



Department  
for Education

**Item 08 Appendix A**

**Consultation Response Form**

**Consultation closing date: 30 April 2014  
Your comments must reach us by that date**

**Fairer schools funding in 2015-16**

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

<b>Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	

Name: Sara Haslam	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable): Warwickshire County Council	
Address: Shire Hall Warwick CV34 4RL	

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: [consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please mark the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained school	<input type="checkbox"/> Academy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Bursar	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade union organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please Specify:

1 Do you agree that the existing distribution of schools funding is unfair?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Yes, the Local Authority has long been campaigning for a review of the distribution of DSG at a national level. Whilst we acknowledge that there needs to be some variation between spending (at a school and Local Authority level) we would argue that the variation between funding levels is not supported by evidence of a need to spend to deliver similar outcomes across schools and Local Authorities.

2 Do you agree with our proposed choice of characteristics to which to attach minimum funding levels?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Yes. It is recognised that each of these headings are indicative of key pupil characteristics and so are therefore valid as the basis of funding allocations.

Given our proposal to set minimum funding levels such that we can afford to fund all local authorities at those levels or above in 2015-16, do you agree with the proposed values of the minimum funding levels?

3 a) Age Weighted Pupil Unit

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 b) Deprivation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 c) Looked-after children

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 d) English as an additional language

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 e) Low prior attainment

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 f) Lump sum

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 g) Sparsity

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Whilst the rates and headings differ from those currently used in Warwickshire, the impact of this proposed allocation is that deprivation and prior attainment are relatively similar but that the increase in funding is in the basic entitlement element which is a position that we would favour.

4 Do you agree that labour market cost differences should be taken into account as we allocate the £350m?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

Where unit values are applied on a national basis, it is logical to make some adjustment for recognised differences in staffing costs which form the majority spend in all schools.

However, the methodology included in the document is based on the regional teaching banding. Going forward, it would be helpful to understand the impact of actual staffing costs as more schools convert to academy status and no longer operate within the constraints of the national bands.

5 Do you agree this should be calculated using the hybrid approach we have set out?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

There are 2 differing sets of staff cost information available nationally and as both are relevant to the majority of costs incurred in schools, it seems logical to utilise both these pieces of data in the calculation.

6 If you do not agree that we should use a hybrid approach, what would you prefer we used?

<input type="checkbox"/> Use teacher pay bands only	<input type="checkbox"/> Use a general labour market measure only	<input type="checkbox"/> Use an alternative method
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Comments:

### **Sparsity Review**

7 We introduced a sparsity factor for the first time in 2015-16. How helpful has this factor been in ensuring that sufficient funding is targeted at small schools serving sparsely populated areas?

<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

Using a blanket sparsity calculation targeting resources at schools where the local authority may have preferred to look at options for alternative provision (such as combining the infant and junior schools to be primary schools) is not useful

In the light of an anticipated national fair funding formula with an element of local flexibility, it was assumed that the latter would be used to fund small, rural schools that met the local priorities of the Authority.

8 Do you think it would be useful to revise the criteria for the sparsity factor to take into account the average number of pupils in each year group, rather than the number of pupils in the school? If so, how?

<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

If the principles of a uniform sparsity factor to a set of schools that meet certain size and distance criteria are not accepted, then the types of pupils used is irrelevant

9 Are there any other changes you would like to suggest to improve the operation of this factor, and why?

Comments:



Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

<b>Please acknowledge this reply.</b>	x
E-mail address for acknowledgement: sarahaslam@warwickshire.gov.uk	

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](#).

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and use real discussion with affected parties and experts as well as the expertise of civil service learning to make well informed decisions
- departments should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating policy
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Aileen Shaw, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: [aileen.shaw@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:aileen.shaw@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 30 April 2014

Ministerial and Public Communication Division, Level 2, Department for Education, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, DARLINGTON DL3 9BG

Send by e-mail to:  
[SchoolFunding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolFunding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk)