

(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)
19 January 2022

Title: Schools' Forum Report	
Open	For Decision / For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Operational Director: Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director for Education Youth and Childcare	
Accountable Strategic Director: Elaine Allegretti – Director for People and Resilience	
Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Constitution2. Revised DSG funding for 2021/22, including HNB3. DSG Outturn forecast for 2021/224. High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn Forecast for 2021/225. 2022/23 Early Years (EY) Central Costs6. DSG block allocations for 2022/237. Growth Funding for 2022/238. Falling Rolls Fund for 2022/239. Local Funding Formula for 2022/2310. De-delegation11. Trade Union Duties12. School Improvement and Brokerage13. High Needs budget for 2022/2314. Update on funding for Schools15. Replacement of Council's Oracle General Ledger and HR/Payroll System16. AOB	

Recommendation(s)

The Schools' Forum is requested to:

1. (a) note the updated constitution, based on October 2021 census.
(b) approve consultation with key members for the election of representatives in respect of vacancies.
2. Note the updated DSG allocations for 2021/22.
3. (a) Note the projected 2021/22 DSG outturn position.
4. Note and comment on the 2021/22 High Needs outturn forecast position.
5. (a) Note details of the early years central spend budget for 2022/23.
6. (a) Note the final 2022/23 DSG allocations.
(b) Note the reduction of £516k in growth fund allocation from DfE.
(c) Note the reduction of £148k in historic element of Central Block.
7. (a) note the expected shortfall in growth funding allocations for 2022/23.
(b) agree the centrally held growth fund budget of £1,871 for 2022/23.
8. (a) Approve the proposed use of growth fund underspend (£500k retained centrally for future use, £468k for 2022/23 falling rolls and, and £216k for 2022/23 schools formula.
(b) approve the creation of the falling rolls budget of £500k for 2022/23 (£468k from growth fund and £32k from falling rolls underspends).
9. In respect of 2022/23 formula funding, schools forum are requested approve:
 - (a) the primary secondary ratio of 1:1.35 in the final funding model.
 - (b) the proposed AWPU and pupil led unit factor rates
 - (c) no capping and scaling
 - (d) the maximum MFG of +2%, and
 - (e) Schools forum is requested note the consultation responses

- 10 Schools Forum is requested to
- (f) Approve by phase (maintained schools only), the delegation rates and amounts.
 - (g) Note rates to be used for billing academies.
- 11 Note the proposed review of funding for trade union duties.
- 12 Note the update on funding arrangements for school improvement function for 2022/23.
- 13 Note the update on High Needs budgets for 2022/23
- 14 Note the School Supplementary Grant for 2022/23
- 15 Schools Forum is requested to
- (a) Note the update on replacement for Oracle and HR/Payroll systems.
 - (b) Note the timescales for maintained schools' closure of accounts

Reason(s)

The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 requires that the Schools' Forum meets regularly and is consulted by the local authority concerning the Dedicated Schools Budget and various related matters.

1. Constitution

- 1.1. The schools forum is largely made up of representatives from the maintained and academy sectors, along with those from governors, early years, diocese, 14-19 year old sector and trade unions.
- 1.2. The number of representatives from the maintained and academy sectors should be, in broad terms, proportionate to the total number of pupils on roll. However, these proportions can change because of changes in pupil intake and academy conversions. Therefore, number of representatives from each of these sectors requires review from time to time.
- 1.3. The October 2021 pupil census data is set out in the table below. In line with changes in pupil numbers, it is proposed that maintained primary representation is reduced by one to six and the maintained all-through representation is increased by 1. The share of the all-through sector Numbers on Roll have increased from 7% in October 20 to 12% in October 21.

	Primary	Secondary	Total	% as per	Existing Reps	Proposed	Pupils per Rep
	Oct 21 NOR	Oct 21 NOR	Oct 21 NOR	Oct 21			
Maintained:							
Primary	19,098	-	19,091	48%	7	6.0	3,183
Secondary	-	5,697	5,697	14%	2	2.0	2,849
All-through	639	4,347	4,986	12%	1	2.0	2,493
Academies:							
Primary	3,703	-	3,703	9%	1	1.0	3,703
Secondary	-	3,031	3,031	8%	1	1.0	3,031
All-through	1,054	2,324	3,378	8%	1	1.0	3,378
Total	24,494	15,399	39,893	100%	13	13	

Table: Analysis of October 2021 pupil census by sector and phase.

- 1.4. The existing and proposed number of representatives from the schools sector are set out in the table below. The updated number of representatives are based on October 2021 census.

