



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 9 December 2014

**Committee:
Young People's Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 17 December 2014

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of the Committee

Joyce Barrow (Chairman)
Peggy Mullock (Vice Chairman)
Andy Boddington
Hannah Fraser
Vince Hunt

Robert Macey
Kevin Pardy
Robert Tindall
Kevin Turley
David Turner

Co-opted Members (Voting):

Austin Atkinson
Dominic Wilson
Vacancy
Vacancy

Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Parent Governor - Secondary Schools
Diocese of Hereford (CE)
Parent Governor – Primary & Special
Schools

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Mark Hignett

Voluntary and Community Sector
Assembly

Substitute Members:

Charlotte Barnes
Dean Carroll
Peter Cherrington
Roger Evans
Jane MacKenzie

William Parr
Stuart West
Michael Wood
Tina Woodward
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 252739

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies and Substitutions

To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 20 November 2014, are attached for confirmation.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions, statements or petitions of which members of the public have given notice.

Deadline for notification is: 5.00pm on Friday 12 December 2014

5 Members' Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice.

Deadline for notification: 5.00pm on Friday 12 December 2014

6 Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2014 (Pages 7 - 46)

This paper set outs the proposals for the Shropshire Schools Funding Formula agreed by the Shropshire Schools Forum

7 School Performance 2014 (Pages 47 - 52)

This report provides an overview of the performance of primary and secondary schools in Shropshire in 2014.

8 Business Case: Redesign of Residential Provision

Report is to follow

9 Work Programme (Pages 53 - 66)

The current Scrutiny Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan are attached

10 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 10.00am at the Shirehall



YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014

10.00 am - 12.15 pm in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252739

Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)

Councillors Peggy Mullock (Vice Chairman), Andy Boddington, Hannah Fraser, Robert Macey, Kevin Parry, Kevin Turley, David Turner, Tina Woodward (Substitute) (substitute for Robert Tindall) and Paul Wynn (Substitute) (substitute for Vince Hunt)

45 Apologies and Substitutions

- 45.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Austin Atkinson, Mr Mark Hignett, Cllr. Vince Hunt, Cllr. Robert Tindall and Mr Dominic Wilson.
- 45.2 Cllr Tina Woodward substituted for Cllr Tindall and Cllr Paul Wynn substituted for Cllr Hunt.

46 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- 46.1 None were made.

47 Minutes

47.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on the 22 October 2014 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

48 Public Question Time

- 48.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

49 Members' Question Time

- 49.1 There were no questions from Members

50 Children and Young People's Emotional Health & Mental Wellbeing: the prevention agenda.

50.1 Members received the report of the Associate Director – Public Health which gave an update on the commissioning and delivery of high quality mental health and wellbeing services for young people in Shropshire.

50.2 The Associate Director Public Health reminded the meeting that the Children and Young People Team within Public Health was responsible for the management of the Healthy Child programme which covered young people from the ages of 0 to 19 and was split into two areas covering young people from 0 to 5 years and from 5 to 19 years.

50.3 The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised the meeting that the services and programmes were categorised around four tiers of provision: -

Tier 1 – which provided universal services and was commissioned by the local authority and currently served 68,500 young people.

Tier 2 – which provided targeted services for children in need aimed at addressing problems to prevent the problem becoming more serious, this service being commissioned by the CCG and the local authority.

Tier 3 – commissioned by the CCG which dealt with young people with moderate to serious mental health difficulties.

Tier 4 - commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board which dealt with a very small number of young people with very severe mental health difficulties.

50.4 The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised members that the Tier 1 services were delivered through the Targeting Mental Health Support (TaMHS) “Think Good Feel Good” programme which was delivered through primary and secondary schools, the aim of which was to develop a whole school approach on emotional health and well-being through the delivery of an evidence based training programme. She added that the programme was currently being expanded to include the further education sector and to children under school age through the Children’s Centre teams and Health Visitors.

50.5 The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that, following concerns raised by secondary schools, a self-harm pathway, guidance and risk assessment had been produced. In addition, a self-harm, peer support, targeted intervention 10 week programme ‘Signature Strengths’ had been developed. Professionals and school staff had been trained to deliver the programme at Tier 2 level, to prevent needs escalating and requiring support from Tier 3 specialist services and this was currently being trialled at Meole Brace, Belvidere and Mary Webb Schools.

50.6 The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised the meeting that the TaMHS team was currently working with Health Champions to provide a focus on emotional and mental health as part of its work.

- 50.7 A Member asked whether there was any parental involvement within the scheme. The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that there was some limited involvement and that it was planned to extend this in the next phase of the programme
- 50.8 A Member commented that the figures showed that the number of young people with mental wellbeing issues was increasing and asked how the figures were collated. The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that the figures were obtained from nationwide data contained in the Child Health Information System which showed that 1 in 4 children would exhibit some sort of mental health concern and that 3 or 4 children in a class of 30 would experience some sort of life event, such as bereavement or parental separation, which could lead to some mental well-being issues.
- 50.9 A Member asked whether there were some young people whose problems were not recognised and therefore slipped through the net. The Director of Public Health advised that this was a key issue but the problem was reducing.
- 50.10 A Member queried the level of take up of the services. The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that currently 2/3rds of primary schools and all of secondary schools were using the services. She added that some small primary schools experienced problems in accessing services as they were unable to release staff to attend training and work was being done with these schools to try to overcome this. She also commented that some schools had their own programmes based on nationally available programmes. She asked for Councillors to champion the services to schools in their areas. The Chair suggested that an email be sent to all Councillors raising awareness of the service. The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services agreed to look into doing this in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Health.
- 50.11 A Member asked how the scheme was funded. The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that the core funding for the scheme came from the Public Health budget and that some of the services were chargeable. The Director of Children's Services advised that some funding also came from the "early help" budget through funding allocated to Compass.
- 50.12 A Member queried the degree of co-operation between schools and GP surgeries as there appeared to be some gap. The Director of Public Health commented that there were some problems and that these were being addressed with the CCG through GP training.
- 50.13 A Member questioned how issues from young carers were dealt with. The Director of Public Health stated that the Early Help Team picked up these issues
- 50.14 A Member asked whether the services were available to the independent schools in the county. The Locum Consultant in Public Health advised that the TaMHS team had done some work within independent schools. The Director of Children's Services commented that she had regular meetings with the independent schools when matters around children's wellbeing were discussed

- 50.15 The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services commented that it was important to raise awareness of and remove the stigma from mental wellbeing issues.
- 50.16 The Locum Consultant in Public Health invited Members to shadow a member of the team to gain a better insight into their work. The Chair asked Members to let the Committee Officer know if they were interested in attending.
- 50.17 The Chair asked that a further report be brought to the Committee following completion of the evaluation of the programme.

51 Scrutiny of the progress in delivering the Council's Financial Strategy

- 51.1 Members had before them the following documents which had been circulated.
- a) Performance report and dashboards relevant to the Young People's Scrutiny Committee's specific remit
 - b) Quarter 1 performance report and dashboards from 15 October 2014 Cabinet meeting
 - c) Financial Strategy report from 30 July 2014 Cabinet meeting
 - d) Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring Report from 15 October 2014 Cabinet meeting

The Director of Children's Service's tabled an update on the Children's Services Business and Financial Strategy.

- 51.2 The Performance Manager presented the performance data and drew attention to the following: -
- The number of Looked After Children (LAC) had increased year on year
 - The number of children per 1000 with Child Protection Plans (CPP) had risen and was higher than statistical neighbours
 - The number of adoptions of Looked After Children had decreased and was below the target number
- 51.3 The Director of Children's Services informed the meeting that with regard to Safeguarding and Social care the key areas of service development centred around early help and ensuring support was available at the earliest opportunity, thus preventing escalation to specialist services. She added that the changes were set against the challenge of increasing demand and the need to manage that increase. In the light of a forthcoming unannounced Ofsted inspection it was important that the changes were paced in order that it could be evidenced that changes were achieved within the context of the Council meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities and its statutory responsibilities to keep children safe from harm, and to promote children's wellbeing.
- 51.4 The Director of Children's Services advised that of the savings target of £3,971,000 for the 2014-15 financial year, it was predicted that savings of £3,581,000 would be achieved some of which were covered by one off savings. She then took the meeting through the redesign work that had been undertaken to achieve the savings.

- 51.5 In response to a query from the Chair, the Director of Children's Services provided an update on the proposed savings. She advised that at the end of quarter 2, there was anticipated pressure of around £1million in the savings and some savings would need to be carried forward to the 2015 – 16 financial year. She added that key areas of pressure were the cost of the LAC population and the cost of school transport, both of which were statutory functions, but that redesign work was being undertaken to address the pressures. She commented that it was important that different solutions to the cost of LAC were considered such as, increasing fostering and the use of special guardianship orders.
- 51.6 A Member commented that the continuing trend in the reduction in the number of children with second and subsequent Child Protection Plans (CPP) was positive but the overall increase in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care was less so and asked whether there were any lessons to be learned from other authorities. The Director of Children's Services advised that it was difficult to compare the performance with other authorities as referrals were recorded differently, with some authorities only recording a referral when it resulted in a social work assessment whereas in Shropshire a referral was recorded as soon as it was made regardless of the outcomes. The Head of Safeguarding commented that it was essential that the demand was managed and that both professionals and members of the public felt that they had the opportunity to raise any concerns. She added that it was important to look at the outcomes of any referrals with 45% resulting in a social work assessment being carried out, and a further 27% resulting in a "professional conversation" taking place which may lead to no further action being needed. She also commented that it was important that assessments were undertaken within a set timescale.
- 51.7 A Member commented that a large number of cases referred by the Police resulted in an assessment. The Head of Safeguarding advised that this was mainly due to the fact that the type of cases referred by the Police tended to be those of a more serious nature which would require an assessment.
- 51.8 A Member commented that there was no update on "closing the gap" or educational achievement data. The Director of Children's Services commented that this was due to the timing of the report with some items previously covered, whilst others were scheduled for later in the year as national data is available.
- 51.9 A Member commented that within the Quarter Two Revenue Monitoring report was reference to the closure of a children's home and asked for further details. The Head of Safeguarding advised the Committee that following extensive work and looking at the wider LAC Strategy proposals were being considered to de-commission one of the three children's homes currently run by the Council. Places would be transferred to the remaining homes and this would result in the nett loss of 1 place, and a resultant reduction in the unit cost of places. She added that, alongside this, work was being done to look at the procurement framework for block placements and also the pilot at Havenbrook aimed at reducing the number of LAC. In response to a question, the Head of Safeguarding confirmed that she had held a meeting with staff regarding the proposals.

51.10 A Member commented that reductions in the pupil population would result in pressures on funding and schools would have to look at economies of scale. The Director of Children's Services reminded Members that schools' funding came through the dedicated block grant which had to be fully spent. She added that over time this would reduce in line with the reduction in the pupil population. She added that work was being done with schools to plan for the future. The Deputy Portfolio Holder for Children's Services commented that the decline in pupil population was not evenly spread throughout the County and was in fact rising in some areas and that this must be taken into account in future planning.

52 Work Programme

- 52.1 The meeting received copies of the Committee's current Work Programme and the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- 52.2 The Chairman asked Members to let her know of any other topics they would like added to the Committee's Work Programme.

53 Date of Next Meeting

53.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 10.00am.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Young People's Scrutiny	6
17 December 2014	<u>Public</u>
10.00am	

SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2015-16

Responsible Officer Karen Bradshaw
e-mail: karen.bradshaw@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252407

1. Summary

Shropshire Schools Forum has led on drawing together the funding formula for Shropshire maintained schools and academies for the financial year 2015-16. The wider school community of Shropshire were consulted on the proposed funding formula during the early autumn.

An Authority Proforma Tool has been submitted to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to ensure that the funding formula is compliant with 2015-16 financial regulations and conditions relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant. The EFA require the formula to be politically ratified before the end of February 2015, the date by which budgets have to be issued to maintained schools. This paper sets out the proposals agreed by the Shropshire Schools Forum.

2. Recommendations

That Scrutiny note the recommendations put forward by Schools Forum.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

A consultation document (attached at Appendix A) on the recommended changes to the Shropshire schools funding formula for 2015-16 was sent to all Shropshire maintained schools and academies on 22 September 2014 inviting responses to each area of the recommended changes. Individual responses were received from 25 schools (17% of all schools, including academies).

As part of the consultation process a meeting was held at the Lord Hill Hotel on 2 October 2014 where headteachers and chairs of governors/chairs of finance were invited to discuss the recommendations in more detail before the consultation response deadline of 16 October

2014. Some 150+ delegates attended the event representing 85 (57%) schools and academies.

The detailed work on the funding formula has been undertaken by the members of the Schools Forum Task & Finish Group. Membership of this group includes primary, secondary and special school headteachers and governors from both urban and rural schools. The resulting final recommended formula was approved by the full Schools Forum at their meeting on 23 October 2014 (report attached at Appendix B). The detailed findings of the Task & Finish Group were presented in a report to Schools Forum on 18 September 2014, ahead of the consultation with schools (attached at Appendix C).

A letter was sent out to the headteachers of all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and Shropshire's free school on 11 November 2014 informing them of the proposed changes to the funding formula for 2015-16, as recommended by Shropshire Schools Forum on 23 October 2014 (attached at Appendix D).

4. Financial Implications

The funding formula is used to determine how part of the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation – the Individual Schools Budget – is distributed to Shropshire schools. The individual school 'budget shares' represent a significant proportion of the annual revenue funding for schools for the financial year 2015-16.

The EFA uses this local funding formula to allocate funding direct to Shropshire's academies and free school.

Shropshire's DSG has remained largely unchanged for the three years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. In 2015-16 Shropshire, along with 68 other local authorities in England, will receive a share of £390m in additional DSG funding, addressing an acknowledged historic unfairness in the current school funding system. Shropshire schools will benefit from this additional funding – based on the October 2013 school census this equates to an additional £10.37m.

5. Background

The Government allocates DSG funding to local authorities on an annual basis. While an element of this funding is centrally retained – in line with DSG financial regulations - the vast majority is distributed via a local funding formula. This formularised element of DSG is called the Individual Schools Budget (ISB).

Government's school funding reforms, introduced in 2013-14, have seen a significant reduction in the number of formula factors that can be used in distributing the funding to schools. This greater prescription has resulted in significant turbulence in the funding of schools, but is seen as essential in paving the way towards the introduction of a national funding formula, now expected in the next parliament. Schools Forum has gone to great lengths to minimise this turbulence in Shropshire schools through the considered application of the available formula factors.

The next financial year, 2015-16, will see a significant further development in the school funding reforms, with the Government providing an additional £390m nationally to support the 69 least funded local education authorities. Shropshire is one of the main beneficiaries, receiving an additional £297 per pupil. Based on the October 2013 school census) this equates to £10.37m in additional funding via the schools block within the DSG, an increase of 7.2%.

While the reforms have led to turbulence in funding to schools there is statutory protection in place. This is called the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which ensures that the year on year reduction in per pupil funding for any individual school cannot be greater than 1.5%. The shortfall in budget share to any individual school through the funding formula is effectively funded up to this MFG limit.

The increase in funding for Shropshire in 2015-16 will impact on the level of MFG schools attract – as the funding per pupil increases, the MFG decreases. The released MFG is then redistributed to all schools via the pupil formula factor (age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)). This redistribution of MFG results in a provisional per pupil funding increasing from £297 to £333 per pupil.

Since the introduction of the funding reforms the local formula has been drawn together by a Task & Finish Group from the membership of Shropshire Schools Forum with officer support as required, in particular in modelling formula options. In the summer 2014 the group undertook detailed work to formularise the additional funding schools will receive from April 2015.

Schools Forum has a statutory consultative and advisory role; however it is the responsibility of the local authority to decide on the formula. The partnership between the Council and Schools Forum is strong and so the formula presented to Cabinet for approval is the one proposed and agreed by Schools Forum.

The schools funding formula for the financial year 2015-16 was agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 23 October 2014. The report and appendix that went to Schools Forum is attached (Appendix B), together with an earlier report detailing the recommendations of the Schools Forum Task & Finish Group.

Schools Forum are therefore recommending that the majority of the additional funding in 2015-16 is distributed across all schools on a flat rate per pupil basis using the AWPU factor. The funding distributed via the sparsity factor, targeting resources towards the most sparse primary and secondary schools in Shropshire, will also be increased (based on the October 2013 school census) by an estimated £199,000. This will potentially benefit 14 primary schools and 1 secondary school. No other formula factors will be applied to the additional grant funding.

The DSG regulations require the submission of an Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the EFA whose role is to ensure that it is compliant. The APT effectively details the local funding formula. The Council has submitted the APT and expects to receive confirmation from the EFA that the Shropshire funding formula for 2015-16 is compliant.

6. Additional Information

In the autumn term 2013 Schools Forum established a Task & Finish Group on School Sustainability to undertake a budget-led technical exercise to assess the impact on individual school budgets of the Government's funding reforms and the proposed introduction of a national funding formula. The announcement in the spring of 2014 that there would be additional funding coming to Shropshire did not distract the group from their work.

Shropshire faces a demographic challenge with the number of pupils on roll in our schools projected to fall overall, bucking national trends of pupil growth in other local authorities. However, this decline in pupil number is not evenly spread across the county and varies from one area to another, one market town to another.

The Administration has taken a keen interest in this issue, forming their own Task & Finish Group on School Sustainability, developing their knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing a number of our schools and supporting the work of the Schools Forum Task & Finish Group.

A joint communication on behalf of both groups was sent in September 2014 to all schools, local members, parish/town councils and MPs providing background to the school sustainability issue and the work that is being done to address the issue (attached at Appendix E). In particular the significant role of the governing bodies and the need for schools to work together to find local solutions were highlighted. Shropshire Councillors from all political parties, plus parish and town councillors, are being encouraged to help by working with their local schools.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Schools Forum website - <http://shropshire.gov.uk/schools/shropshire-schools-forum/>

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Ann Hartley

Local Member

All Council members

Appendices

Appendix A: Consultation on School Funding Arrangements for the Financial Year 2015-16

Appendix B: Schools Forum 'School Funding Consultation Update' report and appendix 'School Funding Update', 23 October 2014

Appendix C: Schools Forum 'School Funding Reforms' report, 18 September 2014

Appendix D: Letter to headteachers of Shropshire maintained schools and academies, 'School Funding Reforms 2105-16', 11 November 2014

Appendix E: Letter and attachment on 'Schools Sustainability in Shropshire' to schools, members, parish/town councils and Shropshire MPs, 12 September 2014.

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Consultation on School Funding Arrangements for the Financial Year 2015-16

Fairer Schools Funding - Arrangements for 2015-16 - Consultation

Background

1. The Government has for some time recognised that the current schools funding system is unfair and out of date. Over the past three years they have introduced a number of changes to how local authorities distribute funding to schools, and Shropshire schools have been consulted on these changes in the past.
2. The Government has announced further reforms to the schools funding system from April 2015 – increases to the schools block funding within Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations of low funded local authorities, along with some minor changes to the factors allowable within the local funding formula distributing the DSG to individual schools.
3. The Government acknowledges that the increase to local authorities DSG is only to the schools block unit of funding rather than across the entire DSG which also includes funding for high needs and early years pupils. However they aim to begin research in the autumn with a view to consulting on the way that high needs funding should be distributed, both from central government to local authorities and from local authorities to institutions and intend to achieve a fair distribution of early years funding through a national early years funding formula in the future. For 2015-16 additional funding for early years will be provided through a new early years' pupil premium.
4. In July 2014, following consultation, the Government confirmed within their 'Fairer Schools Funding' reforms the allocation of an additional £390m to local authorities schools block funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations from April 2015. **Shropshire will receive an additional £297 per pupil in schools block funding within the DSG.** Based on October 2013 census data this equates to an additional £10.37m, a 7.2% increase to the schools block. Please note however that October 2014 pupil numbers in Shropshire are expected to be lower than October 2013 pupil numbers and therefore the total additional allocation received is likely to be lower than £10.37m. Shropshire is the 4th highest gainer out of 69 gaining local authorities in England.
5. Whilst this additional funding is very positive news for Shropshire schools, for schools in receipt of a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) allocation within their budget share, any new additional funding may either all, or in part, be offset by a corresponding reduction to their MFG allocation. Schools in this situation may see no cash increase in their funding.
6. The local authority has flexibility to allocate the additional funding to Shropshire schools through the local funding formula in the way it best sees fit using the Government's allowable factors.
7. The Shropshire Schools Forum Sustainability Task & Finish Group, advised and supported by Shropshire Council's administration Task & Finish Group, considered various models over the summer for distributing the additional funding fairly to Shropshire schools.

8. As a reminder the allowable formula factors used within Shropshire's local funding formula are:
 - Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)
 - Lump Sum
 - Sparsity
 - Rates
 - Split Site
 - Free School Meals
 - Low Prior Attainment
 - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
9. Further to the detailed consideration of various funding models, the Shropshire Schools Forum agreed on 18 September 2014 to recommend to the local authority an increase to the current sparsity funding delivered to schools through the funding formula to a level that demonstrated a fair and appropriate allocation and to distribute remaining additional funding on a flat rate per pupil basis across all Shropshire schools through the AWPU.
10. However whilst Schools Forum can recommend changes to the funding formula, including redistributions, the decision will be a local authority decision, approved by Cabinet.
11. This consultation seeks individual schools views on these recommendations. Feedback from this consultation will inform the local authority's decision on the funding formula for 2015-16.

Proposal for Distributing the Additional Schools Block Funding of £297 per Pupil from April 2015

Sparsity Funding

12. Since April 2014, the Government has allowed local authorities to include a sparsity factor in their local funding formula to target funding at small rural schools. The Government determined the following maximum threshold levels for identifying a school as being sparse:
 - For primary schools, fewer than 150 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles.
 - For secondary schools, fewer than 600 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 3 miles.
 - For all-through schools, fewer than 600 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles.
13. The average distance is calculated based on the distance that pupils live from their second nearest school as the crow flies. Local authorities are able to make exceptional applications for schools that would have significantly higher distances if road distances had been used instead of crow flies distances.
14. The Schools Forum Task & Finish Group considered the Government's maximum sparsity threshold levels and concluded that the distance thresholds of 2 or more miles for primary schools and 3 or more miles for secondary and all-through schools did not define a school as being sparse.

15. As in the current financial year, to ensure sparsity funding is targeted at Shropshire's sparse schools, the Task & Finish Group **recommend that Shropshire's primary school sparsity distance measure remain at 3 or more miles and that Shropshire's secondary school sparsity distance measure remain at 9 or more miles.** This delivers sparsity funding to 10 Shropshire primary schools and one Shropshire secondary school based on October 2013 census data.
16. For the current financial year, 2014-15, the local authority successfully applied to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to include an additional 4 Shropshire primary schools where the actual road travel distances significantly exceeded their sparsity distance using the crow flies measure and would not otherwise have been eligible. It is expected that these 4 primary schools will remain eligible for sparsity funding in 2015-16.
17. The maximum permitted value of the sparsity factor is £100,000 per school. Local authorities can allocate sparsity funding either as a flat rate sum to all schools identified as sparse, or on a tapered amount related to school size (the smaller the school the larger the allocation).
18. In the current financial year sparsity funding was allocated to sparse primary schools on a tapered approach from £30,000 at zero on roll to £0 at 150 on roll and allocated to sparse secondary schools on a flat rate of £40,000.
19. Given the additional funding from April 2015, the group reviewed this area of funding. To achieve a fair and appropriate sparsity funding allocation level the group considered core school expenditure levels of small primary schools and the additional targeted sparsity funding that would be required to ensure sparse primary schools received core funding to meet at least these expenditure levels. On this basis the group **recommend increasing the sparsity funding to £50,000 on a tapered approach, from £30,000 in 2014-15, for relevant sparse primary schools.**
20. Based on analysis of current funding levels and expenditure requirements of the individual secondary school the group **recommend increasing sparsity funding to £100,000 on a flat rate approach, from £40,000 in 2014-15, for secondary schools.**
21. Based on October 2013 census data this increase to sparsity funding in secondary and primary schools costs an additional £198,800.

