

**(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)**

**16 January 2024**

<b>Title:</b> Schools' Forum Report	
<b>Open</b>	For Decision / For Information
<b>Wards Affected: All</b>	Key Decision: No
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<b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 2023/24 Projected DSG Outturn</li><li>2. DSG Funding Allocation for 2024/25</li><li>3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) update</li><li>4. Early Years Update 2024/25</li><li>5. National Funding Formula - Indicative Schools Level Funding 2024/25</li><li>6. High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn Forecast for 2024/25</li><li>7. High Needs Provisional Budget 2024/25</li><li>8. De-delegation for 2024/25</li><li>9. Growth Fund for 2024/25</li><li>10. Falling Rolls for 2024/25</li></ol>	

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Schools' Forum is requested to:

1. Note the updated 2023/24 projected DSG outturn.
2. Note the DSG funding allocations 2024/25
3. Note and agree proposed central spend and reduction in historic funding.
4. Note and comment on the Early Years Funding.
5. Note, Comment & approve National Funding Formula - Indicative Schools Level Funding 2024/25
6. Note & Comment on the outturn forecast for High Needs Block for 2023/24
7. Note and comment High Needs Provisional Budget 2024/25
8. Note, Comment & approve proposed de-delegation for 2024/25
9. Note, Comment & approve proposed growth funding for 2024/25
10. Note, Comment & approve proposed falling roll funding for 2024/25

### **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. 2023/24 Projected DSG Outturn

1.1 The table below sets out the projected DSG outturn for 2023/24. All blocks are projecting a breakeven position except the school's block and High needs which are projecting a £128k and a £1.8m estimated overspend respectively. The £128k overspend relates to the net of growth & falling rolls payments. The revised DSG reserves to be carried forward are £8,373k, of which £264k has been paid to Early years settings as part of the one-off exceptional funding for SEND children. An amount of £992k is also earmarked for Schools Facing Financial Difficulties (SFFD).

1.2 The following may be considered for the use of DSG reserves; this is not an exhaustive list:

- Supporting schools, nurseries & PVI's with one-off exceptional payments to mitigate financial pressures due to increasing & complex SEND cases.
- Financing falling roll shortfall from reserves instead of top slicing from school's block.
- Health provision in schools.
- Set up contingency fund to respond to emerging needs.

	2023/24 Funding £'000	2023/24 Projected Outturn £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	2023/24 Projected variance Dec 2023 £'000	Movement
Schools Block (ISB)	188,955	189,083	(128)	0	(128)
Central Services Block	2,162	2,162	0	0	0
High Needs Block	49,837	51,673	(1,836)	(1,800)	(36)
Early Years Block	23,174	23,174	0	0	0
	<b>264,128</b>	<b>266,092</b>	<b>(1,964)</b>	<b>(1,800)</b>	<b>(164)</b>
<b>DSG reserves B/f</b>			10,073	10,073	0
<b>Revised DSG Reserve</b>			<b>8,109</b>	<b>8,273</b>	<b>(164)</b>
Add 22/23 EY additional funding			264	264	0
<b>Revised DSG Carried forward</b>			<b>8,373</b>	<b>8,537</b>	<b>(164)</b>
Of Which					
Early Years one off payments		266		0	266
Growth fund B/F		181		309	(128)
SFFD retained centrally		992		963	29
<b>Projected DSG Reserves 2023/24</b>			<b>6,934</b>	<b>7,265</b>	<b>(331)</b>

Table – 2023/24 projected DSG outturn

**Recommendation (i):** School Forum are asked to:

Note and comment on the projected DSG outturn position for 2023/24

## 2. DSG Funding allocation for 2024/25

2.1 The DSG allocation for 2024/25 was published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 19 December 2023 with LBBB being granted the sum of **£367.846m** across the four blocks (before academy recoupment). The table below provides a breakdown of the grant across the DSG blocks and shows the movement in funding between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

	2023/24 DSG Allocation as at 16/11/23			2024/25 DSG Allocation as at 19/12/23			Movement
	Before Recoup't £000	Less Recoup't/NN DR deductions £'000	Net £'000	Before Recoup't £000	Less NNDR deduction £'000	Net £'000	
	a	b	c = a - b	d	e	f = d - e	
Schools Block	262,447	(4,739)	257,708	275,744	(4,739)	271,005	13,297
Central Block	2,162	0	2,162	2,118	0	2,118	(44)
High Needs	54,607	(4,771)	49,837	57,291	(4,974)	52,317	2,480
Early Years	23,174	0	23,174	32,692	0	32,692	9,518
	<b>342,390</b>	<b>(9,510)</b>	<b>332,880</b>	<b>367,846</b>	<b>(9,713)</b>	<b>358,132</b>	<b>25,252</b>

