

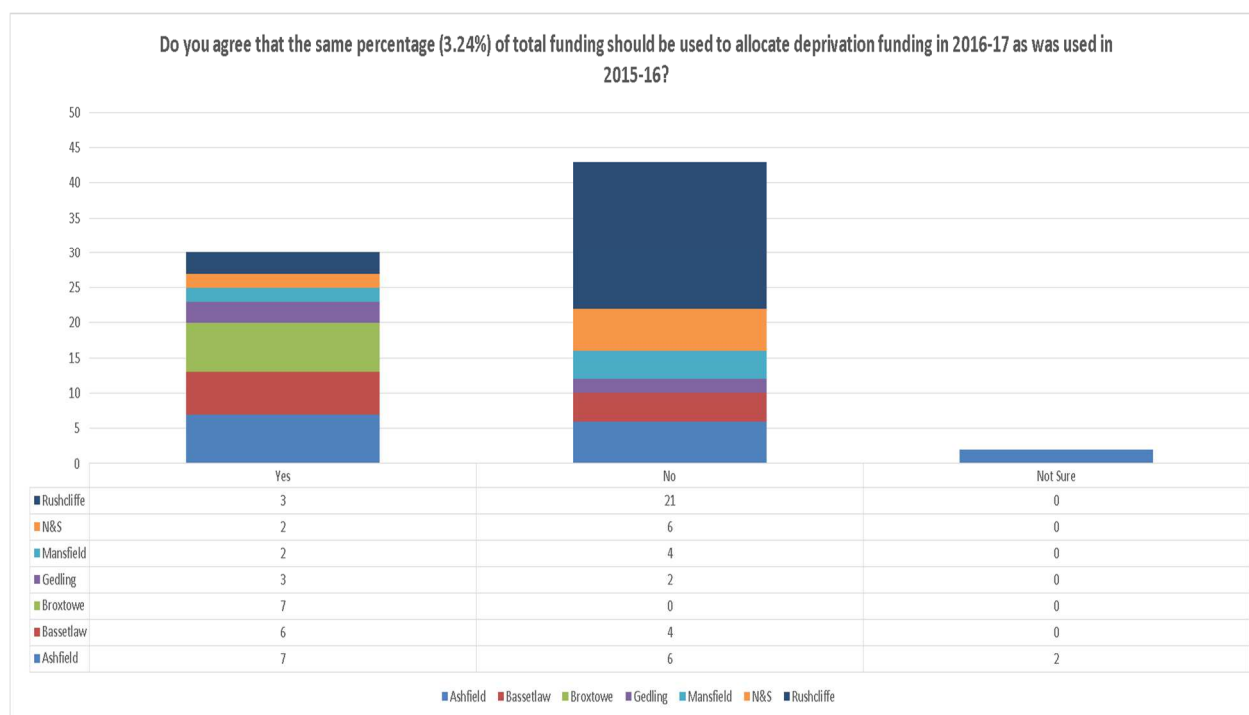
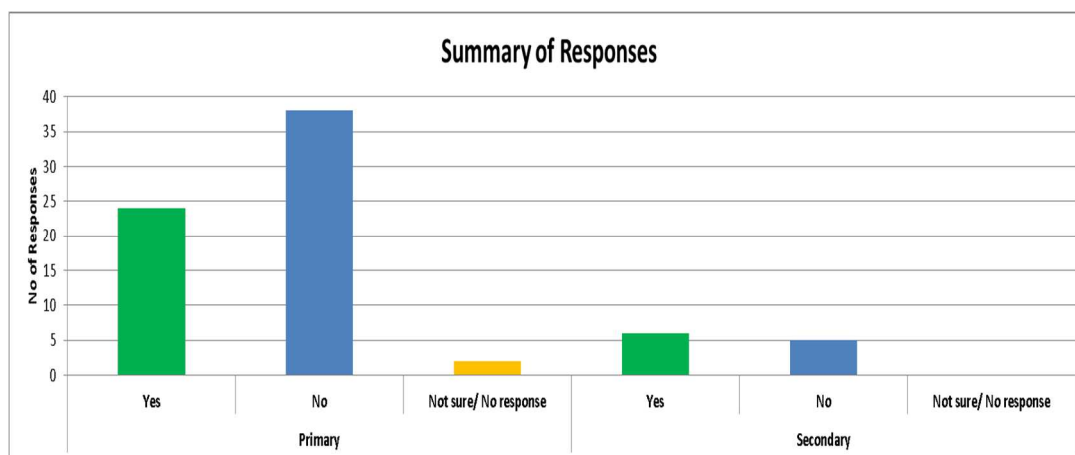
## 2016-17 Schools Local Funding Formula Consultation – Deprivation Factor

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**Question 1:** Do you agree that the same percentage (3.24%) of total funding should be used to allocate deprivation funding in 2016-17 as was used in 2015-16?

Primary			Secondary			Total			Total Responses
Yes	No	Not sure/ No response	Yes	No	Not sure/ No response	Yes	No	Not sure/ No response	
24	38	2	6	5	0	30	43	2	75
						40.0%	57.3%	2.7%	



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- Although pupil premium is allocated for deprivation/disadvantage, this does not alter the fact that Nottinghamshire is funding our most vulnerable to a lesser degree than the vast majority of local authorities nationally. Additionally, this group is a regional priority and focus of Ofsted and school's are increasingly being held to account for their progress and attainment; funding should take this into account
- This is one of the elements that is causing such variance in school funding in Notts. No school (even those in non-deprived areas) thinks schools in deprived and non- deprived areas should get the same funding. The schools in deprived areas do need to have more. However, at the moment the difference is too much and leaves the schools in non-deprived areas with so little per child on average that they are struggling to budget to maintain basic teaching and support staff. The pupil premium is then awarded on top of this so deprivation is being funded twice.

This is a national picture that the Education Select Committee have identified and written to Nicky Morgan about. Her response is that Local Authorities (via their forum and formula) have the powers to be able to address this until a national funding formula is put in place. Please can Notts take this on board and look to make funding disparity (before pupil premium allocations) smaller. It is very difficult for schools to be able to predict which elements of the formula are causing the large variance. **(11)**

