

MINUTES OF THE OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM
HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2023
VIRTUAL MS TEAMS MEETING
(10:00am to 12:00pm)

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Present: | Maintained Primary Representatives | |
| | Scott Halliwell (SH (Co-Chair) | HT, Southwood Primary School |
| | Julie Philips (JP) | HT, Godwin Primary School |
| | Gill Massar (GM) | HT, William Bellamy primary School |
| | Richard November (RN) | HT, Valence Primary School |
| | Simon Abeledo (SA) | HT, Rush Green Primary School |
| | Junaida Bana (JB) | HT, Furze Infant School |
| | Sara Rider (SR) | HT, Monteagle Primary School |
| | Maintained Secondary Representatives | |
| | Tony Roe (TR) | HT, Barking Abbey School |
| | Lisa Keane (LK) | HT, Eastbury Community School |
| | Maintained All-through (A/T) | |
| | Russell Taylor | HT, Robert Clack School |
| | Governor Representatives (1 pri & 1 sec) | |
| | Vacant | |
| | Vacant | |
| | Academy & Free Primary | |
| | Lisa Shepherd (LS) | HT, Eastbury Primary School |
| | Academy & Free Secondary | |
| | Andy Roberts (AR) | HT, Riverside School |
| | Academy & Free Schools (A/T) | |
| | Clare Cross (CC) | HT, Sydney Russell School |
| | Academy Special School Representative | |
| | Roger Leighton (RL) | Chief Executive, Partnership Learning |
| | Maintained Special Schools Representative | |
| | Jo Long (JL) | HT, Trinity School |
| | Maintained PRU Representative | |
| | Cathy Stygal (CS) | HT, Mayesbrook Park School |
| | Early Years Representative | |
| | John Trow Smith (JTS) | Early Years, Local Authority |
| | Trade Union Representatives (shared role) | |
| | Dominic Byrne (DB) | NUT |
| | John McGill (JMc) | NASUWT |
| | Church of England Representative | |
| | David Huntingford (DH) | HT, William Ford C of E Junior School |
| | Catholic Representative | |
| | Clare Cantle | HT, All Saints Catholic School |
| | 14-19 Representative | |
| | Vacant | Principal, Barking and Dagenham College |

Also present:

Jane Hargreaves (JH) – Commissioning Director, Education; Councillor Elizabeth Kangethe (CK) – Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement; Patricia Harvey (PH) – Senior Professional, High Needs Block; Katherine Heffernan (KH) – Group Manager, Local Authority Finance and Investment; Local Authority Finance; Gurmit Kaur (GKa) – Group Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Florence Fadahunsi (FF) – Group Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Emmanuel Baidoo – Group Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Caroline Connolly (CCo) – Group Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Amrita Kaur (AK) – Group Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Raihaan Hussain (RH) - Finance; Don Lan George (DLG) – Schools HR Manager; Natasha Cock (NC) - Commissioning & Intelligence Lead; Rikke Damsgaard (RD) – Early Years; Ronan Fox (RF) NHS Barking & Dagenham CCG; Evan Hollows (EH) – Eastbrook School; Yolanda Cattle (YC) – Village Infant School; Kim Cerri (KC) – Riverside School; Tracey Whittington (TW) – Beam Primary School; Mairead Pryor (MP) – Warren Junior School; Jamie Bell (JB) – Warren Junior School; Grant Krog (GK) – The Leys Primary School; Jagrutee Jani (JJ) – The Leys Primary School and Sharon Carpenter (SC) – Local Authority Minute Clerk.

Mr Scott Halliwell chaired the meeting, Mr Roger Leighton to chair the December 2023 meeting.

