

(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)
27 January 2026

Title: Schools' Forum Report	
Open	For Decision / For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2025/26 Projected DSG Outturn2. High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn Forecast for 2025/263. Early Years Update 2025/264. DSG Funding Allocation for 2026/275. Schools Block 2026/276. High Needs Draft Budget 2026/277. Early Years Update 2026/278. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)- 2026/279. De-delegation for 2026/2710. Growth Fund for 2026/2711. Falling Rolls for 2026/27	

Recommendation(s)

The Schools' Forum is requested to:

1. Note the updated 2025/26 projected DSG outturn.
2. Note and comment on the High Needs Block outturn forecast for 2025/26
3. Note and comment on the Early Years forecast for 2025/26
4. Note the DSG Funding allocation for 2026/27
5. Note Schools Block Funding for 2026/27
6. Note and comment High Needs Provisional Budget 2026/27
7. Note, comment & approve the Early Years Funding 2026/27
8. Note, comment & approve the Central Schools Services Block 2026/27
9. Note, comment and approve proposed de-delegation for 2026/27
10. Note & comment on proposed growth funding for 2026/27
11. Note, Comment & approve proposed falling roll funding for 2026/27

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. 2025/26 Projected DSG Outturn

1.1 The table below sets out the projected 2025/26 DSG outturn at period 9. There has been no change to the DSG projected outturn reported in December 2025. Among the funding blocks, Schools, Central and Early Years blocks are projecting a breakeven position at year end. Conversely, the high needs block is forecasting an overspend of **£3.1m**. This overspend is due to growth in places at special schools, expansion of Additional Resource Provision (ARP) places, pressures from Home Tuition service, increase in demand for post 16 placed and meeting the needs of SEND pupils. Within the forecast overspend is a contingent liability of £1m of which £372k has already been paid.

1.2 DSG reserves brought forward from 2024/25 is £1.158m. The in year projected overspend of £3.1m on the High Needs Block results in an anticipated year-end deficit position on the reserve of **£1.942m**. The resulting deficit places further pressure on future years' DSG budgets and highlights the need for continued recovery planning and cost-management actions.

	2025/26 DSG Funding £'000	2025/26 Projected Outturn Oct 2025 £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	Movement from Dec- 24 Favourable/ (Adverse)
Schools Block (ISB)	212,714	212,714	0	0	0
Central Services Block	2,237	2,237	0	0	0
High Needs Block	56,995	60,095	(3,100)	(3,100)	0
Early Years Block	35,333	35,333	0	0	0
	307,278	310,378	(3,100)	(3,100)	0
DSG reserves B/f Surplus/(Deficit)	1,158		1,158	1,158	0
Revised DSG Carried forward-Surplus/(Deficit)			(1,942)	(1,942)	0

Table – 2025/26 projected DSG outturn

Recommendation (i): School Forum are asked to:

Note and comment on the projected DSG outturn position for 2025/26

2. 2025/26 Update on High Needs Projected Outturn

The High needs budget continues to be under pressure due to:

- increased demand and complex cases of children presenting with SEND and the financial pressures schools are facing especially the primary phase in managing these cohort of children.
- The table below shows details of the outturn position.

