

13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

To: I. Walker, Chair FFC, NCC Schools Forum  
cc: B. Parvin, Education & Skills Business Manager  
J. Kennedy, Headteacher Corbridge Middle School

May I request this letter be tabled at the next School Forum meeting due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July?

**Corbridge Middle School - Additional funding to meet the minimum per pupil funding level**

The Northumberland County Council 2019-2020 budget share information was published in March 2019. Corbridge Middle School expected that additional funding of £20,761 would be received to meet the revised minimum per pupil funding level for middle schools. No additional funding was received. Following investigation it was identified that the income received for rates was included in the min pp level calculation. With a rateable value of £25,778, Corbridge Middle School has been unduly penalised along with other schools who have high a rateable value and low levels of income from pupil led factors.

The School Block National Funding Formula Technical Note indicates that calculations for the additional funding are calculated by the DfE at school level before rolling up to local authority level; whilst premises and growth factor funding are added at LA level to provide the total funding level for the LA. Both figures together are then distributed by the Schools Forum to individual schools.

At no point in the narrative of the technical guide is there any mention of the inclusion of rates (which is part of the premises and mobility funding) when calculating whether there is a need for additional funding to meet the minimum per pupil funding level for each individual school. Premises and growth factor funding appear to be separate funding to the LA and provided as one sum to the LA.

This issue was raised with Bruce Parvin at the time who confirmed to us that no specific decision was made by the Schools Forum on this for 2019/20 as there was no change in the approach from 2018/19. It was also confirmed that the approach was ratified by the ESFA, as the tool gives the option for rates to be included within the calculation. Mr Parvin agreed to draw our comments to the attention of the Formula Funding Committee when they met again early in the summer term to consider the approach for 20/21.

Inclusion of rates in the school calculation does not appear to follow the letter or the spirit of the technical guidance and Corbridge Middle School has been by its rates which we have no control over.

Could you please confirm that you will review whether it is appropriate to include the premises funding provided to the LA in the calculation to decide if additional funding is required for individual schools to meet the minimum pp funding levels?

Kind regards

Jo Holmes  
Chair Governors  
Corbridge Middle School