

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Split Site Factor (SSF)
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

At the SFF meeting on the 29th June members of the SFF supported the introduction of Split Site Factor (SSF) into Kent's Local Funding Formula (LFF) from April 2019.

This paper is an update on the progress made in setting an objective criteria for a SSF and also seeks approval on the proposed next step in its introduction to the LFF

FOR:	To seek views on work carried out to date and recommendation on the next step of implementation.
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Background

1.1 At the SFF on the 29th June a paper ([to access paper click on this link Item 8 SSF](#)) was presented to the members of the SFF seeking their views on whether Kent should introduce a SSF into its LFF and also a possible criteria for allocating funding through the SSF.

1.2 Members of the SFF recommended the introduction of SSF into the LFF but requested that further work be carried out in defining an objective criteria for SSF.

Defining the SSF Criteria

2.1 The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) define the purpose of an SSF by supporting schools that have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites. Allocations must be based on objective criteria for the definition of split site and for how much is paid. Appendix 1 details the ESFAs framework criteria that the LFF SSF has to sit within.

2.2 The number of potential schools with splits sites in Kent has been compiled from local knowledge and those schools that received split site funding when it used to be a factor in Kent's LFF prior to 2013 -14, to date we have identified 10 schools. 7 of those schools we have visited during the period 31 July to 14 September, 2 more we plan to visit early in October. The remaining school is still in the process of being

built with an estimated completion date early in the new year. Appendix 2 is a list of schools visited and provides details of type and physical layout.

Findings from Visits and What Funding Other Local Authorities Are Allocating for Split Sites.

2.3 Although the schools visited were quite diverse we have quickly been able to identify a number of unavoidable costs that are generally common to all schools. The costs are grouped under three headings Staffing, Travel and Non-staffing.

Staffing

2.4 The staffing headings that were identified by all schools visited were Reception, Caretaking and Catering. Other staffing costs most frequently identified in some of the schools were Leadership and Midday Supervisors. In determining a cost for a member of staff we will need to agree a generic set of duties, for example a receptionist will always answer the phone. However, we have found that the receptionists responsibilities vary from school to school and therefore dictate the number of receptionists employed.

Travel

2.5 There are two types of travel, staff travel (mileage claims) and pupil travel (school transport). Travel applied to around half of the schools visited and of those visited it varied in frequency.

Non-staffing

2.6 This group by far had the most different types of unavoidable costs and is also the most difficult to quantify. The most common items identified were; compliance testing, broadband, photo copiers, printers, more than one contract with supplier due to split site, security systems and utility costs.

National Picture SS Funding

2.7 In 2018-19 the spend for SSF nationally was £12.2m. 54 Local Authorities (LA) have an SSF and the average spend is 0.08% of a LAs Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (SBD SG), 0.08% of Kent's SBD SG equates to £710k. Appendix 3 provides details of LA allocations for 2018-19.

Next Step

3.1 The proposed next step to determine the criteria of SSF in Kent's LFF is to present the information gathered from the 7 schools visited and the 2 planned visits early in October to a working group at the beginning of November. The working group will then make a recommendation for an objective SSF criteria that will be presented to the SFF at its meeting on the 30 November.

3.2 Historically the Delegated Formula Funding Group (DFFG) has carried out similar type of work, however due to the inactivity in recent years the membership has reduced to 4 members. The following are possible working group combinations:

- a) DFFG members only
- b) Volunteers from the SFF
- c) DFFG members and volunteers from the SFF
- d) A further working group mix could be any of the above (ABC), plus representatives from the schools visited.

Recommendation

4.1 Members of the SFF are requested to ratify

- 1) The proposed forward plan to bring a recommendation for consideration to the SFF meeting on the 30 November.

and then

- 2) To agree the composition of the working group:
 - a) DFFG members only
 - b) Volunteers from the SFF
 - c) DFFG members and volunteers from the SFF
 - d) A further working group mix could be any of the above (ABC), plus representatives from the schools visited.