

Torbay Schools Forum 10th November

A consultation on school funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system

On the 19th of July the Secretary of State launched the second part of the consultation on school funding reform. The consultation document set out proposals for the mechanics of a new funding system, the contents of a new national formula and future funding arrangements for the Pupil Premium, early years provision and High Cost Pupils. It also clarified the responsibilities of local authorities, schools and academies in relation to central services.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1765&external=no&menu=3>

The consultation outlined how a national formula could be used to distribute funding to LAs to ensure fairer funding across the country. It did not propose a national funding formula as such for schools although it does tighten the criteria for use in local funding formula. Torbay's formula will largely be unaffected with the exception of the Inclusion sub formula which uses deprivation indices (transience and prior attainment) which might not be permissible within potential changes. Greater change may be evident within the funding of high cost SEN pupils but we will need to see how this develops.

School Forum working party met and submitted a response.

Response deadline 11th October

Consultation on the basis for the decision on the appropriate amount of academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13

On 19 July 2011, the DfE published its consultation document entitled Consultation on the basis for the decision on the appropriate amount of Academies Funding Transfer for 2011/12 and 2012/13. Closing date for responses was 16 August 2011. The DfE wanted local authorities to comment on the relative merits of certainty of funding compared with uncertainty of funding but with a distribution mechanism that more accurately reflects the numbers, location and growth of academies and Free Schools.

This consultation was in response to the DfE funding of academies LACSEG. It did not address the inherent, and arguably unfair, use of section 251 data for the calculation of the LACSEG, a purpose for which it was not designed.

Implementation of the 2010-11 Review of Education Capital (the James Report)

This consultation aimed to seek views on a number of key recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Education Capital by Sebastian James, published in April 2011, and the Government's response published in July 2011. It covered implications for the way the DfE allocates funding and manages its capital programme.

The consultation was intended to promote wider understanding of the James Review proposals and highlight common concerns to inform implementation. The aim was to ensure that the Department's

capital investment achieves maximum efficiency, whilst taking account of the needs of the end user e.g. schools, local authorities and other providers of education and services to children and young people.

Response deadline was 11th October

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1762&external=no&menu=3>