

School Forum 17th October 2013

Review of Possible Changes to the Torbay Schools Funding Formula 2014/15

At its meeting on 4th July School Forum noted the recommendation of the FAR & group and the DfE guidance on possible changes to the 2014/15 Torbay Schools Funding Formula.

Forum noted that FAR 7 had a further meeting scheduled for September and requested that the group reconsider the position on using pupil mobility rates within the formula.

FAR 7 met and their recommendation is that mobility is not used in the 2014/15 funding formula. The reason for this is that setting the level of 10% mobility across both sectors sets this at a low limit for primary schools, where the average mobility rate is 17/18% and high for the secondary schools where the rate averages 7/8%. The view of the group is that this would lead to a redistribution of funding that would not address the issues raised by high pupil mobility.

The group support the idea of using mobility in the formula but given the constraints of the current DfE regulations their view was this was not appropriate for Torbay funding formula at this time.

FAR 7 also reviewed the position of the school lump sum with further modeling information produced by Children's Services finance section.

The group's recommendation to School Forum was that Torbay should consider using the new flexibility with regard to school lump sums and set a different primary and secondary lump sum.

The group's recommendation is that no change is made to the primary school lump sum but that the secondary lump sum should revert to the level of 2011/12 before the national changes imposed in 2013/14. The practical effect of this proposal is that the secondary lump sum would revert to its 2011/12 level of £122k from the £72k in 2013/14. Attached is the working of this example. Primary change is also modeled although the recommendation is that this remains at £72k so there would be no readjustment of funding.

If School Forum support this recommendation then the timetable for consultation on this change would be:

October 2013 e-mail consultation with all schools lasting 3 weeks

Report results of consultation to December 5th School Forum

Director of Children's Services decision in January 2014.