2025-26 High Needs Projected Outturn						
High Needs Budget and Outturn	2023/24 Outturn £	2024/25 Outturn £	2025/26 Budget £	2025/26 Outturn Forecast £	+Surplus (Deficit) Month 9	+Surplus (Deficit) Month 8
Alternative Provision (excl PRU)	3,369,139	4,145,018	4,083,002	4,348,489	(265,487)	(256,018)
ARP Funding	9,789,848	10,001,189	10,276,640	10,147,967	128,673	169,287
Education Inclusion	1,945,955	1,866,872	2,392,321	2,413,188	(20,867)	(3,159)
SEN - Non maintained	5,501,905	3,901,597	3,993,776	2,941,150	1,052,626	1,099,235
High Needs Top Ups - OB	2,661,046	3,109,263	2,939,727	4,073,016	(1,133,289)	(874,497)
SEND (Commissioned Services)	1,369,200	2,045,491	1,016,317	2,146,174	(1,129,857)	(1,129,857)
Legal fees & CiC Residential Education	839,121	1,219,200	1,460,850	1,460,850	0	200,103
HN Top Ups - Post 16	2,664,888	3,977,999	4,055,150	5,727,180	(1,672,030)	(1,638,304)
Mainstream Top Ups	5,474,350	5,175,066	5,750,000	7,077,537	(1,327,537)	(1,051,770)
Provisional Payments	2,790,000	2,440,000	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Aspire Virtual School	380,035	377,667	382,324	419,388	(37,064)	(39,428)
Initiatives (Rapid Response)	903,872	817,251	791,917	808,575	(16,658)	0.00
Special School Funding	14,438,249	16,930,529	18,175,947	17,306,481	869,466	835,966
EY Portage & Youth Service	471,527	404,597	395,049	395,049	0	(135,000)
Wordfirst & Salt Projects	570,315	1,130,509	568,000	467,672	100,328	0.00
Gatekeeping		620,580	713,651	371,815.32	341,836	713,651
Historic Pressure			0		0	(1,000,000)
Total Expenditure	53,169,450	58,162,829	56,994,671	60,104,531	(3,109,860)	(3,109,790)
Total Budget	49,836,711	51,567,397		56,994,671		
Variance (Overspend)	(3,332,739)	(6,595,432)		(3,109,860)		

Table – High Needs Outturn

2.1 The pressures in the budget are driven by the following areas:

- Post 16 placements
- Demand for Home Tuition Outreach service
- SEND Commissioned Services
- Mainstream top-up payments for LBBD schools

2.2 Post 16 placements

- There is ongoing increase in demand for post 16 SEND places, the transition from pre-16 have contributed to the demand. The LA is monitoring, benchmarking and challenging Post-16 placement costs, supported by strong partnership working with the local college to maximise local placements.

- We are also reviewing Post-16 placements in the Independent and Non-Maintained (INM) sector to ensure value for money, with a focus on the highest-cost cases.
- Improving the early flow of information to support more accurate forecasting of provision and costs.

The table below show the trend in demand for post 16 places.

Post 16 Special Schools & College Places	2024/25	2025/26	% Increase
Post 16 College Places	330	352	7%
Post 16 Special School places	63	59	-6%
Grand Total	393	411	5%

2.3 SEND commissioned Services

Barking and Dagenham continues to face significant financial pressures in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND, particularly due to a sharp increase in demand from families newly arriving in the borough.

2.4 The requirement to secure interim placements—often at short notice—has led to a substantial rise in expenditure. This is driven by unprecedented levels of demand and the high number of children and young people moving into the area who require specialist provision.

2.5 The SEND Code of Practice 2015 sets out a clear statutory duty for local authorities to secure suitable education for all children and young people with SEND, ensuring their needs are met without delay. When a child or young person with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan moves into Barking and Dagenham from another authority, the previous authority must transfer the EHC plan to the new authority on the day of the move, or within 15 working days if prior notice was not given. Upon transfer, Barking and Dagenham becomes responsible for maintaining the plan and securing the special educational provision specified within it, as well as arranging interim tuition if a suitable placement is not immediately available. This statutory duty, combined with lagged funding mechanisms and a shortage of local specialist places, means the borough must often resort to costly interim solutions to uphold its legal obligations, further stretching already limited resources.

2.6 Mainstream top-up Funding Update

The table below shows the funding position for mainstream top-up payments.