| 1.0 | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> | | | | |
|------------|--|----------|---|-------|------------------|
| | Apologies were received from Kofi Adu (KA) – Group Accountant; | | | | |
| 2.0 | <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u> | | | | |
| | RL advised SF about his role as a trade union representative, which is related to item 10 Trade Union Facility time update. | | | | |
| 3.0 | <u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</u> | | | | |
| 3.1 | The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record. | | | | |
| 3.2 | SF membership changes were noted. Martin Nicholson has been replaced by Sara Rider and Sue Ball has been replaced by Jo Long (Trinity). | | | | |
| 3.3 | SF membership must be up to date and appear at the top of each agenda. The membership will be re-confirmed in January 2024. | | | | Action NY |
| 3.4 | Yvonne Kelly, the former 14-19 representative has left Barking and Dagenham College. The new principal will be in post from January 2024. The college will be contacted to ensure they are represented at future meetings. | | | | Action KA |
| | <u>Update on previous actions</u> | | | | |
| No. | Date of Meeting | Item No | Action | Owner | |
| 1 | 27 June 2023 | Item 1.7 | <u>EY - Low take up of nurse places</u> A briefing on the low take up of nursery places to be prepared and circulated as an appendix – Ongoing . JH advised there has been an improvement and numbers have picked up. | | |
| 2 | 27 June 2023 | Item 1.7 | <u>FSM summer holiday voucher</u> KA to investigate why HTs have not received information about the summer holiday FSM vouchers and report back - complete | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------|--|--|--|
| 3 | 27 June 2023 | Item 1.7 | FSM Comms campaign JH to liaise with Comms around a FSM advertising campaign - complete | | |
|---|--------------|----------|--|--|--|

4.0 REPORT FROM THE GROUP ACCOUNTANT – FINANCE

1.0 Update of Schools, Central, High Needs and EY DSG Blocks Allocations

1.1 There have been some adjustments to the high needs block allocations as a result of changes.

| | 2023/24 DSG allocation as at December 2022 | | | 2023/24 DSG allocation as at July 2023 | | | |
|---------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Before recoup't £000's (a) | Less recoup't & Rates £000's (b) | Net £000's (c) = (a) - (b) | Before recoup't £000's (d) | Less recoup't £000's (e) | Net £000's (f) = (d) - (e) | Movement (g) = (f) - (c) |
| Schools Block | 262,447 | 68,752 | 193,695 | 262,447 | 68,752 | 193,695 | 0 |
| Central Block | 2,162 | - | 2,162 | 2,162 | - | 2,162 | 0 |
| High Needs | 55,380 | 4,444 | 50,936 | 54,607 | 4,771 | 49,837 | (1,099) |
| Early Years | 22,704 | - | 22,704 | 23,174 | - | 23,174 | 470 |
| | 342,693 | 73,196 | 269,497 | 342,390 | 73,523 | 268,867 | (629) |

Table - Updated DSG Grant Allocation for 2023/24 (in £'000s)

1.2 There is a projected overspend on the high needs block which can be managed well with reserves.

Recommendation (i): Schools Forum are requested to:

- (i) Note the updated DSG funding

Noted

2.0 2023/24 Projected DSG Outturn

| | 2023/24 Funding £'000 | 2023/24 Projected Outturn £'000 | Surplus / (Deficit) £'000 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Schools Block (ISB) | 188,955 | 188,955 | 0 |
| Central Services Block | 2,162 | 2,162 | 0 |
| High Needs Block | 49,837 | 51,637 | (1,800) |
| Early Years Block | 23,174 | 23,174 | 0 |
| | 264,128 | 265,928 | (1,800) |
| DSG reserves b/f | | | 10,073 |
| Revised DSG Reserve | | | 8,273 |
| Add 22/23 EY additional funding | | | 264 |
| Revised DSG Carried forward | | | 8,537 |
| Of Which | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|-----|--------------|
| Growth fund B/F | | 309 | |
| SFFD retained centrally | | 963 | |
| Projected DSG Reserves 2023/24 | | | 7,265 |

- 2.1 Unlike many authorities, LBBD is still in a positive position. There is a positive DSG reserve which will be used this year of this year due to a projected HNB overspend.
- 2.2 LBBD made provision for claw back from the end of 2022/23 and added those funds into the reserves, to ensure any remaining money goes back into the early years sector.

Recommendation (ii): Schools Forum are requested to:

- (a) Note the 2023/24 projected outturn

Noted

3.0 Update on High Needs & Projected Outturn 2022/23 Early Years Central Cost

| | 2022/23 Outturn Forecast | 2023/24 Budget | 2023/24 Outturn Forecast | Variance +surplus / (deficit) |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alternative Provision | 3,437,983 | 3,698,997 | 3,619,520 | 79,477 |
| ARP Funding | 9,168,118 | 10,053,443 | 10,504,046 | (450,603) |
| Education Inclusion. | 1,801,499 | 1,946,654 | 1,922,842 | 23,812 |
| Out of Borough & Non- Maintained Funding | 7,829,579 | 8,358,158 | 10,649,383 | (2,291,225) |
| HN Top Ups – Post 16 | 2,180,000 | 2,412,000 | 2,092,735 | 319,265 |
| SEN Panel Top Ups | 1,500,000 | 5,550,000 | 5,550,000 | 0 |
| LACHES, Lang. Support | 350,234 | 475,461 | 475,461 | 0 |
| Initiatives | 688,593 | 907,452 | 907,452 | 0 |
| Special School Funding | 13,200,725 | 15,024,191 | 14,595,783 | 428,408 |
| EY Portage & Youth Service | 578,362 | 610,354 | 530,354 | 80,000 |
| Parent Support & Health | 580,000 | 800,000 | 794,256 | 5,744 |
| Total Budget | 38,714,076 | 49,836,710 | 51,641,832 | (1,805,122) |