Table - DSG Grant Allocation for 2023/24 - v – 2024/25 (in £'000s)

2.2 The overall increase in DSG from last year is **£25.252m**. The school's block has seen an increase of £13.297m due to a net increase in pupil numbers of 262 and an increase of 4% in the unit of funding for both primary and secondary sectors. The adverse change of £44k in the central services block is due to the 20% year-on-year reduction in the allocation for historic commitments. The High needs block has increased by £2.480m and this is due to an increase of 4% in the funding floor. The increase in the Early Years funding is due to the extension of provision for 2-year-olds and under 2s from September 2024.

2.3 The total school block funding for 2024/25 is **£275.744m** as set out in the table below. This figure is before recoupment for academies. This represents an increase of £13.337m from the previous year's allocation. The schools block allocation has been calculated based on the guaranteed unit of funding for primary and secondary multiplied by the number of pupils on roll at the October 2023 census. The total pupil led funding is £264.926m and in addition to this is the allocation of £1.181m for growth and £9.639m for the premises factors (namely split sites, NNDR & PFI)

DSG Schools block allocation			
Guaranteed Unit of Funding	2023/24	2024/25	Change
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	£5,491.85	£5,737.35	£245.50
Secondary Unit of Funding(SUF)	£7,401.58	£7,740.68	£339.10
<b>Numbers on roll</b>			
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	24,389.50	24,317.00	(72.50)
Secondary Unit of Funding(SUF)	15,871.50	16,201.50	330.00
<b>Total Primary school funding</b>	<b>£133,943,476</b>	<b>£139,515,140</b>	<b>5,571,664</b>
<b>Total Secondary school funding</b>	<b>£117,474,177</b>	<b>£125,410,627</b>	<b>7,936,450</b>
<b>Total pupil led funding</b>	<b>£251,417,653</b>	<b>£264,925,767</b>	<b>£13,337,228</b>
Premises Factor	9,463,967	9,636,862	172,895
Growth Funding	1,565,576	1,181,691	(383,885)
<b>Total Schools block before recoupment</b>	<b>262,447,196</b>	<b>275,744,320</b>	<b>13,126,238</b>
Deductions for NNDR	4,739,398	4,739,398	0
<b>Total schools funding after deduction before recoupment</b>	<b>257,707,798</b>	<b>271,004,922</b>	<b>13,126,238</b>

Table: Schools block allocation 2023/24 & 2024/25

Recommendation (ii): Schools forum is requested to:

Note the updated DSG funding.

### 3. Central Schools Services Block 2024/25 (CSSB)

- 3.1 The Central School Services Block allocates funding to LAs for “**ongoing**” and “**Historic**” responsibilities. Funding for on-going responsibilities is based on a pupil-led formula. The formula uses two factors: a basic per-pupil factor for all pupils through which LAs receive most of the funding (90%), and a deprivation per-pupil factor (10%). The pupil counts used to calculate CSSB allocations are LAs’ schools block pupil counts – that is, pupils in mainstream schools in year groups reception to year 11 inclusive, including pupils occupying places in special educational needs (SEN) units.
- 3.2 There has been a net reduction of £44k in the Central Schools block funding because of a reduction to the historic commitments of £94k which has been mitigated by an increase to the ongoing commitment budget of £50k.

3.3 The CSSB on-going budget for 2024/25 is used to fund the following Education functions on behalf of schools:

<b>Services</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Admission Service	648	671	691
Schools Forum	60	62	64
Copy right Licences	180	186	192
Statutory responsibilities	743	769	792
<b>Ongoing Commitments Budget</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,738</b>
School Improvement	55	44	35
Schools Estates	77	62	50
School Games Organiser	26	21	17
Trewern outdoor education	106	85	68
Community Music Service	158	126	101
Advisory Teachers	170	136	109
<b>Historic Commitments Budget</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>CSSB Budget</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>2,118</b>

**Table: Central Schools Services Block**

3.4 In 2024/25 as in previous years beginning from 2021/22, the budget for CSSB historic commitments funding is being reduced 20% year-on-year. The annual reductions are set out in the table below.

