

Agenda Item 13
Council – 6 September 2022
Recommendation from Cabinet
30 August 2022

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 30 August 2022

Present:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair) Councillor P Hetherton Councillor M Mutton Councillor J O'Boyle Councillor P Seaman Councillor D Welsh
Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Lloyd Councillor S Nazir
Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor P Male Councillor R Simpson (substitute for Councillor G Ridley)
Other Member:	Councillor R Auluck Councillor R Singh Councillor R Lakha
Employees (by Service):	
Chief Executive	M Reeves (Chief Executive)
Education and Skills	R Sugars, C Whiteley
Finance	P Jennings
Law and Governance	J Newman (Chief Legal Officer, O Aremu, S Bennett)
Public Health and Wellbeing	A Duggal (Director), S Lam
Streetscene and Regulatory Services	D Butler
Transportation and Highways	C Knight (Director), R Palmer
Apologies:	Councillors N Akhtar, L Bigham, R Brown, K Caan, B Gittins, G Hayre, G Ridley, K Sandhu

RECOMMENDATION

15. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

21. **Schools National Funding Formula Consultation Response**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which indicated that the Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on further reforms to the National Funding Formula (NFF) which determines funding allocations for Local Authorities (LAs) and for all schools.

The Council has previously set out that it does not agree with the move towards a nationally determined funding formula. LAs have knowledge of local factors and understand the context of the local requirements of schools and therefore are best placed to distribute funding in the most effective way for the children in their authorities. However, the DfE has made clear this is the national policy direction and it is therefore in the Council's best interest to continue to engage with these consultations in order to influence the final outcomes for the benefit of the Council and Coventry schools.

The proposals cover a range of specific school funding areas with the main theme of implementing a direct National Funding Formula, where the DfE would calculate and allocate funding directly to schools without local intervention. Some of the proposed changes are planned to take effect from 2023-24 but the DfE anticipate full implementation of the direct NFF will take until 2027-28.

The majority of the consultation proposals are not yet fully developed and as such it is not possible to be specific about their direct impact at this stage. However, the proposals do reveal a likely direction of travel on some key issues, and the potential impact that these could have on both Council and school finances is detailed within the report.

The report sought approval to submit a Local Authority (LA) response to the consultation which outlines Coventry City Council's view on the proposals, as detailed in an Appendix to the report. The response clearly highlights the Council's concerns about changes which could negatively impact on the LA or on schools. Where appropriate the response also outlines areas that need further consideration and makes suggestions to improve proposals.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council approves the proposed response to the Schools National Funding Formula consultation, as appended to the report.