- It is not possible for schools to be able to undertake this task as they don't have the models. **(8)**
- A correction to the current 'double funding' for deprivation needs to be made.
- Deprivation funding should be reduced to see fairer funding across all pupils in Nottinghamshire. Many schools and areas are penalised because of out of date bandings and also double funding when combined with the pupil premium allocations.
- Having studied the benchmark data I am shocked to see the level of funding that is currently provided for our most deprived children. Nottinghamshire is already one of the poorest funded in terms of the percentage allocation of budget linked to deprivation and a decrease in funding will only compound this issue. Within the East Midlands area, Nottinghamshire is the lowest funding LA with only Cumbria funding a smaller percentage amongst our statistical neighbours. I calculate a difference of approximately 400% between the funding for Nottinghamshire pupils and that of the highest funded LA. It would seem illogical to reduce funding having looked at this position. In my opinion there is actually a very clear case for increasing this figure in order to bring us more into line with both our geographical and statistical neighbours. It would be my view that there needs to be a full consultation at the start of the next financial year which would allow us to look in greater detail at the current position and to take the benchmarking data fully into consideration. **(4)**
- Research from the Sutton Trust and EEF shows that poor pupils living in deprived areas perform less well than those poor pupils living in affluent areas. It is essential therefore that funding be in place to help schools in areas of deprivation are resourced to support their pupils. Not all their pupils are in receipt of pupil premium. Pupil premium is child specific, schools are accountable for this funding separately and it should not be part of this equation. **(4)**
- Since the funding formula has been changed schools in areas of deprivation have lost funding. The figures you present here are biased and in my opinion intended to encourage schools to adopt changes that decrease deprivation funding. Why have Pupil Premium allocations been included? This is a different source of funding. Why are you considering including a funding per pupil that includes the Pupil Premium allocation when this funding stream is not for all pupils? This clearly is misleading! Is the intention to justify reducing deprivation funding by implying that the short fall will be made up by Pupil Premium funding? As we all know it was not intended for that purpose. PP money was always in addition to per pupil funding and needs to remain that way. My school will potentially lose a significant amount of money and I really don't know how that will assist the local authority with their closing the gap agenda. Reducing funding for vulnerable groups of children is not a good strategy for raising attainment among vulnerable groups. If we adopt model E, schools serving a areas of high deprivation would without minimum funding guarantee lose £150,000 from their budget. **(4)**
- The Early Years funding for deprivation has lowered in response to pupil premium but not for primary or secondary schools. Why is this? There is an inequality in approach from the LA. I understand and agree that schools in deprived areas should receive more funding but feel the current system is unfair. Having looked at the models, it seems that deprivation is not the only factor that leads to an inequality. I feel that it is not the job of Headteachers to second guess this, the LA should be investigating all areas in funding and providing more information for us and the forum to consider. Something that Nicky Morgan has asked LAs to do. Comparing the details of specific elements of the Notts formula to those of other similar authorities is not an argument for not making changes. It must be recognised the initial funding each LA gets is very different as is the number of schools in each LA and their profile (size of schools, contrasts in deprivation, etc). It is the outcome of the formula that needs to be considered not the mechanics of it. The mechanics should be altered to make the outcome that is desired.
- The financial modelling shows that any of the options to either increase or decrease the deprivation factor for the next financial year produce significant losses (and gains) for schools across Nottinghamshire. The length of the consultation does not allow schools enough time to consider or plan for the budgetary impact of these. **(8)**

### **Summary of Secondary School Comments**

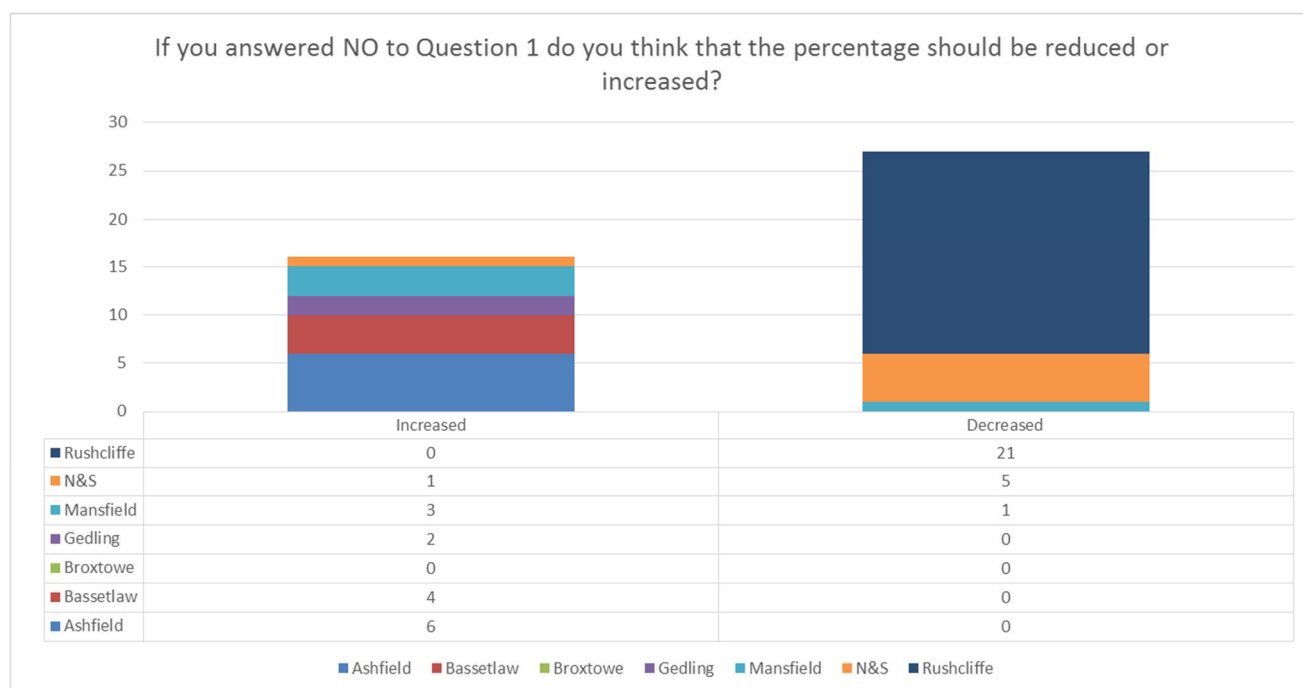
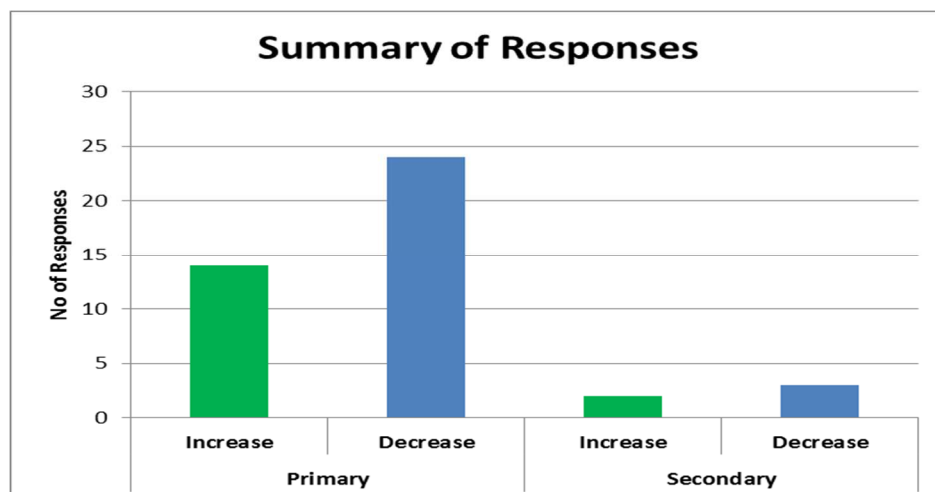
- If the status quo is maintained then the gap between the poorest and best funded secondary school is £1,402 per pupil (excluding Vision and Sherwood e-act how appear to be outliers). This increases to £1,590 per pupil when you take into account the pupil premium. Should we be satisfied with that? If my school received the same per pupil funding as a school less than miles from us serving a similar catchment area we would see our

budget increase by £245,804 a year. This is a difference of 8 teachers – which would represent an 11% increase in our teaching complement. I think there is a moral imperative for the LA to seek to do everything within their power to close the gaps in per pupil funding. I support the change to the deprivation % - not because it is the solution. I support it because it is a step in the right direction. There is still much more to be done. The consultation paper focuses absolutely on the factors in comparison to statistical neighbours and national data. However, the issue that should be being looked at is the outcomes of this funding formula. Hiding behind comparative data does not solve the problem that exists.

- Maintenance of current budgets will help medium term financial planning, there has been enough change / volatility in the system in the last 6 years.

