Waltham Forest

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	**SCHOOLS FORUM** **12 November 2014**	Agenda Item	**6**
Report Title	**Consultation on changes to Growth Fund and Local Funding Formula for 2015-16**		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information and decision		
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Appendices	Appendix A – Consultation document Appendix B – Survey Monkey report		

1. SUMMARY

1.1 At its meeting on 17 September 2014, Schools Forum agreed that the Local Authority [LA] should consult with schools on proposed changes to the Growth Fund and Local Funding Formula [LFF] for 2015-16.

1.2 This report provides information about the consultation process that took place between 13 October and 5 November 2014 and makes recommendations for implementation in 2015-16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Schools Forum to **note**:

2.1.1 The information on the consultation process that has taken place with schools; and

2.1.2 The feedback and comments from the consultation exercise as set out in **Appendix B**.

2.2 School Forum to **agree** that the proposals for the following changes may be implemented for 2015-16:

2.2.1 Funding for the expansion of schools may be based on actual NOR in the October Census rather than forecasted numbers

2.2.2 The current scheme for supporting schools with falling rolls is kept and **is not** amended to enable financial support to also be given to schools where the NOR in any year group falls below 75% of Planned Admission Number (Option c).

2.2.3 The scheme for split-site funding may be amended so that the allowance is based upon the lump sums as set out in the consultation document.

2.2.4 That the lump sum for primary schools may be raised from £75,000 to £90,000 and that any other additional funding available to be allocated to the primary sector should be distributed through the AWPU.

2.2.5 That the AWPU for secondary schools may be reduced by £50 and that the money released is allocated to primary schools.

2.2.6 That all funding released from the above measures and unallocated balances arising from the increase in primary school population over and above recommendation 2.2.4 may be allocated to primary AWPU in order to reduce as far as possible the gap in funding between the average funding per pupil for primary and secondary schools.

3. For primary and secondary maintained schools representatives:

3.1 That voting members of Schools Forum, who are Governors and Head Teachers of **maintained primary schools only**, **agree not** to De-delegate **£183,300** for a Schools Contingency**.**

3.2 That voting members of Schools Forum, who are Governors and Head Teachers of **maintained secondary schools only, agree not** to De-delegate **£91,700** for a Schools Contingency.

4. REASON

4.1 The Local Authority is required to consult with Schools Forum regarding any changes to the local funding formula.

4.2 Maintained mainstream schools can opt to return ("de-delegate") some elements of central funding. These amounts are deducted from the final school budget shares after applying the LFF. Regulations require

that Schools Forum by sector must decide to de–delegate these amounts i.e. Primary and Secondary sectors. De-delegation is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or PRUs; however these settings may contribute by buying back any service provided by the local authority. The contingency amount requested for 201-15 is **£275,000** (**£294,900** in 2014-15). This is estimated to be **£10.88** per pupil in 2015-16 (**£11.69** in 2014-15).

4.3 Maintained schools will receive funding based on the LFF. De-delegation is a deduction from their final budget shares. This money can be used set up a schools central contingency for:

a) Exceptional unforeseen costs that could not be reasonably met by Governing bodies.

b) Schools in financial difficulty.

c) Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5.1 **Appendix A** to this report sets out the information made available to schools concerning consultation on changes to the Growth Fund and Local Funding Formula for 2015-16.

5.2 Having considered all the responses received through the survey, the LA has made the recommendations at 2.2. Schools Forum may agree, reject or amend these recommendations.

5.3 The LA will use its mandate to implement recommendations agreed to allocate funding through the Growth Fund and the LFF for 2015-16 using data from the October 2014 School Census and provisional DSG allocation from the EFA due to be announced on 15 December 2015. These allocations will be presented to Schools Forum for approval on Wednesday 14 January 2015.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The LA has consulted with all schools and academies on the above issues between Monday 13 October 2014 and Wednesday 5 November 2014. **Appendix A** is a copy of the Consultation document issued as background to the questions in the consultation survey. **Appendix B** summarises all responses collected from Survey Monkey.

6.2 There were broadly four sections in the consultation:

Changes to the School Block 5-16 Growth Fund criteria (Q4 to Q6);
Changes to the Schools Block 5-16 LFF (Q7 to Q13);
Changes to the Primary: Secondary ratio (Q14 to Q18); and
De-delegation for Contingency (Q19).

6.3 There was a total number of 46 responses, where 37 (80%) of respondents answered all questions. This is summarised by school type below:

Maintained Primary	Primary Academy	Maintained Secondary	Secondary Academy	All Through School	Free School	Non-Recoupment Academy	Other Stakeholder	Response Count
29	4	9	2	1	0	0	1	46

GROWTH FUND

6.4 Question 4 on the Growth Fund Criteria: 26/40 (65%) agreed.

6.5 Question 5 on retaining current arrangements on supporting schools with falling rolls: 22/38 (57.9%) agreed.

6.6 Question 6 on alternative arrangements on supporting schools with falling rolls: 7/11(63.6%) supported a hybrid scheme.

LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA

6.7 Question 7 on setting split site funding on fixed sum amount: 29/35 (82.9%) agreed.

6.8 Questions 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 on the Primary Lump Sum increases: at least 70% of respondents supported every proposal.

6.9 Question 11 on increasing the Primary Lump Sum by decreasing AWPU: 20/31(64.5%) did not agree.

PRIMARY: SECONDARY RATIO

6.10 Questions 14 to 18 on adjustments to improve the primary to secondary funding ratio: at least 60.7% of respondents supported every proposal.

DE-DELEGATION

6.11 Question 19 on De-delegation for Contingency: Primary 15/21 (71%) and secondary 5/9 (55%) did not agree.