

Amendment to the split sites factor policy to bring Nottinghamshire's criteria into line with national requirements

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Schools Forum of a necessary amendment to Nottinghamshire's criteria for split site payments to ensure we are consistent with national requirements.

2. Background

The split sites factor is an optional factor in the local funding formula which Nottinghamshire chose to adopt. The criteria are determined locally, within national guidance. Nottinghamshire's policy was formulated some years ago.

Schools are responsible for letting the authority know if they meet the Nottinghamshire criteria, and if they cease to do so. However it came to our attention that some schools had new buildings but had not asked us to change their status as a split site school. Consequently we undertook an exercise to review all schools receiving split site funding, which we will now complete on an annual basis. As a result a number of schools no longer require a split site allocation, leaving more funding to be distributed to all schools.

As a result of reviewing our policy and schools eligibility we became aware that our current policy to allocate funding for schools with a post-16 split site was explicitly excluded from eligibility for split site funding in the national regulations. This is because the funding from which this is now paid is for pupils to year 11 only. (Our policy wording predated this change which occurred in 13/14.) Consequently our policy needs to be amended to remove the reference to sixth form centres.

3. Impact of changes

Three schools receive split site funding for sixth-form centres. This funding will no longer be available from 17-18 onwards. However MFG protection will apply, so no school will lose more than 1.5% of its funding as a result of this change. All schools affected by this change have been contacted.

The relevant part of the policy is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Recommendation

That the Schools Forum:

- note the contents of the report

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Tamsin Rabbitts

Senior Finance Business Partner

T: 01159 773427

E: tamsin.rabbitts@nottscc.gov.uk