

## SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Spit Site factor
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### **SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

The purpose of this paper is to seek the initial views of SFF members on whether a Split Site factor should be introduced into Kent's Local Funding Formula (LFF) from 1 April 2019.

This paper is to seek the initial views of the group and, if positive, a more comprehensive paper could be presented to the SFF later in the year.

<b>FOR:</b>	To seek the views of SFF members
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### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Prior to the school funding reforms of 2013-14, Kent had a Split Site factor that paid out a total of just over £300k to 10 different schools. The eligibility criteria stipulated that the two sites had to be separated by at least ½ a mile by the shortest walking distance and was incorporated in the formula to recognise the additional cost of transporting staff and pupils between sites.
- 1.2 After consulting with schools in the autumn of 2012, the factor was removed. The main reason for not retaining the factor was due to the LA's inability to maintain local premises records due to academisation and free schools.

### **2. Rational for introducing a Split Site factor**

- 2.1 The Government's intention is to move to a Hard NFF in the future. However, some factors in the formula may continue to be set locally and the Split Site factor could be one of these.
- 2.2 As we are currently in a Soft NFF period, we can introduce a local Split Site factor. Although there will be an initial cost which would need to be funded from our Dedicated Schools Grant (the Schools Block), it is likely that this factor will be fully funded in the future and therefore it would make sense for us to maximise the overall cash envelope for Kent Schools.

### **3. Split Site Factor - Criteria**

3.1 We are considering introducing Split Site factor to support a limited number of schools. The schools that we think should attract this funding have additional challenges due to their size and more importantly their distance between sites and are therefore more akin to two separate schools. This means that they would be very unlikely to generate economies due to the location of the different sites within the school, and therefore having to run multiple sites with only one lump sum.

3.2 Possible criteria:

- Part 1 – At least 30% of the pupils in the school are located on any one of its sites.
- Part 2 – For a primary school, any site would need to be a least 2.4 miles apart and for a secondary school any site would need to be 9 miles apart.

We are proposing that the value could be set at the NFF lump sum rate of £110k.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 To seek the views of SFF members as to whether Kent should consider introducing a Split Site factor into its LFF from 1 April 2019.