Distribution of Mainstream Top-Up Funding		
Top-up Budget	5,750,000	
Central Services Savings	1,004,332	
Total funding Available		6,754,332
EHCP Payments (30th June)	-4,149,755	
EHCP (July - Oct) to be paid	-253,877	
Total EHCP Payments		-4,403,632
Available for distribution		2,350,700
Add Provision for Historic topup		400,000
Distribute Equally to Non-EHCP		2,750,700

- Budget Allocation for the year is £5,750,000
- One-off in year savings from centrally managed High needs services is £1,004,322
- Additional £400,000 has been earmarked to be included to the funding for top-up for mainstream schools. Therefore, the total budget available for top-up payments for this year is £7,154,332
- Payment has been made for 792 pupils with EHCP @ 30 June 2025
- Further payments for 61 pupils (53 prim & 8 sec) issued with EHCP between July – October will be made.
- Balance available for distribution for non-EHCP pupils is now 2,750,700. This amount will be distributed equally to 738 primary pupils only.

Recommendation (ii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on the outturn forecast for High Needs Block for 2025/26
- (b) Note & comment on the revised mainstream top-up payments for 2025/26

3. Early Years Update 2025/26

3.1. The Early Years Budget for 25/26 is **£35.3m**. Our financial modelling for Early years funding shows there will be an estimated surplus of **£2.8m** due to reduced take-up of 3 & 4-year-olds and under 2 year olds as compared to census numbers. Refer to the table below for details.

2025-26 Early Years Funding	Budget Allocation	Actual Spend @ Month 8	Projected Forecast	Variance (Deficit) Underspend
Centrally Retained	1,396,407	999,554	1,609,601	-213,194
Total 3&4 YO EY Block	19,717,931	11,070,011	17,405,016	2,312,915
Total Entitlement 2 YO	8,331,638	5,805,696	8,708,544	-376,906
Under 2 Funding Total	5,887,330	2,772,969	4,759,453	1,127,877
TOTAL EY BLOCK	35,333,306	20,648,230	32,482,614	2,850,692

3.2. We are therefore proposing to release additional payments of circa £866k to PVI's & Nurseries from the projected underspend by increasing the rate for 3 & 4-year-olds from £5.70p to £6.90p for spring term only. This is an increase of £1.20p per PTE. This will equate to an estimated £707k for 3-4-year-olds. The rate for 2-year-olds will also be increased from £12 to £14 per PTE, an increase of £2, this will equate to an estimated £158k for spring term only. Please refer to the table below for details and basis of calculation. **Please note the figures are based on estimated data, the actual amount may differ.**

3 & 4 Year olds	Estimated PTE	Termly Hrs	Funded Hrs	Rate (£)	£
Spring Term					
Universal	2,430	165	400,950	1.20	481,140
Additional	1,142	165	188,430	1.20	226,116
Total	3,572		589,380		707,256

2 Year olds	Estimated PTE	Termly Hrs	Funded Hrs	Rate (£)	£
Spring Term					
Entitlement	481	165	79,365	2.00	158,730
Total	481		79,365		158,730

Proposed Total One-off	865,986
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Recommendation (iii): Schools forum is requested to:

- Note the Early years projected outturn forecast
- Approve the one-off payment to PVI's & Nurseries for the spring term only worth estimated £865,986.

4 DSG Funding allocation for 2026/27

4.1. The DSG allocation for 2026/27 was published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 17 December 2025 with LBBD being granted the sum of **£418.282m** 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 2025/26 and 2026/27 allocations.

	2025/26 DSG Allocation as at 25/11/25			2026/27 DSG Allocation as at 17/12/25			Change (Includes SBSG & NIC grants) £'000	Additional 25/26 grants £'000	Real Increase
	DSG Before Recoupment £'000	Less Recoupment /NNDR deductions £'000	Net £'000	DSG Before Recoupment £'000	Less Recoupment /NNDR deductions £'000	Net £'000			
	d	e	f = d - e	a	b	c = a - b			
Schools Block	299,589	(6,727)	292,862	309,322	(6,765)	302,557	9,695	(8,450)	1,245
Central Block	2,237	0	2,237	2,267	0	2,267	30	-	30
High Needs Block	62,233	(5,238)	56,995	65,015	(5,618)	59,397	2,402	-	2,402
Early Years Block	35,333	0	35,333	41,678	0	41,678	6,345	-	6,345
	399,392	(11,966)	387,426	418,282	(12,383)	405,898	18,472	(8,450)	10,022