Representing	Existing Share of Reps	Proposed Share of Reps	Elected By	Dec21 Vacancies
Maintained Primary	7	6	Primary Heads Forum	2
Maintained Secondary	2	2	Secondary Heads Forum	1
Maintained All-through (A/T)	1	2	Formal election process with sector.	1
Academies & Free Primary	1	1	Formal election process with sector.	0
Academies & Free Secondary	1	1	Formal election process with sector.	0
Academies & Free Primary (A/T)	1	1	Formal election process with sector.	1
Maintained Special	1	1	Maintained Special School	0
Maintained PRU	1	1	Automatic	0
Academy Special School	1	1	Formal election process with sector	0
Governors 1 Prim. 1 Sec. 1	2	2	Governor Ser. to administer process	1
Early Years Rep	1	1	Local Authority	0
Church of England Rep	1	1	Formal process with Diocese	0
Catholic Rep	1	1	Formal process with Diocese	0
14-19 Rep	1	1	Automatic	1
Trade Union Rep	1	1	Formal process with Trade Unions	0
Total	23	23		7

Table 2 – Proposed ratios of Schools Forum representatives

Recommendation (i): Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) note the updated constitution, based on October 2021 census and
- (b) approve consultation with key members for the election of representatives in respect of vacancies.

2 Revised DSG funding for 2021/22, including HNB

- 2.1 The DSG funding allocations published in November 2021 are set out in the table below. The total DSG allocation for the year, after recoupment, is £247,463k. There have been no further changes to the funding allocations since the previous update in December 2021. However, the direct funding adjustments are subject to further ongoing changes and finalised by 31 March 2022, and Early Years funding allocations by July 2022.

	2021/22 Updated DSG allocations as at July 21		
	Before recoupment	Less: recoup't	Net
	£000s	£000s	£000s
	(a)	(b)	(c) = (a) - (b)
Schools Bloc	244,281	60,939	183,342
Central Block	2,360		2,360
High Needs	42,557	4,001	38,556
Early Years	23,205		23,205
Total:	312,403	64,940	247,463

Table : 2021/22 DSG Allocations Updates

Recommendation (ii): Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) Note the updated DSG allocations for 2021/22.

3. DSG Outturn forecast for 2021/22

- 3.1 The table below sets out the projected DSG outturn for 2021-22. Schools block is reporting an underspend of £575k compared to £323k reported in December 2021. This is the net effect of revised forecasts on growth fund requirements, based on

the October 21 census, and adjusted falling rolls allocations. (Please see sections 7 & 8 of this report). There is reduced claim on growth fund due to lower than anticipated September 2021 pupil number growth.

	2021/22 Funding	2021/22 Projected Out-turn+	+ Surplus / (Deficit) March 21	EY adjust.
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	
Schools Block – ISB	183,342	182,767	575k	
Central Block	2,360	2,360	0	
High Needs Block	38,566	40,885	(2,319)	
Early Years Block	23,205	23,205	0	
Total	247,473	249,376	(1,744)	(1,744)
DSG reserves b/f (surplus)				9,828
Unadjusted DSG Reserves				8,084
Less Early Years clawback				(563)
Projected 21/22 Closing DSG Reser.				7,521
Of which:				
SFFD retained centrally			699	
Growth Fund carried forward			1,184	
Fall Rolls carried forward			32	1,915
Net DSG Reserve				5,606

Table – Projected 2021/22 Out-turn

Projected Out-turn for Schools Block (Growth Fund and Falling Rolls)

- 3.2. The total falling rolls budget for 2021/22 is reporting an underspend on £32k. The updated funding allocations are based on details of school reserve balances submitted by the academies. The revised position is set out in the table below. It is recommended that the balance of £32k is carried forward to 2022/23 falling rolls fund.

School	Falling Rolls Approved	Notes
Dorothy Barley Jun.	26,900	
Northbury	52,009	
Ripple Primary	55,595	
Valence Primary	52,308	
John Perry	59,182	
Gascoigne	123,745	
St Josephs (Dag)	24,830	
Thames View Inf.	39,455	
Parsloes Primary	60,976	
(A): Total Approved	495,000	
Add: Valance Bulge Class	52,308	
Less: St Josephs (Dag)	(24,830)	Exceeds reserve threshold
Less: Ripple Adjustment	(32,430)	£23,165 of falling rolls plus growth funding
Less: Dorothy Barley Jun.	(26,900)	Exceeds reserve threshold
(B) Adjusted Total spend	463,147	
Net (underspend)	31,853	

Table: 2021/22 Falling rolls fund allocations

- 3.3. The 2021/22 brought forward balance on growth fund was £641k, A projected in-year underspend of £364k on growth fund was reported at the October 2021 schools forum. The total projected carry forward was £1,005k, and it was agreed that £505k (i.e. balances in excess of £500k) is released for falling rolls in 2022/22.
- 3.4. The updated in-year position growth fund is set out in the table below. The October 2021 census has now been finalised, and school qualifying for growth funding for additional classes opening is set out in the table below. The revised in-year growth fund forecast have increased from an underspend of £364k to £543k. This is due less than anticipated growth at several schools including Eastbrook, Gascoigne and Goresbrook.