Q1 Do you agree with maintaining the sparsity distance thresholds, as outlined in paragraph 15, to ensure sparsity funding is targeted at Shropshire schools that are sparse?

Q2 Do you agree with the basis for determining the additional sparsity funding recommended within the local funding formula from April 2015, as outlined in paragraphs 19 and 20?

Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) Funding

22. For fairness the Task & Finish Group **recommend that the remaining additional funding be distributed on a flat rate per pupil basis across all Shropshire schools**. Any increase to the age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) funding within the funding formula to schools will have a corresponding impact on the level of minimum funding guarantee (MFG) that a school attracts. As the AWPU increases, the MFG reduces. The release of MFG allows for more funding to be allocated through the AWPU.
23. The additional DSG funding of £297 per pupil results in an AWPU increase, after the increase to sparsity funding and recycling of MFG, of £333.39 per pupil across all primary, secondary and all-through schools in Shropshire (based on October 2013 census data).

Q3 Do you agree that the majority of the additional funding should be allocated on a per pupil basis?

Q4 Do you believe other local formula factors, as listed in paragraph 8, should be used to distribute the additional funding to Shropshire schools and if so which and why?

Important Points for Schools

24. For many Shropshire schools new additional funding may either all, or in part, be offset by a corresponding reduction to their MFG protection funding initially;
25. Overall pupil numbers in Shropshire are projected to fall over the next 4 years by over 4% and therefore the aggregate DSG received by the local authority for distribution to schools through individual budget shares will also reduce annually.
26. Schools face increasing cost pressures in relation to pay awards, incremental progression of staff up the pay scale, increasing employers' pension contributions and non-pay inflation costs.
27. The final AWPU value within schools 2015-16 budget share allocations will be determined after all 2015-16 DSG pressures, including high needs places and provision costs, are taken into account.

Next Steps

Date	Action
22 September to 16 October 2014	Consultation with all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free schools
Thursday 2 October 2014	School Census
Thursday 2 October 2014	Consultation meeting – invitation to all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free schools
Thursday 16 October 2014	Consultation with all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free schools closes
w/b 27 October 2014	Local authority decision on the schools' funding formula for 2015-16 (formal Cabinet approval will follow)
31 October 2014	Local authority submits provisional Schools Budget pro-forma to the Education Funding Agency (EFA)
26 November 2014	Schools census database closed
December 2014	EFA confirms DSG allocations for 2015-16
January 2015	LA submits final data for Schools Budget pro-forma
February 2015	LA confirms budget for maintained schools. EFA confirms academies and free schools budgets.

Consultation on School Funding Arrangements for the Financial Year 2015-16 Response Form

School Name:

If you are willing to be contacted to provide further information (if required) in relation to your response please provide your contact details below.

Name:

Contact Number:

Q1 Do you agree with maintaining the sparsity criteria, in terms of distance and pupil number thresholds, as outlined in paragraph 15, to ensure sparsity funding is targeted at Shropshire schools that are sparse?

Q2 Do you agree with the basis for determining the additional sparsity funding recommended within the local funding formula from April 2015, as outlined in paragraph 19?

Q3 Do you agree that the majority of the additional funding should be allocated on a per pupil basis?

Q4 Do you believe other local formula factors, as listed in paragraph 8, should be used to distribute the additional funding to Shropshire schools and if so which and why?

Any Other Comments

Please return responses to:

Gwyneth Evans
School Funding Policy Officer
Learning and Skills
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Email: gwyneth.evans@shropshire.gov.uk

Fax: 01743 254538 (FAO Gwyneth Evans)

Response deadline: Thursday 16 October 2014

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Schools Forum

Date: 23 October 2014

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury
Training and Development
Centre

Paper

C

Public

School Funding Consultation Update

Responsible Officer Gwyneth Evans

e-mail: gwyneth.evans@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 253875 Fax: 01743 254538

Summary

Following the Government's announcement of the school funding arrangements for 2015-16, and significant work carried out by the Schools Forum Task & Finish group on Sustainability, Shropshire Schools Forum recommended changes to Shropshire's local funding formula for 2015-16 at its meeting of 18 September 2014.

Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school were consulted on these recommendations. The consultation process included a briefing session open to all headteachers and chairs of governors held at the Lord Hill Hotel on 2 October 2014. The consultation period ended on 16 October 2014.

This report summarises the consultation responses received. Details of the individual school responses are attached to the report.

As a reminder, whilst Schools Forum can recommend changes to the funding formula, including redistributions, decisions are made by the local authority.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum consider the individual school responses to the consultation attached at Appendix A to this report and agree to recommend to the local authority the allocation of additional funding from April 2015 in line with Schools Forum recommendation of 18 September 2014.

REPORT

Background

1. Following significant reforms to school funding arrangements from April 2013 the Government consulted on and published further reforms during the summer for implementation from April 2015. The changes continue the Government's move towards a national funding formula for schools during the next parliamentary period.

2. The latest reforms aim to address the unfairness in funding across local authorities and confirmed additional funding of £390m to the lowest funded local authorities in England from April 2015-16. Shropshire will receive an additional £297 per pupil in schools block funding within the DSG. Based on October 2013 census data this equates to an additional £10.37m, a 7.2% increase to the schools block. Shropshire is the 4th highest gainer out of 69 gaining local authorities.
3. The Schools Forum Sustainability Task & Finish Group, advised and supported by Shropshire Council's administration Task & Finish Group considered options for distributing the additional funding to Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school. As a result, the Task & Finish Group recommended to Shropshire Schools Forum on 18 September 2014 an increase to the current sparsity funding delivered to schools through the funding formula to a level that demonstrated a fair and appropriate allocation and to distribute remaining funding on a flat rate per pupil basis across all schools.
4. Shropshire Schools Forum agreed with the Task & Finish Group's recommendation and a period of consultation with all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school commenced on the 22 September. As part of the consultation process a briefing session was held at the Lord Hill Hotel on 2 October 2014 where 154 people attended representing 85 Shropshire schools. The briefing session gave headteachers and governors the opportunity to discuss the recommendations in more detail.
5. The consultation period ended on 16 October 2014. A total of 25 responses (17%) were received, 21 from primary schools and 4 from secondary schools.
6. Overall the majority of responses received from schools to the consultation were in favour of the recommendations proposed by Schools Forum. A schedule of the individual responses received is attached at Appendix A.

Sparsity

7. The proposal to retain the sparsity distance criteria at 3 miles for primary and 9 miles for secondary and retain the primary number on roll threshold at less than 150 on roll was generally supported. Of the 25 responses 15 gave a Yes response, 6 gave a No response and 4 gave neither Yes or No response.
8. The proposal to retain the number on roll threshold for secondary schools at less than 450, as in 2014-15, was not made clear in the consultation documentation and the briefing session at the Lord Hill referred to the number on roll threshold, in error, as less than 600 on roll for secondary. However, whichever number on roll threshold is used, it remains that only one Shropshire secondary school will receive sparsity funding, due to the 9 miles distance threshold.
9. Of the 4 secondary school responses, one responded in agreement with a 600 on roll threshold for secondary schools, two agreed with the current 2014-

15 threshold of less than 450 on roll and one responded to say that sparsity should not be used for secondary schools.

10. In relation to the basis for determining the value of the additional sparsity funding, 17 gave a Yes response, 3 gave a No response and 3 gave neither a Yes or No response. In addition 2 secondary school responses agreed with the basis for determining the primary value but not the secondary value.

Per Pupil

11. The consultation included the proposal to allocate the remaining additional funding on a per pupil basis and asked whether the majority of additional funding should be allocated on a per pupil basis. Of the responses received, 22 gave a Yes response, 2 gave a No response and one gave neither a Yes or No response.

Other formula factors

12. Of the 25 responses received 15 schools responded in agreement with the proposal not to allocate any of the additional funding on other formula factors, 10 disagreed with the proposal and felt other factors should also be used. Other than some responses given that state additional funding should be applied to the lump sum factor to protect all small schools it is not clear from all of the responses not in agreement with the proposal the reason why additional funding should be applied to other factors within the formula.

Summary

13. Overall the majority of responses received favour the proposals within the consultation as recommended by Schools Forum.

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School Funding 2015-16 Consultation Responses

School	NOR (Oct13)	Q1 – Maintaining sparsity distance and NOR criteria	Q2 – Basis for determining value of sparsity funding	Q3 – Majority of Pupil-led basis	Q4 – Other formula factors	Other Comments
Adderley	41	No. As I do not feel this is reflecting the intention by government to support small rural schools. I would like to see the criteria to be as intended: for primary schools, fewer than 150 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles.	Yes as the basis does appear fair.	Yes as this would be fair to both larger and smaller schools.	Yes, however I also feel that the age weighted pupil unit should be discussed and clarified as governors may be unsure of this.	The issue for all schools is that costs keep rising and large schools should benefit alongside small rural school. I would however find it difficult to explain to parents that having fought hard as a county to secure better funding siting rural sparsity as a huge issue for Shropshire, that as a rural small school we are no better off as any additional funding would affect the mfg. There are very few small schools who will not have sustainability as a constant item on their governing body agendas. We know we are expensive and that larger schools can feel they are paying the price for keeping us open. However, we have an important role in our communities and in Shropshire as a whole.
St Mary's Westbury	51	Yes I agree it should remain at 3 miles.	Yes I agree with the tapered approach.	Additional Funding should be given to schools with the greatest needs. Percentage of FSM and SEN children.	Yes all of those factors should be considered.	I think it is important that the smallest schools are looked at in terms of the basic running costs and the need to retain their current Head teachers and the increased costs of doing so. Significant changes to the funding of Shropshire's smallest and most rural schools that result in an overall reduction to the budget will effectively result in that school becoming unsustainable and provide transport costs and pressures on other schools in the locality if the school were forced to close. Consideration should also be given to schools that are providing Early Years provision on their site so that that provision can also remain sustainable. Areas of social deprivation and need in rural areas should also be considered.
Page 27 Orton in Wales	63	Agree with distance criteria but believe pupil thresholds quite high when you look at the number of schools with less than 150 on roll in Shropshire	Increase in funding to sparse secondary schools seems out of proportion going from 40k to 100k	Yes	No – fairer to keep on per pupil basis – there is already Pupil Premium etc which support other factors	The recommended increase per pupil will make a massive difference to the sustainability of small schools and will make it easier to put all the focus on learning rather than getting drawn into constant budget challenges.
Myddle	67	Yes, we don't see any issue with this.	No, would want to see what evidence shows that an increase is necessary, i.e. what the funding is required for. However, in the % of funding to provide to all schools, it is negligible.	In principle, yes, but the nature of operating small schools where financial stability and viability can depend on small fluctuations in pupil numbers, means that some overriding funding factors would be preferable should this be the case, obviously if this is allowed within the delegation rules. In the example shown of a school with static 72 NOR, the increase in pupil led funding and the resulting loss in MFG, meant a total funding position of less than the previous year. This should be mitigated by an increase in MFG to ensure that no school with static numbers, not a falling roll, is worse off after the additional funding is provided, than the previous year.	Yes, lump sums to protect small school's financial fluctuations based on very small awpu changes, as in answer to Q3	We would hope to see a 0% MFG as a negative % MFG would mean that our school would actually lose out.
Barrow	68	Yes	Yes	YES, but a mechanism should be found to ensure it does not impact MFG	YES - see comments below	Whilst recognising the benefit additional pupil funding will bring, we are disappointed that the method for allocation continues to discriminate against small schools. The process of giving with one hand (the additional per pupil; funding) but by implication also then taking away with the other (reducing MFG), means that small schools have no benefit from this. As your own worked example shows some small schools will be worse off. We would welcome consideration of this additional funding being distributed where SEN funding is not sufficient to meet a schools existing needs.

