

7a. Consultation responses

There were 98 valid responses received. The responses relate to the following schools: 80 from Primary schools (maintained and academy/ free), 16 from Secondary schools (maintained and academy/ free), and 2 from All-through schools.

47 responses were from Headteachers or Principals, 40 from Governors and 11 from other representatives such as Bursars or School Business/ Finance managers.

The Survey presented two options:

Which option do you think Barnet should implement:

Option 1 – the full National Funding Formula

Option 2 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection (a phased introduction of the NFF in 2018-19 using MFG in order to make the formula affordable).

Responders were asked to select Option 1 or Option 2.

	All through	Primary	Secondary	Total	%
Option 1 - National Funding Formula	0	7	2	9	9.18
Option 2 - National Funding Formula with additional protection	2	71	13	86	87.75
No selection	0	2	1	3	3.06
Total	2	80	16	98	100%

		All through	Primary	Secondary	Total	%
Option 1 - National Funding Formula	Heads/Principals	0	3	1	4	<u>4.08</u>
	Governors	0	3	1	4	<u>4.08</u>
	Others	0	1	0	1	<u>1.02</u>
Option 2 - National Funding Formula with additional protection	Heads/Principals	1	34	8	43	<u>43.88</u>
	Governors	0	32	2	34	<u>34.69</u>
	Others	1	5	3	9	<u>9.18</u>

Not Sure	Heads/Principals	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>
	Governors	0	1	1	2	<u>2.04</u>
	Others	0	1	0	1	<u>1.02</u>
Total		2	80	16	98	<u>100%</u>

Of those that completed the question on which option should be implemented, 86 (87.75%) agreed with the proposal to implement option 2, the National Funding Formula with transitional protection so that turbulence to schools could be minimised during the transition period.

The comments supporting this option included that it seemed fairer and more manageable, allowed more time to plan budgets and would give time for schools to adjust before full implementation of the National Funding Formula in 2020/21

Recommendation:

The council is proposing to implement Option 2 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection, and we are asking Schools Forum to support this proposal going forward to the Children's, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) committee meeting on 16 January 2018.

Outside the consultation on the options, the council has received a number of representations about the application of the increase in DSG funding allocations equivalent to an extra 0.5% per pupil for all schools. The key issue here is that the DSG funding does not meet the full cost of the growth fund (for new and expanding schools and bulge classes) and this has to be a first call on the schools block. A response to the points raised is being prepared and will be reflected in an additional paper to be circulated to the Schools Forum next week.