- 3.1 There is a projected overspend on the high needs block. The working group met on 10 October 2023 and reviewed the outturn position for the current year and the ongoing pressures for 2023/24. The following areas were discussed at the meeting:

- High needs exceptional funding and new year distribution being processed to schools during summer break.
- ISOS review and sharing of good practice for managing the HNB funding and operational working practices. Including strategies undertaken within Barking and Dagenham last 8-10 years and lessons learnt.
- SEN pupils within mainstream schools and reviews based upon a 'case by case' basis.
- Recoupment deduction of £4.771m and net import place funding of £231k.
- PH informed the group of a predicted £2.2m overspend. This figure is being investigated and will be reported back at the next meeting.

Recommendation (ii): Schools Forum are requested to:

(c) Note the 2023/24 projected outturn - **Noted**

4.0 Update on Early Years additional funding

- 4.1 The 2023 Spring Budget announced additional funding for the existing early years entitlements for disadvantaged 2-year-old children and 3 and 4-year-old children for the 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 financial years. This is on top of the previous settlements for those years.
- 4.2 For the 2023 to 2024 financial year, the government provided supplementary funding to local authorities through a new early year's supplementary grant (EYSG). This will be used to increase the hourly amounts paid to local authorities, so that we can increase the amount of funding early years childcare providers receive for delivering the entitlements for the period September 2023 to March 2024.
- 4.3 For the 2024 to 2025 financial year, the additional funding will be allocated to local authorities through the dedicated schools grant (DSG).
- 4.4 As a result of this additional funding, the funding rates to local authorities have been increased by an average of 32%, for the current 2-year-old entitlement, and an average of 6.3% for the 3-and-4-year-old entitlements, compared with the current 2023-24 rates. However, the individual rates for different authorities vary widely being based on a funding formula. The increase for Barking and Dagenham is the minimum increase of only 1% for three- and four-year-olds.
- 4.5 The intention is that local authorities must pass on the EYSG in full to early years providers for each of the funding streams. Our increase in funding for 3-and-4- year-olds is 1% and 32.5% for 2-year-olds. Hence, we are proposing to passport £0.06 to the 3- and 4-year-old base rate and £2.07 to the 2-year-old base rate from September. The 7months allocation for LBBDD is **£895,095**.

| 3-4 Yr Olds | Universal Pte |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Current Rate | 5.21 |
| Supp Rate | 0.06 |
| New Rate | 5.27 |
| 1% increase | |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2yr Olds | |
| Current Rate | 6.09 |
| Supp Rate | 2.07 |
| New Rate | 8.16 |
| 32.5% increase | |

4.6 It is noted that the increase for 2-year-olds is an additional £2.07 but 3- and 4-year-olds it is only £0.06.

4.7 KH will send JMc the links to the DfE announcement with the rationale behind this decision.

Recommendation (iv): Schools' Forum are requested to:

(a) Note the new EY Supplementary grant (EYSG) for 2023/24 for 7 months (Sept to March) - **Noted**

(b) Note that EYSG will be passed in full to PVI settings and nurseries

Noted

5. Update on Provisional Places & One-off exceptional payments

5.1 Funding for provisional places has been paid to all schools from September, this funding was formerly known as Internal Schools Provision (ISP). The Criteria used to make this payment is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| NOR less than 600 | £40,000 |
| NOR between 600-999 | £60,000 |
| NOR over 1000 | £90,000 |
| All secondary schools | £40,000 |

The payment for the One-off exceptional funding is yet to be released. The data to be used is being reviewed. This year the payments will be weighted towards schools in or on the verge of financial difficulty with high SEN pupils.