**Question 2:** If you answered NO to Question 1 do you think that the percentage should be reduced or increased?

Primary		Secondary		Total		Total Responses
Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	
14	24	2	3	16	27	43
				37.2%	62.8%	



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- I can understand that schools with low FSM figures would feel that this should be reduced, however I have to consider my school which has experienced a significant increase in the proportion of pupils with FSM over the past few years. Even with the pupil premium funding that we receive we are struggling to meet all their needs and are going to have to make significant cuts in the next budget.
- At the moment the difference is too much and leaves the schools in non-deprived areas with so little per child on average that they are struggling to budget to maintain basic teaching and support staff. The pupil premium is then awarded on top of this so deprivation is being funded twice. **(9)**
- Since the funding formula has been changed schools in areas of deprivation have lost funding, and now we are potentially going to lose yet more funding.

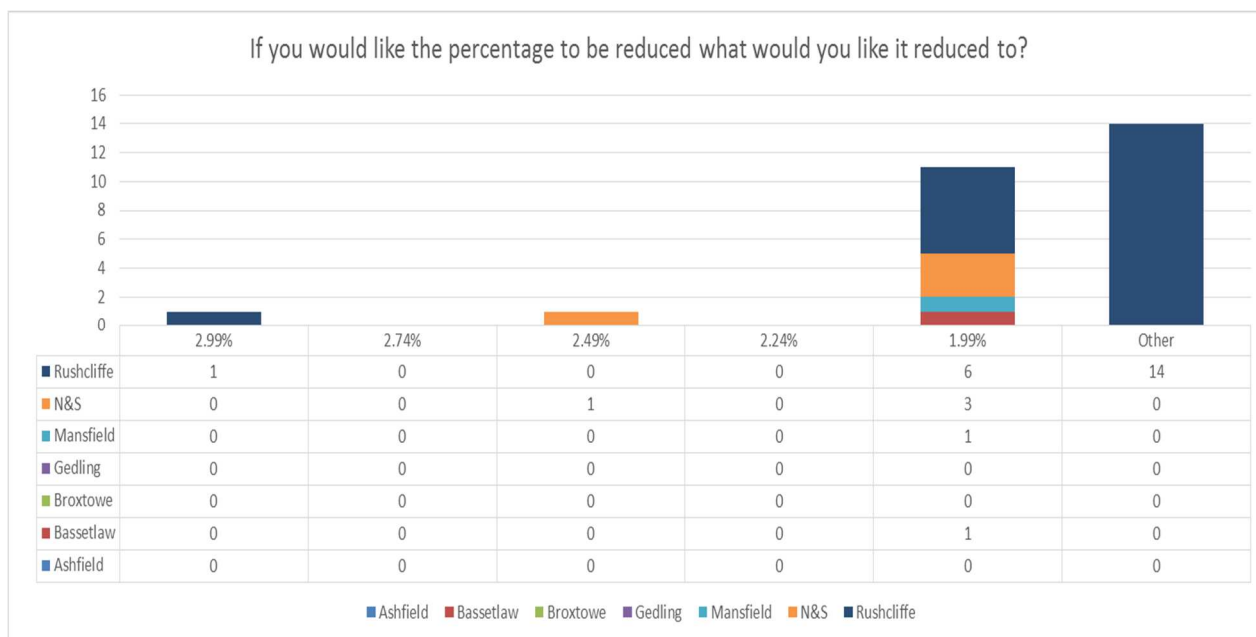
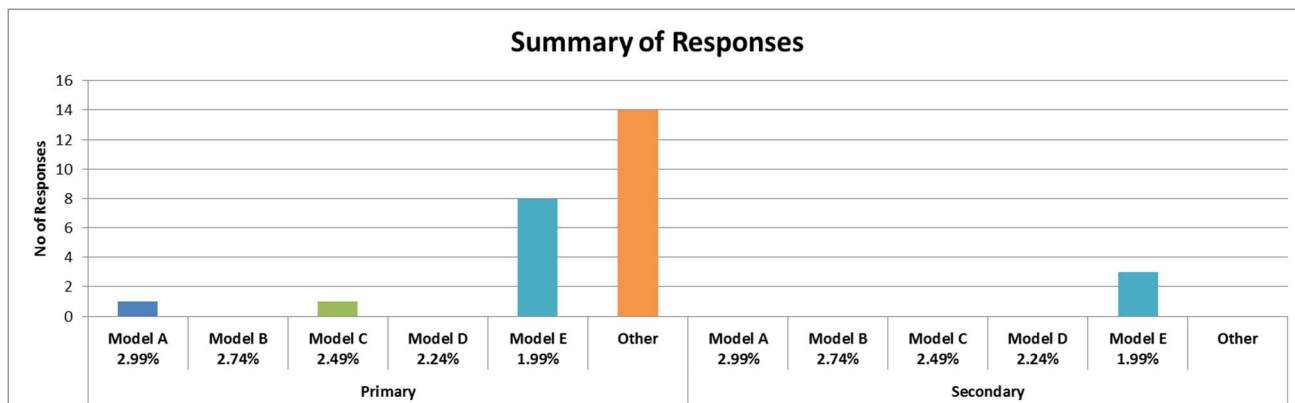
- Deprivation is funded in a more targeted way via the Pupil Premium. This allocation double funds deprivation. The comparisons to other Local Authorities are not especially useful without knowing more about the impact on individual school budgets.
- In comparison to other local authorities the 3.24% appears to be lower for Nottinghamshire County Council and therefore any increase would be beneficial. **(3)**
- Schools receive pupil premium allocations and I would prefer this allocation to be increased and deprivation reduced to ensure all pupils across Nottinghamshire are funded in a fairer format. **(3)**
- It is imperative that schools with high proportions of disadvantaged pupils continue to receive adequate funding to meet the needs of these pupils. Every LA led head teacher briefing and much of the CPD I have attended over the past few years has (rightly) emphasised the Closing the Gap agenda and schools are rigorously held to account on this score. This message from the LA seems to be at variance with the very low percentage of total funding allocated to the deprivation factor, even more so in comparison with other neighbouring authorities and County Councils. With reference to the comments already received by the LA concerning PP allocations and IDACI funding, PP is a separate funding stream and allocated to individual eligible pupils. The progress and attainment of these pupils has to be accounted for individually. To put PP funding into the school's budget share and allocate to all pupils would show a misinterpretation of its purpose. In addition many disadvantaged pupils enter our school at such low levels in all areas that the current level of deprivation funding is insufficient to fund the projects we know would support them and their families. Sited as it is in an area of major disadvantage our school has already used its school budget share to bolster many initiatives which otherwise would not have happened. In many of your proposed models our school, and schools serving areas like ours, will, without the minimum funding guarantee, will receive a lower level of funding. Our school has a strong track record of narrowing, and in many cases closing, the gap precisely because PP and deprivation funding has been spent effectively and to target our most needy children, not only in their academic progress and attainment but, crucially in their emotional well-being and life skills. Should this funding be reduced we would not be able to maintain many of our interventions, initiatives and, indeed, staffing levels. The resulting effect on attainment and progress for vulnerable children goes without saying. I urge the LA to consider carefully their actions in regard to disadvantaged pupils and the potential outcomes for these pupils should funding be lowered further.
- Nottinghamshire already has the lowest percentage of funding allocated to deprivation of all its East Midlands neighbours which range from 3.61% - 15.32%. It is also the second lowest of ALL County Councils. Reducing the percentage of funding allocated to deprivation will mean more money is allocated to AWPU and this could help close the gap between the highest and lowest funded schools. However, the whole point of a funding formula is NOT to ensure all schools receive similar amounts of funding. A formula is there to ensure that funds are allocated fairly so that ALL schools have the ability to deliver a high quality service to their pupils, their families and the community. All schools have a duty to ensure equality and must ensure all children are given equal opportunities and have the best possible start in life.  
As the Head Teacher of a school in an area of significant deprivation with 60%+ Ever6 FSM, I can confirm that schools like my own desperately need more of the total funding allocated to deprivation. Over a third of the children in our school have involvement from external agencies, which means a significant amount of my staff and my time is allocated to attending CIN, ICPC, RCPC, PEP and LAC meetings. Many of our children who are in receipt of FSM have parents who have extremely poor literacy and numeracy skills, and as a result I have employed a Parent Support Advisor to assist these families in applying for various streams of additional support to improve both theirs and their children's future. Pupil premium is used to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children, but it is essential to take into account all these other factors that have an impact on how our school budget is spent in relation to supporting our disadvantaged children. The government introduced the "closing the gap" agenda to reduce the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children. How can schools be expected to "narrow the gap" when such a low percentage of the overall funding being is allocated to deprivation? **(3)**
- All schools, advantaged/ disadvantaged, deprived/ non-deprived recognise variation in funding as appropriate dependent on circumstances and context. The schools in deprived areas do need to have more. This should, however, not be to such a degree that schools in more advantaged areas, Rushcliffe for example, then struggle to meet the cost of funding the school and the learning of its pupils. It is not untypical that schools in disadvantaged circumstances receive a significantly greater pupil premium alongside a more favourable deprivation funding..I cannot agree with a formula that allows the lowest funded schools to receive 62% of the funding the highest gets per child, despite still needing to provide the same levels of staffing.

