



# Northumberland County Council

Agenda Item 8

Schools Forum: 16 November 2022

## 2024/25 National Funding Formula & School Funding Consultation

### 1. Purpose of the Report

To provide further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and associated 2023/24 Schools Funding information. This includes formal consultation with Schools Forum in relation to funding for 2023/24.

### 2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Agree to a transfer of up to 0.5% (approximately £1.148 million) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25.
- b. Agree that the funding values for 2024/25 be set in line with the principles outlined in the report; and agree for these to be the basis for the wider consultation with schools.
- c. Support the disapplication request arising from the requirements of the Coquet schools in relation to their reorganisation with effect from September 2024.
- d. Note the delegation of final decisions on the values to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the lead member for Children's Services once final funding becomes known in December 2023, in order to enable the required Cabinet report to be prepared and submitted to the 16 January 2024 meeting, and the submission of the necessary return to the ESFA by 22 January 2024.
- e. Receive a further report to the Schools Forum meeting on 17 January 2024 on the outcome of the consultation with schools and final funding values to be used for 2024/25.

### 3. Background

Schools Forum has previously received reports outlining developments in relation to the National Funding Formula (NFF). The latest report to Schools Forum in September 2023 confirmed Northumberland's progress as a local authority "that mirrors the NFF in all factors".

It should also be noted that overall funding is not increasing by the same amounts, after the additional funding grants are taken into consideration in 2023/24 for both Schools and High Needs, with no indication of any further support at the time of writing this report. The Chancellors Autumn Statement is scheduled for the same day as Schools Forum (22 November 2023). Schools are advised to budget accordingly when preparing 2024/25 figures.

### 4. Latest Information

The provisional 2024/25 allocations based on October 2022 data are shown in the table below:

	2023-24 (as per Dec 21)	Provisional 2024/25 (based on Oct 22 Data)	Potential Change	
			£	%
Schools Block #	226,441,908	229,722,222	3,280,314	1.45%
High Needs Block	51,072,682	53,325,176	2,252,494	4.41%
Central School Services Block	2,268,989	2,167,198	- 101,791	-4.49%
TOTAL	279,783,579	285,214,596	5,431,017	1.94%
Early Years Block - not yet available for 24/25	19,157,114	n/a	-	-
# The 2024/25 figure does not include the LA Growth Fund element - which is not yet available - if in line with last year £896k this would add 0.39% to the % increase				

It should be noted that, subsequent to the last Schools Forum meeting held on 27 September 2023, the ESFA issued an apology, revised NFF figures and provisional allocations for 2024/25 again based on October 2022 data. The estimated reduction in funding to Northumberland is approximately £2 million (0.9%). The original and revised National Funding Formula values are provided at Appendix A.

As in previous years, it is stressed that these figures will be updated with reference to the October 2023 School Census data when the final figures are released in late December.

#### 5. Minimum Per Pupil Funding (MPPF)

The MPPF Levels have also been reduced in line with the above ESFA announcement, and revised figures are provided in the table below :

Phase	2023/24 MPPF Level	Revised Increase	2024/25 Original MPPF Level	2024/25 Revised MPPF Level
Primary	£4,405	£143 (2.8%) MSAG + £62 (1.4%) inc	£4,665	£4,610
KS3	£5,503	£186 (2.9%) MSAG + £82 (1.5%) inc	£5,824	£5,771 #
KS4	£6,033	£208 (3.0%) MSAG + £90 (1.5%) inc	£6,389	£6,331 #

# the secondary value of £5,995 is a weighted average of the KS3 (3/5) and KS4 (2/5) figures

#### 6. Transfer from Schools Block

In November 2022, the local authority consulted with both the Schools Forum and wider schools and requested agreement to up to a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2023/24. Subsequently, after the final settlement was received in December 2022 it was decided that a 0.25% transfer would be taken, enabling the NFF values to be met in full for all schools for 2023/24. It should be noted however that the transfer was only possible through use of the growth element with the NFF which is allocated to the local authority and not individual schools.



element is intended. While the 4.5% increase is larger than last year's 2% increase for the ongoing responsibilities element, this still does not meet pay and price pressures arising from the NJC award.