5.2 A High Needs working group meeting needs to be arranged before Christmas to discuss the way forward.

Action PH

5.3 The Financial Monitoring Group (FMG) are due to meet on 22 November 2023 and this will be an agenda item.

Noted

Recommendation (iv): Schools' Forum are requested to:

(a) To note Provisional Places & One-off exceptional payments

Noted

6. National Funding Formula – Indicative Funding 2024/25

6.1 Provisional funding allocations announced in July 2023 indicates an increase in the total core school budget nationally by over £59.6bn in 2024/25. This allocation was subsequently revised in October due to a technical error in processing pupil numbers by the DFE. The overall core school budget nationally remains the same, however all the funding factor rates were revised down reducing the funding per pupil from the previously announced

figure.

6.2 This total includes the additional funding for teachers pay announced in July 2023. The Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) provides an additional £482.5m nationally in 2023/24 and £827.5m for 2024/25 for mainstream, special and alternative provision schools. It is worth noting that the TPAG will be allocated outside the NFF in 2024/25.

6.3 Funding through the mainstream schools national funding formula is increasing by 1.9% per pupil in 2024/25, compared to the previous financial year. This means the funding through the NFF will be 7.6% higher per pupil in 2024/25, compared to 2022/23.

6.4 The main features in 2024-25 are:

a) The DFE is introducing a formulaic approach to allocating split sites funding. 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.

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

b) The core factors in the schools NFF (such as the basic entitlement, and the lump sum that all schools attract) will increase by 1.4%.

c) Through the minimum per pupil funding levels, every primary school will receive at least £4,610 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,995.

d) The funding floor will ensure that every school will attract at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil, compared to its 2023-24 allocation.

e) Rolling the 2023-24 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) into the schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets. Appropriate adjustments have been made to NFF factor values and baselines to reflect this.

f) Rolling the 2023-24 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) into the

schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets. Appropriate adjustments have been made to NFF factor values and baselines to reflect this.

6.5 LBBB has adopted the NFF factor values in 8 out of the 9 mandatory factors. The LA will take advantage of the flexibility to model different basic entitlement values to achieve the optimum values to get closest to the NFF cash envelope. The DfE have set minimum and maximum values for the basic entitlement for primary, KS3 & KS4. Keeping within this range of values enforces 'tightening', bringing the local funding formula closer to the NFF.

6.6 The provisional NFF allocation for LBBB Schools block is shown in the table below.

| | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pupil Nos* | 39,882 | 40,261 |
| Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) | £5,492 | £5,737 |
| Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF) | £7,402 | £7,741 |
| LA Allocation excluding growth & premises factors | £248,425,369 | £262,787,105 |
| LA Allocation through premises funding | £9,463,966 | £9,636,860 |
| Total SB baseline (excluding growth) | £257,889,335 | £272,423,965 |
| Baseline per pupil (excluding growth) | £6,466 | £6,766 |
| Provisional % change in 2024-25 | | 1.14% |

Table – DfE provisional NFF allocation

*2024-25 Pupil numbers will be updated in Dec- 23 following the autumn census

7. Schools Block Funding Formular for 2024/25

7.1 LBBB will continue to use its local budget setting powers, albeit restricted to set the 2024-25 individual school's budget. The national funding factor rates have been adopted across all the mandatory factors except for the basic entitlement. The DfE have set the limits on the amounts that can be allocated to Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), this ensures a move closer to the NFF.

7.2 As mentioned in 6.5 above we have applied all the NFF rates for all funding factors except for AWPU. We have produced three models of the local funding formula for consideration:

- (a) Model A – Replicates the NFF using the full rates for all mandatory factors and applying MFG at 0.5%. This is unaffordable – it will cost £1m more than the block allocation. This model cannot be adopted and is for information only.
- (b) Model B – An affordable variant of the NFF formula in which MFG is reduced to 0% and capping and scaling are applied to remain within the envelope.
- (c) Model C - Adjusting AWPU rates to slightly reduce the gap between primary and secondary school funding.

When considering the models, it is the underlying principle that is important. The final values used will differ when the October census data and the final DSG funding allocation is known.