### **Summary of Secondary School Comments**

- In comparison to other local authorities the 3.24% appears to be lower for Nottinghamshire County Council and therefore any increase would be beneficial. **(2)**
- If the deprivation % is decreased then the gap between the best and worst funded secondary schools remains large but does start to reduce. Increasing the deprivation factor increases the gap between the lowest and highest funded secondary schools. This is surely not acceptable.

Question 3: If you would like the percentage to be reduced what would you like it reduced to?

Primary						Secondary						Total						
Model A 2.99%	Model B 2.74%	Model C 2.49%	Model D 2.24%	Model E 1.99%	Other	Model A 2.99%	Model B 2.74%	Model C 2.49%	Model D 2.24%	Model E 1.99%	Other	Model A 2.99%	Model B 2.74%	Model C 2.49%	Model D 2.24%	Model E 1.99%	Other	Total
1	0	1	0	8	14	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	11	14	27
												3.7%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	40.7%	51.9%	



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- It would need to be less than 1.99% if it were to make any impact on the disparity that currently exists in Notts because any funding taken from the deprivation factor gets divided by all schools via AWPU. **(15)**
- Model E would be a much fairer way of distributing the pupil allocations.

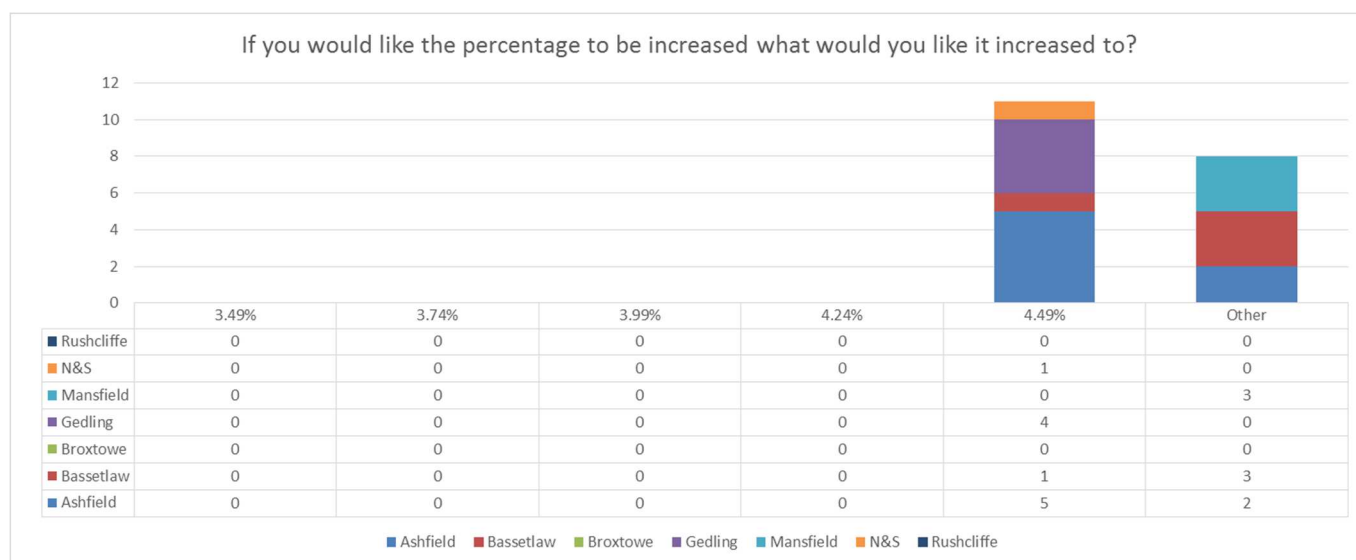
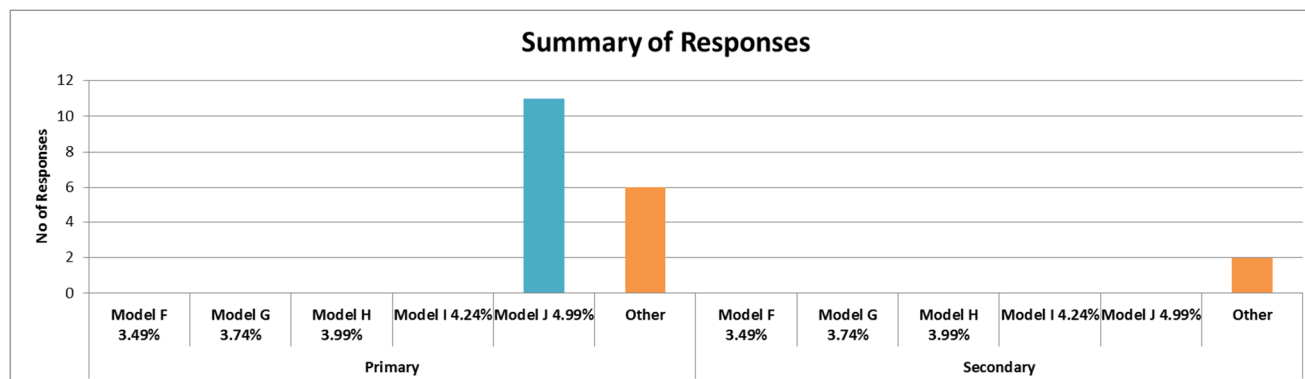
### Summary of Secondary School Comments

- Any model should reduce the current situation of double funding of deprivation due to pupil premium
- Model E reduces the gap between the worst and best funded secondary schools (excluding outliers) to £1365 per pupil - £1553 taking into account the pupil premium. This reduces the gap by £37 per pupil. It would have been helpful to see further reductions modelled and so I would reluctantly propose model E. Again, this does not solve the problem of the huge gap in funding. It is, however, a step in the right direction.