Table - DSG Grant Allocation 2025/26 -v-2026/27 (in £'000s)

4.2 The overall 'real' increase in DSG from last year is **£10.022m**, after stripping out **£8.45m** received in additional grants (Schools Budget Support Grant -SBSG and National Insurance Contributions-NIC Grant)

- The school's block has increased by **£9.695m**. The 'real' increase after excluding the £8.45m paid in additional grants (SBSG & NIC) which have been rolled into the main grant is £1.245m.
- The unit of funding of the Central School Services block has increased by £2.71 per pupil whilst the historical commitments has reduced by 20%. The net effect is an increase of **£30k**
- The budget allocation for high needs has increased by **£2.4m**. This is an uplift of 4.47% on the 2025/26 allocation.
- The Early Years allocation has been increased by **£6.345m** due to the expansion to the early years offer.

4.3 The total school block funding for 2026/27 is **£309.322m** as set out in the table in section 4.1. This figure is before recoupment for academies. This 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 2025 census.

The total pupil led funding is **£296.715m**, and in addition to this is the allocation of **£654,384** for growth and **£11.952m** for the premises factors (NNDR & PFI).

DSG Schools block allocation			
Guaranteed Unit of Funding	2025/26	2026/27	Change
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	£6,165.47	£6,426.70	£261.23
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)	£8,351.21	£8,732.50	£381.29
Numbers on roll (Oct Census)			
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	24,174	23,792	-382
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)	16,468	16,469	1
Total Primary school funding	£149,040,990	£152,903,995	£3,863,005
Total Secondary school funding	£137,523,551	£143,811,230	£6,287,679
Total pupil led funding	£286,564,541	£296,715,224	£10,150,684
Premises Factor	£11,721,990	£11,952,139	£230,149
Growth Funding	£1,302,413	£654,384	-£648,029
Total Schools block before recoupment	£299,588,944	£309,321,747	£9,732,804
Deductions for NNDR	£6,727,303	£6,765,180	£37,877
Total schools funding after deduction before recoupment	£292,861,641	£302,556,567	£9,694,927*

Table: Schools block allocation 2025/26-v- 2026/27

***This figure includes £8.450m of other grants previously paid separately but has now been rolled into the 2026/27 baseline.**

Recommendation (iv): Schools forum is requested to:

Note the updated DSG funding for 2026/27

5. Response to Consultation: Schools Block funding option 2026/27.

5.1 A total of 25 (44%) schools responded to the consultation, 19 primaries, 4 secondaries and 1 all-through school.

The main findings are as follows:

Q1- Schools were invited to rank “the three illustrative funding models in order of preference, 1 being the most favoured and 3 the least favoured option”.

The summary of response is as below:

Phase	Model A Full NFF 1:1.41	Model B Adjusted AWPU 1:1:37	Model C Adjusted AWPU 1:1.41	Total Responses	% responses by phase
Primary		19		19	76%
Secondary			4	4	16%
All Through	1		1	2	8%
	1	19	5	25	100%
	4%	76%	20%	100%	

5.2 The principles outlined in the consultation, have been applied to the funding formula to set 2026/27 indicative school level allocation.

Refer to: **Appendix A- Overview of Funding Model**
Appendix B - School level budget allocation for 2026/27

5.3 The overall primary to secondary ratio nationally is **1:1.301**. The preferred Model B pending DfE approving the budget allocations is a ratio of **1.37**. This sits above the national average ratio of 1:1.301, indicating that, compared with national norms, the LA allocates a relatively higher proportion of funding to secondary provision.

