

Schools Forum

24 June 2021

Consultation Timetable 2021-22

This report relates to maintained and academy schools and is for approval

Recommendation

Schools forum is recommended to:

1. Representatives from maintained schools to approve the timetable for de-delegation for 2022-23.
2. Representatives from maintained schools to note and approve the reasons for not changing the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.
3. All schools forum representatives to approve the timetable for any potential need to consult with schools on the National Funding Formula and any potential 0.5% disapplication.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each Year schools forum are required to approve proposed timetables for a number of statutory consultations.
- 1.2 These cover the following areas and the following schools forum representatives are required to approve the respective timetable proposals:
 - De-delegation of funding from mainstream maintained schools - maintained school representatives
 - Changes to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools - maintained school representatives
 - Amendments to the 'soft' National Funding Formula – all schools forum representatives
 - Disapplication to transfer up to 0.5% from the schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block DSG – all schools forum representatives

2. De-delegation

- 2.1 De-delegation is an option that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally and the funding to do so be retained by the local authority. If de-delegation stops then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or charge for the service.
- 2.2 For information, the services approved by schools forum maintained schools representatives for de-delegation in 2020-21 were as follows:

Service	Primary	Secondary
Free Schools Meal Eligibility	✓	✓
English as an Additional Language	✓	✓
Trade Union Facility Time Funding	✓	✓
School Improvement	✓	x
Gypsy and Romany Travellers	✓	x
Behaviour Support Services	✓	x
Medical Referrals for Employees	✓	x

- 2.3 Warwickshire currently has 1 secondary maintained school and 124 maintained primary schools.
- 2.4 The proposed de-delegation timetable is as follows:

Date	Action
Monday, 5 July 2021	Consultation sent to all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (Headteachers and Chairs of Governors)
Friday, 17 September 2021	Deadline for Schools to respond to the consultation
Thursday 30, September 2021	Schools forum receive responses from schools and make de-delegation decisions for 2022-23 budgets.

3. Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools

- 3.1 Occasionally the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publishes amendments to the national Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.
- 3.2 The last amendment was published on 23 April 2021 and covered the following 2 items:

- Delaying the return of the Schools Financial Value Standards returns for 2020-21 to 28 May 2021. These returns are used by the Local Authority to inform their programme of financial assessment and audit.
 - The introduction of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 on capital and leasing has been delayed until April 2022.
- 3.3 Base on the above, Warwickshire's Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools does not require any changes. Therefore, it is recommended that no amendments to the scheme and thereby no consultation will take place this year.

4. National Funding Formula and 0.5% Disapplication

- 4.1 Since the introduction of the National Funding Formula from 1 April 2018 Warwickshire schools forum, with the approval of councillors, has moved to replicating the 'hard' formula and this is seen as a steady state approach.
- 4.2 The first indication of Warwickshire funding is expected to be towards the end of August 2021 when the ESFA publishes indicative DSG allocations for 2022-23. These will be based on October 2020 school census data pupil numbers and will be updated in December 2021 to reflect the actual October 2021 census data.
- 4.3 Financial modelling will be undertaken when the indicative DSG allocations are published in August to understand the overall affordability of continuing with the steady state and what headroom may be available to fund other options. One of these may be the transfer of up to 0.5% of schools block DSG to the high needs DSG, known as the 0.5% disapplication, in line with the transfer undertaken in 2021-22.
- 4.4 The proposed timetable for consulting schools and schools forum on funding proposals for 2022-23 is as follows:

Date	Action
Monday, 27 September 2021	Send out consultation to schools on any changes to the 'soft' National Funding Formula and proposals on any 0.5% disapplication. Consultation will run for 5 weeks
Thursday, 11 November 2021	Provisional date for extraordinary schools forum to discuss outcomes from consultation with schools.
Friday, 19 November 2021	Deadline for submitting any disapplication to the ESFA to move up to 0.5% of funding from the schools block to the high needs block

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