**Question 4:** If you would like the percentage to be increased what would you like it increased to?

Primary						Secondary						Total							
Model F 3.49%	Model G 3.74%	Model H 3.99%	Model I 4.24%	Model J 4.99%	Other	Model F 3.49%	Model G 3.74%	Model H 3.99%	Model I 4.24%	Model J 4.99%	Other	Model F 3.49%	Model G 3.74%	Model H 3.99%	Model I 4.24%	Model J 4.99%	Other	Total	
0	0	0	0	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	8	19	
															0.0%	57.9%	42.1%		



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

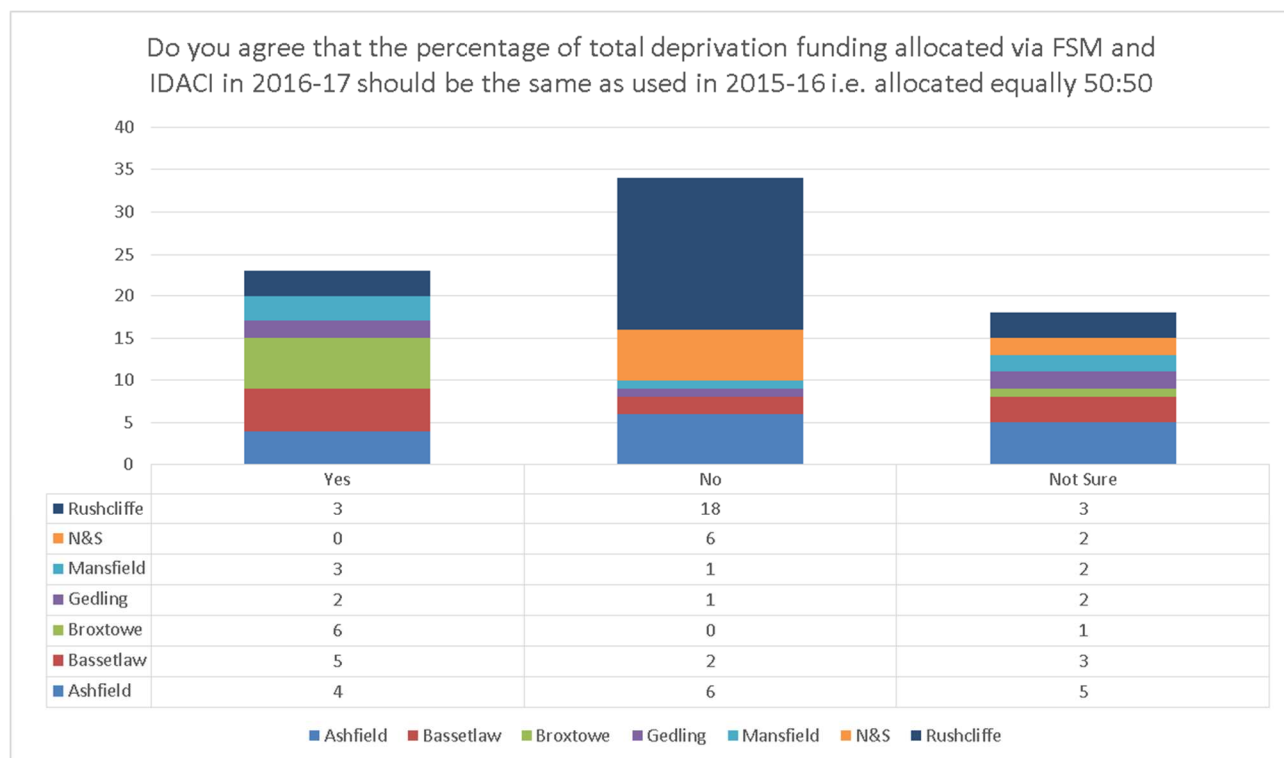
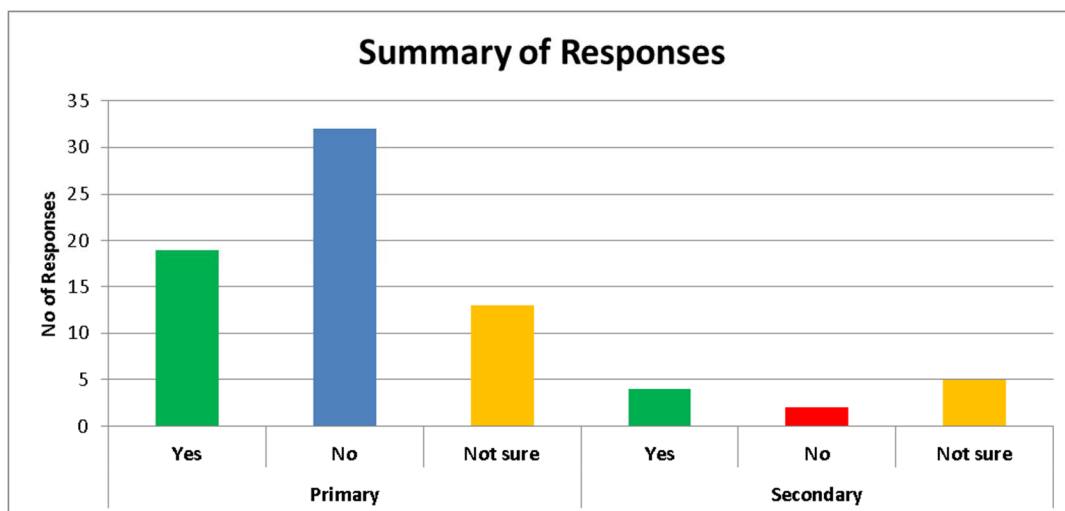
- At a minimum, the increase should be at least the mid-point range of our statistical neighbours as shown on graph 2 of the consultation document (5.92% - 5.96%). (2)
- Any increase would be deemed to be beneficial. (3)
- Model J from the choices would bring Nottinghamshire more in line with both Lincolnshire & Derbyshire - preferably 7.5%. (2)
- How can we close the gap without funding those schools with the highest numbers of disadvantaged pupils? (5)
- Increasing the percentage to 4.49% will mean that schools who have significantly higher numbers of FSM children, and serve families who live in deprived areas will receive more funding. This increase in funding will help tackle inequality and make sure that disadvantaged children get the extra support they need to succeed and reach their potential, it will also allow schools to provide more resources to supporting the children and their families. The spreadsheet shows that if the percentage of deprivation funding increases to 4.49% then many schools will lose money but maybe this is an indication that under the current funding formula those schools are receiving more.

### Summary of Secondary School Comments

- Any increase would be deemed to be beneficial.

**Question 5:** Do you agree that the percentage of total deprivation funding allocated via FSM and IDACI in 2016-17 should be the same as used in 2015-16 i.e. allocated equally 50/50?

