



# ISLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

Chair: Barrie O'Shea  
c/o Governor Services  
222 Upper Street  
London N1 1XR

## SCHOOLS FORUM

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>29 November 2018</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>	<b>2019-20 Islington School Funding Consultation responses</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the Schools Forum:  a) Discusses and agrees on individual recommendations made in Section 3 of the report

### 1 Background

- 1.1. A consultation with schools on School Funding 2019-20 has run from 11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- 1.2. As in previous years, the final factor values will be agreed at the January Schools' Forum following the December DSG funding settlement and the release of the October 2018 census data.
- 1.3. There were 10 respondents to the consultation: 6 primary schools; 3 secondary schools and 1 special schools. All respondents are from the maintained school sector. Where multiple responses have been received from one education setting, the response is counted just once (one primary school submitted two responses, answers to each question were identical).
- 1.4. The responses have been collated and the results are shown at Appendix A. Answers can only be accepted where relevant e.g. a special school cannot respond to questions on formula factors and an academy cannot respond on de-delegation from formula funding. Comments submitted as part of a consultation response are included.
- 1.5. Prior to consultation we had received an indicative DSG allocation for 2019-20 but had raised a query with the ESFA as our funding had dropped by £1.2m. It transpired there was an error in the 2018-19 DSG allocation that had been corrected for the next financial year. After much discussion and a meeting with the DfE, a one-off cash payment will be made to Islington in 2019-20 via the Growth fund, to support the Schools Block through a period of transition. It is proposed this funding, in the first instance, is used to enable a phased reduction in the lump sum element of the school funding formula.

### 2. Proposals for primary and secondary schools

- 2.1. We asked whether we should continue to move towards the NFF as far as is possible. All 9 schools eligible to respond were in favour.
- 2.2. Response to the question of whether Islington should continue to phase in a reduction to the lump sum, moving it towards the NFF unit value was 8 in favour and 1 against.
- 2.3. We asked, in the absence of a reviewed methodology from the DfE, should we continue to use the mobility factor to ensure eligible schools continue to benefit from targeted funding. The response was 8 in favour and 1 against.

- 2.4. All respondents were in agreement to varying MFG level to ensure affordability of the available funding pot.
- 2.5. Questions regarding retention of funds for schools with additional/bulge classes, and for those schools with falling rolls, both had results of 7 for and 1 against, 1 school did not give response. The 'no' response was from different schools.
- 2.6. We listed the current services funded by de-delegation from maintained schools and asked whether schools would consider de-delegation of additional monies for 3 services not previously included: Behaviour Support, Library Service, Insurance. There were 4 responses in favour as follows:
- Behaviour Support            3 votes
  - Library Service                3 votes
  - Insurance                        3 votes

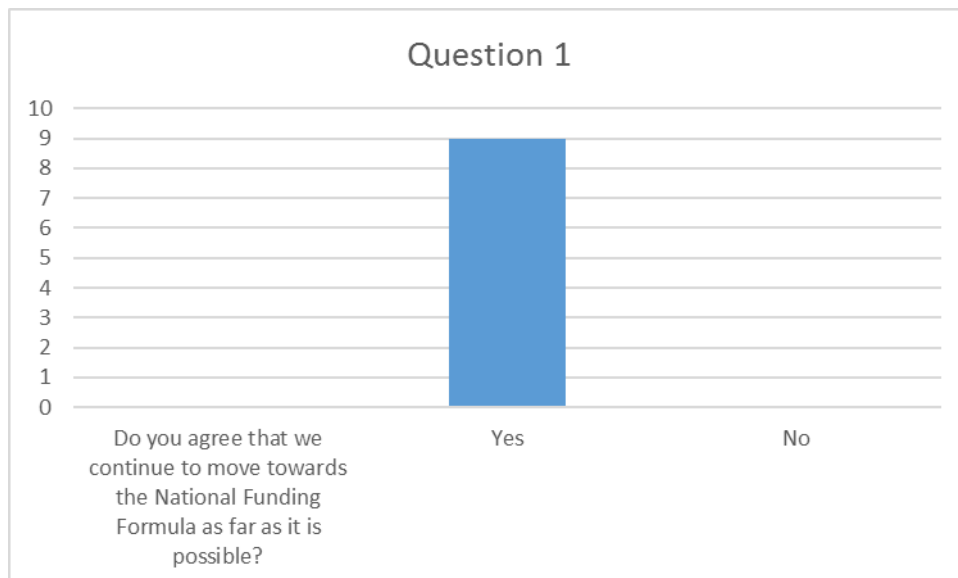
### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. The following recommendations are made to Schools Forum:
- To continue to move towards the NFF as far as is possible
  - To phase in the reduction in lump sum; because of the circumstances outline in para 1.5, this will only be possible if a portion of one-off cash payment is directed to the lump sum
  - Continue to use the mobility factor in 2019-20
  - Continue to retain Growth Funding
  - Continue to retain Falling Rolls Funding
  - To continue to retain funding for services through the Central School Services Block as previously agreed with Schools Forum
  - To continue de-delegated services at the current rate
  - To not offer any additional de-delegated services

