

## **EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOL FUNDING 2016-17: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the Schools Forum with an analysis of the responses to the consultation on the local funding formula for 2016-17. This analysis should be used to inform their decisions regarding the recommended changes to the local funding formula for 2016-17, which will be reported to the County Council's Policy Committee for approval.

### **Information and Advice**

2. As outlined in the School Finance (2014) regulations, the local authority is required to consult its Schools Forum and its maintained schools, academies and any other parties affected by any proposed changes to the local funding formula, taking into account the permitted factors, criteria and regulations prescribed by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The consultation must include a demonstration of the effect of modelling the proposed changes on individual maintained schools and academies. In line with their prescribed timetable, the local funding formula for 2016-17 needs to be agreed and submitted to the EFA no later than 30 October 2015.
3. At the Schools Forum meeting on 15 September 2015 a draft consultation document and financial models were presented. These were agreed and the formal consultation on the proposals were held from 21 September 2015 to 9 October 2015.

### **Consultation responses**

4. A total of 123 responses were received to the consultation which was a response rate of 13.8%. Of these 44 were from schools (primary 41, secondary 3) and 79 from early years private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI's). The response rate for each sector was Primary 14.6%, Secondary 6.7% and PVI's 14%.
5. The consultation closed on the 9 October, 4 responses were received after that date and have not been counted.
6. An analysis of the responses received, along with a summary of the comments to each question are attached as **Appendix A**. There were also a large number of additional comments regarding the consultation which have been provided in full at **Appendix B**.

Schools Forum members are recommended to consider this analysis and use it to inform their decisions on the local funding formula for 2016-17 which will be recommended for approval by the County Council's Policy Committee on 11 November 2015.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

### **That the Schools Forum:**

- 1) Note the contents of the report; and
- 2) Consider the analysis of the consultation responses and comments received and use this to inform their decision on the recommended local funding formula for 2016-17.

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