<b>Education Services</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>
School Improvement	86,000	68,800	55,040	44,032	35,247
Schools Estates	120,000	96,000	76,800	61,440	49,182
School Games Organiser	40,000	32,000	25,600	20,480	16,394
Trewern outdoor education	167,000	133,600	106,880	85,504	68,445
Community Music Service	248,000	198,400	158,720	126,976	101,643
Advisory Teachers	264,000	211,200	168,960	135,168	108,200
<b>Total (historic) Budget</b>	<b>925,000</b>	<b>740,000</b>	<b>592,000</b>	<b>473,600</b>	<b>379,111</b>

Table – Impact of CSSB Historic funding reductions on services

3.5 The summary below shows how the services funded from the historic element of the CSSG is being remodelled to mitigate the 20% annual reductions:

- **School improvement** – the reductions are being offset by School Improvement contingency and reserves budget, the reductions will be

absorbed by the school improvement service through rationalisation and service redesign.

- **Advisory Teachers** – this is part of BDSIP contract, and the savings have been passported as a reduction to the contract price.
- **Community Music Service** – the service has remodelled the delivery by entering into a service level agreement with schools.
- **Trewern outdoor education** – to mitigate the impact of the reductions, Trewern has been working on various service delivery options including remodelling of staff deployment, providing additional offers to schools to increase income and build-up of financial reserves.
- **School games organiser** – the reduction in DSG funding is being replaced by other grants such as the young Londoners Fund, Inspiring Futures, Sports England etc.
- **Schools' estates** – the reduction is being mitigated by capitalisation of eligible staffing costs that meets the criteria for capital funding, this is assign to the building of school assets.

Recommendation (iii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) agree the proposed central spend line by line under paragraph 3.3.
- (b) note the reduction in historic funding element of CCSB and impact on Education services.

#### 4. Early Years Update

- 4.1 Department for Education (DfE) provides local authorities with 6 relevant funding streams which together form the early years block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). They are:
- the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
  - the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds
  - maintained nursery school (MNS) supplementary funding.

- the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds.
- the disability access fund (DAF)
- the early years pupil premium (EYPP)

4.2 2024/25 EY funding rates for local authorities were announced in December 2023. The rates for 3- & 4-year-olds are increasing by 0.28p to £6.29 (4.46%), and 2-year-old rates are going up by £2.85p to £9.21 (8.08%). New entitlement for under 2-year-olds has also been introduced to begin from September 2024. The estimated funding for 2024/25 is set out in the table below.

	Rates 2023/24	Total Funding 2023/24	PTE 2024/25	Annual Entitlement (Hrs) 2024/25	Funded Hours 2024/25	Rates 2024/25	Total Funding 2024/25
Universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds	£6.01	£14,658,023	4,278.84	570	2,438,939	£6.29	£15,340,926
Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds	£6.01	£4,144,858	1,209.93	570	689,660	£6.29	£4,337,963
2 year old disadvantaged entitlement			1,125.56	570	641,569	£9.21	£5,908,853
2 year old entitlement for working parents	£6.36	£4,080,380	738.91	570	421,179	£9.21	£3,879,056
Under 2s entitlement			374.37	570	213,391	£12.58	£2,684,458
Early years pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds		£176,174	498.51	570	284,151	£0.68	£193,222
Early years pupil premium for 2 year olds			281.53	570	160,472	£0.68	£109,122
Early years pupil premium for under 2s			14.08	570	8,026	£0.68	£5,458
Disability access fund for 3 and 4 year olds*		£114,264	190.00			£910.00	£172,900
Disability access fund for 2 year olds*			53.00			£910.00	£48,230
Disability access fund for under 2s*			13.00			£910.00	£11,830
		<b>£23,173,700</b>					<b>£32,692,019</b>

**Table – EY funding allocations for 2024/25**

- 4.3 It is proposed that 5% of the funding is retained centrally to meet LA support costs for early years provision. This will apply to all provision levels as opposed to 3 & 4-year-olds funding only as was the case in previous years.
- 4.4 In view of the cost pressures faced by the sector, we are proposing to passport a 3.46% rate uplift for 3 & 4-year-olds and 6% for 2-year-olds respectively providers.
- The 3 and 4-year-old funded rates will therefore increase from £5.27 to £5.45p. This rate includes the EY Supplementary Grant which has now been rolled into EY DSG Block.
  - The 2-year-olds funded rates will increase from £8.16p to £8.65p. This rate includes the EY Supplementary Grant which has now been rolled into EY DSG Block.