	2023/24 (actual)	2024/25 (provisional)	Change	
			£	%
Ongoing Responsibilities	£1,433,789	£1,499,038	+£65,249	+4.5%
Historic Commitments	£835,200	£668,160	-£167,040	-20.0%
<b>TOTAL CSSB</b>	<b>£ 2,268,989</b>	<b>£ 2,167,198</b>	<b>-£180,616</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>

#### 9. Early Years Block

No information for Northumberland is available yet in relation to Early Years funding, in line with previous years. Details of the 2024/25 EY funding will be received in December together with the rest of the DSG information for 2024/25.

#### 10. De-delegation

De-delegation is the process by which the relevant maintained school members of Schools Forum can agree to have funding deducted at source from maintained schools for certain services as specified by the DfE. For academies to access these services, they will need to agree to buy in, either on an individual or a multi academy trust level.

For 2023/24, de-delegation was agreed in respect of the following services:

- Contingency for costs arising from reorganisation or restructuring;
- Free School Meal eligibility checking;
- Trade union facility time; and
- Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners;

It is anticipated that de-delegation will again be sought in respect of these services.

#### 11. Disapplication Request in respect of Coquet Partnership Reorganisation

As you are all aware, in September 2024, James Calvert Spence College will not have a Year 5 intake, but the 5 feeder First Schools will retain their Year 4 students into Year 5 as part of the 2 year transition to becoming Primary Schools. This process will be repeated in September 2026, when the Year 5 students will continue into Year 6 in the Primary School, Year 4 retained into Year 5 in the Primary Schools, at which point James Calvert Spence College will operate in line with a more traditional secondary Year 7 to Year 13 model.

To reflect this, rather than the standard funding formula lagged model, James Calvert Spence College will be funded for April to August 2024 (5/12 of the year) in respect of the Year 6

students for 2024/25, and from September 2024 to March 2025 (7/12 of the year), the First Schools will receive further funding in 2024/25 for their current Year 4 students, as measured at the October 2023 school census, to reflect the fact they will be retained those students from September 2024. It is estimated that £232,172 will be redistributed from James Calvert Spence College to the Feeder Primary schools in respect of this adjustment.

This required a disapplication request to be made to the ESFA, and the deadline for the submission of these requests was Friday 17 November. A disapplication request has been made on that basis (copy attached at Appendix B), on the understanding that we will subsequently report the Schools Forum position to the ESFA.

**Schools Forum's support of the Disapplication Request is requested on that basis.**

## **12. Other Information**

In November 2022, Schools Forum was briefed as to the proposed introduction of a standardised formulaic report for the **split site factor**, affecting 4 Northumberland Schools. Schools receive a £53,700 lump sum payment for each of their additional eligible sites – up to a maximum of three additional sites. On top of that, schools whose sites are separated by more than 100 meters receive distance funding. The distance funding varies depending on how far apart the sites are, up to a maximum of £26,900 for sites which are at least 500 metres away from the main site. This approach is mandatory for 2024/25

**Capping and Scaling** continues to be an option for 2024/25, but we should seek to limit it's impact where possible, thereby allowing Schools to retain as much funding formula gains as possible. However given the uncertainty it is proposed that we continue to consider this as a potential option. This is also consistent with the response to the School Consultation exercise last December where 7 of the 8 responses were in favour of retaining the potential use of capping and scaling as part of the 2023/24 School Budget setting process.

## **13. Next Steps:**

Following any comments received today, the intention is also to consult with schools ahead of the final budget setting report to Cabinet. The consultation is proposed to run from Thursday 23 November to 12.00 noon on Monday 12 December. A copy of the draft consultation paper is attached for your consideration in Appendix C. The results of the consultation and final recommendations to Cabinet will be reported back to the January 2023 Schools Forum meeting.

Because of the short timescales between receiving the final 2024/25 DSG settlement in December, the preparation of a report to the Cabinet meeting on 16 January 2024 and the submission of the final figures to the ESFA by 22 January 2024, delegated powers are sought for the Executive Director for Childrens Services and Lead Member for Children's Services to set the final figures, in line with the principles and illustrative figures outlined in this report.

As reflected in the recommendations the Cabinet report will seek delegated powers to agree the final values, there will be reported to the Schools Forum meeting on 17 January 2024 prior to submission to the ESFA by 22 January 2024.