<p>Church Preen</p>	<p>72</p>	<p>My only concern here is that due to the way in which the qualification for sparsity funding is worked out, it is possible that with shifting school population, a school may fail to qualify for one or two years. Since a school will not know that it has failed to qualify until shortly before the financial year starts it could face a serious loss of funding with only a short time to react. It is also likely that this will be a temporary matter unless the initial qualify was a statistical fluke. I realise that this is beyond the scope of the LEA, since it is part of the national guidelines but consider that representations should be made to government to allow a phased wind down of funding if a school drops out of sparsity, or alternatively allow sparsity to continue to be given until, a school which once qualifies, fails for say three years in row. This will at least allow some certainty in funding. On the other side of the coin, a school should only be given sparsity if it qualifies for three years in a row, under the current criteria. I would also commend the council for getting a concession to allow the road distance for some schools that may otherwise have fallen outside the criteria. I myself live 2.5 miles from Rushbury school as the crow flies but 5 miles by road.</p>	<p>I disagree with the thinking behind the increase in funding. The deficit in core school funding of small primary schools applies to all small primary schools regardless of whether the school is sparse. This should be addressed by increasing the lump sum paid to all primary schools. Otherwise by accepting that the lump sum does not cover core expenditure, the LEA is accepting that it is underfunding small non sparse primaries which is a disguised way of seeking their self closure due to lack of funding over a number of years. Sparsity funding should more properly be used to help sparse schools cover the true costs of sparsity such as securing transport for children who are denied access to after school clubs because they cannot get transport home after the school bus has left and other similar issues. If Sparse schools were properly funded by the lump sum in the first place then a separate study should be carried out to ascertain the true additional costs caused by sparsity.</p>	<p>For the reasons set out above I do not agree that the additional funding should be allocated on a per pupil basis, it should instead be used to increase the lump sum to achieve what the government intended it to cover which is the cost of opening a school with no pupils.</p>	<p>See above.</p>	
<p>Clive</p>	<p>74</p>	<p>No. We think that the Governments original guidelines provide a better definition of 'sparse'. The criteria was established with the aim of providing additional support to small schools in rural areas, but as currently applied by the County, assists only a very small number of these schools. Moreover, we note that additional funds distributed by way of AWPU will lead to a corresponding reduction in the cases of schools in receipt of MFG. In many cases it will be the small schools who do not benefit from sparsity payments which will see their increase in AWPU funding offset by the reduction in MFG. Has the County a model showing the correlation between the schools which could benefit under the Sparsity factor as applied most widely, and those that are in receipt of MFG? We would like to see these figures. We suggest that the Sparsity factor is fully applied (the amount will need to be determined in the light of the number of additional schools qualifying), and that a corresponding reduction is made in the amount of uplift in AWPU. Shropshire has been lucky enough to obtain a significant increase</p>	<p>No. Please see 1 above. The figures seem somewhat arbitrary.</p>	<p>No. Please see 1 above. The current proposals mean that many schools will see no increase at all.</p>	<p>Please see 1 above. In addition, we note that there is no mention of lump sum payments and no indication as to whether such payments were considered. Why is this?</p>	<p>In our view the many small schools of Shropshire are yet again being penalised. Given that additional funding of £297 per pupil is available, all schools should benefit.</p>

		in DSG funding, but the current proposals for distribution mean that many schools will see no benefit, and could well be looking at a reduced budget. In our view this is wholly inequitable.				
Stottesdon	84	We do agree that the sparse factor of some of our schools should be acknowledged as sparsity does present educational and financial challenges. We also acknowledge that the LA has a duty to identify the most sparse schools in the county in order to target this funding effectively. We acknowledge that doing this is not easy! However the crude nature of the measure (particularly the 'as the crow flies') is of concern. It is believed that the measure misses the sparse nature of some schools because it does not take into account the roads that need to be used. It also does not consider the geographical location or other challenging circumstances for some schools (for example the lack of hall facilities, in our case, which makes complying with statutory PE provision extremely difficult in the winter time without transporting children considerable distances.) We would support more 'bespoke' measures/criteria which acknowledged individual circumstances..... e.g. acknowledged location and real distance on the roads. As raised in the meeting, it would concern us if there was a correlation between schools who would trigger sparsity (over 2miles) and those who gain no net benefit from additional funding as a result of it being cancelled out by MFG. If this correlation is true we would request that the LA consider whether Funding Arrangements are in place to protect schools in sparse areas that WOULD be crucial to an sustainable network of schools.	Overall yes.....but..... We can see the logic of the tapered approach but would like to point out that the additional sparsity costings are equally significant if you are less than 50 (and fit on a coach) or less than a 100 (and fit on two coaches). Apologies for the simplistic analogy but we have experience of being less than 50 and less than 100 and neither seems easier! Therefore we wonder whether the tapered approach gives the impression of the smaller you are the harder it is.....? Being in a small school, which is in a geographically isolated area, has its challenges whether you are less than 100 or less than 50. It is hard to have a completely objective view but hope school's forum have debated giving a lump sum (if you meet the criteria) as an acknowledgement to all who meet the criteria, regardless of size within the criteria, of the challenges of being in a geographically sparse area.	Yes. This does seem the fairest and most simplistic way forward. There are other factors in place to support FSM/low attainment.....	No – see above	We would like to thank School's Forum, Gwyneth, Rob and the finance team for their hard work in this area. The presentation at Lord Hill was very comprehensive and thorough. We look forward to new budget modelling initiatives. I have always come away impressed with how the LA/School's forum seem dedicated to making objective decisions for the good of all and in the fairest way.
Hinstock	99	As a school that is 3.7 miles from our nearest school if you go by car and 3.1 miles if you walk, but 2.7 miles if you go as the crow flies, we do not agree in sparsity funding measuring distances in terms of crows. A child would have to be transported from Hinstock to our nearest neighbour and the route is over 3 miles and very tricky. The distance should be measured using mapping devices that can calculate the transport distance rather than the outdated 'as a crow flies measure'. A scaling measure from 0 - 150 is also slightly strange when a school would surely not be open if the NOR was zero, is there not a range which could begin at the smallest of our schools or the smallest number they can be open at?	A scaling measure from 0 -150 is also slightly strange when a school would surely not be open if the NOR was zero, is there not a range which could begin at the smallest of our schools or the smallest number they can be open at?	Fundamentally additional funding should be allocated on a per pupil basis however the gradual removal of MFG would be of concern to small schools. If this was continued to be balanced with AWPU anomalies that happen in small schools, such as mobility issues and yearly NOR changes, would be balanced out.	No	None

Stoke on Tern	106	Yes – it is not a large proportion of the total funding and it is directed at the schools with greatest need	Yes	Yes I think that per pupil is the fairest method as it does not over protect small schools at the expense of larger ones. I think it is important to move away from previous formulas which worked on different criteria to one which is more equitable to all children.	No	
Whixall CE Primary	124	We agree in principle with sparsity criteria however we think that 2 miles is a more realistic criteria.	Yes we agree with the additional sparsity funding recommendation.	Yes we agree with this proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age weighted – due to the additional costs of staffing. • Lump sum – would help small schools to protect services and essential Entitlements • Free School Meals - Ensures the maximum support for those children who most need it. 	
Minsterley	138	Yes	Yes	Yes	I agree with using all of the factors listed in para 8.	
Wilfred Owen	187	Yes. The sparsity criteria identifies those schools for which sparsity is a real issue where there potentially could be no alternative option in terms of provision without disadvantaging pupils. Due to the nature of the county in which a number of schools are located rurally it is wise to target additional funding to those who are in real need rather than a relatively short distance away.	Yes	Yes, whilst there are concerns around the impact of increased additional funding on a per pupil basis on the MFG which may lead to some schools seeing a decrease in their budget in real terms next year, I accept school forums recommendations that this is the fairest way to allocate.	Additional funding already comes into school based on a number of these other local funding formulas such as pupil premium for FSM, so I feel that a wider number of pupils will benefit from the AWPU allocation as recommended by Schools Forum.	
Mount Pleasant	229	Schools which are in remote locations should receive sparsity funding providing they do serve enough pupils to justify existence. I would suggest 10 pupils per year group in a primary and certainly no fewer than 5 per year group.	Yes, but see first box re. pupil numbers	Yes	Yes. Those which relate to giving additional funding to pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are very important. The pupil premium does not go far enough to help these pupil who need so much support to develop their literacy and numeracy skills.	We are still waiting for the LA to refund money taken in error from our budget for a pathway (£2810.50) to install CCTV and put in a damp-proof membrane for 2/3 of the building. It is unfair for the school's budget to be used for essentials promised as part of the amalgamation/refurbishment
Mereside	231	Yes, these criteria do really narrow things down to a structure that reflects need not historical preference and personal feelings	Yes. As the sparsity criteria mean that only those schools that are really needed are included in the calculation then it seems right that if additional funding is needed to maintain quality of provision it should be provided if possible.	Yes. This may mean hard times for many including my own school but it is the most equitable criteria.	No. I feel strongly that Schools Forum have selected the two most applicable criteria. AWPU means equitable distribution for the majority and Sparsity as applied using the 3 and 9 mile rule and the pupil numbers recognises our unique needs as a large rural county. All other factors are far less important to our pupils needs.	I would like to pass on my thanks to Schools Forum and finance for their hard work on this crucial matter. The solution that is suggested seems by far the fairest and will perhaps focus minds finally on the need to change our ways a little.
Ludlow Junior	262	Not really, but it is only a small amount of money. I don't understand why sparsity requires more money.	yes	yes	no	
Radbrook	287	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Thank you to SF for all the hard work on this
Greenfields	342	I agree. The Government have recognised sparsity as an issue in Shropshire and I feel the agreement is fair to recognise sparsity in terms of	Yes	Yes, come in as per pupil amount from the government then it is only fair it comes to schools as a per pupil amount.	Yes all. Will reflect the number of pupils each school as giving us a fairer deal per pupil. Low attainment / FSM/idaci	I feel it is important to recognise that the differential per pupil in each school is a low as possible to represent a fair deal per pupil. I feel the group have worked hard to ensure fairness and flexibility in the funding formula.

		distance and numbers on role.			support pupils who need it most. Lump sum/rates will ensure schools can meet basic needs. Sparsity as before has been recognised so should apply for schools. Split site reflects local issues to individual schools.	It is essential we finish with a group of schools that any changes in formula lead to them not being viable and this will be a major step in that direction. Thank you for the process so far.
Oxon	401	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Fully support the proposals
St Peter's Wem	403	Yes. It is important that real sparsity is not confused with all small schools. Much work was done over the last 24 months to clarify and identify sparse schools. The current parameters have already been considered fair as part of the larger reforms to Shropshire's local funding formula. Extra DSG should not impact on these parameters, when the parameters consulted on and in previous years are agreed to as being fair by schools through previous consultation and Schools Forum recommendations. To dilute the Sparsity factor within the formula by widening the parameters would impact negatively on those schools who have been fairly identified as sparse and potentially undermine the current work into the sustainability of Shropshire's Schools.	If extra DSG allows for the full implementation of the sparsity factor as it was intended then we agree.	We agree. Previous extensive consideration of school budgets have given factors in the funding formula such as Lump Sum and Sparsity which recognise that core funding needs to address core costs. As these factors already exist, and have been implemented fairly then it is correct that this 'new' DSG be distributed on a per pupil basis through AWPU.	As the current funding formula is fair we believe that this fairest allocation of this additional funding is AWPU in line with our answer to Q3. All schools benefit equally through an increase in AWPU, which can't be said if other formula factors are used.	
Coleham	403	I think it is fair to use these factors because it means that only the very small schools, that are truly sparse, are targeted. On the other hand though, I think the most important factor for delegating the money has to be on a per pupil basis so that the money follows the children and we have to perhaps, at some point, consider the viability and sustainability of some of the very small schools in the county. In the long run, would it not be more cost effective if some of these schools amalgamated and pooled resources/buildings/teachers etc? More money could then be directly spent on helping each child in each school to achieve his/her absolute best. I appreciate that this is a decision that cannot be taken lightly and that it is one that would evoke a lot of emotion. So in the meantime, for 2015-16, it seems fair to calculate sparsity funding in this way.	Yes, if we are looking to continue to provide sparsity funding, it seems fair to calculate the additional sparsity funding in this way considering that the very small schools will not see much of an increase in funds if their pupil numbers are so small.	We agree 100% with this statement. We have been underfunded at Coleham for many years and it has been a real struggle to manage the budget and afford all of the necessary resources to enable the children to make good progress and attain the standards that they should in readiness for secondary school. Benchmarking has shown that we are extremely underfunded compared to other schools of a similar size across the country. We have, for a long time felt that the funding system in Shropshire was unfair for larger schools like ourselves. We may represent relatively few schools but we represent a lot of children in the county and it only seems fair that each child should receive a standard amount of money and that this money should follow them if they move schools. It is definitely the fairest way of sharing out the money.	I do not feel it is necessary to consider other local formula factors at this stage.	
Lacon Childe	530	NO (in terms of distance- the real criteria for sparsity) It does not appear fair that the governments figures/recommendations for establishing whether a school is sparse have not been applied equitably in Shropshire. Primary schools saw an increase of just 50% in the governments recommended distance factor, whereas secondary school distance was	YES It would appear that this is a fair way of allocating additional funding. For Primary Schools on a sliding scale. NO £100k flat rate, an increase of	YES All schools benefit equally and it appears fair	NO All schools have these issues in a greater or lesser degree and would even themselves out when all factors are taken into account.	The introduction last year of additional funding on the basis of sparsity was the first time the difficulty of being a remote, inaccessible, geographically rural and small school were taken into account. In a county as rurally challenged as Shropshire, with the fact that some schools have catchment areas bigger than some education authorities, that so few schools benefitted from the additional funding. The sense of unfairness and inequality prevails. The Schools Forum have another opportunity to rectify this significant funding issue and for once acknowledge that the factors that go into sparsity have a direct impact on the resources and

