

Decision Record – Fair Funding Review – Responding to the Government’s Consultation

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Peter Butlin Deputy Leader - Finance & Property
Date of Decision (not before 8 March 2018)	09/03/2018

Decision Taken

The Portfolio Holder is asked to:

- 1) Comment on the proposed principles that should underpin the Council’s response to the Fair Funding Review consultation papers, as outlined in Section 4, and approve their use in drafting the County Council’s response to the Government’s consultation paper.
- 2) Agree the County Council’s formal response to the consultation paper attached at the Appendix.
- 3) Authorise the Head of Finance in consultation with the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to make any final amendments needed to the response, in line with agreed principles, before it is submitted to reflect any late information.
- 4) Authorise the Head of Finance in consultation with the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to use a similar approach for any future consultations on the Fair Funding Review.

Reasons for Decisions

Responses to consultations by outside agencies need the approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Background Information

Funding baselines for local authorities, as determined by the local government finance settlement, are based on an assessment of local authorities’ relative needs and resources. The methodology behind this assessment was introduced over ten years ago.

Since that time, demographic pressures have affected local areas in different ways, as has the cost of providing particular services. In recognition of these pressures, the Government last year announced a review to address concerns about the fairness of current funding distributions. The outcome of this review will enable the Government to reconsider how the relative needs and resources of local authorities should be identified.

Last year the previous Government published a Call for Evidence on needs and redistribution, which resulted in over 200 responses from a range of local authorities and representative bodies.

Over the past year, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has worked in close collaboration with local authorities and their representatives on the design of the review, including through a joint Local Government Association (LGA) and MHCLG chaired technical working group.

This consultation focuses specifically on potential approaches that have been identified to measure the relative needs of local authorities.

Financial Implications

As set out in the report.

Report Author	Andrew Harper
Head of Service	John Betts
Joint Managing Director	David Carter
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/4357/Committee/586/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
 Corporate Board
 Legal – David Carter
 Finance – Virginia Rennie
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

The following Elected Members were consulted on this report prior to its publication: Cllr Seccombe, Cllr Butlin, Cllr Chattaway, Cllr Roodhouse, Cllr Chilvers