

## **West Northants Schools Forum: 19 October 2021**

### **Agenda Item 7a**

### **Split Site Funding Policy 2022-23**

## **Appendix C – Proposed Split Site Policy**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The report is to update West Northamptonshire Schools Forum of the proposed rolling forward of the Split Site Policy from NCC to WNC, funded from the Schools Block for 2022-23. In addition to this the LA propose to include the same policy to fund Special Schools with a split site applying the same criteria but funded from the Special Schools Budget of the High Needs Block.

### **2 Background**

2.1 The DfE has referred to split site funding specifically within the new school funding arrangements. It is recognised that these schools incur higher running costs, for example extra staffing costs due to travel between sites and the care and maintenance of 2 sites.

2.2 NCC provided split site funding in three component elements, leadership costs, building care and maintenance and staff and pupil travel. A school may be entitled to one, two or all three. There was a fourth component level for Secondary Schools only, where the buildings are more than 5 miles apart and this is exclusive of, not in conjunction with, the other three elements. The funding in each of the component elements would be maximums allowing lower amounts to be applied where circumstances warrant this.

### **3 Financial Impact**

3.1 The premises factor within the National Funding Formula (NFF) is made up of, PFI factor, rates, split sites and exceptional circumstances. There is no NFF rate set for the split site factor. The premises funding within the 2021-22 NFF allocation to Local Authorities is the levels of funding awarded for split sites to school in their 2020-21 Authority Proforma Tool (APT).

3.2 The total funding distributed through the schools funding formula for West Northamptonshire split sites in 2020-21 and 2021-22 was £385k and this is the same level proposed for 2022-23 school budgets.

## 4 The Split Policy and Rates

4.1 Schools will be assessed at their request based on these criteria including those schools currently in receipt of split site funding. The criteria to qualify for the funding elements are as follows:

- a) Where a school is more than 1 mile apart an allocation is given to support extra leadership costs including site management. Primary schools of less than 400 pupils in total or secondary schools of less than 1,500 pupils would be entitled to this element of funding. It is assumed larger split site schools should have sufficient scale to manage the efficient use of their site not to require this element of split site funding; and/or
- b) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic, funding will be given to support the extra pressure incurred by having 2 sites incurring higher fixed costs for the care, maintenance and operation of the buildings; and/or
- c) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic and there is daily movement of pupils between sites there will be a contribution towards the extra costs of staff and pupils transportation between the 2 sites.
- d) Any Secondary schools with sites greater than 5 miles apart would receive split site funding equivalent to the Secondary lump sum funding amount.

4.2 Split Site Rates (same as for 2021-22)

Table 1 Split Site Funding Rates 2022-23

Phase	a. Leadership Costs(*)	b. Building Care & Maintenance	c. Staff and pupil travel	d. Secondary 5+ miles apart
Primary	Up to a maximum of £25,000	Up to a maximum of £20,000	Up to a maximum of £30,000	n/a
Secondary	Up to a maximum of £40,000	Up to a maximum of £25,000	Up to a maximum of £50,000	Total of the Secondary Lump Sum £ in 2022/23)

Note (\*) applies where a Primary school is less than 400 pupils in total or a Secondary school is less than 1,500 pupils in total.

## 5 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## 6 Risks

6.1 There is a risk that not funding split sites appropriately leads to a greater financial burden on some schools than others. This creates the risk of financial instability, or

inadequate cover for the safety of pupils travelling between sites or inadequate caretaking of a site and could lead to a school becoming less appealing to parents.

## **7 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

7.1 That Schools Forum consider and support the proposed Split Site Policy for inclusion in the Schools Funding Consultation.

## **8 Next Steps**

8.1 Consultation with schools will be held for a period of six weeks between 20 October-30 November 2021 inclusive

8.2 The consultation feedback will be shared with School Forum at the December 2021 meeting.

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