Primary			Secondary			Total			Total Responses
Yes	No	Not sure	Yes	No	Not sure	Yes	No	Not sure	
19	32	13	4	2	5	23	34	18	75
						30.7%	45.3%	24.0%	



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- Pockets of deprived housing in affluent areas are not recognised by IDACI values as they are outweighed when finding an average in a postcode. FSM is about individual pupils. **(12)**
- FSM is a crude way of allocating funding for deprivation. Many families live below the poverty line yet are not eligible to claim free school meals. A number of eligible parents don't claim free school meals. The IDACI is a more accurate indicator of deprivation. **(5)**
- Having reviewed the spreadsheets for the schools it would appear that the current allocation based on 50/50 is fair to all. **(3)**

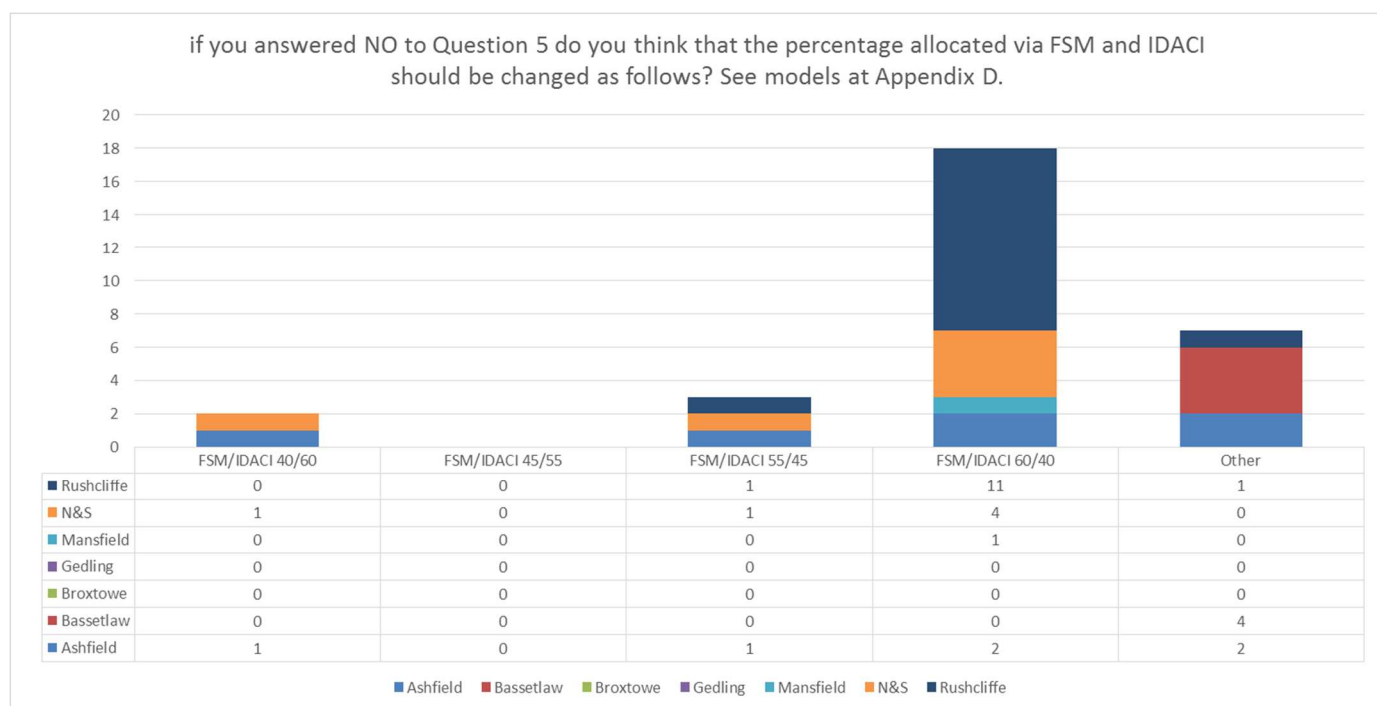
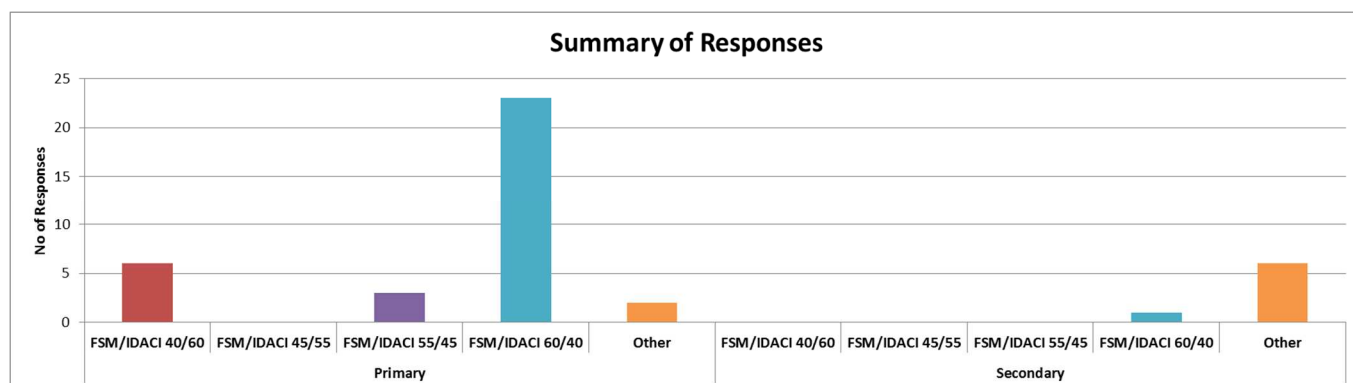
- The accuracy of the IDACI bands would need to be assessed to decide on the percentage allocated. I know that the current figures are based on records taken from 2010 and our catchment has undergone major changes since then with a significant increase in the amount of deprived families living in newly built social housing. This has had a massive impact on the local community but would not be reflected in our IDACI banding. If more was allocated based on FSM this would possibly be a more up to date measure of the true deprivation of communities.
- The Nottinghamshire allocation via IDACI is significantly different than the basis used within the Government's Fair Funding Formula. We believe that it would be sensible to retain a significant proportion of the formula for allocation via IDACI but that no Nottinghamshire Band should be higher than the National Formula. Reduction in higher band allowances would allow other lower bands to rise. It would be useful if the Nottinghamshire formula transitions over time to be closer to the National model. If this is not possible a move of more money to FSM may be an alternative, however it would be preferable to match the National model.
- IDACI complements FSM and puts resources into families who are just above the FSM entitlement and require support.(5)
- Nottinghamshire needs a full and fair consultation at the start of the next financial year with proposals to increase this funding in order to ensure that the most vulnerable pupils in the LA have the opportunities that they need and that are so frequently promoted and discussed.(12)

### **Summary of Secondary School Comments**

- Maintenance of current budgets will help medium term financial planning, there has been enough change / volatility in the system in the last 6 years.
- Having reviewed the spreadsheets for the schools it would appear that the current allocation based on 50/50 is fair to all.
- The Nottinghamshire allocation via IDACI is significantly different than the basis used within the Government's Fair Funding Formula. We believe that it would be sensible to retain a significant proportion of the formula for allocation via IDACI but that no Nottinghamshire Band should be higher than the National Formula. Reduction in higher band allowances would allow other lower bands to rise. It would be useful if the Nottinghamshire formula transitions over time to be closer to the National model. If this is not possible a move of more money to FSM may be an alternative, however it would be preferable to match the National model.(3)

**Question 6:** If you answered NO to Question 5 do you think that the percentage allocated via FSM and IDACI should be changed as follows?