School	Pri. Sep21 Growth	Sec. Sep21 Growth	Pupil Led £000s	AWPU £000s	Total Budget £000s	Actual	Vari. + Fav/ (unfav.)
Barking Abbey School		81		237	237	237	0
Dagenham Park		30		88	88	88	0
Eastbrook School **	45	90	146	364	510	34	476
Eastbury Community	60			134	134	134	
Gascoigne Primary	30			67	67	0	67
Goresbrook	30			67	67	0	67
Greatfields		60		176	176	176	0
Riverside Secondary		120		352	352	352	0
Robert Clack **	30	180	238	594	832	832	0
The Sydney Russell	60			133	133	133	0
Ripple	30		0	0	0	67	(67)
Total	255	561	384	2,212	2,596	2,053	543

Tabel - Update on 2021/22 growth fund forecast

Recommendation (iii): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) Note the projected 2021/22 DSG outturn position.

4. HNB Outturn Forecast for 2021/22

- 4.1 The budget for 2021/22 is £38.556m (after recoupment). The table below shows the detailed position for High Needs for 2021/22. The projected outturn position for the year is £2.3m overspend. This includes over £2m that has been disbursed to schools to help alleviate the financial pressures schools are facing due to the ongoing demand and complex cases of children with SEN. This is a one-off payment for pupils with band F/G/H that exceeds 1% of the total school population. This also

includes one-off funding of £1.1m for early years SEN pupils at reception and PVI settings.

	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Outturn Forecast	Variance + surplus / (deficit)
Alternative Provision	3,399,759	3,475,830	3,286,723	189,107
ARP Funding	6,093,890	8,259,360	8,130,889	128,471
DSG – HN Education Inclusion.	1,494,256	1,542,659	1,481,245	61,405
Top-ups (inc. OB & NMSS)	6,264,504	7,863,410	7,591,472	271,938
HN Top Ups – Post 16	1,801,210	1,755,760	2,121,067	(365,307)
SEN Panel Top Ups	1,522,596	1,350,000	1,920,782	(570,782)
LACHES, Language Support	360,490	344,210	328,393	15,817
Initiatives	147,608	676,750	676,750	0
Special School Funding	10,951,784	12,279,360	12,224,622	(54,738)
Early Years & Integr. Youth	342,143	568,410	568,457	(47)
Total	32,378,240	38,115,749	38,330,400	(214,651)
Surplus & Gatekeep	1,636,435	440,365	2,544,630	(2,104,265)
Total Budget	34,014,675	38,556,114	40,875,030	(2,318,916)

Table – High Needs Outturn

- 4.2 Alternative Provision underspend of £189k relates funding earmarked for EAL students.

Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs) forecast underspend of £128k will be utilised to alleviate the financial pressures schools are facing due to ongoing demand and complex cases.

- Post16 top up payments in support of continued growth and funding in support of 16-25 cohort reported an overspend of £365k. This includes provision for £300k for additional places this year.
- Headteacher SEN Panel top ups budget is forecasted to overspend by £570k due to the increase in SEN children requiring additional support and recognition of early years SEN in schools.

- 4.3 The High Needs working group met on 6 January and main areas discussed were:

- High needs block forecast outturn for 2021/22 and reporting pressures with post16 and Head teachers top up panel meeting
- High Needs block funding allocation for 2022/23 and additional Supplementary funding from Central government
- Detailed draft 2022/23 high needs block budget
- Modelling for School Resource Provisions (SRPs) in mainstream schools and criteria and descriptors to enable a local model or local provision to be developed in support of SEN pupils and local inclusion.

Recommendation (iv): Schools forum are requested to:

Note and comment on the 2021/22 High Needs outturn forecast position.

5. 2022/23 Early Years (EY) Central Costs

- 5.1 At the last meeting, members asked for further details of centrally retained early years budget. The support offered helps early years children attending settings achieve the developmental steps required to be school ready.

EY central Costs	2020/21 Central Costs Budgets	2021/22 Central Costs Budgets	No of FTE Staff	Notes
Childminding Development Officers	69,345	73,546	1.6	i
Early Years Teachers Service	522,480	554,134	8.7	ii
Home Portage Scheme	179,293	190,155	7.9	iii
Targeted Support Central Costs DSG	108,630	115,211	0.6	iv
Total	879,748	933,047	18.8	

Table: Early Years central costs.

- (i) Childminding and Development Officers provide quality support and training for early education providers. The aim is to ensure good quality early education is available to all children to give them the best start in life and be school ready
- (ii) Early Years Teacher service also provides specialist support and training for early education providers. This includes raising standards by providing quality support to providers in the form of advisory teachers including SEND and specialist advisory teacher for the deaf (0-5) Its aim is to ensure good quality early education is available to all children to give them the best start in life and be school ready.

