

SCHOOLS FORUM – 9th December 2014**SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2015-16 – UPDATE****1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to both update and advise members of the progress and next steps in finalising the 2015-16 Schools Funding Formula.

2. UPDATE

Following the last Schools Forum meeting on the 17th September 2014 work on the 2015-16 Schools Funding Formula Proforma continued taking into account continuing guidance issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). An information and challenge session was held with members of the Schools Forum and Schools Funding Working Party and 3 consultation sessions held with primary and secondary schools. Feedback received from these helped shape the submission which was made by the deadline date of the end of October 2014. Prior to this political approval had to be obtained and this was secured from the Portfolio holder on the 13th October.

At the last Schools Forum Meeting concerns had been raised in respect of our Secondary Prior attainment unit value, and the deprivation values. These were fully discussed at the Working Party. The outcome of this was that based on the data we had (October 2013 Census) changes to deprivation unit values would not have a materially impact on any individual school. For the Secondary Prior Attainment unit values it was subsequently ascertained that revised Minimum Funding Levels (MFL's) had been issued and our unit value for this factor was above the new MFL.

The proforma submission reflected the Schools Forum paper discussed at the last meeting, in that:

- Unit values remained unchanged as to those discussed
- The one off distribution made in 2013-14 was withdrawn
- A one off payment of £2M was built in.

In respect of these last two bullet points permission had to be obtained from the Secretary of State for Education and an email has been received advising he intends to allow these.

3. **NEXT STEPS**

The next steps are:

- Assess the impact of the Schools Census data for October 2014 on the formula.
- Discuss with the Schools Funding Working Party the impacts of the above.
- Obtain political approval.
- Submit the FINAL Proforma by the deadline data of the 20th January 2015.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- a. The report be noted.
- b. That following assessment of the impact of the Schools Census data for October 2014 a further Working Party meeting is held to discuss any necessary changes prior to the submission of the FINAL Proforma by the 20th January 2015.

David Kirven

Service Finance Manager – Partnering

26th November 2014