4.5 The budgeted distribution of funding is set out in the table below.

	Rate 2023/24	PTE 2024/25	Annual Entit'mt (Hrs) 2024/25	Funded Hours 2024/25	Rates 2024/25	Total Funding 2024/25
Central	920,950					1,607,563
Universal 3&4 YO	5.21	4,279	570	2,438,939	5.45	13,298,872
Plus 15 PTE 3& 4 YO	5.21	1,210	570	689,660	5.45	3,760,529
Deprivation	30p-22p				(30p-22p)	938,580
Flexibility	0.21				0.21	328,503
SEN Inclusion Fund						300,000
<b>Total 3&amp;4 YO EY Block</b>						<b>18,626,484</b>
EY Pupil Premium	0.62				0.68	307,801
Disability Access Fund	828				910	232,960
Universal Entitlement 2 YO	6.09	1,126	570	641,569	8.65	5,549,317
Plus 15 PTE 2YO		739	570	421,179	8.65	3,643,027
SEN Inclusion Fund						100,000
Under 2 Funding					TBA	2,550,235
<b>TOTAL EY BLOCK</b>						<b>32,617,387</b>
<b>Early Years Allocation</b>						<b>32,692,016</b>
<b>Variance - Deficit</b>						<b>£74,629</b>

**Table – Early Years provisional Budget for 2024/25**

4.6 The early years funding requirements include the need to:

- set a single funding for universal and additional hours.
- pass on a minimum of 95% of the provision level funding to providers.
- use a universal base rate for all types of providers.
- use a deprivation supplement.
- not to channel more than 10% of their funding through supplements
- provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)
- pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.
- pass on the Disability Access Fund (DAF)

4.7 The SEN Inclusion fund for early years is £300k and £100k for 3 and 4-year-olds and 2 years olds respectively. The total amount of £400k would be passported to settings by the local authority inclusion team. Funding for Flexibility and Deprivation are £328,500 & £938,500 respectively.

4.8 In line with previous years, it is proposed that 5% of the funding for all provision levels is retained centrally to meet support and costs of early years provision. This is to fund home portage scheme (home visiting), early years teacher service (qualified teachers working with settings to raise standards, childminding development officer, and commissioning costs. (Please refer to table below for details.)

<b>Early Years Central Costs</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Childminding dev. Officers & EY Teachers	671,011	680,000
Home Portage Scheme	111,602	160,000
Targeted Support Central Costs DSG	58,337	63,944
Nursery Education Staff	80,000	80,000
Additional LA responsibilities	0.00	592,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>920,950</b>	<b>1,576,382</b>

**Table – Early Years centrally funded services**

- 4.9 In the 2023 Spring budget, a significant expansion of early years childcare entitlements for working parents was announced. This was to support increased parental engagement in the labour market. In addition, the government announced investment in wraparound care to support working parents with school aged children.
- 4.10 Finally a One-off exceptional payment was made to all EY settings in 2023/24 for SEND children. The payment was made in December. Refer to **Appendix A** for details.

**Recommendation (iv):** Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on the Early Years funded hourly rates for 2024/25.
- (b) Approve the SEN Inclusion fund (refer to section 4.7).
- (c) Approve the Early Years Centrally funded services line by line (Refer to section 4.8)

## 5. Response to Consultation: Schools Block funding option 2024/25

5.1 A total of 33 (59%) schools responded to the consultation, 27 primaries, 5 secondaries, 1 all-through school.

The main findings are as follows:

Phase	Model A Full NFF	Model B Adj for affordability	Model C 1:1.37	Total responses	% response by phase
Primary			27	27	82%
Secondary		5		5	15%
All through	1			1	3%
	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>3%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>82%</b>		

5.2 Comments were made in response to Question 1 of the consultation which was around the preferred funding models for 2024/25 as below:

*The context and need within the primary sector – particularly within EYFS where a higher number of complex needs is being seen across the borough – therefore this needs to be reflected within the allocation. If schools are to be able to staff correctly and not rely upon agency staffing, then the funding must enable this for schools to function. When looking at our closest neighbour boroughs, LBBB needs to be closer in line with the ratios seen. from subsidised activities which boost their cultural capital. Removing this additional support increases the demands and stresses on class teachers.”*

- from primary school headteacher

*In these challenging times for Primary Schools [increase in SEN pupils, ongoing of COVID etc] Model C is the least oppressive.*

- from primary school headteacher

5.3 The response to the second question which covered protecting schools with split sites who are impacted by the DfE formularising the split site funding are as follows:

Phase	Yes (Protect)	No( Don't Protect)	Abstained	Total responses	%
Primary	17	7	3	27	82%
Secondary	5			5	15%
All through	1			1	3%
	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>70%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>9%</b>		