- (iii) This covers just over a third of the overall Portage budget with the remainder from the High Needs block. The service also identifies and supports children with special educational needs and disabilities and provides help to settings in submitting EHC requests. The service also provides home education support for children under 3 with complex needs.
- (iv) The key central functions are to commission, oversee and manage the early years service. Other central costs incurred by the service includes
 - Licensing and administration of the early-years IT system,
 - Data collection, monitoring, statutory returns.
 - Vetting of providers and capacity building.
 - Processing of the early years funding to settings.
 - Admin and management support costs.
 - Other supplies and services costs.

Recommendation (v): Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) note details of the early years central spend budget for 2022/23.

6. DSG block allocations for 2022/23

- 6.1 The 2022/23 DSG allocations were published in December 2021. The Primary (£5,314) and Secondary (£7,012) Units of Funding (PUF and SUF) were previously published in July 2021. These unit rates have now been applied to the October 2021 census to determine the final allocations for 2022/23.
- 6.2 The final funding allocations for 2022/23 are set out in tables below. There are no changes to the overall structure of the formula used to calculate the funding distribution.
- 6.3 The premises funding consists of business rates, PFI and split sites. The 2022/23 allocations are based on historic spend from the previous year with the exception of PFI which has been uplifted for RPIX data.

Block	2021/22 Final Allocations	2022/23 Final Allocations	Movement + Fav / (unfav.)
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Schools Block	232,350	238,080	5,730
Premises (historic)	9,992	9,462	(530)
Growth Fund	1,939	1,423	(516)
Total Schools Block	244,281	248,965	4,684
<i>Pupil No</i>	<i>39,847</i>	<i>39,882</i>	<i>35</i>

Table: 2022/23 Schools Block Allocations

Block	2021/22 Final Allocations	2022/22 Final Allocations	Movement + Fav / (unfav.)	% change
Schools Block	244,281	248,965	4,684	2%
High Needs	42,557	46,917	4,360	10%
CSSB - On-going	1,620	1,632	12	1%
CSSB - Historic	740	592	(148)	(20%)
Early Years (Prov.)	21,619	21,619	0	
Total DSG Funding	310,817	319,725	8,908	0

Table: 2022/23 DSG Allocations for all Blocks

- 6.4 The growth fund allocation for 2022/23 is £1,423 representing a reduction of £516k compared to the previous year (please see table above). Growth funding has been allocated on a formulaic basis for a number of years, under which the local authority has seen consistent reductions year on year as funding is now more thinly spread across more local authorities than funding based on historic spend.
- 6.5 The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is split into two elements: continuing statutory functions and local arrangements for historically agreed services. The statutory functions are allocated on the basis of per-pupil funding rates (90% basic per pupil factor and 10% based on FSM and FSM E6) uplifted by Area Cost Adjustment giving a unit rate £40.90 for the local authority. In accordance with previous DfE announcement, the historic element is seeing year on year reductions of 20% that started in 2020/21. The allocation of Central Block was dealt with in the December forum.
- 6.6 The High Needs block is increasing by £4,360k. The new allocation, now based on formula, goes some way to address gap created by funding allocated on a historic basis. LBBD had one of the largest existing funding gaps and is receiving maximum uplift of 10% (measured against rebased baseline). However, a growing population and other demographic changes mean continuing increase in demand for services.

Recommendation (vi): School Forum are asked to note:

- (a) the final 2022/23 DSG allocations.
- (b) reduction of £516k in growth fund allocation from DfE.
- (c) reduction of £148k in historic element of Central Block.

7 Growth Funding for 2022/23

7.1 Growth funding allocations are based on differences between the primary and secondary numbers on roll in each LA between the October 2020 and October 2021 school censuses. The methodology captures growth at the level of Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). For this, the school postcode information is used to identify the MSOA for the school, to map the growth in small geographical areas within local authorities between the previous two October censuses. Negative growth is disregarded.

7.2 The provisional September 2023 expansions are set out in the table below. The primary and secondary phases are reporting growths of 90 and 420 respectively. Total cost of funding growth is £1,871k which includes £420k of pupil-led premium uplift. The DfE growth fund allocation is £1,423k leaving a shortfall of £448k to be met from the Schools Block. The LA is funded at £1,681 and £2,513 (inc ACA) per pupil for primary and secondary growth. In contrast, schools are funded at between £2,240 (£3,136 with 40% uplift) and £2,975 (£4,165 with 40% uplift) under the local formula.

