

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM
HELD on 23rd JUNE 2026
VIRTUAL MS TEAMS MEETING
(10:00AM TO 12:00PM)

Present	Maintained Primary Representative	
	Scott Halliwell (SH) (Co Chair)	HT, Southwood Primary School
	Jamie Bell (JB)	HT, Warren Juniors School
	Gill Massar (GM)	HT, William Bellamy Primary School
	Richard November (RN)	HT, Valence Primary School
	Simon Abeledo (SA)	HT, Rush Green Primary School
	Lauren Pearce (LP)	HT, Parsloes Primary School
	Sara Rider (SR)	HT, Monteagle Primary School
	Maintained Secondary Representatives	
	Tony Roe (TR)	HT, Barking Abbey School
	Lisa Keane (LK)	HT, Jo Richardson Community School
	Maintained All-through (A/T)	
	Russell Taylor	HT, Robert Clack School
	Governor Representatives (1 Pri & 1 Sec)	
	Umma Rumeel	Northbury Primary School
	Carley Monk	Robert Clack School
	Academy & Free Primary	
	Sarah Kinnaird (SK)	HT, Goresbrook Primary School
	Academy & Free Secondary	
	Andy Roberts (AR)	HT, Riverside School
	Academy & Free Schools (A/T)	
	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 Representative (shared role)	
	Dominic Byrne (DB)	NUT
	John McGill (JMcG)	NASUWT
	Church of England Representative	
	David Huntingford (DH)	HT, William Ford C of E Junior School
	Catholic Representative	
	Clare Cattle	HT, All Saints Catholic School
	14-19 Representative	
	Natalie Davison	Principal, BDC

Also present: Jane Hargreaves (JH) – Commissioning Director, Education; Jessica McQuaid (JMcQ) - Head of School Performance and Partnerships; Kofi Adu (KA) – Head of Finance, Local Authority Finance; Florence Fadahunsi (FF) – Strategic Finance Manager, Local Authority Finance; Gurmit Kaur – Schools Senior Accountant, Local Authority Finance; Kamber Qema - Accounting Technician Apprentice; Kwesi Adobah - Principal Accountant; Amrita Kaur - Schools Senior Accountant; Rikke Damsgaard (RD) – Strategic Lead for Early Years and Childcare); Terry Shaw- Senior Professional – Education & High Needs, Simon Abeledo - Rush Green School, Tracey Whittington - Beam County Primary; Holly Wolf - Mayesbrook Park; Jani Jagrutee – Leys Primary; Bei Braithwaite-Cotton (BBC) – Local Authority Minute Clerk.

Roger Leighton chaired the meeting

1.0	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Natalie Davison, Lisa Keane, Lauren Pearce and Clare Cross																																
2.0	<u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u> None																																
3.0	<u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026 were confirmed as accurate and there were no matters arising.																																
	REPORT FROM HEAD OF FINANCE/GROUP FINANCE MANAGER																																
4	DSG Outturn for 2025/26																																
4.1	The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for 2025/26, after DfE deductions for academy recoupments, high needs commissioned places and schools NNDR, was £310.504m . Actual expenditure was £314.520m , resulting in a net overspend of £4.016m , which is due to pressures within the High Needs Block.																																
4.2	The High Needs outturn was a £5.520m overspend, which was due to mainstream top-up payments, post-16 top-ups, home tuition outreach service, SEND commissioned services for new arrivals and support bases.																																
4.3	The Early Years Block ended the year with a net underspend of £1.504m. This is net of early years provision funding to support children with SEND in early years in line with other year groups including nurseries and reception. The underspend is subject to clawback which will only be confirmed by the DfE in July.																																
4.4	The DSG overspend will be transferred to reserves as an unusable reserve via the "Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account" . As the DSG is a ring-fenced grant, the deficit cannot be met by the General Fund. The deficit remains as an unusable reserve to be offset against future year surpluses.																																
	Refer to the table below for the summary position.																																
	<table><tr><th>Dedicated schools Grant (DSG Budget)</th><th>2025/26 Budget £'000</th><th>2025/26 Outturn £'000</th><th>(Deficit) Surplus £'000</th></tr><tr><td>Schools Block (ISB)</td><td>212,714</td><td>212,714</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Central Services Block</td><td>2,237</td><td>2,237</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>High Needs Block</td><td>56,995</td><td>62,515</td><td>(5,520)</td></tr><tr><td>Early Years Block</td><td>38,560</td><td>37,055</td><td>1,504</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>310,505</td><td>314,521</td><td>(4,016)</td></tr><tr><td>DSG reserves B/F</td><td></td><td></td><td>1,467</td></tr><tr><td>DSG Reserve C/F to 25-26 - (Deficit)</td><td></td><td></td><td>(2,549)</td></tr></table>	Dedicated schools Grant (DSG Budget)	2025/26 Budget £'000	2025/26 Outturn £'000	(Deficit) Surplus £'000	Schools Block (ISB)	212,714	212,714	0	Central Services Block	2,237	2,237	0	High Needs Block	56,995	62,515	(5,520)	Early Years Block	38,560	37,055	1,504		310,505	314,521	(4,016)	DSG reserves B/F			1,467	DSG Reserve C/F to 25-26 - (Deficit)			(2,549)
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	Table: DSG 2025/26 Outturn																																

Recommendation (i): Schools Forum is requested to:

(a) Note the DSG outturn position for 2025/26

*Noted by Schools Forum.***5 Local Management of Schools (LMS Reserves)**

- 5.1** The 2025/26 Schools reserves opening balance of **£5.208m** has been reduced by the combined deficit across all LBBB maintained schools, resulting in an overall **deficit** position of **£1.144m**. The in-year closing position across maintained schools for 2025/26 is an overspend of **£6.352m**, this includes capital expenditure funded from revenue of **£0.743m**.