7.3 In the funding models, we have used the 2023/24 baseline pupil numbers as applied to the August Authority Proforma Tool (APT) which for LBBB is 40,261. All the NFF rates have been applied across the pupil led and lump sum. The varying element being the rates applied to the basic entitlement.

| | |
|------|--|
| 7.4 | The 2024-25 NFF provisional cash envelope for LBBB is £272,423,965. This does not include funding for growth and falling rolls. LA's will be notified of the growth and falling rolls allocation by December 2023. |
| 7.5 | Under the NFF regulations, Local authorities are permitted to continue to set a pre-16 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in their local formulae, to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes. Like 2023-24 the MFG per pupil must be between 0% and 0.5% for 2024-25. The MFG rate applied to the two of the three models is set at 0.5% and 0% is used in model B. Using the maximum MFG dampens down funding losses slightly however does create affordability issues when used without capping and scaling. |
| 7.6 | Variations in funding between 2023-24 and the models presented are entirely driven by changes in unit rates. Numbers on Roll and pupil profiles are the same as in the 2023-24 model. However, there will be movement to the final funding due to changes in NOR, unit rates and changes in pupil profile data following updates from the October 2023 census. |
| 7.7 | The three funding factors pertaining to premises are split sites, rates and PFI. To establish uniformity, the ESFA have introduced a formulaic approach which replaces local authority led approach in prior years. The 2024/25 NFF provisional allocation for premises is £9.636m which is 2% higher the previous year's allocation. According to the DfE formula, the split sites allocation is £764,900, this is less than the sum of £1.4m allocated in 2023/24. For modelling purposes, the NNDR figure remains consistent with the actual amount for 2023/24, which is £4.739m. The remaining £4.132m has been earmarked to fund the PFI contracts. |
| 7.8 | The models do not include an estimate for growth or falling rolls for 2023/24. These will be determined when the October 2023 census data is published and when the DfE confirm the growth fund allocation. A decision will have to be made about meeting any potential shortfall in funding for these two elements. |
| 7.9 | The overview of the funding models is set out in Appendix A to this report. |
| 7.10 | <p>The key points in relation to Model A (Full NFF) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary AWPU is 1% higher than 2023/24 LBBB local schools' rate. • Secondary AWPU is also higher 7%. • Primary secondary ratio is 1:1.42 compared to the 1:1.35 achieved in 2023/24 schools block allocation. • Total budget required to support schools below the funding floor (MFG) is £4.2m (compared to £1.460m in 2023/24). A significant number of primary schools (43) fall below 0% funding floor and hence supported through MFG to bring these up to the funding floor. • Applying the full NFF rates, leaves a shortfall of £982k. For this reason, the model cannot be adopted and is only provided for information. <p>4.7.11 In Model B the full NFF factor values have been applied to the funding formula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MFG has been reduced to 0% and a scaling rate of 10.34% • The MFG amount under this model is £3,582,575 and the sum of £356,028 has been scaled back across all schools. This is to ensure that the model is affordable. • The primary, secondary ratio remains at 1:1.42. |
| 7.11 | Model C is based on passing through more funding to primary schools to close the gap in the disparity in funding. The prior year 1:1.35 ratio has cannot be achieved for 2024/25 as the DfE have provided strict funding values within which the LA must operate. |

- When compared to the 2023/24 LFF, the Primary, KS3 & KS4 AWPU rates would increase by £161, £321 & £303 respectively.
- The difference between the NFF rates and the local primary, KS3 & KS4 AWPU rates are 4%, 6% & 5% respectively.
- MFG is lowest under this option at £1.600m.
- Model C utilises all the cash allocated to LBBB.
- The primary to secondary ratio under this model is 1:1.37.

7.12 The table below sets out the cost and affordability of each of the models:

| | Funding Model Cost | DSG Grant | Surplus / (shortfall) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Model A - Full NFF | 273,407 | 272,424 | (983) |
| Model B- Full NFF with Scaling | 272,424 | 272,424 | 0 |
| Model B- 1:1.37 P:S ratio | 272,424 | 272,424 | 0 |

Table – cost of model options vs DSG grant

The DFE allocation does not include growth, so the modelling excludes the growth and falling rolls element of the funding. These will be factored in after the confirmation of the October 2023 census data.

7.13 To demonstrate the school-level impact of the NFF the government has published notional school-level allocations for 2023-24 (subject to updated pupil numbers). The impact on LBBB schools has been modelled and the details can be seen in Appendix B. The figures set out here do not reflect the actual funding schools will receive in 2024-25 as LBBB will still set a local formula as far as the regulations allow. Also, subsequent changes to the LA data will be updated later in the year.

7.14 Following this meeting, the Finance team will carry out a consultation with all schools on the formula. There will also be a report to the Council's Cabinet. The final formula will be updated following the DFE announcement of the final DSG figures and data release and will be reported to the January forum.