School	Prim. Growth	Sec. Growth	Prim. AWPU £3,840	Sec. AWPU £5,100	40% Uplift	Budget
Dagenham Park CofE		30	0	89,163		89,163
Goresbrook	30		67,200	0		67,200
Greatfields		60	0	178,325		178,325
Riverside Primary	30		67,200	0		67,200
Riverside Secondary		150	0	445,813	178,500	624,138
Robert Clack	30	180	67,200	534,975	241,080	843,046
Total			201,600	1,249,500	419,580	1,870,680
GF Grant						1,423,064
Shortfall						447,616
Met from 2022/23 Sch.Block						(447,616)

Table : 2022/23 Planned Sept. 22 Expansions and Growth Fund Requirements

Note: ** are funded at AWPU plus 40% pupil led funding factors (growth exceeding 4 classes or are new and growing)

7.3 The existing local policy is that growth in excess of 4 classes should receive an uplift. DfE guidance states that significant growth should be funded through the

formula in order that these attract not just the pro-rata AWPU but also other pupil led factors. These equate to on average 40% uplift on AWPU. This is in recognition of diseconomies of scale associated with large scale growth. This can be funded by varying the pupil number on APT so that these are included in the overall ISB allocation for the year. However, this can create difficulties where the full planned classes fail to materialise due to lack of pupil number which will then have to be clawed back the following year. Therefore, the preferred option is to fund it through centrally retained growth.

Recommendation (vii): School Forum are requested to:

- (a) note the expected shortfall in growth funding allocations for 2022/23
- (b) approve the centrally held growth fund budget of £1,871k for 2022/23

8 Falling Rolls Fund for 2022/23

8.1 Please see **Appendix 1** for changes in numbers on roll (NOR) (with pupil number adjustments for new and growing schools) used for funding purposes. Overall, pupil numbers have increased by just 41 between October 20 and October 21 census; the primary phase (including all-throughs) is reporting a net overall reduction of 307 and the secondaries are reporting a net increase of 348. In the primary phase, 28 are reporting combined reductions of 717, and 20 reporting increases of 410. In the secondary/ all-through phases 4 are reporting combined reductions of 87, and 9 are reporting aggregate increases of 435.

	Number of Schools with Increases in NOR	Increase NOR	Number of Schools with Reductions In NOR	Reduction NOR	Net Change in NOR
Primary	15	201	28	(717)	(516)
All-through Pri.	5	209	0	0	209
Secondary	6	238	2	(20)	218
All-through Sec,	3	197	2	(67)	130
Total	28	845	32	(804)	41

Table change in pupil numbers between October 20 October 21 census.

8.2 To be eligible for falling rolls, schools must meet a number of qualifying criteria. It is a DfE mandatory requirement that the school must be good or outstanding. Other requirements previously agreed by the Forum are;

- (a) reductions of 10 or more pupils after adjusting for impact of bulge classes.
- (b) year on year reduction in delegated budget.
- (c) school's reserves do not exceeding 8% of delegated budget.

- 8.3 A significant number of schools are likely to experience increased financial stress as a result of falling rolls . There are 22 schools with aggregate falling pupil numbers of 710 that are seeing reductions in ISB totalling £2.3m, all with the exception of one are primaries. Conversely, there are 25 schools with growth in pupil numbers totalling 843 reporting increases in ISB totalling just over £8m, of which £6.3m relates to secondary / all-through phases (please see **Appendix 2** for further details).
- 8.4 At the October 2021 meeting, the forum agreed to use £505k from the growth fund underspend to support falling rolls (now adjusted to £500k). This means the 2022/23 schools block allocations are maximised for the schools formula.
- 8.5 The proposed growth fund position is set out in the table below.

	£000s
2021/2 b/f (growth fund)	641
In-year underspend (growth fund)	543
Total expected c/f growth fund balance at end of 2021/22	1,184
Of which:	
To retain centrally for future use	500
Falling Rolls in 2022/23	468
2022/23 schools funding formula (22/23 growth)	216
Total	1,184

Table: proposed use of underspend on growth fund

	£000s
From 2021/22 Growth Fund underspend	468
From 2021/22 Falling Rolls underspend	32
Total	500

Table: Falling Rolls Fund for 2022/23

- 8.6 The expected growth fund carry forward is £1,184 (or b/f balance of £641k plus in-year underspend of £543k) (please see paragraph 3.4). It is recommended that £500k is retained centrally for future growth requirements, £468k is assigned for falling rolls in 2022/23 and the balance of £216k is distributed through formula in 2022/23).

Recommendation (viii): School Forum are requested to:

- (a) Approve the proposed use of growth fund underspend (£500k retained centrally for future use, £468k for 2022/23 falling rolls and, and £216k for 2022/23 schools formula.
- (b) approve the creation of the falling rolls budget of £500k for 2022/23 (£468k from growth fund and £32k from falling rolls underspends).