	<p>increased 200% from 3 miles to 9 miles. The rules appear to have been manipulated so that the effect on the other schools in Shropshire was reduced. Distance from a second school for students set so great does not accurately reflect the notion of sparsity. Some schools, because of location have a 2square mile catchment area whilst others can have a 200square mile catchment. Under the current Shropshire guidelines, how can this be fair or equitable?</p> <p>As a very remote, rural school which has less than 600 students and is 12 miles from its nearest school, we at Lacon are given no allowance to compensate for our geographical location. It all has knock on cost effects on our school budget. It costs more for our sports teams to visit other schools, our teachers to attend training courses,(most of which are in Shrewsbury), we try to put on transport so that our students can take part in extra curricular activities but this all has cost implications. The sparsity funding was meant to reduce this additional burden on schools in rural settings. We are judged and classed in the same category for sparsity as the schools in Shrewsbury, how can this be fair or equitable.</p> <p>Due to falling numbers in rural Shropshire we have tried to widen our pupil catchment area and have succeeded in attracting students from a wider area in South Shropshire and West Worcestershire. Parents see the choice of Lacon as a preferred option and we pick up many students who live a way from school. Our successful recruitment of students and the preferred choice of parents is nowaffecting our ability to claim any form of sparsity funding, even though we attract students from a wider catchment base yearly.</p> <p>It is difficult to believe that in one of the most rural counties in England, only 10 primary and 1 secondary schools are eligible for additional support funding. If the increase in distance were equal between primary and secondary it would appear to be more fair. For example if the secondary distance were increased by the same 50% as primary, the rationale for delegating additional funding would appear to reflect a more equitable process. It does, to those of us outside of Schools Forum, look like the model which costs the least was applied. When there was no additional funding this could have been seen as a</p>	<p>150% is too great. Maybe restrict the flat rate to a 50% increase as this is additional funding (£60k) This could offset the cost of having more secondary schools receiving sparsity.</p>			<p>funding available to these schools. At less than 2% of the whole additional funding budget, making sure that our sparse schools benefit from the funding and once again are not penalised would be the most fair option.</p>
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		<p>necessary decision to take, however, the funding being set aside this year is additional funding and the criteria for awarding additional funding should therefore reflect this change.</p> <p>Of course, all schools in Shropshire will fight their particular corner, yet once again, small, rural and geographically isolated schools will not get fair funding, despite this being new money coming into the authority. Understandably, last year, there was no additional funding for allocation. This year there is and should reflect the characteristics of the county. Even by doubling the levels set by the DfES, schools would see the proposal as fairer for truly rural schools. The difficulties faced by schools that should be additionally funded are never fully appreciated in areas where simply taking a sports team to play at another school costs in excess of £250 per visit, where petrol claims for courses at STDC cost 20x what a school in Shrewsbury faces, where getting trainers and training companies to visit costs more in expenses. Not only is it unfair it discriminates against small rural schools who are trying to provide the best education and extra curricular programme they can for its students. Schools Forum should reflect the individual characteristics and difficulties schools like ours face before they agree, as I am sure they will, to maintain the current unfair distance criteria..</p> <p>YES (in terms of pupil number thresholds)</p> <p>It is difficult to understand why pupil numbers should reflect sparsity as the fact is still that small, rural geographically isolated schools face sparsity issues whether they have 50 pupils or 500. It is the geographical nature of the school which impacts on cost. However, we feel that the current application of primary schools less than 150 pupils and secondary schools of less than 600 is a nationally suggested limit and should be applied</p>				
The Corbet	682	Yes we agree that the threshold measures for sparsity are those proposed in the consultation document	Yes we agree with this	We very much support this and feel that this is the fairest way of distributing the additional funding	No we do not think other factors should be used.	We strongly support the schools forum recommendation for how the additional funding should be distributed to schools.
The Thomas Adams School	1050	Yes. We are happy for schools in the sparsest situations to receive additional support.	Yes. This seems fair.	Yes. Strongly agree. Pupil focused funding is the fairest and most effective means of distributing school income.	No. There are already sufficient factors in the funding formula.	This additional funding is welcome and overdue. We must continue lobbying to ensure that the National Funding Formula for Schools does not disappear from the Government agenda.

<p>The Marches Academy Trust</p>	<p>1199</p>	<p>No. We agree with maintaining the sparsity criteria for primaries to ensure that the smallest, most rural community schools remain viable. However, we think that sparsity should not be used for secondary Schools who by their nature are sparse and bring in pupils from a wider area.</p>	<p>We agree to the basis for determining the primary sparsity funding. However, as per our answer to question 1, we disagree with secondary sparsity funding. The fact that there is only one School attracting this funding doesn't give you a large enough pool of schools to look at to determine the 'core expenditure' levels and it could be seen as that school being subsidised as a cost to others.</p>	<p>Yes. Using this additional funding to increase the AWPU and thereby remove the reliance of some Schools on the MFG is, we believe, the correct way to use the money and build a sustainable platform for Shropshire Schools to move forward with a transparent funding model and provide a positive step towards a national funding formula in the future</p>	<p>No</p>	
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Schools Forum

Date: 18 September 2014

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury
Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

School Funding Reforms 2015-16

Responsible Officer Gwyneth Evans

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Summary

Following significant reforms to school funding arrangements from April 2013 and further reforms from April 2014, the Government confirmed in July 2014 the next stage of reforms as it continues to move towards a national fair funding formula. The full detail of the latest reforms is available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fairer-schools-funding-arrangements-for-2015-to-2016

From April 2015 the least funded local authorities in England will receive additional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding up to a nationally prescribed minimum funding level. As one of the lowest funded local authorities, Shropshire will benefit from this additional funding.

The Schools Forum Task & Finish Group on Sustainability has modelled and considered various options for allocating the additional funding to Shropshire schools from April 2015 and their recommendation is included within this report.

These latest reforms also include other changes to DSG funding arrangements which are included within this report.

As a reminder, whilst Schools Forum can recommend changes to the funding formula, including redistributions, decisions are made by the local authority.

Recommendation

Schools Forum is requested to:

1. note the confirmation of additional funding for Shropshire schools from April 2015 and other changes required to DSG funding arrangements.
2. agree the recommendations proposed by the Task & Finish Group on the allocation of the additional funding through the local funding formula, as detailed in paragraphs 28, 30, 31 and 33.

REPORT

Background

1. In March 2014 the Government launched a consultation document setting out the next phase of school funding reforms for 5 to 16 year olds, aiming to begin to address the unfairness of the current funding system. The consultation document 'Fairer Schools Funding in 2015-16' proposed allocating an additional £350m to schools in the least fairly funded local authorities in England in the 2015-16 financial year.
2. Shropshire Schools Forum submitted a response to the consultation which ran until 30 April 2014.
3. On 17 July 2014 the Government confirmed additional funding to the lowest funded local authorities in England and at the same time announced a number of further reforms to the schools funding system for 2015-16.

Fairer Funding for Schools from April 2015

4. Following consultation, the Government confirmed the allocation of an additional £390m from April 2015. **Shropshire will receive an additional £297 per pupil in schools block funding within the DSG. Based on October 2013 census data this equates to an additional £10.37m, a 7.2% increase to the schools block.** Shropshire is the 4th highest gainer out of 69 local authorities in England receiving additional funding.
5. Through the additional £390m funding available, every local authority's allocation of funding will reflect a minimum basic per pupil amount and minimum amounts reflecting other pupil and school characteristics. The 2015-16 minimum funding levels (MFLs) are based on the average amounts that local authorities allocated to these characteristics in their local funding formulae in 2014-15.
6. The Fairer Schools Funding documentation makes it clear that local authorities will not be obliged to use all these factors in their local formulae in 2015-16 (with the exception of the basic per pupil amount and the deprivation factor, which are mandatory). Nor will a local authority that chooses to use any of these seven factors be obliged to set that factor at or above the MFL. Individual schools should not therefore expect that their funding will necessarily be at or above the minimum funding levels.

Long Term Reform of High Needs and Early Years Funding

7. The Government acknowledges the concerns of many local authorities that the application of the MFL is only to the schools block unit of funding, rather than across the entire DSG, which also includes funding for high needs and early years pupils. However they have concluded that it would be wrong to alter the allocation of high needs and early years funding without sufficient evidence on how the need for funding varies between different areas.
8. To enable future reforms to the High Needs funding block within the DSG, the Government will begin research in the autumn with a view to consulting on the

way that high needs funding should be distributed, both from central government to local authorities and from local authorities to institutions.

9. It remains the Government's intention to achieve a fair distribution of early years funding through a national early years funding formula. Further work is required before a formulaic approach can be introduced. For 2015-16 additional funding for early years will be provided through a new early years' pupil premium.

Refinements to the Sparsity Factor

10. From April 2014 a new sparsity factor was introduced in local funding formulae. The purpose of this factor is to enable local authorities to provide an additional sum to small schools serving sparsely populated areas where those schools may not be able to operate on the basis of per pupil funding alone.
11. Currently a sparsity distance is calculated for every school in England using the average distance (as the crow flies), for each pupil for whom the school is the closest, from their postcode to their second nearest school.
12. Current regulations allow sparsity funding to be allocated where a school has:
 - 150 or fewer pupils in primary or 600 or fewer pupils in secondary and all-through schools; and
 - a sparsity distance of 2 miles or more for primary and all-through schools and 3 miles or more for secondary schools.
13. Sparsity funding can be allocated on a fixed sum (up to a maximum of £100,000) or on a tapered basis.
14. From April 2015, local authorities will be required to use new average year group size thresholds in place of the number on roll criteria. For example the average year group threshold for primary schools will be 21.4 pupils (150 / 7 year groups). An infant school will therefore only be eligible for sparsity funding if it has less than 86 pupils (21.4 x 4 year groups).
15. As in 2014-15, these size and distance thresholds are maximum thresholds and a local authority will be free to choose to set lower thresholds. Lower thresholds were used in Shropshire's local formula in 2014-15.
16. From April 2015 local authorities will be able to make an application to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to include an exceptional sparsity factor to allocate up to an additional £50,000 to small secondary schools where they have 350 pupils or fewer and a sparsity distance of 5 miles or more. Currently no Shropshire secondary school would qualify for this exceptional sparsity factor.