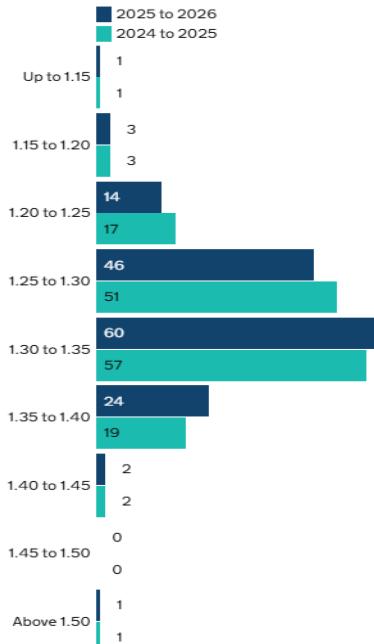


Chart: National Primary: Secondary ratios

Recommendation (v): School Forum is requested to:

- Note the consultation response.
- Approve the indicative school level budget allocation with the funding ratio of 1:1.37 for the 2026/27 funding formula.

6. High Needs Provisional Budget 2026/27

- The total high needs block allocation for 2026/27 after deductions is **£59.396m**. There is an increase of only **£2.4m** from 2025/26 allocation. This represents 4.7% uplift as compared to 8%-10% average uplifts in the past few years.
- Please refer to **Appendix C** for details of the draft budget for 2026/27 with a 4-year Budget trend. The budget has been set using the following assumptions:
 - 4.47% uplift equates to only £2,402,175 increase for 2026/27
 - 0% Minimum Funding Guarantee for all budget lines
 - Selected budget lines will receive 2% uplift for staff costs
 - Mainstream top-up receives 18% uplift, circa £1m.
 - Place funding for 2026/27 will be @ £10,000 for special schools
 - Funding rates for Special Schools, ARPs & EHCP will remain at 2025/26 levels
 - Projected budget pressures for 2026/27 are **£6m deficit**. See details below.

2026/27 for Budget Pressures

Budget Pressures for 2026/27	
Special schools - Level 2 (90 places) 7months	£1,802,850
Complex NARP (60places) 7 months	£749,350
OOB Commissioned Services - New Arrivals	£875,777
Post 16 demand	£1,533,868
Historic top-up funding	£600,000
Other Pressure - growth/demand ARPs, OOB.	£500,000
2026/27 Estimated Pressure	£6,061,845

Recommendation (vi): Schools forum is requested to:

Note and comment on High Needs Provisional Budget for 2026/27.

7. Early Years Funding 2026/27

7.1 Department for Education (DfE) provides local authorities with a number of funding streams listed below, 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
- the 15-hour entitlements for eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 2 years and subsequent 30-hour entitlements for this group
- the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- The disability Entitlement for under 2-year-olds.
- Disability access fund (DAF)
- Early years pupil premium (EYPP)
- maintained nursery school (MNS) supplementary funding (if applicable).

7.2 2026/27 EY funding rates for local authorities were announced in December 2025. The proposed rates to be paid to providers are set out below.

Funding Classification	DFE Rates			LBBB Provider Rates		
	Rates 2025/26	Rates 2026/27	% Increase	Rates 2025/26	Rates 2026/27	% Increase
Universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds	£6.48	£6.95	7.25%	£5.70	£6.22	9.17%
Additional 15 hours entitlement 3&4 yr olds	£6.48	£6.95	7.25%	£5.70	£6.22	9.17%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£9.41	£9.72	3.29%	£8.92	£9.33	4.61%
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£9.41	£9.72	3.29%	£8.92	£9.33	4.61%
Under 2s entitlement	£12.83	£13.21	2.96%	£12.00	£12.68	5.67%

Table – EY funding rates for 2026/27

7.3 The government has indicated that 3% of the funding is retained centrally to meet LA support costs for early years provision as opposed to 4% in previous years. This will apply to all provision levels as opposed to 3 & 4-year-olds funding only as was the case in previous years.