9 Local Funding Formula for 2022/23

9.1 The schools block budget income and expenditure are set out on table below. Total schools block grant income is £248,965k and planned expenditure is £249,183, the difference is largely met from growth fund underspend. Individual School Budget modelled for 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

2022/23 Schools Block Budget	£'000s
School Block Allocation 22/23	238,080
Premises	9,462
Growth Fund	1,423
Schools Block Budget for 2022/23	248,965
Adjustments:	
Partial use of 21/22 Growth Fund underspend	216
Use of b/f DSG reserves	2
(A) Total Funding available	249,183
Schools Block Formula	247,313
Growth Fund	1,870
(B) Provisional Schools Block Expenditure	249,183

Table 11: DSG Income and Budgeted Spend

9.2 The funding model has been calculated on the following basis:

- (a) The NFF rates with ACA have been applied all of the factors with the exception of AWPU.
- (b) The DfE funding ratio, based on the existing data for the local authority, is 1:1.41 The Schools Forum previously agreed to gradually move to towards the existing ratio of 1:1.41 in phases. In the 2021/22 formula, AWPU were flexed to achieve a ratio of 1:1.35. The notional funding allocations published by the DfE is showing that most primary schools are having to be supported through the funding floor factor in respect of the minimum 2% per pupil uplift. This is

because the pupil led factors are not fully effective in driving the funding allocations and minimum increases through the formula. Therefore, in respect of 2022/23, the existing ratio of 1:1.35 is being proposed in order to provide continuing protection to the primary phase. It will also provide reduced funding turbulence and uncertainty until these issues are possibly resolved at a national level.

- (c) The October 20 pupil profiles have been used to determine the per pupil unit of funding which is then applied to October 2021 pupil numbers to determine the total schools block allocations for 2022/23. Any funding pressures arising from adverse movements in pupil profiles between the October 21 and October 22 will have to be contained within the allocations for the year. There was a 4% increase in primary FSM and 5% increase in secondary FSM compared to 2021/22. Primary FSM6 also increased by 2%. Primary and secondary mobility also increased by 1%. Schools are funded for these increases through the 2022/23 formula but the funding from DfE is received on a lagged basis
- (d) The local AWPU rates for primaries are higher and secondaries lower than the NFF rates in order to achieve the required primary secondary ratio of 1:1.35 and to achieve 2% minimum funding guarantee. This means secondaries would be funded 35% more per pupil on average than a primary pupil in recognition of their greater cost.
- (e) The model also includes rates adjustments and estimated PFI uplifts. Estimated NNDR allocations are now deducted from the grant and paid direct to the billing authority. Therefore, this funding will no longer be passported to schools.
- (f) To mirror calculation of schools NFF by the DfE, capping and scaling of gains have not been applied to the formula. This means that schools will retain all the gains under the formula.
- (g) The formula offers Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection. This measures the percentage increase in per pupil funding between 2021/22 and 2022/23 formula budget after removing lump sum and rates allocations. The regulations allow MFG to be set between 0.5% and 2%. The 2022/23 model includes the maximum protection of 2%. There are 31 schools that had to be supported through MFG, and all except five are primary schools.
- (h) There are 25 schools with increases in pupil numbers, all of which are seeing increases in ISB. The detailed movements in NOR and ISB are set out in **Appendix 2**.
- (i) The formula over-view is set out on **Appendix 3**. The local pupil led factors now mirror the NFF rates, with the exception of AWPU. The local primary AWPU is higher and secondary rates lower than NFF rates in order to achieve the required primary secondary ratio and MFG. Total cost of schools block formula is £247,313k.

- 9.3 The final formula allocations are subject to review by the DfE, with possible further technical adjustments or refinements to the ISB allocations set out on **Appendix 2**. The deadline for submitting the local formula (know as Authority Proforma Toolkit) is 21 January 2022.
- 9.4 The local authority consulted schools on the proposed model and funding principles, agreed by the last Schools Forum, to be applied to the 2022/23 funding formula. A total of 31 schools responded; 27 primaries, 2 secondaries and 2 all-through schools.
- 9.5 The main finding are as follows (please see **Appendix 4** the summary of responses):
- Preferred option was model C primary secondary ration of 1:1.35.
 - 14 expressed a first preference for using the growth fund underspend for falling rolls and 12 for high needs
 - There was over-whelming support for setting MFG at plus 2% and not scaling back / capping gains.
 - Funding priorities were ranked in the following order of importance; primary secondary ratio, MFG, high needs, not capping and scaling gains, and providing 40% uplift for significant growth.

In setting the 2022/23 formula, we have broadly followed these principle.