Simplifying the Administration of Academies Funding

17. To simplify the funding system and to ensure all schools and academies will be funded on the same basis, from April 2015 funding for all schools including non-recoupment academies and free schools will be included in local authority DSG allocations. Local authorities will calculate funding for all academies and free schools through their local funding formula which will be recouped by the EFA

which has responsibility for funding academies and free schools. Any central DSG funding must be made available to all schools in the area on an equal basis, including former non-recoupment academies and free schools.

18. Shropshire has no non-recoupment academies and one free school.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

19. The carbon reduction commitment (CRC) scheme is designed to reduce emissions in the public and private sectors by incentivising the uptake of cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities. In 2014-15 the Government removed schools from the main scheme and instead reduced each local authority's DSG in order to pay for schools' contribution to the CRC scheme. The deduction to each local authority's DSG was calculated on the basis of their spending in 2013-14 on CRC allowances for schools as declared on section 251 returns.
20. For 2015-16 the Government will revise this method and the deduction from the DSG will be made on a simple per pupil basis. Each local authority's DSG will be reduced by £7.51 per pupil. Based on October 2013 census data, this will result in a reduction of £262,242 (34,919 pupils x £7.51) from Shropshire's DSG. The reduction in 2014-15 based on 2013-14 spend was £267,000.

Changes to High Needs Funding for 2015-16

21. The latest funding reforms include three changes to high needs funding arrangements for 2015-16.
22. Firstly, the high needs place numbers used for the academic year 2015/16 will be the published numbers for 2014/15. Local authorities and institutions will be able to identify significant changes in SEN places that require more place funding and submit an exceptional case application to the EFA for an increase to an institution's 2015/16 academic year place numbers. The template for applications must be submitted by 17 October 2014.
23. Secondly, from 2015/16 changes to the scale and nature of alternative provision will be met by local authorities, schools and academies within their existing funding. This will mean that local authorities and their schools bear the cost of any increase in alternative provision places for pupils who would otherwise be in mainstream schools but for the placement decisions they have made.
24. Thirdly, the Government is currently consulting on draft School and Early Years Finance Regulations that include an increase in the funding of alternative provision places from £8,000 to £10,000 per place per annum from September 2015. It will be expected that corresponding reductions in the top-up funding for alternative provision will take place so that the adjustment is cost neutral for local authorities and schools.

Recommendations from the Schools Forum Task & Finish Group

25. The Shropshire Schools Forum Sustainability Task & Finish Group, advised and supported by Shropshire Council's administration Task & Finish Group, considered various models over the summer for distributing the additional funding fairly to Shropshire schools. As the confirmed additional DSG per pupil

funding level of £297 was not announced until the 17 July all modelling considered by the group was based on the originally proposed additional DSG per pupil funding value of £255. All modelling has been carried out based on October 2013 census data. Actual school funding allocations for 2015-16 will be based on October 2014 census data.

26. Further to the detailed consideration of various funding models, the Task & Finish Group agreed on 26 June 2014 to recommend to Schools Forum an increase to the current sparsity funding delivered to schools through the funding formula to a level that demonstrated a fair and appropriate allocation and to distribute remaining funding on a flat rate per pupil basis across all schools.

Sparsity Funding

27. The group considered the Government's maximum sparsity threshold levels and concluded that the Government's distance thresholds of 2 or more miles for primary schools and 3 or more miles for secondary and all-through schools did not define a school as being sparse.
28. To ensure sparsity funding is targeted at Shropshire's sparse schools the Task & Finish Group **recommend that Shropshire's primary school sparsity distance measure remain at 3 or more miles and that Shropshire's secondary school sparsity distance measure remain at 9 or more miles.** This delivers sparsity funding to 10 primary schools based on October 2013 census data and one secondary school.
29. In 2013-14 the local authority successfully applied to the EFA to include an additional 4 Shropshire primary schools where the actual road travel distances significantly exceeded their sparsity distance using the crow flies measure and would not otherwise have been eligible. It is expected that these 4 primary schools will remain eligible for sparsity funding in 2015-16.
30. To achieve a fair and appropriate sparsity funding allocation level the group considered minimum school expenditure levels of small primary schools and the additional targeted sparsity funding that would be required to ensure sparse schools received funding to meet at least these minimum expenditure levels. On this basis the group **recommend increasing the funding to £50,000 on a tapered approach, from £30,000 in 2014-15, for relevant sparse primary schools.**
31. Based on analysis of current funding levels and expenditure requirements of the individual secondary school the group **recommend increasing sparsity funding to £100,000 on a flat rate approach, from £40,000 in 2014-15, for secondary schools.**
32. Based on October 2013 census data this increase to sparsity funding in secondary and primary schools costs an additional £198,800.

Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) Funding

33. For fairness the Task & Finish Group **recommend that the remaining additional funding be distributed on a flat rate per pupil basis across all schools.** Any increase to the age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) funding within the

funding formula to schools will have a corresponding impact on the level of minimum funding guarantee (MFG) that a school attracts. As the AWPU increases, the MFG reduces. The release of MFG allows for more funding to be allocated through the AWPU.

34. The modelling considered by the Task & Finish Group based on the proposed additional DSG funding of £255 per pupil resulted in, after the changes to sparsity funding and recycling of MFG, an increase of £289.86 per pupil across all primary, secondary and all-through schools in Shropshire.
35. Based on the confirmed additional DSG funding of £297 per pupil the resulting AWPU increase would be £333.39.
36. There are two important points to note:
 - For many Shropshire schools new additional funding may either all, or in part, be offset by a corresponding reduction to their MFG protection funding initially;
 - the final AWPU value within schools 2015-16 budget share allocations will be determined after all 2015-16 DSG pressures, including high needs places and provision costs, are taken into account.

Headteachers of Shropshire maintained schools,
academies and free school

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 11 November 2014

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Colleague

School Funding Reforms 2015-16

Following significant reforms to school funding arrangements from April 2013 and further reforms from April 2014, the Government confirmed in July 2014 the next stage of reforms as it continues to move towards a national fair funding formula.

From April 2015 the least funded local authorities in England will receive additional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding up to a nationally prescribed minimum funding level. As one of the lowest funded local authorities, Shropshire will benefit from this additional funding.

Following consultation, the Government confirmed the allocation of an additional £390m from April 2015. **Shropshire will receive an additional £297 per pupil in schools block funding within the DSG. Based on October 2013 census data this equates to an additional £10.37m, a 7.2% increase.** Shropshire is the 4th highest gainer out of 69 gaining local authorities in England.

At their meeting on 18 September 2014, Shropshire Schools Forum considered options for distributing the additional funding as fairly as possible to Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school through the local funding formula. Their recommendation was included in a consultation document sent to all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school on 22 September 2014, inviting responses. As part of the consultation process a meeting was held at the Lord Hill Hotel on 2 October 2014 where headteachers and chairs of governors/chairs of finance were invited to discuss the recommendations in more detail before the consultation response deadline of 16 October 2014.

A total of 25 responses (17%) were received from Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school. Schools Forum met again on 23 October 2014 to consider each of the individual responses received and the points raised at the consultation meeting.

Overall the majority of responses received from schools to the consultation were in favour of the recommendation proposed by Schools Forum.

This letter provides details of the final recommendation, following consultation, made by Shropshire Schools Forum at their meeting on 23 October 2014. This formed the basis of the local authority's provisional funding reform proforma submitted to the Education

Funding Agency (EFA) at the end of October 2014 for the financial year 2015-16. For maintained schools a copy of the proforma is attached to this letter for information. Academies will receive their copy directly from the EFA. Please note that it includes **provisional** information in relation to Shropshire schools' delegated budget shares from April 2015. The data set uses October 2013 school census data. Actual allocations for 2015-16 will be based on October 2014 school census data and therefore the unit values recorded in this provisional proforma will change.

The local authority's actual funding reform proforma based on October 2014 data will be submitted to the EFA by the end of January 2015. Individual school budget shares for the financial year 2015-16 will be provided to maintained schools by the local authority as soon as possible after the submission to the EFA is made. Academies and the free school will receive their budget share allocations directly from the EFA.

The outcome of the consultation and Schools Forum's final recommendation is detailed below. A final decision will be made by Cabinet in December.

Sparsity

Sparsity has been an allowable factor within the local funding formula since April 2014.

Sparsity funding can be targeted at schools based on numbers on roll (NOR) and the average 'crow flies' distance that pupils live from their second nearest school. The Government's maximum threshold criteria is as follows:

- For primary, less than 150 on roll (on average fewer than 21.4 pupils per year group) and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles
- For secondary, less than 600 on roll (on average fewer than 120 pupils per year group) and an average distance greater than or equal to 3 miles
- For all-through, on average fewer than 62.5 pupils per year group and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles.

Local authorities can narrow the Government's maximum sparsity criteria but cannot widen them. Funding can be allocated on a tapered approach from a maximum of £100,000 or on a flat rate basis capped at £100,000 per eligible school.

Following consultation the sparsity threshold criteria was narrowed in Shropshire in 2014-15, and Schools Forum recommended the narrowed criteria remain in 2015-16 as follows:

- For primary, less than 150 on roll (on average fewer than 21.4 pupils per year group) and an average distance greater than or equal to 3 miles
- For secondary, less than 450 on roll (on average fewer than 90 pupils per year group) and an average distance greater than or equal to 9 miles
- For all-through, a combination of the Primary and Secondary thresholds.

However, to achieve a fair and appropriate sparsity funding allocation level, based on the consideration of core expenditure costs, Shropshire Schools Forum recommended increasing the funding to £50,000 on a tapered approach in 2015-16 (from £30,000 in 2014-15) for relevant sparse primary schools and increasing sparsity funding to £100,000 on a flat rate approach in 2015-16 (from £40,000 in 2014-15) for relevant sparse secondary schools.

Based on October 2013 data, 14 Shropshire primary schools and one Shropshire secondary school attract sparsity funding.

The recommended increase to sparsity funding costs an additional £198,800.

The majority of responses to this area of the consultation were in support of the recommendation.

Overall 60% of responses agreed that the primary criteria should remain at fewer than 150 pupils and greater than or equal to 3 miles. Of the secondary school responses 50% agreed the criteria for secondary schools should remain at fewer than 450 on roll and greater than or equal to 9 miles, 25% responded that the Government's maximum secondary school threshold criteria should be used and 25% responded that sparsity funding should not be allocated to any secondary school.

After consideration of the consultation responses, **Schools Forum recommended retaining the criteria for sparsity funding in line with their recommendation within the consultation as follows:**

- **Primary – less than 150 on roll (21.4 average year group) and greater than or equal to 3 miles**
- **Secondary – less than 450 on roll (90 average year group) and greater than or equal to 9 miles**
- **All-through – combination of the above.**

Overall 76% of the responses agreed with basing the amount of sparsity funding on the consideration of core expenditure costs and increasing the amount of funding allocated to sparse schools. After consideration of the consultation responses, **Schools Forum recommended increasing the funding allocated through the sparsity factor in line with their recommendation within the consultation as follows:**

- **Primary – to £50,000 on a tapered basis (from £30,000 in 2014-15)**
- **Secondary – to £100,000 on a flat rate basis (from £40,000 in 2014-15)**
- **All-through – a combination of the above.**

Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

Schools Forum recommended allocating the remaining additional Schools Block DSG funding from April 2015 on a per pupil basis across all Shropshire maintained schools, academies and free school.

88% of responses agreed that the majority of the additional funding should be allocated in this way.

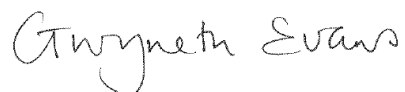
60% of responses agreed with Schools Forum's recommendation not to allocate any of the additional funding on other allowable factors. Of the responses not in agreement various other factors were proposed.

Schools Forum considered the responses and reflected on the use of other factors, which had been considered as part of the modelling process. Based on the responses received **Schools Forum recommended allocating the whole of the remaining additional funding on a per pupil basis across all schools in line with their recommendation within the consultation.**

If you have any queries in relation to this information please do not hesitate to contact me or Rob Carlyle (Schools' Formula Funding Officer) in the School Funding Team on 01743 253876.

