

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM
12th March 2024

ITEM NO 6

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2024/25

Purpose of Report

1. To update School Forum with adjustments to the Schools Budget Share following the ESFA proforma checks for 2024/25.

2. No Forum Decision is required

Forum is asked to:

a) Note the report

Background

2. The Local Authority received the school budget share tool on 19th December using the October 2023 census information. School Forum were presented with the indicative school budget shares and agreed to inflate the PFI premises factor by 4.2%, (the current RPIX rate published at the time of the January forum), and to transfer the remainder of the funding to the School reserve of £7,427.

3. As Forum members may recall the tool is subject to a number of validation checks and once verified centrally, Academies are given the final allocation figures by the ESFA and the Local Authority provides the same to the Maintained Schools.

4. The ESFA have completed their checks and have requested the following adjustments (**Appendix 3**), these do not have an effect on school net funding.

a) The Non-Domestic rate revaluations had been allowed for in the indicative school budget shares, but the ESFA have advised that they will be dealt with these outside of the school block and adjust directly at source. Therefore, these have been removed from the proforma, but will not adversely affect the school net position.

b) The PFI premises factor has not been inflated in Darlington before and Forum took the decision to inflate the allowance due to increasing pressures in the affordability gap and set it at 4.2%. The ESFA have advised that a mandatory level must be applied if we are inflating this factor. We have therefore adjusted the proforma to increase this to 10.4%, as advised. The affected schools will have an increase to the school budget share but will be recharged for the full amount by the Local Authority to pay for the PFI contract.

c) The adjustments for the Non-Domestic Rates and the PFI premises factor mean that there is a small increase to amount to move to the School Block reserve for future years, which has increased to £25,046.

Recommendations

5. That Forum notes the funding formula adjustments for 2024/25.

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