, Walsall is currently a local authority that has not adopted the NFF in full. At present the local formula does not currently use all allowable pupil led funding factors and a whilst some of the factors that are used are close to the NFF values there are a number that have significant variations to the national figures.
- 4.5 To ensure that the requirements of local funding formulas for 2023/24 can be met, any formula approved by Schools Forum and Cabinet will need to include the addition of two new pupil led funding factors that are currently used in NFF but not in the LA's local funding formula. These are FSM6 (Free School Meals eligibility at any time in the last 6 years) and Pupil Mobility (supports schools with a significant proportion of pupils starting part way through the year). Any addition of factors to the local formula requires a full consultation exercise, and as such all options considered will need to be consulted on with all mainstream schools in Walsall.

### NFF Provisional Allocations 2023/24

- 4.6 The DfE have published provisional allocations for 2023/24 setting out the funding that would be received under an NFF calculation assuming no underlying changes in pupil numbers and characteristics from October 2021 census data.
- 4.7 This provisional data shows a potential increase in Schools Block funding of £4.7m for 2023/24 (prior to any amendments to funding relating to any increases or decreases in the overall number of pupils being supported).
- 4.8 Provisional allocations under the NFF are also provided by school and although these allocations show very few schools losing any funding on a per pupil basis under the NFF calculations, it should be noted that the actual level of Schools

Block DSG that will be payable to Walsall Council for 2023/24, which is normally provided during the last week in December each year, will be based on the pupil numbers and characteristics set out within the Schools Census carried out during October 2022.

- 4.9 There are also a number of schools within Walsall where, due to increased need for places, the Council have completed expansions within the last 7 years which are not yet full in each year group. This group of schools are therefore expected to see an increase in pupil numbers, above those contained within the October 2022 census, for the period September 2023 to March 2024.
- 4.10 As these pupils will not be in place when the October 2022 census is completed the local funding formula must recognise these additional children and seek to allocate funding for them from within the 'Growth Funding' allocation that is provided to authorities within the Schools Block of DSG to account for these potential changes.

#### Review of Options for a 2023/24 Local Funding Formula

- 4.11 A working group of Schools Forum members was reconvened to review a number of proposed options for revising and setting the local funding formula for 2023/24 with the aim of identifying the most appropriate option for meeting the regulations set out by government and distributing the total funds available to the authority to fund mainstream education in Walsall.
- 4.12 This group comprised a mixture of primary, secondary and governor representatives from both maintained and academy schools, with the group meeting in July and September 2022, to review and work through options.
- 4.13 The aims of the group were:
- i. To note the Government's intention to implement NFF in full and the enforced transition and requirements from 2023/24.
  - ii. To ensure any options proposed meet the requirements for 2023/24 – that all allowable NFF factors are used in the local formula and to move each local formula factor value (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values).
  - iii. To consider options that will see the implementation of the full NFF in Walsall over a range of time periods, for example, one year, two years, three years, etc., in line with the direction of travel provided by Government.
  - iv. To ensure that where schools do see a reduction in funding, on a per pupil basis, for 2023/24 compared to the local funding formula allocations for 2022/23, that number of schools is kept at as low a level as possible and the value of reductions are at a manageable level.

- 4.14 With the above principles in mind the working group reviewed a number of options for implementing changes to the local funding formula for 2023/24. These options can be summarised as follows:

**Option 1 – DfE minimum requirement – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 10% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have been expanded and are not yet full in every year group were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 1).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 10% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) – which ensures that funding on a per pupil basis is increased by at least that level, in this model was set at +2% - which is the maximum level currently expected to be allowable within guidelines.

With option 1 Schools will not see implementation of the full NFF under this option for a number of years (aligned to the timetable set out each year by the DfE for minimum transition movements). Whilst this option therefore provides schools with more time to prepare for full impact, it would also see more uncertainty as it is not known at this stage what the subsequent years minimum directed movements will be, meaning it will be harder for schools to plan to respond to that.

As the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), as this option is implemented over a longer period of time it does also elongate the period of potential inequality in funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this modelled option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,719 and £14,543, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,105 and £192,140.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 2 – Implement full NFF over a period of 4 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 25% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have**

**expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 2).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 25% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 2 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 4 years (by 2026/27) with a proposed move 25% closer to NFF values each year within that period (albeit caveated by the fact that if the DfE requires a quicker movement this trajectory may need to change). As with option 1, this option also provides schools with a longer time to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, however there is greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 4 year period meaning schools can plan for and manage that (albeit as above that may change if there is a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), as this option is also implemented over a longer period of time it does still also elongate the period of potential inequality in funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,841 and £14,706, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,209 and £191,718.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 3 – Implement full NFF over a period of 3 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 33% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 3).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 33% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 3 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 3 years (by 2025/26) with a proposed move 33% closer to NFF values each year within that period (albeit again caveated by the fact that if the DfE requires a quicker movement this trajectory may need to change). As with option 1 and 2, this option also provides schools with a longer time to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, and again provides greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 3 year period meaning schools can plan for and manage that (albeit as above that may change if there is a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), and this option begins to shorten the implementation period when compared to options 1 and 2, providing a faster movement to a more equitable distribution of funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,908 and £14,797, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,267 and £191,485.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 4 – Implement full NFF over a period of 2 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 50% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 4).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 50% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 4 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 2 years (by 2024/25) with a proposed move 50% closer to NFF values each year within that period. This option does reduce the time that schools have to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, but does provide greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 2 year period (as it would be guaranteed that there will not be a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE – with the DfE's current requirement to move at least 10% closer for 2023/24, even if the remaining

90% gap was then the required movement for 2024/25 this option would meet that requirement).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), this option further shortens the implementation period when compared to options 1, 2 and 3, providing a faster movement to a more equitable distribution of funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £2,043 and £14,980, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,382 and £191,021.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 5 – Implement full NFF in 2023/24 – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and mirror NFF rates in full, with MFG at +0.5%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 5).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 100% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was set at +0.5% (which was the maximum that could be afforded within the remaining funding that was available – however this does meet the minimum MFG requirement currently expected to be required for 2023/24 of at least +0.5%).

With option 5 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF immediately in 2023/24. This option does therefore remove the time that schools have to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, but provides certainty that future year allocations will not be further impacted as the NFF would be fully adopted, and also minimises the number of schools seeing a reduction in funding compared to other models.

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), this option would ensure that equitable distribution of funding is achieved immediately, rather than seeing the potential inequality elongated as would be the case with all other options.



Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 3 schools (2.88%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £13,914 and £33,527, and 101 schools (97.12%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £3,331 and £376,712.

The 3 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group).

#### Primary / Secondary Funding Ratio Split

- 4.15 The funding ratio split between primary and secondary schools was 1:1.26 for 2022/23 and would move to the following under each option proposed:
- Option 1 – ratio of 1:1.26
  - Option 2 – ratio of 1:1.27
  - Option 3 – ratio of 1:1.27
  - Option 4 – ratio of 1:1.28
  - Option 5 – ratio of 1:1.30

#### Recommended Way Forward

- 4.16 All options require a full consultation with all maintained primary and secondary schools in Walsall in order to ensure all allocable NFF factors are utilised (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility).
- 4.17 Given this requirement the working group has therefore recommended that Schools Forum and Cabinet agrees the recommended list of funding formula options as set out to be consulted on with all mainstream primary and secondary schools in Walsall.
- 4.18 If supported, given the formal call in period following Cabinet decision, and the period of the October half term break for schools, it proposed that the consultation would run for a period of 2 weeks from 31 October 2022, and would therefore close on 11 November 2022 – allowing sufficient time to review the feedback and prepare the relevant reports for Schools Forum and Cabinet to consider at their December meetings.
- 4.19 The consultation will provide a copy of this report, details of each option, the current funding factor values in use for 2022/23 and those that each model would result in (appendices 1 – 5 of this report), and also the total budget value attributable to each individual school that each option would result in (based on the October 2021 census data – to ensure like for like comparison to calculated 2022/23 budgets).
- 4.20 The outcome of this consultation would be reported back to Schools Forum at their meeting on 6 December 2022 for recommendation of a final funding formula to Cabinet at their meeting on 14 December 2022.

- 4.23 It must be noted that any formula that is agreed will only apply to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in Walsall (as those providers who support children with additional needs e.g. special schools / pupil referral units, and also early year's providers are subject their own funding arrangements).

### **Schools Funding Formula**

Set out below is a brief summary of the factors that must be included within any proposed funding formula for 2023/24:

#### Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

AWPU is the biggest part of the funding formula, it is the funding which has not been allocated to the other specific factors and is allocated on a per pupil basis. The AWPU rates are different for Primary and Secondary children.

#### Deprivation

Walsall allocates funds to schools to meet the additional needs that children from deprived backgrounds may face for both the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measure of deprivation and the number of children who receive free school meals (FSM). The updated regulations now also include the ability to allocate funding via an 'FSM6' Free School Meals factor (which represents the number of pupils per school who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years). Previous work has highlighted that this composite measure should ensure that all schools experiencing deprivation will receive some funding to help them. DfE also allocate Pupil Premium funding outside of Walsall's formula to support deprivation, and this is also allocated utilising the 'FSM6' Free School Meals measure.

