

## Consultation Questions

**Towards a new formula** - The school funding system, core principles and formula structure

1. Do you agree with the principles we are applying to the formula?
2. Do you agree with the proposals to mainstream the grants specified into DSG?
3. Do you agree with the proposed elements of the formula?

**The Basic Entitlement** - Options for determining the basic unit of funding

4. Which methodology for calculating the basic entitlement do you consider would enable the fairest and most practical distribution of funding?

**Additional Educational Needs** – Distributing additional funding for pupils with additional educational needs

5. Do you agree with the proposed methodology for distributing money for additional educational needs?
6. Which is your preferred indicator for distributing money via deprivation? Why?
7. Do you agree with the indicators, other than for deprivation, that we have proposed for each need?
8. Will the Local Pupil Premium mechanism help funding to be more responsive to changes in pupil characteristics?
9. Is it right that local authorities should each develop their own pupil premium mechanism?

**High Cost Pupils** – Distributing additional funding for high cost pupils, including those with high cost special educational needs

10. Do you agree with the methodology for distributing money for High Cost Pupils?

**Sparsity** - Reflecting the additional costs of small primary schools in sparsely populated areas

11. Do you agree that the school census and Middle Super Output Area are the right data source and geography to use to assess the sparsity of an area?
12. Which method for calculating the sparsity factor do you think will best enable additional funding to reach those local authorities that need to maintain small schools – the broad or narrow option?
13. Do you agree that there should not be a secondary sparsity factor?

**Area Cost Adjustment** – Reflecting labour costs in different areas

14. Which is the fairest method of applying the Area Cost Adjustment?

**Transitional Arrangements** – Protecting schools and local authorities from significant fluctuations in funding

15. Do you support our plans for the transitional arrangements for mainstreaming grants?
16. Should floors be paid for by all local authorities or just the largest gaining authorities?
17. Do you have any suggestions as to how the Minimum Funding Guarantee could be improved?

**Other considerations and conclusion** – other issues and next steps

18. If a contingency arrangement for local authorities is to continue, funded from the DSG, what areas should it cover and what should the criteria be for triggering eligibility?
19. Do you support our proposals for Service children?