

## SCHOOLS FORUM

### 2018/19 Split Sites

#### December 2017

##### 1 **Purpose of the Report**

This report is to ask the Schools Forum to support the Council's proposals to use the split site criteria factor in the 2018/19 school block budget.

##### 2 **Recommendations**

The Schools Forum is asked to approve the proposal.

##### 3 **Background**

A local authority school block funding formula can include a factor to provide additional funding to schools that operate on more than one site.

- Criteria for providing extra funding should be clear and transparent, incorporating clear and objective trigger points, and a clear formula for allocating additional funding.
- All schools and academies that meet the criteria will be eligible for split site funding.
- Schools sharing facilities, federated schools and schools with remote sixth forms or remote early years provision are not eligible for split site funding.

Examples of clear trigger points are:

- the sites are a minimum distance apart, as the crow flies, and the sites are separated by a public highway.
- the provision on the additional site does not qualify for an individual school budget share through the DSG.
- the school has remote playing fields, separated from the school by a minimum distance, and there is no safe walking route for the pupils.
- a percentage of staff are required to teach on both sites on a daily basis, to support the principle of a whole school policy, and to maintain the integrity of the delivery of the national curriculum.
- a minimum percentage of pupils are taught on each site on a daily basis.

Examples of a clear formula for funding schools with split sites are:

- a lump sum payment
- a per-pupil rate
- a rate per square metre of the additional site

Values for primary and secondary schools may be different. There may be one rate of payment for the first additional site, and a separate rate for each additional site. Payment rates may be stepped, for example as the distance between sites increases

#### **4 Financial Summary**

There has been one application for this funding from Charvil Piggott where additional costs have been incurred across two sites. The school employs staff separately to manage the primary school site, however unlike other primary schools, as Charvil is counted as one school, it does not receive a separate primary lump sum.

Currently the Council supports the school through the growth fund. It is now proposed to support the school by providing a lump sum payment based on the DfE national funding formula proposed lump sum of £110k, providing a more stable arrangement for the school. This will be funded by removing the growth fund support currently made to the school of approx. £100k, with the remaining £10k funded from the school block budget.

#### **5 Summary**

The transfer from the growth fund to the split site fund will cost the school block £10k. However if the schools were counted as 2 separate schools, Primary and Secondary it would have qualify for 2 lump sum at £150k per sum which is more than the split site lump sum offered.

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**December 2017**

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**December 2017**