**14. Summary and Conclusions:**

The support of Schools Forum in relation to 2024/25 School Funding is requested in line with the recommendations in section 2 of this report, with regard to the principles to be adopted for the setting of the DSG for 2024/25. Further information will be provided to the January and February 2024 meetings once the final 2023/24 DSG settlement has been received in December 2023, but the views of School Forum are required at this stage to enable the appropriate report seeking approval to go to Cabinet in January 2024, as has been the case in previous years.

**Bruce Parvin**

**Education and Skills Funding Manager**

**16 November 2023**

## Factor values and total spend in 2024-25

Original July 2023

	Unit Values	Total Funding (incl. ACA)	Proportion of core total
<b>Basic per pupil Funding</b>		<b>£33,696m</b>	<b>75.7%</b>
<b>Basic entitlement</b>		<b>£33,505m</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
Primary basic entitlement	£3,597	£16,419m	36.9%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,072	£9,904m	22.2%
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,717	£7,183m	16.1%
<b>Minimum per pupil</b>		<b>£191m</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Primary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£4,655	£150m	0.3%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£6,050	£40m	0.1%
<b>Additional Needs Funding</b>		<b>£7,917m</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Deprivation</b>		<b>£4,511m</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
Primary FSM	£490	£540m	1.2%
Secondary FSM	£490	£376m	0.8%
Primary FSM6	£830	£951m	2.1%
Secondary FSM6	£1,210	£1,067m	2.4%
Primary IDACI A	£685	£104m	0.2%
Primary IDACI B	£520	£152m	0.3%
Primary IDACI C	£490	£140m	0.3%
Primary IDACI D	£450	£124m	0.3%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£147m	0.3%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£115m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI A	£950	£97m	0.2%
Secondary IDACI B	£750	£151m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI C	£695	£140m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI D	£635	£122m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI E	£455	£165m	0.4%
Secondary IDACI F	£345	£117m	0.3%
<b>Low Prior Attainment</b>		<b>£2,857m</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
Primary LPA	£1,185	£1,617m	3.6%
Secondary LPA	£1,790	£1,240m	2.8%
<b>English as an Additional Language</b>		<b>£488m</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Primary EAL	£595	£346m	0.8%
Secondary EAL	£1,605	£142m	0.3%
<b>Mobility</b>		<b>£61m</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Primary Mobility	£970	£48m	0.1%
Secondary Mobility	£1,395	£13m	0.0%
<b>School-Led Funding</b>		<b>£2,900m</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Lump Sum</b>		<b>£2,801m</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Primary lump sum	£135,700	£2,339m	5.3%
Secondary lump sum	£135,700	£462m	1.0%
<b>Sparsity</b>		<b>£99m</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Primary sparsity	£57,700	£94m	0.2%
Secondary sparsity	£83,900	£5m	0.0%
<b>Area Cost Adjustment:</b> Multiplier applied to basic entitlement, additional needs and school-led funding (It is included in the factor subtotals)		£1,123m	
<b>Core total (excl. funding floor and premises)</b>		<b>£44,513m</b>	
<b>Floor</b>		<b>£223m</b>	
Primary floor funding		£109m	
Secondary floor funding		£114m	
<b>Premises</b>		<b>£595m</b>	
Split sites	£81,400	£33m	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£45,331m.</b>	

## Factor values and total spend in 2024-25

(revised Oct 2023)