Please ensure a copy of this letter is made available to your Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwyneth Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gwyneth Evans
Schools' Funding Policy Officer
Shropshire Council
Tel: 01743 253875
Email: gwyneth.evans@shropshire.gov.uk

Schools sustainability in Shropshire

A briefing paper issued on behalf of:

- Shropshire Schools Forum - Sustainability Task & Finish Group
- Shropshire Council administration group - Sustainability Task & Finish Group.

Background: where are we now?

In Shropshire we aim to provide high quality education for all Shropshire children. But we have a demographic problem in sustaining our network of schools.

The number of pupils on roll at our schools is falling overall, bucking the national trend. However, this decline in pupil numbers is not evenly spread and it varies by area.

At the same time, though new house building programmes are gathering pace in Shropshire, evidence shows that new housing developments do **not** lead to an overall increase in numbers in our schools in Shropshire, as the trend is for families to move within the county.

Indeed, between 2003 and 2012, 10,800 new homes were built in Shropshire, but over the same period the number of pupils at our schools actually **fell** by more than 2,500.

As pupils numbers fall, so will the overall funding for our schools as it is mainly pupil-driven.

And the lack of detail on a national funding formula – likely to be implemented in the next Parliament – adds further uncertainty over the future funding for our schools.

It has been confirmed that approximately £10m of additional funding is being provided for Shropshire schools in 2015-16. This is clearly very welcome and will offer some short-term relief for the issue of falling rolls. However, it will not solve the long-term problem as the reduction in pupil numbers impacts.

Changes to Shropshire's funding formula for 2015-16 will seek to place our schools in the best possible position to ensure a smooth transition to the new national funding formula, once it is implemented.

It is vital at this time for individual school leaders and governing bodies to have an increasing awareness of the impact of demography and the likely changes to funding nationally in the next few years.

This is particularly important in those areas where pupil numbers are falling and where clusters of schools will see a significant decline in both pupil numbers and, as a consequence, funding.

So what needs to be done?

We want to ensure a sustainable schools network, and maintain good quality provision.

Schools need to work together to find local solutions. We are determined to encourage collaborative working, consideration of alternative models of education provision and more efficient use of delegated resources.

This is **NOT** just a small schools problem. It is an issue for every school.

This is **NOT** about saving money. It is about making more effective use of delegated resources.

This is **NOT** about finding a countywide solution. It is about taking a local look and finding local solutions.

This is **NOT** about providing a safety net, or comfort, to governing bodies. We believe governing bodies need to be challenged to address these issues and to ensure that the Shropshire school funding formula promotes more sustainable ways of working.

And, this is **NOT** simply about producing lists of planned closures. It is about encouraging schools and communities to think about what can and must be done in light of falling school rolls and their impact on funding.

Indeed, we already have several excellent examples of ‘local clusters’, where schools are working closely together to find local solutions, including through trust arrangements, federations and other collaborative models.

What work is being carried out around this issue?

The Shropshire Schools Forum’s Sustainability Task & Finish Group was set up in the autumn of 2013 to look closely at this issue. Members include primary, secondary and special school headteachers, school governors, councillors and Shropshire Council officers.

An ‘informed dialogue’ has developed between the Task & Finish Group and Shropshire Council’s ruling administration based on the best available information and knowledge, and this will continue as we work towards a long-term solution.

An administration Task & Finish Group, led by Councillor Nick Bardsley – Deputy Cabinet member for children’s services - has also been established, to inform councillors and to provide advice and support to the Sustainability Task & Finish Group. This administration group has set out its key principles to inform the funding of Shropshire schools, to ensure that planning and implementation go hand in hand.

Both Task & Finish groups are in agreement about the problem we are facing, and about the need for schools to work together to find local solutions in order to ensure a sustainable schools network in Shropshire. Indeed, this paper has been prepared on behalf of both groups.

Once the Shropshire funding formula for 2015-16 is agreed, the Sustainability Task & Finish Group will be providing information to each school about their projected numbers on roll over the next five years, and the impact on their funding for this same period. This budget planning tool will be provided to governing bodies on an annual basis, to enable four year budget planning with most up-to-date data for their catchment. Governing bodies will be encouraged to share their data with schools in their geographical cluster.

Shropshire Councillors from all political parties, plus parish and town councillors, are also being encouraged to help, by working with their local schools.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or comments related to the issues raised in this paper, please email phil.wilson@shropshire.gov.uk . Your feedback is welcome and appreciated.



Committee and Date

Young People's Scrutiny
Committee

17 December 2014

10.00am

Item

7

Public

Responsible Officer Anne Gribbin

e-mail: anne.gribbin@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 254556

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SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2014

1. Summary

This report provides an overview of the performance of primary and secondary schools in Shropshire in 2014. It summarises the headline outcomes for pupils at each stage of education, as measured by the National Curriculum assessment arrangements and GCSE examinations. It also summarises the outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools.

2. Recommendations

That members accept the position as set out in the report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Not applicable.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

5. Background

- 5.1 Outcomes for pupils in Shropshire over time have been above the national average. They have also been in line with, or more usually above, the average across the group of local authorities judged to be closest in terms of comparisons (the statistical neighbour group of 11 local authorities). Outcomes for pupils broadly reflect this pattern for 2014. In contrast, the outcomes of Ofsted inspections on Shropshire schools have not been as positive, especially in relation to judgements made on primary schools. These have improved significantly over the last two years, and are now in line with expectations.
- 5.2 When children are five they are assessed by their teachers against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). In 2014 the proportion of pupils in Shropshire achieving expected outcomes in all seven areas of learning and in all 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs) was ahead of national expectation. This placed Shropshire in the top quartile nationally and in comparison with the statistical neighbour group (where it was 1st for six ELGs and 2nd or 3rd in all but one of the remaining 11). There were improvements in outcomes in all areas and ELGs compared with 2013 and these improvements were ahead of the national improvement in 13 ELGs and in line in the other four. 64% of pupils achieved Good Levels of Development (GLD), compared to 60% nationally. This was a 12% increase on 2013 and moved the LA from 59th to 30th in the national ranking (based on 152 LAs).
- 5.3 When children are seven they are assessed against key stage 1 expectations in reading, writing and mathematics. Level 2 or above is the expectation, with level 2B+ being a good level of attainment and level 3 a very good level of attainment. Shropshire's data shows an overall improvement in outcomes in all subjects at all levels over the last three years. Results in reading, writing and mathematics were ahead of national averages at level 2+, 2B+ and level 3 in 2014 and placed the LA first or second in the statistical neighbour group for all of these indicators.
- 5.4 When children are 11 they are assessed against key stage 2 expectations. Prior to 2013 these assessments focussed on an assessment for English overall, and an assessment for mathematics. In 2013 this changed and children were assessed separately for reading and writing, with an additional test being introduced for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). Level 4 or above is the expectation, with level 4B+ being a good level of attainment, level 5+ being very good and level 6 being the highest level possible. Results across all subjects for 2014 again place Shropshire in the top three within the statistical neighbour group at level 4+ and show a marked improvement at the higher level 5+ compared with 2013. There has also been a significant improvement in the new GPS assessment, with Shropshire moving up from mid-table to 2nd in the statistical neighbour rankings for both level 4+ and level 5+.

- 5.5 At key stage 2 the progress children have made from key stage 1 is also measured, with children expected to make at least 2 levels progress. If they make 3 levels progress they are making better than expected progress. In Shropshire the proportion of children making expected progress was in-line with national figures in reading, writing and mathematics. When compared with the progress made by children in LAs within the statistical neighbour group Shropshire is third in all three key indicators. These outcomes show an improvement in rates of progress when compared with 2013. In 2014 the proportion of pupils in Shropshire making better than expected progress rose in all 3 core subjects. In reading the increase was 6%, compared to a national increase of 5%; in writing the increase was 3%, which was in-line with the national increase; in mathematics the increase was 6% compared to a national increase of 4%. However, there still remains a small gap between Shropshire outcomes and national outcomes in writing and mathematics using this measure. Statistical neighbour and regional data is not yet available for this indicator.
- 5.6 The DfE sets minimum expectations for attainment and progress at the end of key stage 2 (known as the 'floor standard'), and only schools with a cohort size of over 10 children are judged against this measure. In 2014 six primary schools fell below this minimum level, compared with four in 2012 and eight in 2013. Given the size of Shropshire's cohorts this data fluctuates year-on-year and only one of the six schools below the minimum standard in 2014 was also below in 2013.
- 5.7 At age 16 (the end of key stage 4) pupils are assessed at GCSE, or equivalent qualifications. The analysis of the 2014 results is more complex than the previous year because of the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education in September 2013 that only pupils' first results would count in school performance measures, rather than their best results which had been measured in 2013 and previous years. Most Shropshire schools continued to follow an early entry policy for a proportion of students, allowing them to re-sit if they did not achieve their expected result. Therefore for 17 of the 21 mainstream secondary schools first results identify outcomes for pupils based on their initial examination outcomes and different final or best results identify accurately how well pupils achieved at the end of key stage 4. Analysis of final results ensures reliable comparison with 2013 outcomes and is consistent with current Ofsted practice.
- 5.8 Unvalidated 2014 final examination results indicate that the proportion of Shropshire's pupils who gained 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics in 2014 has remained the same as for 2013 (59%). This is just above the national average for 2014. There is no comparative data for final results with other similar authorities. Unvalidated first results for Shropshire are in line with the national average (56%) and in line with the average for other similar local authorities.

- 5.9 Although the GCSE data for 2014 is still provisional, the initial indication for first results is that the proportion of pupils who made expected progress in English is just below the national average (69% compared to 71%), and the proportion who made expected progress in mathematics is broadly in line with the national average (64% compared to 65%). This data gives Shropshire a low ranking (10th and 9th respectively) in the statistical neighbour group. Comparative data for first results that identifies the percentages of pupils who made more than expected progress in English and in mathematics has yet to be released.
- 5.10 Provisional data for final results also indicates that the proportion of pupils who made expected progress in English is just below the national average (71% compared to 73%) and the proportion who made more than expected progress is 5% below the national average of 34%. In mathematics final results indicate that the proportion of pupils who made expected progress in is in line with the national average (68%) and the proportion who made more than expected progress is also just below the national average (29% compared to 31%). In science final results indicate that the proportion of pupils who made expected progress remains above the national average (56% compared to 53%) and the proportion who made more than expected progress is broadly in line with the national average (26% compared to 27%). No national or statistical neighbour comparisons are available for final results.
- 5.11 This data confirms that improving outcomes at key stage 4, particularly in relation to rates of progress in English, continues to be a priority.
- 5.12 The DfE continues to set minimum expectations for attainment at the end of key stage 4. In 2013 one secondary school had fallen below this standard and in 2014 this school's headline figure improved by 15% based on final results. 2014 data confirms that, on the comparable measure of final results, no Shropshire school is below the DfE floor standard. One school dips 4% below when only first results are used.
- 5.13 Improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils has been a priority for Shropshire because over time the gap between the attainment of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) and their peers in Shropshire has been wider than the national gap, especially at key stage 4. This gap narrowed from 12% greater than national average in 2012 to 3% greater than national average in 2013. In 2014 the gap continued to narrow to 1% greater (broadly in line with) the national gap when pupils' first results are counted and it is exactly in line with the national gap when final results are taken into account. There continues to be a sharp focus on closing the gaps in performance, including through effective use of the pupil premium funding.