7.4 The table above shows the proposed funding rates for providers for 2026/27 to be published by February 28th as per regulation.

7.5 The budgeted distribution of funding is set out in the table below:

2026-27 Early Years Funding	Draft Budget	Funded Hours	Rates paid by DFE	Total DSG Funding	Proposed Providers Rates	Projected Expenditure
		2026-27	2026-27	2026-27	2026-27	2026-27
Centrally Retained 3%	1,250,344					1,250,344
Universal 3&4 YO	14,277,941	2,347,608	6.95	16,315,874	6.22	14,609,051
Plus 15 PTE 3& 4 YO	4,304,658	638,531	6.95	4,437,792	6.22	3,973,549
Deprivation	895,842				0.30	895,842
Flexibility	313,545				0.21	313,545
SEN Inclusion	311,305					311,305
Contingency	27,765					
EY Pupil Premium	468,473	407,368	£ 1.15	468,473		468,473
DAF - 3&4YOF	205,725		975	205,725		205,725
Total 3&4 YO EY Block	20,805,253			21,427,863		20,777,488
Entitlement 2 YO	6,491,723	701,659	£ 9.72	6,820,123	9.33	6,547,318
Plus 15 PTE 2YOF	5,392,676	571,961	£ 9.72	5,559,460	9.33	5,337,081
2YOF PP	320,913	279054.9	1.15	320,913		320,913
2YOF DAF	34,125		975	34,125		34,125
SEN inclusion fund	123,796					123,796
Contingency						0
Total Entitlement 2 Y O	12,363,233			12,734,621		12,363,233
Under 2 year old Funding	7,192,411	566,916	13.21	7,488,965	12.68	7,188,499
Under 2YOF PP	14,991	13,036	1.15	14,991		14,991
Under 2s DAF	11,700		975.00	11,700		11,700
SEN Inclusion Fund	71,885					71,885
Contingency						
Under 2 Funding Total	7,290,988			7,515,657		7,287,075
TOTAL EY BLOCK	41,709,819			41,678,141		41,678,141

Table – Early Years Draft Indicative Budget for 2026/27

7.6 The early years funding requirements include the need to:

- set a single funding for universal and additional hours.
- pass on a minimum of 97% of the 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) in full to providers.

7.7 LBBD will retain 3% of the funding for all provision levels centrally, to meet support costs of the early years provision. The retained amount is used for:

- Home portage scheme (home visiting)
- Early years teacher service (qualified teachers working with settings to raise standards,
- Childminding development officer
- Commissioning costs. (Please refer to table below for details.)

Centrally Retained Costs	2026/27
EY Teachers & Childminding Officers	625,000
Home Portage Scheme	120,000
Nursery Education Staff	175,500
2 Year Old Central costs	329,891
Total	1,250,391

Table – Early Years centrally funded services

Recommendation (vii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on the Early Years funded hourly rates for 2026/27.
- (b) Approve the SEN Inclusion fund
 - 3–4-year-olds £311,305
 - 2-year-olds £123,796
 - Under 2-year-olds £71,885
- (c) Approve the Early Years Centrally funded services (Refer to section 7.7)

8. Central Schools Services Block 2026/27 (CSSB)

8.1 The Central Block is made up of **Ongoing statutory functions** and local arrangements for **Historical services**. The Government's clear intention is to move the statutory functions elements towards a per head funding regime plus yearly inflation uplift and taper off historical services by 20% reduction year on year beginning from 2021/22.

