

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15 which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 October 2013. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services set out in the report.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services is due to consider the report on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

In June 2013, the Government announced its latest plans for changes to school funding arrangements from 2014/15. The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to ensure that its local schools funding formula is compliant. Proposals were therefore developed and all schools were consulted from 5 September 2013. A report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2013 to explain the position and outline the next steps in the process. Since then, the results of the consultation have been carefully considered, including by a working group of Schools Forum members on 24 September 2013. The Schools Forum will formally consider the LA's proposals at its meeting on 9 October. Officers will then reflect on its views before the Executive Councillor is asked to agree

formally Lincolnshire's proposals for the funding of schools in 2014/15. A decision by the Executive Councillor is required before 31 October 2013, to enable the LA to submit a proforma to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) setting out how it plans to fund schools from next year.

As reported to the Committee in September, the DfE's latest proposals are largely a refinement of the changes made in 2013/14 and the impact upon most schools is likely to be much more modest. To assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering this further, a copy of an extract from the report to the Schools Forum on 9 October 2013 is attached at Appendix 1. The report shows that whilst the schools' response rate was disappointingly low at 12%, a majority voted in favour of the LA's proposals. The document also shows that when the consultation questions and the feedback from schools were considered by a working group comprising members of the Schools Forum, the LA's proposals attracted overwhelming support. The proposals that are being presented to the Schools Forum on 9 October therefore remain unchanged from the original proposals. They enable the LA to respond positively to the DfE's expectations, provide a fairer system of funding for schools and offer a significant degree of stability in school funding next year.

The table below outlines the consultation that has taken place so far.

26 June 2013	Schools Forum consulted.
5 September 2013 to 19 September 2013	Individual school governing bodies consulted.
6 September 2013	Scrutiny Committee consulted.
24 September 2013	Working party of Schools Forum representatives consulted on the feedback from schools.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Extract from a report to Schools Forum on 9 October 2013 entitled 'School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15'

Appendix B	Report and Appendices to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15
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5. Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Scrutiny Committee	School funding reforms 2014/15	6 September 2013	Committee Services, LCC
Report to Schools Forum	'School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15'	9 October 2013	Committee Services, LCC

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