#### Contact

Name: Debbie Stevenson  
Title: Schools Funding Manager  
Tel: 020 7527 5763  
Email: [debra.stevenson@islington.gov.uk](mailto:debra.stevenson@islington.gov.uk)

## School Funding 2019-20 Consultation - Responses



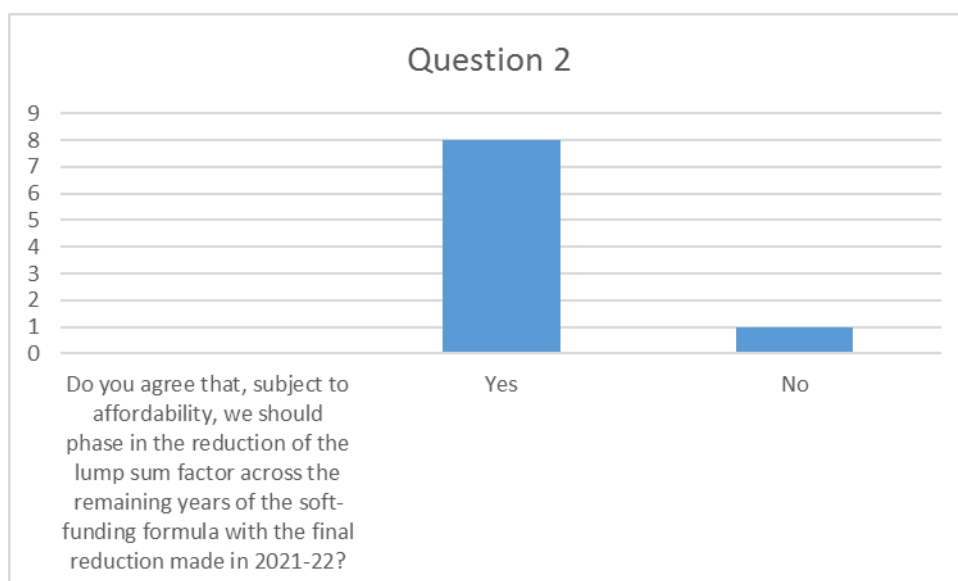
### Comments:

We support the phased approach 'soft formula' for Islington schools as we move towards 2021-22.

Agree so long as additional top slicing happens in consultation with local schools.

It is important that we accept that the future will be different and there is no sense in delaying the inevitable.

However, the protection provided by Islington over the next two years is important and, as far as is possible, we would want to avoid being any worse off in real terms in the future.

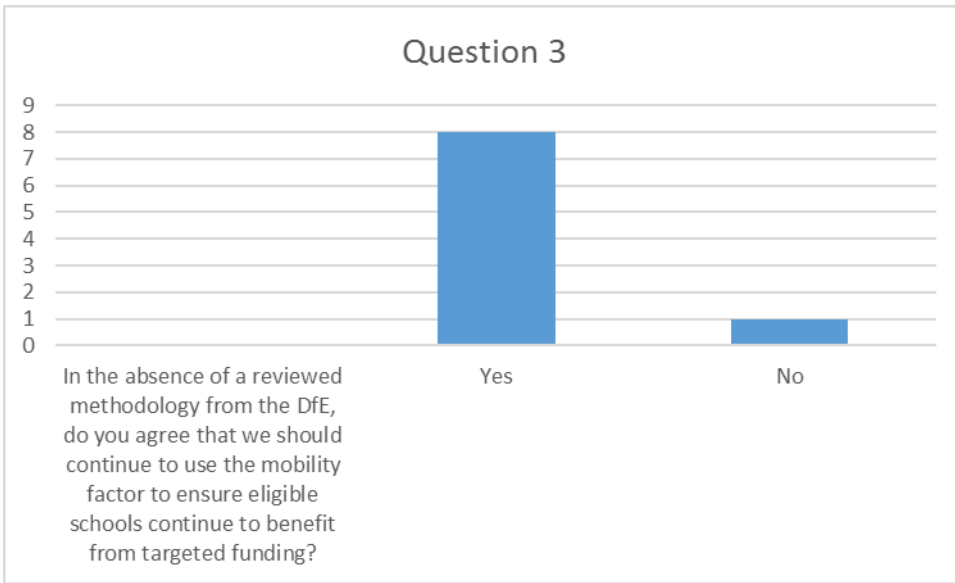


Comments:

Would appreciate clarity as to what this actually means in reality - some modelling?