8.2 CSSB is used for the following services:

CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)						
Services	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Admission Service	636,000	648,000	671,000	686,836	768,451	834,645
Schools Forum	60,000	60,000	62,000	63,463	71,003	72,515
Copy right Licences	180,000	180,000	186,000	190,390	213,008	217,545
Statutory responsibilities	743,000	743,000	769,000	787,300	880,832	899,593
Ongoing Resp. Budget	1,619,000	1,631,000	1,688,000	1,727,989	1,933,293	2,024,298
School Improvement	68,800	55,040	44,032	35,226	28,180	22,544
Schools Estates	96,000	76,800	61,440	49,152	39,322	31,457
School Games Organiser	32,000	25,600	20,480	16,384	13,107	10,486
Trewern outdoor education	133,600	106,880	85,504	68,403	54,723	43,778
Community Music Service	198,400	158,720	126,976	101,812	81,449	65,161
Advisory Teachers	211,200	168,960	135,168	108,134	86,508	69,206
Historic Resp Budget	740,000	592,000	473,600	379,111	303,289	242,632
Total CSSB Budget	2,359,000	2,223,000	2,161,600	2,107,100	2,236,582	2,266,930

Table – Services funded from CSSB Budget

8.3 The summary below shows how the services funded from the historic element of the CSSB has been remodelled to mitigate the 20% annual reductions:

- **School improvement** – the reductions are being offset by School Improvement central 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, and annual subscription by schools.
- **Schools' estates** – the reduction is being mitigated by capitalisation of eligible staffing costs that meets the criteria for capital funding, this is assigned to the building of school assets.

Recommendation (viii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) agree the proposed central spend under paragraph 8.2.
- (b) note the reduction in historic funding element of CCSB and impact on education services.

9. De-Delegation (Maintained Schools)

9.1 There are no proposed changes to the de-delegation rates for the various services. The de-delegation rates for 2025/26 and the proposed rates for 2026/27, for both the primary and secondary phases, are presented in the tables below. The updated figures are based on the October 2025 census. The de-delegated amounts are top-sliced from the budget shares of local authority-maintained schools to fund the relevant services. There is no longer a de-delegated amount for contingencies

	2025/26 Primary De-delegation			2026/27 Primary De-delegation			Movement
	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
LSCB	19,177	1.40	26,848	18,782	1.40	26,295	(795)
Trade Union	19,177	5.25	100,679	18,782	5.25	98,606	(2,982)
FSM Eligibility	19,177	0.84	16,109	18,782	0.84	15,777	(477)
Sch. Improve.	19,177	5.06	97,036	18,782	5.06	95,037	(2,874)
Primary Total:	19,177	12.55	240,671	18,782	12.55	235,714	(7,128)

Table: Primary De-delegation Rates 26/27

	2025/26 Secondary De-delegation			2026/27 Secondary De-delegation			Movement
	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
LSCB Board	10,588	1.40	14,823	10,562	1.40	14,787	(36)
Trade Union	10,588	5.25	55,587	10,562	5.25	55,451	(137)
FSM Eligibility	10,588	0.84	8,894	10,562	0.84	8,872	(22)
Sch. Improve.	10,588	5.06	53,575	10,562	5.06	53,444	(132)
Secondary Total:	10,588	12.55	132,879	10,562	12.55	132,553	(326)

Table: Secondary De-delegation Rates 26/27

Total De-delegation	373,551	368,267
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9.2 Both academies and local authority-maintained schools' benefit from the arrangements in respect of trade unions and safeguarding children's partnership - SCP formally Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). Academies are to be

invoiced as there is no provision to de-delegate. The table below presents the amounts chargeable to Academies.

The unit rate for the trade union facility time will be uplifted by the baseline per pupil funding increase.

		2026/27 Academy Charges (to be invoiced)								
		Total 2025/26	Primary NOR	Unit Rate	Primary Total:	Sec. NOR	Unit Rates	Secondary Total:	Total 2026/27	Movt
LCSB	15,228	5,012	£1.40	7,017	5,909	£1.40	8,273	15,289	£62	
Trade Union	57,104	5,012	£5.25	26,313	5,909	£5.25	31,022	57,335	£231	
	72,332			33,330			39,295	72,625	£293	

