

SCHOOLS FORUM

Introduction of a Split Site Factor

1 Purpose of the Report

To consider the introduction of a Split Site Factor into the WBC Funding Formula. This paper aims to clarify the funding position and offer Forum a choice of solutions.

2 Suggested Actions

The Forum is asked to consider the implications and agree

1. Whether to introduce a split site factor effective from 1.4.2016
2. If introduced, a value to be attached to the factor

3 Background

At the November Forum it was proposed that a split site factor ought to be introduced, reflecting the example of an all-through school arguing that it is disadvantaged compared to other schools' funding.

An All Through school can only be in receipt of a single Lump Sum through the funding formula; the view was shared that as they operate from two different sites though less than a mile apart as the crow flies, the road distance travelled is 2 miles and this brings about its own challenges. Although a primary extension of a pre-existing secondary school with a sixth form, the observation was that there were not the economies of scale that had been expected from the experience of single-site all-through schools.

In this case had Charvil been established as a separate school the funding would have reflected that for other new primary schools, with a lump sum of £175,000 and growth fund support for the period of establishment. The split-site arrangement for Charvil Piggott it is argued makes it look more like a separate arrangement than a conventional all-through school. On that basis the appropriate comparison might be how the new primary schools are funded in Wokingham; Windmill for example (opening at the same time as Charvil) received £28k more funding over the same period.

It is nevertheless also arguable that economies of scale are available to Charvil Piggott, for example in terms of an executive headteacher function (whether in name or not) and back-office activity. Some account of actual costs in this case might be justified on these grounds. This would suggest a value for a split site factor less than £175,000 in the current case of the Lump Sum. Consideration should also be given to the impact of the current pressures in a growth situation, and the eventual funding position with a full KS1 and 2.

Split site funding has its origins in comprehensive schools created out of 2 smaller schools in a previous selective system, so they usually cover the same phase of education, and involve some significant distance between sites. In establishing a

factor it would need to reflect new circumstances, and be applicable should other split-site arrangements appear in Wokingham.

4 Impact on Schools

Appendix A sets out the impact upon schools should the introduction of a Split Site factor be implemented at £175,000, £100,000, £70,000 or £30,000. In essence the funding would come as a reduction in AWPU across the board of either £7.77, £4.44, £3.11 or £1.33. This would effectively reduce funding to 27 schools. The reason not every school is impacted in cash terms is down to the MFG protection. Where the AWPU is being reduced further and schools are already in receipt of MFG their cash funding level is being protected at the expense of increasing their MFG.

As this is school Formulaic funding it would also become available to any future school which either set up a satellite site or merged with an existing school on a different site.

5 Areas that will not be impacted

Special Schools, PRU's, Maintained Nurseries, Private and Voluntary Nursery Settings would not be impacted by the introduction of a Split Site factor – nor would they be able to lay claim to this factor, being Schools Block specific.

6 Impact upon the Growth fund

In the short term the Growth Fund would show an improvement; the reason for this is that if such a factor was introduced then pressure would be placed on the schools block but not on the central expenditure block. A split site factor would also be a permanent pressure on the schools block whereas the Growth fund would increase / decrease according to the growth in the borough. All academies and free schools that are set up as a result of basic need are supported through the setting up period by their LA. The LA is responsible for paying the cost of any diseconomies of scale.

In practice this means that when a new provider puts forward a business case to set up a school a cashflow forecast is part of this. This sets out the anticipated costs of running the school and the anticipated funding from the EFA. Any shortfall between cost and funding is then met by the LA. This diseconomy of scale funding comes from the Growth fund and as the school grows in size and its volume of pupils increases then the diseconomy of scale funding decreases at the same rate.

Whilst it is necessary to support schools until they have reached a “critical mass” this does provide a level of protection to new schools over and above the acknowledged MFG. Increasing costs will be reflected in the business case whereas a pre-existing school will be expected to absorb these costs. Thereby any inflationary increases would be picked up by the Growth fund.

7 Possible courses of Action

- Not to introduce a Split Site Factor at this time.
- Introduce a Split Site Factor at £175,000
- Introduce a Split Site Factor at £100,000
- Introduce a Split Site Factor at £70,000
- Introduce a Split Site Factor at £30,000
- Introduce a Split Site Factor at a different value to those above.

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Appendix A				
Funded by 27 Schools	£175k	£100k	£70k	£30k
	Impact	Impact	Impact	Impact
MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL	-£ 10,761	-£ 6,149	-£ 4,307	-£ 1,842
Waingels College	-£ 8,866	-£ 5,066	-£ 3,549	-£ 1,518
The Emmbrook School	-£ 4,458	-£ 3,889	-£ 2,724	-£ 1,165
St Paul's C of E Junior School	-£ 2,984	-£ 1,705	-£ 1,194	-£ 511
Nine Mile Ride Primary School	-£ 2,657	-£ 1,518	-£ 1,064	-£ 455
The Colleton Primary School	-£ 2,642	-£ 1,510	-£ 1,057	-£ 452
Oakbank	-£ 2,603	-£ 1,487	-£ 1,042	-£ 446
Aldryngton Primary School	-£ 2,463	-£ 1,407	-£ 986	-£ 422
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	-£ 2,362	-£ 1,350	-£ 945	-£ 404
Walter Infant School	-£ 2,106	-£ 1,203	-£ 843	-£ 360
OAKLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL	-£ 1,880	-£ 1,074	-£ 753	-£ 322
Polehampton C E Junior School	-£ 1,873	-£ 1,070	-£ 750	-£ 321
Emmbrook Junior School	-£ 1,841	-£ 1,052	-£ 737	-£ 315
Willow Bank Junior School	-£ 1,834	-£ 1,048	-£ 734	-£ 314
HAWKEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL	-£ 1,677	-£ 1,677	-£ 1,677	-£ 834
Gorse Ride Junior School	-£ 1,632	-£ 1,039	-£ 728	-£ 311
Evendons Primary Free School	-£ 1,593	-£ 910	-£ 638	-£ 273
Sonning Church of England Primary School	-£ 1,538	-£ 879	-£ 616	-£ 263
Farley Hill Primary School	-£ 1,445	-£ 826	-£ 578	-£ 247
Willow Bank Infant School	-£ 1,399	-£ 799	-£ 560	-£ 239
ST CRISPIN'S SCHOOL	-£ 1,349	-£ 1,349	-£ 1,349	-£ 1,254
Gorse Ride Infant School	-£ 1,173	-£ 670	-£ 470	-£ 201
Robert Piggott CE Infant School	-£ 1,010	-£ 577	-£ 404	-£ 173
Woodley CE Primary School	-£ 881	-£ 881	-£ 881	-£ 410
Arborfield	-£ 725	-£ 414	-£ 290	-£ 124
Windmill Primary School	-£ 637	-£ 364	-£ 255	-£ 109
Montague Park	-£ 136	-£ 78	-£ 54	-£ 23

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