5.4 Comments were made in response to Question 2 of the consultation as below:

*Suggest top slicing for, say, half of the reduction, rather than the full amount, as a gradual step*

*- from primary school headteacher*

*These split sites have been in place for many years – systems have been set up to address them. This is just additional funding for no clear purpose or with clear rationale for expenditure.*

*- from primary school headteacher*

*As we are a split site, this would mean a loss of funding, when we are already operating our second site with uneconomical class sizes.*

*- from primary school headteacher*

## **National Funding Formula (NFF) Funding 2024/25**

5.5 The Schools Block allocation published by the ESFA in December 2023 has been used to populate the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to arrive at provisional school level budgets for 2024/25. **Appendix B** shows the total funding passing through each funding factor based on the LBB preferred option.

5.6 LBB has mirrored the NFF funding for all but one of the mandatory factors. The LA does not mirror the NFF basic entitlement but has applied rates within the permitted factor value range prescribed by the DfE. Following the release of the confirmed data sets for the NFF, the primary/secondary ratio is now 1:1.36.

5.7 The NFF allocation for LBB (Schools block) following the updated October 2023 schools census data is shown in the table below.

	2023-24	2024-25 Provisional allocation	2024-25 updated with census data
Pupil Nos*	40,261	40,261	40,526
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	£5,492	£5,737	£5,737
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)	£7,402	£7,741	£7,741
LA Allocation excluding growth & premises factors	£251,417,653	£262,787,105	£264,925,768
LA Allocation through premises funding	£9,463,967	£9,636,860	£9,636,861
Growth Funding	£1,565,576	£0	£1,181,691
<b>Total SB baseline (excluding growth)</b>	<b>£257,889,335</b>	<b>£272,423,965</b>	<b>£275,744,320</b>
Baseline per pupil (excluding growth)	£6,466	£6,766	£6,804
Provisional % change in 2024-25			5%

Table – DfE updated NFF allocation.

5.8 **Appendix C** shows the indicative school level budget for 2024/25.

5.9 The DFE is introducing a formulaic approach to allocating split sites funding from 2024/25 onwards. This is to ensure consistency across the country. The split site funding will now be made up of two parts:

- Basic eligibility – a lump sum payment for each of the additional eligible sites up to a maximum of 3 additional sites. The impact of this will be a reduction to the 2023/24 amounts as these were based on LBBB local funding factors.
- Distance funding – Additional eligible sites that are separated from the main school by more than 100 metres, up to a maximum of 3 additional sites.

5.10 In previous years, LBBB has adopted a generous local funding factor rate for split sites. The introduction of the formula-based approach to funding schools which operate from multiple sites means a reduction this funding stream. This impacts on 8 LBBB schools and the consultation response is in support of protecting these schools for **one year only**. Schools’ forum has decided to offer 50% protection to the schools affected as shown in the table below. The sum of £318k will be met from the brought forward reserves.

School Name	No of Eligible sites per 2024/25	Distance to second site (metres)	Distance to third site (metres)	23-24 Split Sites Allocation	24-25 Split Sites Allocation	Reduction in split site funding	50% protection
Manor Infants School/Manor Longbridge	1	1,504.02		£160,000	£91,122	£68,878	£34,439
Ripple Primary School	1	0.00		£160,000	£60,710	£99,290	£49,645
Valence Primary School	1	1,406.11		£160,000	£91,122	£68,878	£34,439
Roding Primary School	1	1,065.07		£160,000	£91,122	£68,878	£34,439
Gascoigne Primary School	1	174.04		£160,000	£66,339	£93,661	£46,830
Barking Abbey School	1	995.77		£200,000	£91,122	£108,878	£54,439
Robert Clack School	2	853.33	1,460.69	£200,000	£182,243	£17,757	£8,878
The Sydney Russell School	1	703.77		£200,000	£91,122	£108,878	£54,439
<b>Total Split Sites Funding</b>				<b>£1,400,000</b>	<b>£764,900</b>	<b>£635,100</b>	<b>£317,550</b>

Table: Impact of formularising split sites

**Recommendation (vii):** School Forum is requested to:

- Note and comment on the consultation response
- Approve the primary secondary ratio of 1:36 for 2024/25 funding formula.
- Approve funding of £318k to be used for split sites protection.

## 6. 2023/24 Update on High Needs Projected Outturn

6.1 The projected outturn position for High Needs is a planned overspend of £1.8m. The table below shows details of the outturn position.