Table: Charges to Academies 2026/27

	25/26 Total De-del.	26/27 Total De-del.	25/26 Academy to be Invoiced	26/27 Academy to be Invoiced	25/26 Total	26/27 Total	Movement
LSCB	£41,671	£41,082	£15,228	£15,289	£56,899	£56,371	-£528
Trade Union	£156,266	£154,056	£57,104	£57,335	£213,371	£211,391	-£1,979
FSM Elig.	£25,003	£24,649	£0	£0	£25,003	£24,649	-£354
Sch. Improv	£150,611	£148,481	£0	£0	£150,611	£148,481	-£2,130
Total	£373,551	£368,267	£72,332	£72,625	£445,883	£440,892	-£4,991

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

Recommendation (ix): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a). Approve by phase (maintained schools only) and line by line delegation rates and amounts (Section 9.1)
- (b) Note rates to be used for billing academies (section 9.2)

10. Growth Fund for 2026/27

10.1 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 2026/27 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 2024 and October 2025 census figures. Only positive MSOA growth will

be used in calculating the number of pupils to be funded. The criteria set by LBBD 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 revenue costs of new schools.
- Meet revenue costs, for schools, of removing or repurposing surplus places.
- Where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment), regardless of whether the additional class is within or outside of the PAN.

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

10.2 LBBD will be responsible for funding growth needs for all schools in the borough and will 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).

10.3 The published 2026/27 DfE growth fund allocation is **£654,384**. The associated growth requirement has not yet been determined and will be confirmed upon receipt and review of the September 2026 PAN data.

Recommendation (x): School Forum are requested to:

Note, the proposed growth fund allocation for 2026/27

11. Falling Rolls Fund 2026/27

11.1 The DfE allocates funding to LA's for falling rolls within the Schools Block DSG allocations, alongside the growth funding. 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 numbers on roll in each LA between October 2024 and October 2025.

11.2 Local authorities have the discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund.

The DfE requires that the fund is only operated where the most recent school capacity data (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in 2026/27 or any of the subsequent two years. This is a DfE mandatory requirement.

Schools' forum approved a revised falling rolls criterion at the December 2024 meeting. The local criteria are set as below:

- (a) Reduction of 2% or more in pupil numbers.
- (b) Only pay falling rolls above the 2% drop in pupil numbers.
- (c) Review rate annually to ensure affordability within cash envelope.
- (d) There must be a year-on-year reduction in delegated budget.
- (e) The school's reserves do not exceed 8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools delegated budget.

11.3 **Appendix D** sets out the movement in pupil numbers in October 2025 when compared to the October 2024 census. LBBG schools have seen a net reduction in overall pupil numbers of **377**. A total of 39 schools has seen a combined drop in numbers on roll of 783. 85% of the schools impacted are in the primary sector with 33 primary schools seeing a net drop in pupil numbers of 620. 18 schools have a combined increase in pupil numbers of 406.

Phase	Oct 2024 NOR Pri	Oct 2024 NOR Sec	Oct 2025 NOR Pri	Oct 2025 NOR Sec	Primary Movement	Secondary Movement	Net
Primary	22,399	0	21,965	0	-434	0	-434
Secondary	0	9,235	0	9,264	0	29	29
All-Through	1,775	7,233	1,829	7,207	54	-26	28
	24,174	16,468	23,794	16,471	-380	3	-377

Table: Change in numbers on roll – October 2024 -v- October 2025

11.4 The falling rolls criteria will be applied to the affected schools to identify those eligible to be supported by the fund. The falling rolls allocation for 2026/27 will utilise any 'surplus' on the growth fund, however as mentioned in section 10 of this report, the growth fund allocation is a reduced amount of £654,384.

Recommendation (xi): School Forum is requested to:

Note: Change in pupil numbers for 2026/27

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 - Overview of funding model 2026/27

Appendix B - Provisional ISB 2026/27

Appendix C – HN Budget 2026/27 and 4-year budget trend

Appendix D - Changes to Numbers on Roll