Primary					Secondary					Total					Total
FSM/IDACI 40/60	FSM/IDACI 45/55	FSM/IDACI 55/45	FSM/IDACI 60/40	Other	FSM/IDACI 40/60	FSM/IDACI 45/55	FSM/IDACI 55/45	FSM/IDACI 60/40	Other	FSM/IDACI 40/60	FSM/IDACI 45/55	FSM/IDACI 55/45	FSM/IDACI 60/40	Other	
6	0	3	23	2	0	0	0	1	6	6	0	3	24	8	41
										14.6%	0.0%	7.3%	58.5%	19.5%	



### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- Pockets of deprived housing in affluent areas are not recognised by IDACI values as they are outweighed when finding an average in a postcode. FSM is about individual pupils.(10)
- My catchment has families who have strived to move out of the IDACI SOA, yet still receive FSM. These are not represented in my figures or budget. They are marginally better off, but it would not appear so in their household budget to allow for school visits, music or sports lessons or holidays.
- The Nottinghamshire allocation via IDACI is significantly different than the basis used within the Government's Fair Funding Formula. We believe that it would be sensible to retain a significant proportion of the formula for allocation via IDACI but that no Nottinghamshire Band should be higher than the National Formula. Reduction in higher band allowances would allow other lower bands to rise. It would be useful if the Nottinghamshire formula transitions over time to be closer to the National model. If this is not possible a move of more money to FSM may be an alternative, however it would be preferable to match the National model.

### **Summary of Secondary School Comments**

- The Nottinghamshire allocation via IDACI is significantly different than the basis used within the Government's Fair Funding Formula. We believe that it would be sensible to retain a significant proportion of the formula for allocation via IDACI but that no Nottinghamshire Band should be higher than the National Formula. Reduction in higher band allowances would allow other lower bands to rise. It would be useful if the Nottinghamshire formula transitions over time to be closer to the National model. If this is not possible a move of more money to FSM may be an alternative, however it would be preferable to match the National model.
- IDACI may hide small areas of deprivation in some areas. 100% FSM or FSM6 would be a fairer way of distributing the funding.

## Additional Comments.

### Summary of Primary Schools Comments

- Disadvantaged pupils are a regional priority for Ofsted but we're currently funding (through this stream) these pupils at a level lower than our neighbours, statistical neighbours and virtually all local authorities nationally. This doesn't truly demonstrate Nottinghamshire LA's commitment to improving outcomes for this vulnerable group.
- I also think that comparisons with statistical neighbours can be misleading as it doesn't take into account the range of deprivation within the authorities and only represents it as a mean. I fully accept and support the concept that schools in more deprived areas should receive additional funding to help them close the gap between FSM and non-FSM children. However, I think that the level of funding allocated to the deprivation factor has not been altered to take into account Pupil Premium funding and that this double funding has shifted the balance too far in favour of schools in deprived areas. The per pupil funding difference between children at schools in areas of deprivation and those in more affluent areas is enormous and this needs to be addressed either by the approach consulted on here or by another method.
- Infant and Nursery schools do not appear to be fairly represented in this financial measure and are unfairly penalised. The IDACI site shows my school numbers as including N1 and N2 (nursery children), yet currently we have no way of measuring whether these children are FSM or not. It also does not consider how many of them live in poverty, unless they have been part of the two year old pilot.
- The way in which the IDACI pot is split needs to be looked at. The table that shows this split leaves people thinking that a child in IDACI bands 1-4 gets half the funding of a child in bands 5-6. This is not the case. A child in bands 5-6 gets £1271 (based on 2015/16 funding models) of extra on top of AWPU and other elements whereas the child in bands 1-4 only gets £67 of extra funding. The band 5-6 child actually gets 19 times more extra funding than the band 1-4 child! **(10)**
- If we adopt any proposal to decrease funding for deprivation 87 out of 338 schools will be negatively affected. Therefore these schools are in the minority. So we are consulting schools about a proposal where the majority benefit at the expense of the minority. Do we really believe the benefitting majority would rather sacrifice a small increase in their own budgets to keep the status quo for the minority? I strongly object to the way the spreadsheet includes Pupil Premium additional funding. This is used to mislead the consultation.

As the DFE quotes:

"The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers."

Clearly the notion of double funding is not endorsed by the very people who initiated this funding stream. As a Local Authority we are concerned about the level of funding we receive. As Councillor John Peck, chairman of Children and Young People's Committee, said:

"We are not satisfied with our funding award as Nottinghamshire is currently middle ranking nationally for deprivation levels yet we are in the bottom third for school funding."

It does need to be noted that Nottinghamshire has the lowest percentage of funding allocated to deprivation of all its East Midlands neighbours and the second lowest of its statistical neighbours. It is also the second lowest of all County Councils. Therefore we don't think as an authority we get enough funding for schools considering the levels of deprivation in the County but with the funding we receive we choose to spend the second least amount of money on that deprivation and are consulting about spending even less. We also acknowledge that the gap between the progress and attainment of vulnerable groups of children and their peers is higher than National. **(6)**

- Next year It is very difficult for schools to predict which elements of the formula are causing the large variance between highest and lowest funded schools. Please can finance officers investigate this further next year in order to make funding fairer and less variable. Forum members need more financial models in order to understand the impact that formula changes make and they also need more time to discuss these with the schools they represent. Hopefully, a national funding formula will be applied in the near future which will address the issue of unfair funding on a countrywide level.
- I think we need more transparency over how the funding formula used by the County leads to such wide discrepancies in the AWPU – it clearly isn't just down to the two factors considered here.
- The Sutton Trust shows that deprived children do better in wealthy areas therefore funding needs to go to areas with less funding. Schools in deprived areas have significantly more issues around deprivation that cause

barriers to learning. The main issue being teachers often choose to apply for jobs in better areas. Therefore schools in deprived areas need more funding to secure teachers.

- It seems from our analysis that the differing IDACI rates compared to the current Nottinghamshire rates is one of the key factors for Nottinghamshire potentially gaining from a National Formula. It seems therefore beneficial to maintain the important role of IDACI with Nottinghamshire's funding formula and move transitionally to the national rates. We have suggested 2 approaches below:
  1. Each IDACI band is based on the National Value, however as this is unaffordable, that each band receives the same reduction eg, National Rate \* 50%. The actual % rate used being one that is affordable within the current envelope of funding. This % reduction would be a valuable tool in arguing our case for more money for Nottinghamshire.
  2. The variation to this would be to cap those bands paid above the National Rate to the National Rate, reallocating savings from reductions to other bands. The disadvantage is that it does not place all schools in a position where they are equally disadvantaged. It also loses the strong link for schools which identifies the level of funding they are missing out on.
- I really do not feel that this brief and limited exercise provides schools with sufficient information and sufficient time to make a considered response. I do not feel that we are in possession of the full facts and it seems to me that this crucial issue deserves and demands far greater and more careful consideration through a full consultation. How can it be that the most vulnerable children in Nottinghamshire (as evidenced by various means) do not merit the same level of support and funding as children living just a few miles away? This is a decision that will have a direct impact on vulnerable children and will affect their life chances and outcomes. We should be aiming to support these children in every way we can and should be offering funding that is at least that of their peers in neighbouring authorities.
- Just in terms of accessing the information and data in order to make a response: It has been complicated. It was difficult to look at the data properly as it was set out over several pages and difficult to print. We need a fairer system nationally. It cannot be fair that some schools – especially in London – receive thousands of pounds more per pupil than we do. I do not want to see funding in inverse proportion to success as some schools seem always to be hit with reductions. We would all like more! We have an increasing number of children with all sorts of difficulties and our deprivation index does not necessarily reflect this. We cannot afford to have a smaller budget.
- The models presented are not sufficient to make a reasonable view as they do not present projections around the possibility of both elements being changed at the same time. For example, there is no indication as to the gains/losses should both the FSM/IDACI and Deprivation allocation be changed by any amount. It would be unfair to ask schools to make a decision without an illustration of the facts. If anything, we should be considering bringing our funding for the most deprived children of Nottinghamshire more in line with the norm across the country by increasing it, not striving to be the exception and reducing it yet further. Making a negative change to either factor is a way of ensuring that schools who were protected in the previous 3 years see little negative effect on their new budgets, whilst those schools who had potential gains capped are effectively once again paying for this to happen. **(3)**
- I have been a school leader in a number of settings with a huge range of socio-economic backgrounds and appreciate the different challenges faced in each setting. One thing that has always disappointed me is the 'us' and 'them' attitude that permeates the system based upon the deprivation of catchment areas. I have seen some of the 'rallying calls' via email that have been sent to hand picked selections of schools (based upon how changes might affect them) on this latest issue and they are quite shocking. They display an ignorance that makes a falsehood of the belief that we are in this profession for children – all children. Scrapping amongst ourselves to take cash out of the hands of one group of children so that we can benefit our own schools; we should be ashamed. The deprivation aspect of the school funding formula did not come about on a whim (or after an ill informed snap vote). Nor, as some people claim, is it a case of 'double funding' with pupil premium. Anyone who believes this has never worked in a school where there are significant numbers of families who are earning minimum wage, either through lack of opportunity or education, or where family aspiration is desperately low. Similarly, the scrutiny and pressure on Headteachers in affluent areas to achieve impossibly high results is as stressful as it is persistent. If we are going to revisit a funding formula then we must do it with our eyes open to the impact it will on each of our schools. Vote one way and a small school in Rushcliffe could close so that a few schools in Newark or Mansfield gain a couple of thousand pounds. Vote another and a school with 50% EAL loses their family support worker. We serve rich and varied communities. The models presented to alter the deprivation factor have produced diverse results across individual budgets. In one school in the