	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Outturn Forecast	Variance +surplus / (deficit)
Alternative Provision	3,437,983	3,390,746	3,287,903	102,843
ARP Funding	9,168,118	10,053,443	9,895,163	158,280
Education Inclusion	1,801,499	1,946,654	1,960,803	(14,149)
Out of Borough & Non-Maintained Funding	7,829,579	8,358,158	10,206,847	(1,848,688)
HN Top Ups – Post 16	2,180,000	2,412,000	1,475,891	936,109
SEN Panel Top Ups (includes One-off Exceptional Payments)	1,500,000	5,550,000	7,764,534	(2,214,534)
LACHES, Lang. Support	350,234	475,461	435,686	39,776
Initiatives	688,593	907,452	907,452	0
Special School Funding	13,200,725	15,024,191	14,087,212	936,978
EY Portage & Youth Ser	578,362	610,354	543,106	67,248
Parent Support & Health	580,000	1,108,251	1,108,251	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,315,093</b>	<b>49,836,710</b>	<b>51,672,848</b>	<b>(1,836,137)</b>

**Table – High Needs Outturn**

6.2 The projected outturn position for the DSG is forecasting a planned overspend of £1.8m to be met from DSG Reserves.

6.3 ARP funding forecast is reporting an underspend on primary ARP's and an overspend on secondary ARPs based upon numbers of pupils placed, inclusive of additional payments.

6.4 Out of Borough (OOB) payments and commissioned places is currently under review in accordance with total number of commissioned places and 'place-plus' cost however, based upon previous financial years expenditure from other local authorities and settings payment requests usually are processed at year end. The base budget was increased due to demand for SEN high needs suitable placements and forecast saving. This will change once the review has been completed.

- 6.5 SEN top-up panel met and due to demand and the payment of the one-off exceptional payments to schools, this is forecasting an in-year pressure in the region of £2.2m, this will be supported from other budget area savings and gatekeeping or earmarked budget in support of High Needs pressures.
- 6.6 Forecast saving within Looked After Children and Education Services (LACHES) and Language support budget is forecasting a small saving.
- 6.7 Early Years and Youth budget is forecasting a small underspend on the Portage Service.
- 6.8 The Parent and Health budget is currently forecasting a balanced budget.

**High Needs Block working group.**

The group met on 10<sup>th</sup> January and discussed future pressures due to demands upon the High Needs (HN) Block.

- an update was provided in relation to the latest monitor and in connection with Out of Borough (OOB) placements and a small working group has been established and will report back to the HN working group with numbers and costs.
- The proposed increase in top up banding rates was discussed and formula as part of proposal.
- Exceptional one-off funding was discussed and suggested proposals that the HN working group would model and report back with proposals and costings.
- The budget 2024/25 was reviewed by the group and details upon the percentage uplifts.

Recommendation (vi): Schools forum is requested to:

Note and comment on the outturn forecast for High Needs Block for 2023/24

**7. High Needs Provisional Budget 2024/25**

- 7.1 The total high needs block allocation for 2024/25 after deductions is **£52.316m**. There has been an increase of **£2.4m** from previous years allocation. Please refer to **Appendix D** for details of 2024/25 budget and a 4-year Budget trend including growth areas.
- 7.2 All High needs budget areas will attract a 2% budget uplift in 2024/25. However, ARP top up rates will remain the same as 2023/24, but the in-year budget for each ARP will attract a 2% uplift. We will monitor the in-year uplift of the ARP budget before recommending a permanent uplift of top-up rate next year to the base budget due to affordability.

**7.3 Introduction of a new funding rate for Panel top-up payments from 2024/25.**

7.4 To assist schools in future budget planning it was concluded that the local authority will develop a system with fewer applications to panel which would provide an annual secure funding for schools. The amount of funding will be based on needs which is transparent for schools and affordable within the financial envelope. Hence a new funding rate has been proposed to be implemented from 2024/25. The new funding rate is intended to support mainstream schools who have children placed in their provision who ideally would be placed in an ARP or Special School. Independent audits will continue to take for the proposed new top up process to be fair and transparent to all schools. The intention will be to ensure payments are made to schools as early as possible in the new academic year.

