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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 13 September 2012  
**Subject:** School Funding  
**Report of:** Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services  
**Summary:** The report proposes that representations be made to central government to protect school funding in Central Bedfordshire.

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Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

##### **Financial:**

1. The report has no direct financial implications for the Council, because school funding lies outside the Council's revenue budget. However, the level of school funding is an important factor in securing improved educational attainment.

##### **Other Corporate Implications:**

2. None.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### **Council is asked to:**

**request the Chief Executive and Director for Children's Services to write to Government requesting an extension to the proposed minimum funding guarantee (MFG) arrangement for a further two years in Central Bedfordshire.**

*Reason for Recommendation: The objective is to seek to secure a favourable funding settlement on behalf of schools in Central Bedfordshire.*

3. Lower schools (deemed Primary) in Central Bedfordshire tend to be small and many are geographically isolated serving rural communities. While many are already collaborating in order to reduce costs, others require additional time to bring these efforts to fruition in terms of reduced costs. Schools need more time to reconfigure and federate than is allowed under the reforms, which bring the full funding formula into being in 2015, with the removal of the proposed minimum funding guarantee (MFG).
4. The Government is in the process of reviewing the funding formula for schools and I have been making efforts in meetings with ministers and others to secure a balanced settlement on behalf of schools in Central Bedfordshire, in particular requesting that the proposed minimum funding guarantee (MFG) arrangement be extended for a further two years.
5. The recommendation proposed in this report is intended to seek the Council's support to the efforts that I have been making at a critical point in the decision making process.

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection) None