Much better than one big hit.

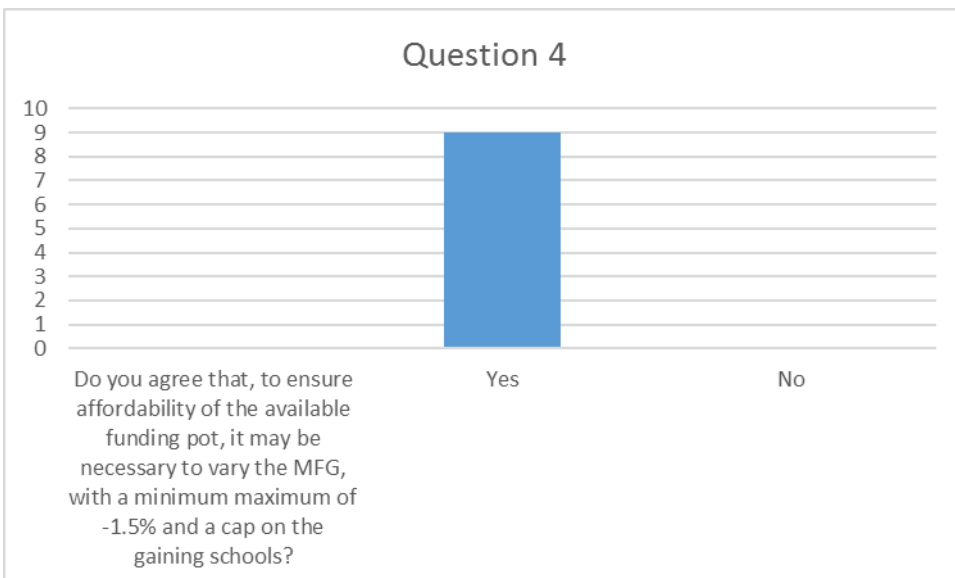
On the basis that the NFF factor value increase equates to the reduction in the lump sum factor, if we understand this correctly, we have no problem with this. Please see response to question 1 re not being any worse off.



Comments:

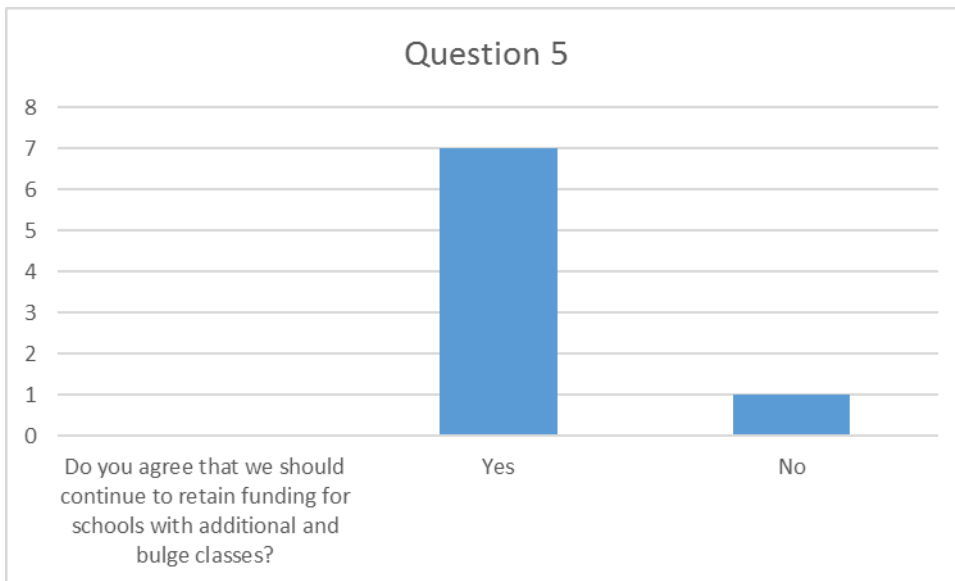
Mobility has a huge impact on schools and funds are needed to support schools with high levels of mobility.