#### Lump Sum

A lump sum is an amount of funding that each school receives without reference to pupil numbers, deprivation, buildings etc. This is designed to cover the costs all schools need to meet regardless of their size. The maximum lump sum allowable under the regulations is currently £175,000 per school.

#### Low Attainment

The only factor allowable to take account of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the funding formula for mainstream schools is low attainment, which looks at the number of Primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development. The Walsall funding formula then allocates an amount of funding to provide schools with the resources required to support these children.

#### English as an Additional Language

For pupils where English is an additional language funding is allocated through the formula to allow schools to provide additional support for a period of up to 3 years after they enter the statutory school system.

### Pupil Mobility

This measure allows authorities to allocate additional funding to schools based on numbers of pupils who entered a school during the last three academic years, but did not start in August or September (or January for reception pupils).

### Business Rates

Business rates for each school are funded through the formula based on an estimate of cost.

### Split Sites

The purpose of this factor is to support schools which have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites.

### Premise Rental – Exceptional Factor

One school in the Borough has to pay extra costs relating to rent. The rationale for allowing this funding factor is that it is similar to business rates. There has been individual agreement with the DfE to allow this factor.

The following factors are allowable but have either not been used in the Walsall funding formula or do not apply:

- Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts – Not applicable as there are no schools in Walsall where there are additional unfunded costs due to PFI contracts
- London fringe – Not applicable as this is only applicable to local authorities who have some but not all of their schools within the London fringe area
- Sparsity – Not applicable as this factor is used to support schools in rural areas where there are on average smaller year groups.

## **5. Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 5.1 The funding formula is seen as equitable and is transparent to those who have been consulted with when setting the formula. The funding formula will not alter the total amount of funding given to Walsall schools and as such the role that schools play in meeting Council objectives will not be adversely impacted by the proposed funding formula.

## **6. Risk management**

- 6.1 Where schools see fluctuations in pupil numbers (or changes in pupil characteristics) between 2022/23 and 2023/24 this will impact on final budgets that are allocated as it always has (and there will also be schools who gain from this process where pupil numbers have increased). Where schools do see a reduction in per pupil funding the authority will seek to provide guidance and support to them where they are experiencing difficulty managing the financial impact of that as and when required.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 As required under the DfE guidelines, all proposed options for the local funding formula set out in the report would allocate all of the funding that Walsall Council receives within the Schools Block of its DSG to schools in Walsall.
- 7.2 The different options that will be consulted on will provide details of the potential individual impact on a school by school basis. If schools see fluctuations in pupil numbers between years this will impact on budgets as it always has (and there will also be schools who gain from this process where pupil numbers have increased).
- 7.3 Once the authority receives final details of its DSG allocation for 2023/24 a further review of proposed funding factor values may be required to ensure that the final factor values that are utilised are affordable within the overall level of funding that will be available to the authority.

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1 The Department for Education has prescribed the way in which schools should be financed for the 2023/24 financial year. These guidelines are set out in the Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024 operational guide, and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2023-to-2024/schools-operational-guide-2023-to-2024>

- 8.2 The purpose of these arrangements is to help secure greater consistency in the way in which funding is distributed to schools. The Council is bound to adhere to the rules issued by Department for Education, and the proposed Walsall Funding Formula sets out how funding will be allocated to schools in Walsall within the prescribed arrangements.

## **9. Procurement Implications/Social Value**

- 9.1 None relating directly to this report.

## **10. Property implications**

- 10.1 Unless any schools in Walsall were to close, there will be no property implications associated with this report.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 11.1 The content of this report has taken into account the Marmot objectives and it is confirmed that the proposals have been tested against the relevant considerations in this respect. As such there has been no indication that the proposed school funding formula would have any adverse impact on the health and wellbeing of staff and pupils based at Walsall schools.

## **12. Staffing implications**

- 12.1 Where the proposed funding formula sees any school suffer a budget reduction Finance officers will continue to work with and support those schools that do experience financial difficulties so that they can plan the most appropriate way in which to manage these changes.

## **13. Reducing Inequalities**

- 13.1 The implications for reducing inequalities have been taken into account and assessed as set out below.
- 13.2 When undertaking the consultation on the implementation of the NFF, Department for Education prepared an equality impact assessment. A copy of this is attached to this report.
- 13.3 With regard to equality implications the principles followed for allocating funding for 2023/24 are set out within the report, and were based on seeking consistency of funding between years, and to limit any financial impact on individual schools.
- 13.4 The proposed options for a 2023/24 schools funding formula take account of all mandatory factors that have to be utilised, and modelling has considered all allowable factors which are relevant to Walsall. Funding is allocated to support children where English is an additional language, children with low attainment and to support schools in meeting the additional needs that children from deprived backgrounds may face.

