

Appendix C

Question 1

In designing our national funding formula, we have taken careful steps to balance the principles of fairness and stability. Do you think we have struck the right balance?

Yes, for the time being due to the protection offered. It does not however meet the original principles which proposed that the HN funding system should be simple and predictable.

Question 2

We are proposing a formula comprising a number of formula factors with different values and weightings. Do you agree with the following proposals?

- Historic spend factor – to allocate to each local authority a sum equal to 50% of its planned spending baseline
- Basic entitlement – to allocate to each local authority £4,000 per pupil

Yes. We are pleased that historic spend is included in the proposals

Question 3

We propose to use the following weightings for each of the formula factors listed below, adding up to 100%. Do you agree?

- Population – 50%
- Free school meals eligibility – 10%
- IDACI – 10%
- Key stage 2 low attainment – 7.5%
- Key stage 4 low attainment – 7.5%
- Children in bad health – 7.5%
- Disability living allowance – 7.5%

In general, yes. But it is difficult to project the impact of these going forward without having access to the full dataset used in the calculations, e.g. children in bad health, DLA etc. LAs would need to be assured that the measures for such factors are reliable and not subject to significant fluctuations.

Question 4

Do you agree with the principle of protecting local authorities from reductions in funding as a result of this formula? This is referred to as a funding floor in this document.

Yes. This is critical to ensure current pupils are not affected by reductions in LA allocations.

Question 5

Do you support our proposal to set the funding floor such that no local authority will see a reduction in funding, compared to their spending baseline?

Yes, this is critical (see above).

Question 6

Do you agree with our proposals to allow limited flexibility between schools and high needs budgets in 2018-19?

Yes, this is essential to ensure LAs can manage the impact of changes to both the National Funding Formula to schools and the HN national funding formula.

Question 7

Do you have any suggestions about the level of flexibility we should allow between schools and high needs budgets in 2019-20 and beyond?

Yes. The LA should still be able to transfer a limited percentage of funding between the schools and high needs blocks from 2019/20 onwards. The proposal that there is a small charge on schools budgets with schools working collectively and more strategically becomes more difficult as the profile of schools (maintained and academies/ academy chains) gets more diverse. The LA should retain overall responsibility for the strategic direction and therefore needs flexibility in the funding blocks too.

Question 8

Are there further considerations we should be taking into account about the proposed high needs national funding formula?

No additional comments.

Question 9

Is there any evidence relating to the eight protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010 that is not included in the Equalities Analysis Impact Assessment and that we should take into account?

No additional comment.