	Unit Values	Total Funding (incl. ACA)	Proportion of core total
<b>Basic per pupil Funding</b>		<b>£33,368m</b>	<b>75.7%</b>
<b>Basic entitlement</b>		<b>£33,177m</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
Primary basic entitlement	£3,562	£16,259m	36.9%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,022	£9,806m	22.2%
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,661	£7,112m	16.1%
<b>Minimum per pupil</b>		<b>£190m</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Primary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£4,610	£149m	0.3%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£5,995	£41m	0.1%
<b>Additional Needs Funding</b>		<b>£7,848m</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Deprivation</b>		<b>£4,477m</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
Primary FSM	£490	£541m	1.2%
Secondary FSM	£490	£376m	0.9%
Primary FSM6	£820	£940m	2.1%
Secondary FSM6	£1,200	£1,058m	2.4%
Primary IDACI A	£680	£104m	0.2%
Primary IDACI B	£515	£151m	0.3%
Primary IDACI C	£485	£139m	0.3%
Primary IDACI D	£445	£122m	0.3%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£147m	0.3%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£115m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI A	£945	£97m	0.2%
Secondary IDACI B	£740	£150m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI C	£690	£139m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI D	£630	£121m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI E	£450	£163m	0.4%
Secondary IDACI F	£340	£115m	0.3%
<b>Low Prior Attainment</b>		<b>£2,826m</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
Primary LPA	£1,170	£1,596m	3.6%
Secondary LPA	£1,775	£1,230m	2.8%
<b>English as an Additional Language</b>		<b>£484m</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Primary EAL	£590	£343m	0.8%
Secondary EAL	£1,585	£141m	0.3%
<b>Mobility</b>		<b>£61m</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Primary Mobility	£960	£47m	0.1%
Secondary Mobility	£1,380	£13m	0.0%
<b>School-Led Funding</b>		<b>£2,872m</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Lump Sum</b>		<b>£2,774m</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Primary lump sum	£134,400	£2,316m	5.3%
Secondary lump sum	£134,400	£458m	1.0%
<b>Sparsity</b>		<b>£98m</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Primary sparsity	£57,100	£93m	0.2%
Secondary sparsity	£83,000	£5m	0.0%
<b>Area Cost Adjustment:</b> Multiplier applied to basic entitlement, additional needs and school-led funding (It is included in the factor subtotals)		£1,112m	
<b>Core total (excl. funding floor and premises)</b>		<b>£44,088m</b>	
<b>Floor</b>		<b>£277m</b>	
Primary floor funding		£138m	
Secondary floor funding		£138m	
<b>Premises</b>		<b>£597m</b>	
Split sites	£80,600	£33m	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£44,961m.</b>	





# Northumberland County Council

Appendix A

## COMPARISON OF FINAL 2022/23 AND POTENTIAL 2023/24 FORMULA VALUES FOR NFF AND NORTHUMBERLAND

Factor (all figures £)	NFF Values		NCC Values		Movement in NFF values 22/23 to 23/24	Movement in NCC values 22/23 to 23/24
	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	Potential 2023/24		
	col (b)	col (c)	col (d)	col (e)		
					2021/22	2021/22
					col (f) #	col (g) #
AWPU Primary	3,217	<b>3,217</b>	3,394	<b>3,394</b>	5.50%	5.50%
KS3	4,536	<b>4,536</b>	4,785	<b>4,785</b>	5.49%	5.49%
KS4	5,112	<b>5,112</b>	5,393	<b>5,393</b>	5.50%	5.50%
Lump Sum Primary	121,300	<b>121,300</b>	128,000	<b>128,000</b>	5.52%	5.52%
Middle	121,300	<b>121,300</b>	128,000	<b>128,000</b>	5.52%	5.52%
High/Secondary	121,300	<b>121,300</b>	128,000	<b>128,000</b>	5.52%	5.52%
Deprivation - Free School Meals Primary	470	<b>470</b>	480	<b>480</b>	2.13%	2.13%
Secondary	470	<b>470</b>	480	<b>480</b>	2.13%	2.13%
Deprivation – FSM6 Primary	590	<b>590</b>	705	<b>705</b>	19.49%	19.49%
Secondary	865	<b>865</b>	1030	<b>1030</b>	19.08%	19.08%
Deprivation – IDAC:						
Primary Band F	220	<b>220</b>	230	<b>230</b>	4.55%	4.55%
Band E	270	<b>270</b>	280	<b>280</b>	3.70%	3.70%
Band D	420	<b>420</b>	440	<b>440</b>	4.76%	4.76%
Band C	460	<b>460</b>	480	<b>480</b>	4.35%	4.35%
Band B	490	<b>490</b>	510	<b>510</b>	4.08%	4.08%
Band A	640	<b>640</b>	670	<b>670</b>	4.69%	4.69%
Secondary Band F	320	<b>320</b>	335	<b>335</b>	4.69%	4.69%
Band E	425	<b>425</b>	445	<b>445</b>	4.71%	4.71%
Band D	595	<b>595</b>	620	<b>620</b>	4.20%	4.20%
Band C	650	<b>650</b>	680	<b>680</b>	4.62%	4.62%
Band B	700	<b>700</b>	730	<b>730</b>	4.29%	4.29%
Band A	890	<b>890</b>	930	<b>930</b>	4.49%	4.49%
Low Attainment Primary	1,130	<b>1,130</b>	1,155	<b>1,155</b>	2.21%	2.21%
Secondary	1,710	<b>1,710</b>	1,750	<b>1,750</b>	2.34%	2.34%
EAL Primary	565	<b>565</b>	580	<b>580</b>	2.65%	2.65%
Secondary	1,530	<b>1,530</b>	1,565	<b>1,565</b>	2.29%	2.29%
MOBILITY : Primary	925	<b>463</b>	945	<b>945</b>	2.16%	104.10%
Secondary	1,330	<b>665</b>	1,360	<b>1,360</b>	2.26%	104.51%
SPARSITY(max): Primary	55,000	<b>55,000</b>	56,300	<b>56,300</b>	2.36%	2.36%
Middle	80,000	<b>80,000</b>	81,900	<b>81,900</b>	2.38%	2.38%
Secondary/All Through	80,000	<b>80,000</b>	81,900	<b>81,900</b>	2.38%	2.38%
<b>Capping</b>		<b>13%</b>				
<b>Scaling</b>		<b>50%</b>				
<b>Minimum Funding Guarantee</b>		<b>2%</b>		<b>0.5%</b>		
<i>(max of 0.5% dictated by ESFA for 2023/24)</i>						

