

<b>Committee:</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	3 October 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Split site funding 2018-19
<b>Author:</b>	Fiona Heath
<b>Decision making / consultative / information:</b>	Consultative
<b>Who can vote?</b>	All members of Schools Forum with voting rights (i.e. all schools and academy members and PVI representatives)

### What is the Forum being asked to decide?

1. To agree an increase to the local funding formula lump sum allocations for schools where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) operates on a split site. Option 3 is recommended.
2. To retain the split site funding factor within the local funding formula of £1,000 pa for a primary school and £5,000 pa for a secondary school where there is a need to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall) will remain.
3. Schools that meet the criteria to qualify for the split site factor where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) is on a split site will not be eligible for the split site funding to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall).
4. The changes will be effective from financial year 2018-19.
5. It should be noted that Schools Forum must be consulted but it is the responsibility of the local authority to propose and decide on a formula change.

### Reason for recommendation

6. To provide an appropriate level of funding through the split site funding formula factor to recognise the additional costs incurred by schools where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) operates on a split site thereby reducing any significant financial disadvantage.
7. To provide a differential in split site funding for schools where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) operates on a split site and for

schools which have a need to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall).

### **Alternative options**

8. To retain only the current lump sum split site funding allocations for primary and secondary schools.

### **Who will be affected by this decision?**

9. Schools that operate on a split site for their main teaching base (excluding sports facilities).
10. All schools as the split site factor (an element of the local funding formula) is funded from the schools block.

### **Main body of the Report**

#### **Split site funding**

11. EFSA guidance states that “a local authority formula can include a factor to provide additional funding to schools that operate on and own more than one site. Criteria for providing extra funding should be clear and transparent, incorporating clear and objective trigger points and a clear formula for allocating additional funding. All schools and academies that meet the criteria will be eligible for split site funding. Schools sharing facilities, federated schools and schools with remote sixth forms or remote early years provision are not eligible for split site funding”.

#### **Current split site policy**

12. The current policy provides split site funding to those schools which have a need to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall) and/or for those schools which are operating on two separate sites. Two separate sites meaning that they are totally separated and not joined by a previously shared playing field.
13. The split site funding factor within the local funding formula is £1,000 pa for a primary school and £5,000 pa for a secondary school. This is in accordance with the EFSA guidance that states that values for primary and secondary schools may be different.
14. This level of funding is adequate where there is a need to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall) and there is no proposal to change the split site funding allowance to transport children.
15. However, it has become apparent that the actual costs of operating a split site where there is more than one main teaching site (excluding sports facilities) are far in excess of the current funding allowance.

## **Proposal for funding where the main teaching base operates on a split site**

16. The criteria to qualify for the split site factor where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) is on a split site are:

- the sites are separated by a public highway
- the provision on the additional site does not qualify for an individual school budget share through the DSG
- a range of core education must unavoidably take place for a significant proportion of pupils in buildings on both sites
- schools with remote sixth forms are not eligible for split site funding.

17. Subject to validating the status against the above criteria, it is believed there are currently 6 secondary schools (no primary schools) in Suffolk that operate a main teaching base on a split site.

18. The additional costs associated with operating the main teaching base over a split site include:

- administration costs including the running of two reception areas
- caretaking
- IT costs
- infrastructure and transport costs.

19. However, the costs for each respective school operating on a split site will vary and additional funding will therefore be a contribution to those extra costs.

20. The DfE has stated that “since we are keen to continue to encourage schools who do adopt efficient solutions, it is important that the consequences of those solutions continue to be reflected in schools’ budgets. We will therefore continue to allow local authorities to include a split site factor in their local formulae. This should be reflected through a cash sum to the school(s) affected.”

21. The DfE has also stated that local authorities need to fund such schools in a way that incentivises efficiency rather than sustaining inefficiency.

22. It is therefore proposed that the formula factor lump sum is increased for schools that have their main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) on a split site.

23. Schools that meet the criteria to qualify for the split site factor where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) is on a split site will not be eligible for the split site funding to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall).

24. The split site policies of a number of other local authorities have been reviewed and it can be concluded that local authorities take an individual approach to the funding of split sites; however, it is common practice to provide a single lump sum for a school where the main teaching base is on a split site, and to fund primary and secondary schools at the same rate.
25. A review of the split site funding policies of other local authorities showed that the range of funding to support split sites varies significantly but based on the most common levels of split site funding used by other authorities, three options are proposed to fund schools in Suffolk where the main teaching base is on a split site:
26. Option 1 - £20,000 pa for a school  
This will increase the cost of the split site funding factor by £90,000, which represents approximately a reduction of £1 per AWPU.
27. Option 2 - £30,000 pa for a school  
This will increase the cost of the split site funding factor by £150,000, which represents approximately a reduction of £1.50 per AWPU.
28. Option 3 - £50,000 pa for a school.  
This will increase the cost of the split site funding factor by £270,000, which represents approximately a reduction of £2.70 per AWPU.

## **Recommendations**

29. It is recommended that the split site funding factor lump sum for schools that have their main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) on a split site is increased to £50,000 per annum (option 3) as this represents the most realistic contribution to some of the additional fixed costs that are incurred. Options 1 and 2, although implemented by other local authorities, are not considered to provide a sufficient level of funding to support the additional costs of operating across a split site.
30. The split site funding factor within the local funding formula of £1,000 pa for a primary school and £5,000 pa for a secondary school where there is a need to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall) will remain.
31. Schools that meet the criteria to qualify for the split site factor where the main teaching base (excluding sports facilities) is on a split site will not be eligible for the split site funding to transport children to other physical education facilities (playing fields and sports hall).