Recommendation (vii): School Forum are requested to:

Note and comment on the funding models.

- (a) Agree that the LA should consult schools on the model options

Noted

8. Growth Fund for 2023/24

8.1 Growth funding is allocated to Schools to manage an increase in pupil numbers in 2023-24 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 2021 and October 2022 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.

8.2 The 2023/24 DFE growth fund allocation is £1,566k and the revised growth required based on the September 2023 class intake is £1,085k. The surplus growth fund allocation of £480k can be put towards supporting schools with falling

rolls, subject to Schools' Forum approval.

8.3 The table below sets out the revised growth allocation for 2023/24 based on the planned admission numbers in September 2023. An allocation of £21,079 and £140,525 was previously agreed for the Beam primary and Riverside primary respectively. The expected growth did not materialise, so the allocation has been removed. Riverside secondary has an additional class of 30 thereby attracting growth funding. There has been a reduction of 60 in Robert Clack secondary numbers.

| School | Prim. Growth | Sec. Growth | Prim. AWPU | Sec. AWPU | 40% Uplift | Budget |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | | £3,990 | £5,630 | | |
| Greatfields (Free School) | | 90 | | £295,575 | | £295,575 |
| Riverside Secondary (Free School) | | 30 | | £98,525 | | £98,525 |
| Robert Clack School of Science | 60 | 120 | £139,650 | £394,100 | £157,640 | £691,390 |
| Total | 60 | 240 | £139,650 | £788,200 | £157,640 | £1,085,490 |
| Growth Fund DFE allocation | | | | | | £1,565,576 |
| Surplus Growth Fund | | | | | | (£480,086) |

Table - 2023/24 Updated Expansions and Growth Fund Requirements

8.4 In 2024/25, the DFE will continue to provide growth funding to local authorities to manage the increase in pupil numbers in addition to the core funding allocated through the NFF. The department will for the first time also allocate falling rolls for LA's to support schools with a reduction in pupil numbers where the 2022 SCAP shows that the surplus places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years.

Recommendation (vii): School Forum are requested to:

- (a) note the surplus growth fund allocations for 2023/24 and agree to utilise the surplus to support the falling rolls fund

Noted

9. Falling Rolls for 2023/24

9.1 Primary schools are experiencing falling rolls and would qualify using previous criteria.

9.2 The DfE allows LAs to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next 3 financial years. Details of the falling rolls was shared at the June Schools' Forum.

9.3 In 2023/24, a budget of £482k is earmarked to assist schools experiencing declining numbers. The decision to allocate these funds was reached during the June meeting, where it was determined that £148k from the growth fund surplus would be allocated, along with an additional £334k drawn from reserves, to support schools with falling rolls. The DfE has a list of compliant criteria which include:

- Support is only available to schools judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (mandatory requirement).
- 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 8% of delegated budget.

9.4 Based on the numbers of pupils on roll at the October 2022 census when compared to the October 2021 the schools listed below meet the set criteria

| School | Reduction in NOR | Falling Rolls Fund (£) |
|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Valence Primary School | -49 | 90,498 |
| Marsh Green Primary School | -45 | 82,966 |
| Richard Albion Primary School | -31 | 57,254 |
| Roding Primary School | -27 | 49,866 |
| Northbury Primary School | -18 | 33,244 |
| William Ford C of E Junior School | -18 | 33,244 |
| William Bellamy Primary School | -16 | 29,550 |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Barking | -15 | 27,703 |
| Gascoigne Primary School | -13 | 24,010 |
| Jo Richardson Community School | -10 | 26,022 |
| | -242 | 454,357 |

Table: Revised falling rolls allocation for 2023/24

9.4 **Falling Rolls Fund 2024/25** - For the first time in 2024 to 2025, the DfE will allocate funding based on growth and falling rolls. The calculations will be based on the most recent October pupil census.

9.5 LA's will continue to have discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund. The mandatory requirement requiring a school to be judged as good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection will be removed. However, it is also mandatory for LA's who choose to operate a falling rolls fund to demonstrate that the surplus places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years.

Recommendation (vii): School Forum are requested to:

- (a) The proposed distribution of falling rolls budget of £454k for 2023/24

Noted

10 Trade Union Facility Time – Update

10.1 Schools' Forum approved a panel at the last meeting to review trade union facility time, de-delegation rates, and contributions by academy schools.