### **National Funding Formula (NFF): Update and 2023/24 School Funding Consultation**

Previously Northumberland County Council consulted on its approach to the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) in Northumberland, following discussions at Schools Forum. The results of these discussions have consistently been to move in a phased or gradual approach to NFF values, reflecting the fact that historically Northumberland has maintained some values that were different to the NFF values. For 2022/23 Northumberland was in line with National Funding Formula figures for all values, with the exception of the Mobility Factor which was introduced at 50% of the NFF Value following the December 2021 consultation.

The results of the December 2021 consultation were reported to Schools Forum in January 2022 and are available on the Schools forum page [HERE](#) as part of the 19 January 2022 Full Agenda Pack.

Whereas previously no firm dates had been set by the Department for Education for the full move to a hard formula (where rates are set centrally), in July 2022 the DfE suggested this may be by 2027/28. This timescale is not expected to provide an issue for Northumberland.

Other information includes:

- School Supplementary Grant (SSG) paid separately in 2022/23 will be rolled into standard formula funding in 2023/24;
- Minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) levels continue to be determined centrally, the 2022/23 figures are £4,265 (primary) and £5,715 (secondary), as per the calculations below:

Phase	2022/23 MPPF Level	Increase	2023/24 MPPF Level
Primary	£4,265	£119 (2.8%) SSG + £21 (0.5%) inc	<b>£4,265</b>
KS3	£5,321	£155 (2.9%) SSG + £27 (0.5%) inc	<b>£5,503 #</b>
KS4	£5,831	£173 (3.0%) SSG + £29 (0.5%) inc	<b>£6,033 #</b>

- For 2023/24 Local authorities continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which protects schools on a per pupil basis from significant year to year changes in pupil characteristics (e.g. fall in FSM numbers) and provide a baseline level of increase in per pupil funding. For 2022/23 Northumberland set a figure of 2%, within the permitted range of +0.5% to +2%. For 2023/24, the permitted range has been reduced to 0% to +0.5%.
- With the approval of Schools Forum, local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block;

Further supporting information is available on the Council website at:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Consultations.aspx#schoolconsultations>

Schools' Forum agendas, minutes and reports are also available on the Council website at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Professionals/Forum.aspx>

Responses need to be received no later than **12.00 noon on Monday 12 December 2022**. Due to reporting deadlines in line with Department for Education requirements for the submission of information, responses received after this closing date will not be considered.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