Whereas we recognise the needs of schools with high mobility, we think this penalises schools with stable cohorts.



Comments:

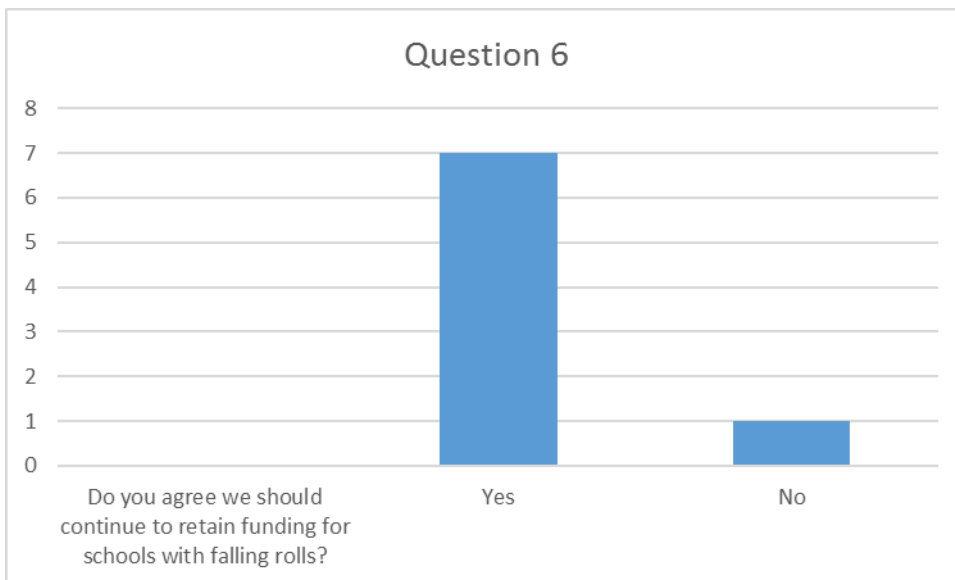
If affordability absolutely requires this.



Comments

There are plenty of spaces in Islington school, particularly those with falling rolls, without retaining funds for additional and bulge classes. This policy would disadvantage schools with falling rolls.

Ideally having bulge classes is not good practice, particularly when some schools have space on roll.



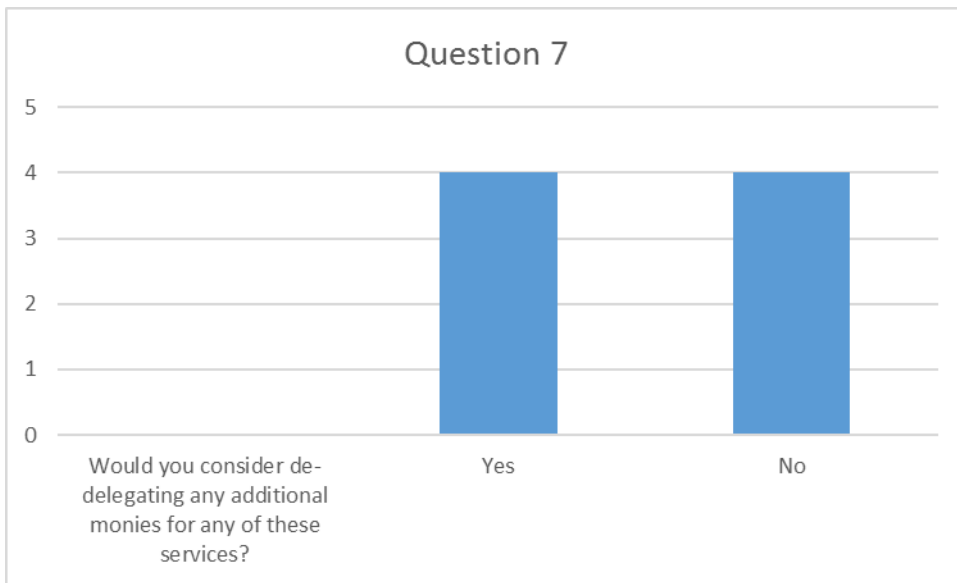
Comments:

This is vital to ensure the long term viability of schools.

This is essential but must also ensure that schools are helped to address the issue.

Due to the timing of the school census versus actual funding there is always a six month lag between NOR and per pupil funding. Therefore we would argue that because this provide a six month buffer to protect schools with falling roles and penalises schools that are growing to retain funds for school with falling roles

rewards schools that are not performing, potentially at the expense of school that are growing and performing well.



- Behaviour Support Service = No; Library Service = No; Insurance = No
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