projected changes in budget for 2016/17 vary from +£53k to -£21k. Such a dramatic change in any school budget, irrespective of whether pupil numbers change, would be difficult to manage. It will probably surprise a few of the flag wavers to learn that the school in question is not asking to change the formula in its favour, but to maintain the status quo. Each school in our Academy Trust could take an individual view and vote for the model that shows the biggest gain for their individual budget. However, when we spoke about this we agreed that the option that should be chosen is the one that represents the best financial model for all pupils, parents and communities across Nottinghamshire. This is despite the fact that we would have a significant net gain if the vote went one way. I would ask that members consider the impact on potential 'losers' in this vote has provided us with no genuine time for consultation and consideration. Every pound gained for the schools you represent comes from a school whose budget is already stretched. One final point – we're getting a national funding formula soon anyway! Surely we should be concentrating on working together and lobbying at a national level rather than squabbling over short term gains.

- Our Trust exists because we firmly believe in delivering the best outcomes for all pupils irrespective of where they live. In the eight schools that are in our Trust, we represent 6 out of the 7 districts in Nottinghamshire. As we serve rich and varied communities, the models presented to alter the deprivation factor have produced diverse results across individual budgets. In one school in the projected changes in budget for 2016/17 vary from +£53k to -£21k. Such a dramatic change in any school budget, irrespective of whether pupil numbers change, would be difficult to manage. Whilst each school in the Trust could take an individual view and vote for the model that shows the biggest gain for their individual budget, collectively we have agreed that the option that should be chosen is the one that represents the best financial model for all pupils, parents and communities that we serve. It would be our hope that the members of the Schools Forum would take a similar approach and opt to keep the status quo for another year. Schools budgets are forecast to become under significant cost pressures over the next 3-5 years, with all schools facing tough decisions in order to balance the books. In addition to this, the spending review has confirmed that we will finally see the introduction of a national funding formula. Schools are already facing enough financial uncertainty, and to introduce changes for the next funding year that would see dramatic swings for some school budgets will add further unnecessary pressure. Surely, a more sensible approach would be to await the announcement early in the new year regarding the changes to the national funding formula, assess the impact of these and then look at reviewing any local flexibilities there may be.(7)
- Although I fully understand that some head teachers, particularly the Rushcliffe head teachers feel very strongly about the money for deprivation being redistributed I have to state that my Chair of Governors, my staff team and myself feel very, very strongly that this is completely the wrong move and if we are to stay as equals in school performance then the deprivation factor must be kept the same. Sutton trust research evidences that deprived children do so much better in wealthy areas therefore it is imperative that the funding continues to go to areas with less money and daily poverty if the schools in these areas are to sustain their success. Using the funding to date has enabled our school to rise from the bottom twenty schools in England in to the top of the middle quintile and we are driven to continue improvement until we enter the top quintile. This will not be possible without the funding. It needs to be acknowledged by all that there is a definite difference between the use of pupil premium and the deprivation funding. Pupil premium is to ensure equal opportunities...that is to provide all the opportunities that many Rushcliffe and my own children have given to them within their family setting e.g. music lessons, speech grades, tutoring for SATs. These are part of everyday life for all children that are fortunate enough to be born in to a professional or wealthy family. These are the things that make university entrance and aspiration for future life a reality. I use my pupil premium to do just that...give the children in my care the same opportunities as others that are more privileged (my role is to give them a taste of Cambridge). The deprivation element on the other hand is to tackle depravity and poverty ...an everyday reality for nearly every one of my children. We have to provide clothes, sometimes bedding, free breakfast and pencil cases so that homework can be completed. Many of my children have no pencils or books in their home or food. To have a chance of learning in our school we firstly have to ensure Maslow's basic needs are met - only then do the children have a chance. If you start school in the morning with a rumbling tummy because you have had no tea the night before, your clothes are wet because there is no money for electricity to dry them and you are cold because you only have one blanket on your bed then the chances of learning are very low. How many children in Rushcliffe or areas where there is no deprivation have that to counteract each morning? The deprivation funding supports the children in our school in having an equal opportunity to succeed (67% of our pupils last year attained L5 in SPAG) at the highest levels. Our "clothes shop"; free breakfast club from 7.30 each morning and equipment for completing homework are a necessity... without the funding we will not be able to



give our pupils equal opportunity to succeed. NCC will be letting them down. The funding needs to stay the same. If nothing else I hope you will keep a picture of my children who face poverty on a daily basis in mind as you decide whether to retain the funding. They deserve at least that.

### **Summary of Secondary School Comments**

- The issue of the significant gaps in funding between the best and the worse funded schools in Notts has been raised for years. It is shame that this is the first time that anything has been done to try and find a solution. In essence reducing the deprivation % seems to make a small difference and is a step in the right direction. It does not solve the problem and I would continue to urge the LA to do all that they can to close the gap in funding that their formula creates.
- It seems from our analysis that the differing IDACI rates compared to the current Nottinghamshire rates is one of the key factors for Nottinghamshire potentially gaining from a National Formula. It seems therefore beneficial to maintain the important role of IDACI with Nottinghamshire's funding formula and move transitionally to the national rates. We have suggested 2 approaches below:
  1. Each IDACI band is based on the National Value, however as this is unaffordable, that each band receives the same reduction eg, National Rate \* 50%. The actual % rate used being one that is affordable within the current envelope of funding. This % reduction would be a valuable tool in arguing our case for more money for Nottinghamshire.
  2. The variation to this would be to cap those bands paid above the National Rate to the National Rate, reallocating savings from reductions to other bands. The disadvantage is that it does not place all schools in a position where they are equally disadvantaged. It also loses the strong link for schools which identifies the level of funding they are missing out on. **(5)**