## QUESTION 1: Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

The MFG is a way of giving schools a guaranteed minimum increase in funding per pupil each year. It works by comparing a school's level of funding per pupil from one year to the next on a like for like basis, and in such a way as to exclude funding that could distort the per pupil value that is the basis for the guarantee. The baseline for the calculation is intended to cover as much of a school's budget as possible but does not include rates (because they are funded in the formula on actuals) and lump sum allocations because they do not relate to pupil numbers. The MFG is how the ESFA protects individual schools from excessive year to year changes or falls in their formula funding (e.g., as a result of reducing levels of deprivation within a school). In 2021/22 Northumberland set its MFG at +2%, on a range of +0.5% and +2.0%. In 2021/22 & 2022/23 Schools Forum agreed with the proposal to set MFG at the maximum 2%, in order to increase the funding for those schools receiving the lowest level of per pupil funding increase. For 2023/24 the ESFA have restricted the range at which MFG can be set to between 0 to 0.5%. An increase over and above that would require a disapplication request to the ESFA, which is not believed to be practical given the timescales.

### At what level do you believe Northumberland's MFG should be set for 2023/24?

- 0.0% *(using 21/22 data 6 schools would benefit sharing £120,412)*
- 0.25% *(using 21/22 data 6 schools would benefit sharing £131,350)*
- 0.5% *(using 21/22 data 13 schools would benefit sharing £152,794)*

### In future years should a disapplication request be considered to the ESFA in order to increase the level at which the MFG can be set?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

## QUESTION 2: CAPPING AND SCALING INCREASES

The use of capping and scaling is a mechanism by which different increases under new formula values are averaged out in order to limit some gains and provide more funding for general distribution to schools via the formula values. Without the use of capping and scaling, formula funding values would need to be set at lower values. Northumberland has previously used capping and scaling for the School Block DSG, setting these values at 4% and 50% in 2021/22 but changing the capping level to 13% for 2022/23 respectively. Increasing the cap level reduces the influence of capping and scaling, meaning schools keep more of their formula gains, but means less funding is available to support other aspects of the funding formula. For 2022/23, this meant that any gains by Schools over 13% were reduced by 50% and redistributed via the funding mechanism. As Northumberland moves closer to the NFF, the need to use Capping and Scaling should reduce, however it remains a useful tool to ensure the distribution of a general level of increase via the funding formula.

### Do you support the potential use of capping and scaling as part of the 2023/24 School Budget setting process?

- Yes
- No



### **QUESTION 3 – Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block**

For 2022/23 the Schools Forum, and subsequently the consultation with Schools agreed a transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. The final figure taken was a transfer of 0.25%. After careful consideration, and in anticipation of significant High Needs pressures arising during 2022/23 and 2023/24, it is Northumberland's intention to again seek a reduced transfer of up to 0.25% (approx. £546,000) for 2023/24. This equates to approximately £14 per school age pupil in Northumberland.

**Do you support a Council's decision to seek a transfer of up to 0.25% (£546,000) from the Schools Block to the High Needs block for the financial year 2023/24, , particularly given the ongoing increasing rise in EHCP numbers, demand for Special School places including the opening of the Gilbert Ward Free Academy in September 2023 and ongoing free at the point of delivery offer for NIES Services?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

### **QUESTION 4 – REVIEW OF THE SPLIT SITE ELEMENT**

Further consultation information from the DfE on the Implementation of the Direct National Funding Formula is available [HERE](#) . One of the areas under further consideration is how the DfE can standardise the premises "Split Site" payment under the NFF.

Under the NFF it is proposed that a Split Site Factor is composed of two parts:

- A Basic element based on a split site as being defined as being separated either by a public road or railway line
- A Distance element, using a threshold of 0.3 miles (500 metres)

Furthermore, there is a proposal that the split site element is based on a 60% of the lump sum, currently the Northumberland figure is £62,267 or 48% of the lump sum. This figures has not been reviewed for a number of years. It is proposed to move this to 60% for 2023/24 which would be £76,800 subject to the funding being available.

This does not have any financial implications for other schools not in receipt of split site funding, as it is classified as a "Premises" factor and funded on the basis of previous years spend.

**Do you agree to the proposal that the "Split Site" payment made to 4 schools in Northumberland should be brought in line with the NFF proposals and be based on 75% of the NFF Lump Sum amount, subject to the funding being available?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

## FURTHER COMMENTS

Please use the box below for any other comments that you have in relation to the implementation of the NFF or this consultation exercise:

Responses need to be received no later than **12.00 noon on Monday 12 December 2022**. Due to reporting deadlines in line with Department for Education requirements for the submission of information, responses received after this closing date will not be considered.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