- 5.14 School Improvement Advisers (SIAs) review school performance routinely, including through an annual risk assessment. Twice a year the Education Improvement Service undertakes a School Performance Monitoring (SPM) process which identifies schools in need of a low, medium or high level of challenge and support. Following this process letters are sent to headteachers and to the Chair of governing bodies which summarise the LA's judgment. This process means that the LA is able to take pre-emptive action and target schools that are vulnerable, to ensure improvement. Ofsted inspections report that the LA knows its schools well and matches the level of challenge and support proportionately to need.
- 5.15 In the past, and in contrast with the broadly good levels of achievement and evidence of successful intervention in schools, the number of schools in Shropshire judged by Ofsted to be inadequate has been high. In September 2013 two secondary schools and five primary schools were judged to be in special measures. However, by November 2014 this had dropped to one secondary school and three primary schools. LA maintained schools judged to be inadequate receive significant amounts of targeted support from the local authority, which also brokers the support of a headteacher from a good or outstanding school. They also receive regular monitoring visits by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), where a judgement is made about LA support to the school. In all cases LA support has been judged to be at least appropriate, and is more often judged to be good and to have contributed to the rapid improvement of the school
- 5.16 The DfE policy for schools judged to require special measures is that they become sponsored academies, with a current emphasis on strong local partnerships to secure improvement. Shropshire currently has two secondary and three primary sponsored academies, with a further primary school due to become a sponsored academy in January 2015. These outcomes are the result of significant work by LA Officers to engage stakeholders, including governors. In two cases an Interim Executive Board has replaced the governing body of the school.
- 5.17 Wider Ofsted judgements have also been in contrast to the broadly good outcomes for pupils. Shropshire began 2012/13 with a lower than national proportion of schools judged to be good or outstanding, and a lower proportion of children attending good and outstanding schools, especially in the primary sector.
- 5.18 Schools judged to require improvement also have additional targeted support, including through a central meeting programme for headteachers and chairs of governors led by the Education Improvement team. This programme has regularly included sessions led by a member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). It is this HMI team who conduct monitoring visits to schools judged to be in special measures or to require improvement.

- 5.19 The impact of this additional targeted support, and of the successful work of headteachers, staff and governors in schools, is evident in significantly improved Ofsted outcomes for Shropshire. Data updated to 25 November 2014 confirms 79% of primary schools in Shropshire are now judged good or outstanding (compared to 55% in August 2012) and 81% of pupils attend good or outstanding schools (compared to 59% in August 2012).
- 5.20 The most recent national data (March 2014) suggests that 80% primary schools are judged good or outstanding and 79% of pupils attend good and outstanding schools. Updated national data will be reported in the HMCI Annual Report due to be published early December and may show further national improvement. However, Shropshire can evidence significant improvement with the 24% improvement in the percentage of good and outstanding schools and the 22% improvement in the percentage of children attending good and outstanding schools between September 2012 and November 2014.
- 5.21 There are fewer secondary schools in Shropshire and there have therefore been fewer inspections. Outcomes up to November 2014 confirm that 67% of secondary schools are judged good and outstanding (compared with a national figure in March of 71%); however, the percentage of pupils in good and outstanding secondary schools (74%) is in line with the most recent national figure (of 73%). The secondary schools in Shropshire judged to require improvement, and therefore subject to HMI monitoring visits, are receiving positive feedback on their progress from HMI.

6. Additional Information

None

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Ann Hartley

Local Member

All Members

Appendices

Agenda Item 9

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15

DATE	TOPIC	PURPOSE
Wed 17 December 2014 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools Funding and Sustainability• Educational Outcomes• Business Case: Redesign of Residential Provision	
Wed 4 February 2015 9.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data/quality assurance report• Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report• Corporate Parenting• Licencing of Taxi Drivers• Havenbrook Pilot• Health Visitor Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exception reporting on key issues

Wednesday 1 April 2015 10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/quality assurance report • Youth Services • Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report • Annual Report - LAC Education & Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception reporting on key issues • Further update on changes to the provision of Youth Services

THE CABINET FORWARD PLAN

This Notice, known as the Cabinet Forward Plan, sets out the Decisions, including Key Decisions, which are likely to be taken during the period covered by the Plan by either Cabinet as a whole or by individual members of the Executive. The Plan is updated each month and at least 28 clear days before a key decision is to be taken and is available from Council Offices, libraries and on the Council's Internet site (www.shropshire.gov.uk). This edition supersedes all previous editions.

Further Information

Cabinet is comprised of the following members: Mr K Barrow (Leader); Mrs A Hartley (Deputy Leader); Mr T Barker; Mr G butler; Mrs K Calder; Mr L Chapman; Mr S Charmley; Mr M Owen; Mr M Price; and Mrs C Wild. To view more details, please click on the following link :

<http://shropsdemserv.web.coop/CommitteeServices/CouncilMeetingsAndDecisions/Cabinet>

A Key Decision is one which is likely to result in income, expenditure or savings of £500,000 or greater, or to have a significant effect, on, two or more Electoral Divisions. In two member divisions i.e. Oswestry and Market Drayton, these are to be treated for the purpose of a key decision as two divisions.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Full Cabinet meetings and ask a question and/or make a statement in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules. If you would like further details please email penny.chamberlain@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 252729.

Members of the public are also welcome to submit a request to address or to ask a question of the Member making the Portfolio Holder decision. Any request should be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive at the address below by no later than 2 clear working days before the proposed Member Session. This is to ensure that the individual member has sufficient time to decide whether or not to hear such persons and if so the arrangements to be made. If you would like further details please telephone 01743 252729 or email penny.chamberlain@shropshire.gov.uk.

All Executive including individual member decisions (except in extreme urgency) are subject to call-in and Scrutiny.

Documents submitted for decision will be a formal report, which if public, will be available on this website at least 5 clear working days before the date the decision can be made. If you would like to request such a document, please email penny.chamberlain@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 252729.

Documents shown are listed at Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.

CABINET FORWARD PLAN FOR 3 DECEMBER 2014 ONWARDS

DECISION MAKER - Cabinet 10 December 2014

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee - Report of Public Service Network Task & Finish Group	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Nigel Bishop, Head of Service Support, Marketing and Engagement Tel: 01743 252348 nigel.bishop@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 16 October 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Financial Strategy 2014/15 - 2024/25 - Report 3	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 30 May 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Treasury Management Update - Quarter 2 2014/15	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 30 May 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Treasury Strategy 2014/15 - Mid Year Review	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 30 May 2014

Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2015/16	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 30 May 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2015 to 2016	Yes	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Transformation and Safeguarding		Karen Bradshaw, Director of Children's Services Tel: 01743 254201 Karen.Bradshaw@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 6 October 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Quarter 2 2014/15 Performance report	No	Portfolio Holder for Transformation Performance		Tom Dodds, Performance Manager Tel: 01743 252011 tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 1 September 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Review of Local Joint Committee areas and Provision of Youth Activities Recommendations from Cabinet in relation to proposed changes to the LJC boundaries will be referred to Council on 18 December 2014.	No			Neil Willcox, Local Commissioning Manager Tel: 01743 255051 neil.willcox@shropshire.gov.uk	Tuesday, 25 November 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Local Account	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)		Stephen Chandler, Director of Adult Services Tel: 01743 253767 Stephen.Chandler@shropshire.gov.uk	Tuesday, 2 December 2014

Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Shropshire Council Smallholding Estate	Yes	Mike Owen, Portfolio Holder	Exempt	Steph Jackson, Head of Commercial Services Tel: 01743 253862 steph.jackson@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 4 September 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Local Growth Fund and Priority Projects	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e and Commissioning (North)	Exempt	Andrew M Evans, Head of Business Growth and Prosperity Tel: 01743 253869 andy.evans@shropshire.gov.uk	Tuesday, 26 August 2014
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Connecting Shropshire - Phase 2 Procurement	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e and Commissioning (North)	Exempt	Andrew M Evans, Head of Business Growth and Prosperity Tel: 01743 253869 andy.evans@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 26 September 2014
Not before Monday, 5th January, 2015	Highways and Transport Engineering Consultancy - Award of contract	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport	Exempt	Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner South chris.edwards@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 28 November 2014
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet - 11 February 2015						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Revenue Monitor Quarter 3 2014 to 2015	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Capital Monitor Report Quarter 3 2014 to 2015	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Financial Strategy 2014 to 2015 final report	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Estimate Collection Fund Outturn 2014 to 2015	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014

Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2014 to 2015	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Treasury Strategy 2015 to 2016	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Capital Strategy 2014 to 2015 and 2018 to 2019 final report	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Housing Revenue Account 2014 to 2015	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Fees & Charges 2015/16	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		James Walton, Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01743 255001 james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 30 May 2014

Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Discretionary Housing Payments Policy and Local Support and Prevention Fund Policy	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Nigel Bishop, Head of Service Support, Marketing and Engagement Tel: 01743 252348 nigel.bishop@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 16 October 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Asset Management Strategy	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Steph Jackson, Head of Commercial Services Tel: 01743 253862 steph.jackson@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 6 November 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	ICT Strategy Development	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Nigel Bishop, Head of Service Support, Marketing and Engagement Tel: 01743 252348 nigel.bishop@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 30 October 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Proposed IT Infrastructure	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Nigel Bishop, Head of Service Support, Marketing and Engagement Tel: 01743 252348 nigel.bishop@shropshire.gov.uk	Tuesday, 11 November 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Customer Involvement Strategy	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Nigel Bishop, Head of Service Support, Marketing and Engagement Tel: 01743 252348 nigel.bishop@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 30 October 2014

Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Report	No	Portfolio Holder for Transformation Performance		Tom Dodds, Performance Manager Tel: 01743 252011 tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 1 September 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e and Commissioning (North)		Frances Darling frances.darling@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 1 December 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Shrewsbury Town Council Service Level Agreement For Grounds Maintenance Works	Yes	Deputy Portfolio Holder for Highways/Transport/Commissioning	Exempt	Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner South chris.edwards@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 6 October 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Albert Road Day Opportunities contract award	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 30 October 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Aquamira and Albert Road Day Opportunities Contract Award Cabinet will consider an exempt report by the Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency on the Aquamira and Albert Road Day Opportunities Contract Award.	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 28 February 2014

Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Kempsfield Residential Care Home Contract Award Cabinet will consider an exempt report by the Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency on the contract award for Kempesfield Residential Care Home.	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 28 February 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Avalon Day Opportunities Contract Award	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)	Exempt	Ruth Houghton, Head of Social Care Improvement and Efficiency Tel: 01743 254203 ruth.houghton@shropshire.gov.uk	Monday, 13 October 2014
Wednesday, 11 February 2015	Final Business Case for the Development of a new delivery model for Planning, Public Protection, Environmental and Business Support Services	Yes	Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder	Exempt	Paul McCreary, Head of Public Protection Tel: 01743 253868 paul.mcgreary@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014
DECISION MAKER - Cabinet - 8th April 2015						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Wednesday, 8 April 2015	Improved Swimming Facilities for Shrewsbury	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ipe, Culture and Commissioning (North)		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 31 July 2014

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South) - Lee Chapman

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Not before Sunday, 4th January, 2015	Care Act - Changes to Charging, Fees and Deferred Payments Scheme	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Commissioning (South)		Stephen Chandler, Director of Adult Services Tel: 01743 253767 Stephen.Chandler@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 4 December 2014

DECISION MAKER - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Ann Hartley - no items known to date

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Health - Karen Calder - no items known to date

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e, culture and Commissioning (North) - no items known to date

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to	Date Uploaded onto Plan

					decision maker	
DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport - Claire Wild						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Not before Friday, 7th November , 2014	Targeted De-commissioning and Removal of Non-Essential Street Lights The Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport – Cllr Claire Wild – will consider a report on the targeted decommissioning and removal of non-essential street lights.	Yes	Claire Wild, Portfolio Holder		George Candler, Director of Commissioning Tel: 01743 255003 george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk	Tuesday, 21 January 2014
DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Performance - Tim Barker - no items known to date						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central) - Malcolm Price						
Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan

Not before Monday, 8th December, 2014	Minor Amendments to the Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme	Yes	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central)		Andy Begley andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk	Thursday, 28 August 2014
Thursday, 8 January 2015	Collaborative Working Proposal for the Management of Local Flood Risk between Shropshire Council and Staffordshire County Council	Yes	Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder			Thursday, 17 July 2014

DECISION MAKER - Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support - Mike Owen

Date of Meeting	Purpose and Report title	Key Decision	Portfolio Holder	Report Exempt / confidential	Contact for further information re documents / report to be submitted to decision maker	Date Uploaded onto Plan
Tuesday, 2 December 2014	Annual Report on Health and Safety Performance for 2013 to 2104	No	Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support		Carol Fox, Health and Safety Manager Tel: 07143 252814 carol.fox@shropshire.gov.uk	Friday, 17 October 2014

Date of Publication - <Date>