10.2 The headteachers met with the council and TU reps in September. The main recommendations and agreements regarding funding are set out below:

- The cost of de-delegation for trade union facility time in Barking and Dagenham should be in line with inner London authorities, which is currently an average of £5.25 per pupil.
- A three-year agreement was proposed to allow unions and host schools the security to plan. There is option to come back to schools' forum by exception and the agreed de-delegation rate will continue to be presented annually to schools' forum.
- Proposal for annual de-delegation rate should be uplifted in-line with per pupil funding increase.
- Annual Reporting to Schools' Forum from each Union indicating the members used, their home schools, time released, time spent on borough issues and number and type of cases handled.
- The draft memorandum of understanding was welcomed. An SLA for academies

schools based on this document should be agreed to enable these schools to buy into the facility time.

- Trade Unions and schools should be notified of their budgets and de-delegation deductions in good time, by March at the latest.

10.3 The trade unions de-delegation rates for the 12 inner London boroughs are shown on the table below:

| TU Dedelegation rates Inner London Boroughs | Amount |
|--|--------|
| Southwark | £4.00 |
| Islington | £3.79 |
| Lambeth | £5.18 |
| Wandsworth (Not Available) | |
| Tower Hamlets | £5.10 |
| Hackney | £8.80 |
| Westminster | £12.50 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | £1.57 |
| Camden | £7.68 |
| Lewisham | £1.14 |
| Greenwich | £5.40 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | £2.57 |
| Total | £57.72 |
| Average rate | £5.25 |

10.4 The £5.25 inner London average rate if adopted will result in a 37.5% savings on the original de-delegation rates for LBBB schools. The table below shows the current and proposed budget for 2023/24 & 24/25 respectively.

| Description | Original De-Delegation 2023/24 | Current 15% Savings 2023/24 | Inner London Average 37.5% savings 2024/25 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| De-delegation Budget | 249,228 | 211,844 | 155,768 |
| Academies Invoicing | 89,032 | 75,677 | 55,645 |
| Total Budget Available | 338,260 | 287,521 | 211,412 |
| Number on Roll | 40,264 | 40,264 | 40,264 |
| Unit Cost | 8.40 | 7.14 | 5.25 |

10.5 Also included is the LA proposal from the June 2023 forum which proposed a phased reduction to the inner London average-this amounts to a reduction of circa 28% per pupil rate to £6.05.

Recommendation (xii) Schools forum are requested either to:

- Approve a de-delegated rate of £6.05 for 2024/25 and £5.25 (inner London average) for 2025/26 and 2026/27 OR

| | | | | | | |
|------------|--|------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | <p>(b) Approve a de-delegated rate of £5.25 (inner London average) for 2024/25 and for the two subsequent years.</p> <p>Note: Schools' Forum approved Recommendation B.</p> <p>10.6 The results of the consultation and the implications will be brought back and worked through at the December meeting.</p> | | | | Action | Finance |
| 5.0 | <u>Any Other Business</u> | | | | | |
| | None | | | | | |
| 6.0 | <u>Date of Next Meeting</u> | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December meeting, Tuesday 5 December 2023 from 10.00am to 12.00pm. January meeting, Tuesday 16 January 2023 from 10.00am to 12.00pm | | | | | |
| 7.0 | <u>Action Log</u> | | | | | |
| | No. | Date of Meeting | Item No | Action | Owner | |
| | 1 | 27 June 2023 | Item 1.7 | <u>EY - Low take up of nurse places</u> A briefing on the low take up of nursery places to be prepared and circulated as an appendix – Ongoing . JH advised there has been an improvement and numbers have picked up. | Joy Barter | |
| | 2 | 17 October 2023 | Item 3.3 | <u>SF Membership</u> SF membership must be up to date and appear at the top of each agenda. The membership will be re-confirmed in January 2024 | Nichola Young/ Finance | |
| | 3 | 17 October 2023 | Item 3.4 | <u>14-19 Representation</u> Barking and Dagenham College to be contacted to ensure there is 14-19 representation at SF. The new principal will be in post from January 2024. | Kofi Adu | |
| | 4 | 17 October 2023 | Item 5.2 | <u>HNWP Meeting</u> A High Needs working group meeting to be arranged before Christmas. | Pat Harvey | |
| | 5 | 17 October 2023 | Item 10.6 | <u>Trade Union Consultation</u> The results of the Trade Union consultation and the implications will be brought back and worked through at the December meeting. | Finance | |