Proposed Panel Top-up Rates 2024/25				
Banding Type		2023-24 Current Rates	Proposed New Rates 24/25	% Uplift
Band F	Enhanced	3,000	3,221	7%
Band G	Targetted	5,000	9,866	97%
Band H	Specialist	7,932	12,510	58%

Recommendation (vii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on High Needs Budget for 2024/25.
- (b) Note and comment on Proposed Panel Top-up Rates for 2024/25

**8. De-Delegation (Maintained Schools)**

8.1 The 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25 de-delegation rates, for primary and secondary phases are set out in the tables below. The updated figures are based on October 2023 census. The de-delegated amount is top sliced from LA maintained individual school budget share to fund the respective services. The de-delegation rates for all services but trade unions remain the same as in 2023/24. The Trade union unit rate per pupil has been reduced to £5.25.



	2022/23 Primary De-delegation			2023/24 Primary De-delegations			2024/25 Primary De-delegation			Movt
	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
Contingencies	19,737	2.51	49,540	19,405	0.50	9,703	19,350	0.50	9,675	-28
LSCB	19,737	1.39	27,434	19,405	1.40	27,167	19,350	1.40	27,090	-77
Trade Union	19,737	8.37	165,199	19,405	8.40	163,002	19,350	5.25	101,588	-61,415
FSM Eligibility	19,737	0.84	16,579	19,405	0.84	16,300	19,350	0.84	16,254	-46
Sch. Improve.	19,737	2.81	55,461	19,405	5.06	98,189	19,350	5.06	97,911	-278
<b>Primary Total:</b>	<b>19,737</b>	<b>15.92</b>	<b>314,213</b>	<b>19,405</b>	<b>16.20</b>	<b>314,361</b>	<b>19,350</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>252,518</b>	<b>-61,844</b>

Table: Primary De-delegation Rates 24/25

	2022/23 Secondary De-delegation			2023/24 Secondary De-delegations			2024/25 Secondary De-delegation			Movt
	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
Contingencies	10,044	2.51	25,210	10,265	0.50	5,133	10,441	0.50	5,221	88
LSCB Board	10,044	1.39	13,961	10,265	1.40	14,371	10,441	1.40	14,617	246
Trade Union	10,044	8.37	84,068	10,265	8.40	86,226	10,441	5.25	54,815	-31,411
FSM Eligibility	10,044	0.84	8,437	10,265	0.84	8,623	10,441	0.84	8,770	148
Sch. Improve.	10,044	2.81	28,224	10,265	5.06	51,941	10,441	5.06	52,831	891
<b>Secondary Total:</b>	<b>10,044</b>	<b>15.92</b>	<b>159,900</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>16.20</b>	<b>166,293</b>	<b>10,441</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>136,255</b>	<b>-30,038</b>

Table: Secondary De-delegation Rates 24/25

<b>Total De-delegation</b>		<b>474,114</b>		<b>480,654</b>		<b>388,773</b>
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8.2 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. The table below presents the revised rates chargeable to academies.

	Total 2023/24	2024/25 Academy Charges (to be invoiced)							
		Primary NOR	Unit Rate	Primary Total:	Sec. NOR	Unit Rates	Secondary Total:	Total 2024/25	Movt
LCSB	14,839	4,971	1.40	6,959	5,764	1.40	8,070	15,029	190
Trade Union	89,032	4,971	5.25	26,098	5,764	5.25	30,261	56,359	-32,673
	<b>103,870</b>			<b>33,057</b>			<b>38,331</b>		<b>-32,482</b>

Table: Charges to Academies 2024/25

	23/24 Total De-del.	24/25 Total De-del.	23/24 Academy Invoiced	24/25 Academy Invoiced	2023/24 Total	2024/25 Total	Movement
Contingencies	14,835	14,896	-	-	14,835	14,896	61
LSCB	41,538	41,707	14,839	15,029	56,377	56,736	360
Trade Union	249,228	156,403	89,032	56,359	338,260	212,762	-125,498
FSM Elig.	24,923	25,024	-	-	24,923	25,024	102
Sch. Improv	150,130	150,742	-	-	150,130	150,742	612
<b>Total</b>	<b>480,654</b>	<b>388,773</b>	<b>103,870</b>	<b>71,388</b>	<b>584,524</b>	<b>460,160</b>	<b>-124,364</b>

Total De-delegation and amounts to fund the different services.

Recommendation (xiii): Schools forum is requested to:

(a). Approve by phase (maintained schools only) and line by line delegation rates and amounts (Section 8.1)

(b). Note rates to be used for billing academies (section 8.2)

## 9. Growth Fund for 2024/25

9.1 Growth funding is allocated through the national funding formula within the local authority's school's block. Growth fund is used by Schools to manage an increase in pupil numbers in 2024/25 before the lagged funding catches up. The DFE allocate growth funding based on the differences between primary and secondary pupils at school within each Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) between the October 2022 and October 2023 census figures. Only positive MSOA growth will be used in calculating the number of pupils to be funded. The criteria set by LBBB for the growth fund is as below:

- Support growth in Pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- Support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
- Meet the costs of new schools.