## **14. Consultation**

- 14.1 Walsall Schools Forum have received a number of reports on the schools funding formula with a working group of members having met several times throughout the year to review the impact of alternate options which looked at options and changes to factor values set out within the report.

## **15. Decide**

- 15.1 The operational guidance provided by the Department for Education identifies the mandatory factors that must be utilised within the local funding formula. The options discussed with Schools Forum were therefore based on ensuring all mandatory factors were met.

## **16. Respond**

- 16.1 Subject to approval of the recommendations, and outcome of the proposed consultation, and also confirmation of the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant in December 2022, local funding formula factors values will be finalised and used to populate the Authority Pro-forma Tool. The completed pro-forma will be submitted to the Department for Education by the required deadline of January 2023.

16.2 A Budget Statement for each maintained school will then be published, confirming their budget share for 2023/24 as determined by the local funding formula. In respect of mainstream academy schools the totality of budget share allocations for these schools will be top-sliced from Walsall's Dedicated Schools Grant and paid directly to academies by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

## 17. Review

17.1 Any further information releases by Department for Education in respect of the implementation date of full NFF will continue to be reviewed. Until the implementation of full NFF the process of determining a local funding formula will, for any given year, need to be decided by Cabinet, in consultation with Schools Forum.

## Background papers

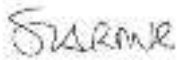
Schools Forum Report 18 October 2022 – Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24

ESFA – Schools revenue funding 2023 to 2024 operational guide

DfE NFF consultation [Implementing the direct national funding formula - government consultation.pdf](#)

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06.10.2022

## Appendix 1

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 1

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 1	Option 1	
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	10% Closer	Revised Factor Value	
			£	£	£	£	£	
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	18	3,229	
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(5)	4,826	
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	56	4,887	
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(78)	1,180	
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(103)	1,406	
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	71	71	
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	103	103	
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	1	217	
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	3	310	
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	2	258	
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	3	418	
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	6	390	
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	7	555	
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	7	421	
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	9	603	
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	6	452	
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	9	649	
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	6	620	
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	7	867	
	Lump Sum	School		175,000	128,000	47,000	(4,700)	170,300
	Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	28	900
Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	45	1,347		
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	3	551	
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	102	650	
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	95	95	
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	136	136	
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%		

## Appendix 2

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 2

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 2	Option 2
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	25% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	46	3,257
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(11)	4,819
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	141	4,971
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(194)	1,063
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(257)	1,251
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	176	176
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	258	258
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	4	219
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	7	314
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	6	262
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	8	422
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	14	398
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	18	566
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	16	431
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	22	615
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	16	462
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	23	663
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	14	628
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	17	878
Lump Sum	School	175,000	128,000	47,000	(11,750)	163,250	
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	71	942
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	112	1,414
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	8.0	556
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	254	802
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	236	236
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	340	340
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	



## Appendix 3

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 3

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 3	Option 3
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	33% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	61	3,272
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(15)	4,816
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	187	5,018
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(259)	998
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(343)	1,166
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	235	235
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	343	343
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	5	220
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	9	316
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	8	264
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	10	425
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	19	403
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	24	572
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	22	436
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	29	623
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	22	467
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	30	670
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	19	633
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	23	883
Lump Sum	School	175,000	128,000	47,000	(15,667)	159,333	
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	95	966
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	149	1,451
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	10.7	559
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	339	887
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	315	315
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	453	453
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	

## Appendix 4

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 4

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 4	Option 4
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	50% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	92	3,302
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(23)	4,808
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	281	5,112
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(389)	869
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(514)	994
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	353	353
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	515	515
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	7	223
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	14	321
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	12	268
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	15	430
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	28	412
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	36	584
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	33	447
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	43	637
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	32	478
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	45	685
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	28	642
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	35	895
Lump Sum	School	175,000	128,000	47,000	(23,500)	151,500	
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	142	1,013
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	224	1,526
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	16	564
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	509	1,057
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	473	473
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	680	680
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	

## Appendix 5

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 5

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 5	Option 5
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	100% Closer Full NFF	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	183	3,394
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(46)	4,785
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	562	5,393
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(778)	480
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(1,028)	480
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	705	705
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	1,030	1,030
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	15	230
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	28	335
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	24	280
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	30	445
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	56	440
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	72	620
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	65	480
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	86	680
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	65	510
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	90	730
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	56	670
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	70	930
Lump Sum	School		175,000	128,000	47,000	(47,000)	128,000
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	284	1,155
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	448	1,750
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	32	580
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	1,017	1,565
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	945	945
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	1,360	1,360
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		0.5%	