Recommendation (ix): Schools forum are requested approve the following principles to be applied to the funding model for 2021/22:

- (a) primary secondary ratio of 1:1.35 in the final funding model
- (b) proposed AWPU and pupil led unit factor rates
- (c) no capping and scaling
- (d) the maximum MFG of +2%, and
- (e) note the consultation responses

10. De-delegation (Maintained Schools)

- 10.1 The 2021/22 and proposed 2022/23 de-delegation rates, for primary and secondary phases are set out in the tables below respectively. The updated figures are based on October 2021 census. De-delegated amount is top sliced from LA maintained individual school budget share to provide the respective services.
- 10.2 Approval is sought for school improvement de-delegation to offset the anticipated reduction of £84k in grant income. If the school improvement is approved, the

overall de-delegation would only increase by £50k as the balance is being met from realignments of contingencies. The proposed de-delegation for 2022/23 per pupil is £15.92.

	2021/22 Primary De-delegations			2022/23 Primary De-delegation			Movt
	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
Contingencies	19,981	3.64	72,790	19,737	2.51	49,540	(23,250)
LSCB	19,981	1.39	27,800	19,737	1.39	27,434	(366)
Trade Union	19,981	8.36	167,014	19,737	8.37	165,199	(1,815)
FSM Eligibility	19,981	0.84	16,765	19,737	0.84	16,579	(186)
Sch. Improve.				19,737	2.81	55,461	55,461
Primary Total:		14.23	284,369	98,685	15.92	314,155	29,844

Table: Primary De-delegation Rates 2022/23

	2021/22 Secondary De-deleg.			2022/23 Secondary De-dele.			
	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Movt.
Contingencies	9,830	3.64	35,810	10,044	2.51	25,210	(10,600)
LSCB Board	9,830	1.39	13,677	10,044	1.39	13,961	284
Trade Union	9,830	8.36	82,166	10,044	8.37	84,068	1,902
FSM Eligibility	9,830	0.84	8,248	10,044	0.84	8,437	189
Sch. Improve.				10,044	2.81	28,224	28,224
Sec. Total:		14.23	139,901		15.92	159,900	19,999

Table: Secondary De-delegation Rates 2022/23

- 10.3 Both academies and local authority maintained schools benefit from the arrangements in respect of trade unions and local safeguarding board. Academies are to be invoiced as there is no provision to de-delegate. Table below presents the revised rates chargeable to academies.

	Total 2021/22	2022/23 Academy Charges (to be invoiced)							
		Primary NOR	Unit Rate	Primary Total:	Sec. NOR	Unit Rates	Sec. Total	TOTAL 2022/23	Movt
LCSB	13,563	4,757	1.39	6,612	5,355	1.39	7,443	14,056	493
Trade Union	81,431	4,757	8.37	39,816	5,355	8.37	44,821	84,637	3,206
	94,994			46,428			52,265	98,693	3,699

Table: Charges to Academies 2022/23

	21/22 De-del.	22/23 Total De- del.	21/22 Acad Invoiced	22/23 Acade Invoiced
Contingencies	108,600	74,750	0	0
LSCB	41,477	41,396	13,563	14,056
Trade Union	249,180	249,267	81,431	84,637
FSM Elig.	25,013	25,016	0	0
Sch. Improv	0	83,685	0	0
Total	424,270	474,114	94,994	98,693

Total De-delegation and amounts to be invoiced.

Recommendation (x): Schools forum are requested to:

(f) Approve by phase (maintained schools only) and line by line, the delegation rates and amounts.

(g) Note rates to be used for billing academies.

11 Trade Union Duties

- 11.1 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding regulations allow trades union duties (also known as facility time) to be funded through de-delegation of Individual school budget (ISB) subject to approval of schools forum. The de-delegated budget is then distributed to schools that have paid teaching trade union representatives who are out of class. The school can use the funding to off-set staffing time lost through paid trade union duties through agency, supply, part-time fixed term contract etc.
- 11.2 As academy budgets cannot be de-delegated, they are billed by the local authority at the same per pupil de-delegation rates agreed for maintained schools,
- 11.3 In respect of maintained schools, de-delegating funds is administratively more efficient than schools entering into agreements with individual unions.
- 11.4 The current model of funding trade unions dates back to 2004/05. Meanwhile there have been changes in terms of trade union mergers and membership numbers. Therefore, Schools' Forum members have requested that a review takes place in 2022 which takes account of these changes and national guidance published during the period. If there are any changes proposed as a result of the review it will be subject to full consultation and would take effect from 2023/24 at the earliest. We are proposing to maintain the current arrangements for 2022/23 and schools will receive their existing level of funding to support TU facility time.

Recommendation (x): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) Note the proposed review of funding for trade union duties.

12. School Improvement and Brokerage

12.1 The government is in the process of reforming how Local Authority school improvement functions are funded. Councils receive an amount of funding annually to support School Improvement activity. The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant of £168K is mostly passported to BDSIP; the company is commissioned by the Council to carry out some School Improvement activity and statutory functions on its behalf.