Growth fund should not be used to support schools in financial difficulty or general growth due to popularity.

9.2 LBBB will be responsible for funding growth needs for all schools in the borough and should fund them based on the same criteria. The LA will need to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the LA to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment).

9.3 The 2024/25 DFE published growth fund allocation is **£1.182m** and the revised growth requirement is yet to be determined, this will be confirmed once the September 2024 PAN data is received.

**Recommendation (ix):** School Forum are requested to:

(a) Note, the proposed growth fund allocation for 2024/25.

## 10. Falling Rolls Fund 2024/25

10.1 For the first time, the DfE will allocate funding to LA's for falling rolls. Falling rolls will be distributed based on reduction in pupil numbers that the LA's experience from year to year. It is based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll in each LA between October 2022 and October 2023.

10.2 The falling rolls allocation for each LA will be £140,000 per MSOA which sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the two census years. This allocation will be subject to an ACA.

10.3 LBBB has not attracted falling rolls fund for 2024/25 because the overall numbers of pupil on roll is an increase rather than a reduction. School forum will have to decide on supporting schools that meet the criteria from reserves.

- SCAP shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. This is a DfE mandatory requirement.
- The previous criteria that a school had to be judged outstanding or good by OFSTED has now been removed.

Other requirements previously agreed by the Forum are:

- The school must have a reduction of 10 or more pupils after adjusting for impact of bulge classes.
- There must be a year-on-year reduction in delegated budget.
- The school's reserves do not exceed 10% of delegated budget.

10.3 **Appendix E** sets out the movement in pupil numbers in October 2023 when compared to the October 2022 census. LBBB schools have seen a net growth in overall pupil numbers of 262. However, a total of 26 schools have seen a combined drop in numbers on roll of 394. Majority of schools impacted are in the primary sector with 23 (88%) primary schools seeing a drop in pupil numbers 365. 2 (8%) secondary schools have a drop of 20 and 1 (4%) all through school has seen a reduction of 9 pupils.

Phase	Oct 2022 Pri NOR	Oct 2022 Sec NOR	Oct 2023 Pri NOR	Oct 2023 Sec NOR	Primary Movement	Secondary Movement	Net
All- Through	1,737	6,903	1,795	7,104	58	201	259
Primary	22,653	-	22,526	-	-127	-	127
Secondary	-	8,971	-	9,101	0	130	130
	<b>24,390</b>	<b>15,874</b>	<b>24,321</b>	<b>16,205</b>	<b>-69</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>262</b>

10.4 Based on the numbers of pupils on roll at the October 2023 census when compared to the October 2022, the schools listed below meet the criteria set out in 10.3 above. The estimated falling rolls fund required is £351,322 and Schools forum is required to approve the use of reserves to meet this cost.

Phase	School Name	Total NOR Oct 2022	Total NOR Oct 2023	Change in NOR increase/ (decrease)	Falling Rolls Fund £
Primary	Roding Primary School	1,055	1,003	-52	62,239
Primary	William Bellamy Primary School	909	861	-48	57,452
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School(Barking)	250	217	-33	39,498
Primary	Dorothy Barley Infants' School	259	234	-25	29,923
Primary	Manor Infants' School/Manor Longbridge	1,075	1,050	-25	29,923
Primary	Parsloes Primary School	372	349	-23	27,529
Primary	Valence Primary School	852	833	-19	22,741
Primary	Hunters Hall Primary School	588	571	-17	20,348
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Dagenham)	326	311	-15	17,954
Primary	Rose Lane Primary School	621	610	-11	13,166
Primary	The Leys Primary School	392	382	-10	11,969
Secondary	The Warren School	1,073	1,062	-11	18,581
		<b>7,772</b>	<b>7,483</b>	<b>-289</b>	<b>351,322</b>

Table: Provisional Falling rolls allocation for 2024/25

**Recommendation (x):** School Forum is requested to:

Approve falling rolls fund for 2024/25

## 11. AOB

## 12 Financial implications

As presented in this document.

## 13 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 school's forum and those in respect of which the school's 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.

## 14 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 A - EY one off payment 2023/24

Appendix B - Overview of funding model 2024/25

Appendix C - Provisional ISB 2024/25

Appendix D – HN Budget 2024/25 and 4-year budget trend

Appendix E - Changes to Numbers on Roll