

4. EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS FUNDING 2021/22 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Schools Forum



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The consultation document 'Funding of Maintained Schools and Academies from 2021 to 2022' was sent to all Plymouth schools on Friday 27th November 2020 inviting schools to respond to the proposals contained within the document by Friday 11th December 2020.

This report should be read in conjunction with the consultation document.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The consultation contained the following recommendations;

- 9.1. It is proposed that the full High Needs Block allocation is allocated to the High Needs Block and that Plymouth continue to work with institutions that have pupils or students with high needs to ensure an effective and sustainable processes for allocating High Needs funding. This will be done via High Needs Budget Modelling Groups who will report back to Schools Forum.
- 9.2. Agree that CSSB ongoing commitments is allocated as per table 4.4 (replicated below) in 2021/22;

Function	2020/21 Final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation
Retained ESG	£0.601m	£0.665m
Admissions	£0.282m	£0.282m (historic)
Copyright Licenses	£0.193m	£0.197m based on 20/21 plus 2%
Schools Forum	£0.028m	£0.017m
Total	£1.104m	£1.161m

- 9.3. Agree that CSSB historic commitments is allocated as per table 4.11 (replicated below) in 2021/22;

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 Proposed allocation
Retained ESG top up	£0.142m	£0.054
Sports Facility	£0.110m	£0.110m
Pensions	£0.634m	£0.634m
Prudential Borrowing	£0.512m	£0.512m
Distributed to schools to fund work previously		

done by the Excellence Cluster	£0.707m	£0.374m
Total	£2.105m	£1.684m

- 9.4 It is proposed to continue to adopt the NFF method of allocation in 2021/22.
- 9.5 It is proposed to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance of £0.180m to the in-year growth fund. Please note, the in-year growth allocation will be updated in December 20 based on the final Schools Block allocations.
- 9.6 It is proposed to increase the PFI factor by £251,254 for mainstream schools in order to de-delegate the PFI affordability gap which will be paid back to the local authority by an annual recharge to schools. This will be funded by the exceptional premises funding which has been allocated to Plymouth's school block in 2021/22. Non-PFI schools are not impacted by this factor and all schools will continue to receive their full NFF allocation.
- 9.7 Please note that all of these figures are only estimates and will change once pupil data has been updated with the October 20 census information. Increases/decreases may have to be made to the basic entitlement factor for Primary School, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to ensure affordability. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum.
- 9.8 It is proposed that no de-delegation costs are included in 2021/22 budget allocations for maintained primary or maintained secondary schools
- 9.9 Plymouth are not proposing to charge maintained schools in 2021/22 for the Local Authority's £1.7m loss in income due to the cessation of the ESG general fund grant.

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RESPONSES

Three responses were received in total; one maintained primary school, one maintained secondary school and one multi academy trust.

A query was also received from a primary academy school as follows;

“My initial thoughts on the consultation are that every school whose projected increase is less than 2% serves children in the most deprived areas of the city. That seems a strange outcome.”

The following response was sent;

Please note that all schools will receive a 2% increase on pupil led factors.

However, premises factors are not increased by 2% and it may be that the schools you are looking at have had a negative rates adjustment based on actual rates budget.

The three responses to the consultation document were as follows;

1. “This consultation document is good news for Plymouth schools who will receive their full funding allocation.

This school funding proposal eliminates the need to transfer funding from schools to high needs block in 2021/22.

Additionally, Plymouth are not proposing to charge maintained schools in 2021/22 for the Local Authority’s £1.7m loss in income due to the cessation of the ESG general fund grant.

Thank you to all at PCC/LA and schools forum for your hard work – particularly the High Needs Budget Modelling Group.”

2. “We agree with all the recommendations made in the consultation and would like it noted that for 9.6 we agree as a one off, and revisit next year should the additional funding be available.”

3. The last response contained a specific query regarding an individual school’s funding allocation which has been answered. The response also stated;

“Generally we agree with the other recommendations Louise, especially the adoption of the NFF method of allocation as we move into 21/22.”

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that recommendations 9.1 to 9.9 contained within the consultation document are actioned and included on Plymouth’s updated Authority Proforma Tool (APT) once it has been received from Central Government. Final allocations will be reported to Schools Forum in January 2021.