12.2 The Government has consulted on proposed changes. The proposals are as follows:

- **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant, which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities; and
- **Make provisions** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) **via de-delegation from schools' budget shares**.
- The consultation seeks to reduce the grant by 50% by April 2022 and remove the grant entirely by April 2023.
- The Consultation closed on **26th November 2021**. The government published the response to the consultation on 11 January 2022, and concluded that the proposed grant reductions will go ahead in line with the original time scales.
- Please refer to **Appendix 5** for a list of school improvement/statutory functions that are currently supported by the School Improvement Grant.
- Also, refer to the link below for a list of school improvement traded services offered by BDSIP.
<https://bdsip.co.uk/service-offer/>
- The annual school improvement grant is circa £168k, we are anticipating a 50% reduction from April 2022 of £84k. This will be equivalent to £2.81 per pupil rate of de-delegation.

Recommendation (xii): Schools forum are requested to:

Note the update on funding arrangements for school improvement function for 2022/23.

13. HN budget for 2022/23

- 13.1 The High Needs working group met on 6th January and reviewed the draft budget for 2022/23 of £42.690m (after recoupment) based upon the latest DSG funding announcement published on December 2021. **Appendix 6** provides the 2022/23 detailed budget analysis, and as requested by School Forum in previous years the last 3 years budgets has also been provided for comparison purposes. Additional funding of £1,860m has been confirmed by DfE to support the additional burden due to the Health & Social Care Levy NI cost and other cost pressures.
- 13.2 There continues to be significant growth and demand for SEN places especially in early years and primary schools. Special Resource Provisions (SRP) expansions was discussed at the HN working group and proposed new settings, all subject to each of the schools' governing body approval. The draft budget of 2022/23 does include provision of £1.1m for the new SRP settings .
- 13.3 Autumn census mainstream SEN pupil data was reviewed at the HN working group as an action from School Forum and the inter relationship with mainstream notional budgets. The census reported 528 pupils (excluding ARP pupils) with an EHC plan recorded by schools and 657 recorded as receiving top up with and without an EHC plan but excluding ARP census. The working group agreed that further work was required with a sample of schools to review their notional budgets and further data analysis including checking of the data by schools.

Recommendation (xiii): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) Note the update on High Needs budgets for 2022/23

14. Update on Funding for Schools

- 14.1 The government confirmed in the autumn 2021 spending review that schools will be paid additional funding to provide support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs. This funding will be allocated through the Schools Supplementary Grant 2022 to 2023.

- 14.2 The Schools Supplementary Grant will only be payable to public sector employers. This means that further education colleges, sixth form colleges, independent learning providers, as well as private and voluntary sector early years providers will not be eligible to receive this funding.
- 14.3 School-level allocations of the Schools Supplementary Grant for the 2022 to 2023 financial year will be published in spring 2022. The funding will be paid to local authorities, who'll be required to pay it to individual schools at the rates published. The allocation is expected to be largely based on numbers on roll and FSM.

Recommendation (xiv): Schools forum are requested to note:

(a) the School Supplementary Grant for 2022/23

15 Replacement of Council's Oracle General Ledger and HR/Payroll System

- 15.1 The Council's Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution manages and reports upon HR, Payroll, Finance, Purchasing, Expenses and Debtors activities. The Oracle system was procured 20 years ago and the current release will not be supported after December 2021. At the same time, Council's requirements and ambitions have changed significantly during that period.
- 15.2 The E5 & iTrent system is going live on April 4th 2022, it's anticipated that the year end accounts for 2021/22 will be closed on the new system.
- 15.3 There has been an ongoing consultation with all schools that uses the councils financial system as their schools ledger and we have monthly meetings to provide support and guidance on the transition process.
- 15.4 Closure timetable: The Easter break falls on April 4th to 19th, therefore schools will be required to submit their end of year CFR returns including supporting documents by the Friday 8 April, 2022, to allow consolidation to the local authority's statement of accounts.

Recommendation (xv) Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) Note the update on replacement for Oracle and HR/Payroll systems
(b) Note the timescales for maintained schools' closure of accounts

16 Financial implications

As presented in this document.

17 Legal implications

The schools forums (England) regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the forum. The schools finance (England) regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the local authority must or may consult the schools forum and those in respect of which the schools forum can make decisions. These regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed Early Years provision in England.

18 Other implications

- a. **Risk management** - None
- b. **Contractual issues** - None
- c. **Staffing issues** – None
- d. **Customer impact** – None
- e. **Safeguarding children** - None
- f. **Health Issues** - None
- g. **Crime and Disorder Issues** – None
- h. **Property / Asset Issues** – None

Background papers used in the preparation of the report:

None.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 - Falling Rolls
Appendix 2 - Provisional ISB Allocations for 2022/23
Appendix 3 - Overview of Funding Model 2021/22 vs 2022/23
Appendix 4 -Summary of the Consultation Responses
Appendix 5 - School Improvement Statutory Functions
Appendix 6 - High Needs Budget for 2022/23