The table below summarises the % share of schools' reserves in 2025/26 as compared to 2024/25.

Schools Reserve Analysis	Total	Primary	Secondary	Special
% Share of Reserve (2024/25)	100%	4%	50%	46%
Closing Reserve 24/25 (deficit)/surplus	5,207,988	191,774	2,588,420	2,427,794
25/26 Outturn	(5,608,772)	(3,788,610)	(2,121,057)	300,894
Capital projects	(743,178)	(247,575)	(495,603)	0
Closing Reserve 25/26 (deficit)/surplus	(1,143,962)	(3,844,411)	(28,241)	2,728,688

- 5.2** The table below summarises the in-year position for maintained schools by phase. 27 schools ended the year with a deficit compared to 29 in 2024/25. The number of schools with an in-year surplus increased from 12 in 2024/25 to 14 in 2025/26.

Phase	No of Schools with In- year surplus		No of Schools with in- year Deficit	
	24/25	25/26	24/25	25/26
Primary	10	11	22	21
Secondary	1	1	3	3
All through	0	0	3	3
Special School	1	2	1	0
	12	14	29	27
Percentages (%)	29%	34%	71%	66%
In year position	£3,450,993	£1,676,113	-£7,854,469	-£7,284,885

- 5.3** The impact of the 2025/26 in-year deficit has been compounded by the year-on-year reduction in schools' reserves, and the overall schools' reserves are now in a deficit position.

- 5.4** The current financial situation in schools is due to multiple reasons including the following:

- Long-term impact of falling rolls below schools' PAN
- Increase and complexity of children presenting with SEND in schools.
- Other cost pressures, including less than inflationary increases in schools' budgets over recent years and the high cost of goods and services
- Use of agency staff for long- and short-term cover
- Unfunded pay awards
- The benefits of having experienced personnel in schools
- Recurring use of revenue reserves to fund capital projects
- Delays in responding to changes in adverse schools' financial health.

5.5 The LA is committed to supporting schools in the following ways:

- Supporting schools to prepare costed recovery plans
- Organising a series of meetings with schools facing financial difficulties through the Financial Monitoring Group
- Liaising with the DfE to identify schools that can benefit from the Schools Resources Management Advisor (SRMA)
- Providing financial support for short-term cash flow issues
- Helping schools using the Schools Facing Financial Difficulty fund (SFFD)
- Providing a policy on schools facing financial difficulties.

5.6 Schools with surpluses exceeding 5% for secondary schools and 8% for primary schools will also be expected to submit a plan for the use of reserves with their ratified budget.

Discussion following section 5.1

RL asked the following:

Does the LMS position relate only to local authority-maintained schools and exclude academies? FF confirmed that it relates only to the 41 maintained schools and does not include academies.

Does the special school column also only include maintained special schools? FF confirmed that it only includes the maintained special schools: Trinity and Mayesbrook.

What happens to the £1.14m deficit — does it have to be covered by the General Fund? FF explained that because the DSG is ring-fenced, the General Fund is not liable to cover the deficit. Schools in deficit will need to work on deficit recovery plans.

KA clarified that, although the deficit is not funded by the General Fund, it affects the local authority's cash position. This means the authority incurs additional interest costs because school bank balances sit with the local authority. **KA** explained that, while the scheme of financing schools allows the local authority to charge interest on deficit balances, LBBB has not implemented this and schools in deficit are not currently charged interest.

SH highlighted that the £3.8m primary deficit is unevenly distributed, with some schools more affected than others. He noted that recovery is difficult due to falling rolls, SEND pressures, limited reserves and operational constraints.

Discussion following section 5.2

SH noted that the in-year figures did not show the full financial picture, as many schools had relied on reserves or carry forwards and also highlighted that the year-end provision funding payment had improved the reported position and that, without it, the deficit would have been significantly higher. **FF** agreed, noting that many schools had used historic reserves to balance their budgets.

TR noted that the in-year figures may not show the overall position for schools and asked for the wider borough picture on schools in deficit and surplus. **KA** confirmed that this information is available and would be shared after the meeting.

Discussion following section 5.4

Members discussed the financial and operational pressures caused by falling pupil numbers. It was recognised that reducing classes or staffing is difficult and that schools have limited flexibility left. The local authority confirmed that work is underway to scale down schools and review site use, with the aim of keeping schools viable while avoiding closures where possible. A further update from the place planning team would be sought before the end of term.

Discussion following section 5.6

KA clarified that schools are not expected to spend reserves unnecessarily. A plan of usage can include setting money aside for known pressures such as sickness, maternity leave, shared parental leave or jury service cover. **SH** asked that this clarification be shared with business managers, and **KA** agreed.

Recommendation (ii): Schools Forum is requested to note:

(a) LMS Reserves overall position for Schools for 2025/26

Noted by Schools Forum.

6 High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn for 2025/26

6.1 The HN budget for 2025/26 was **£56.995m** (after recoupment). The table below shows the detailed position for High Needs for 2024/25 & 2025/26. The outturn position for the year **was £5.519m** overspend.

High Needs Budget and Outturn	2024/25 Outturn	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Outturn	Variance + Surplus (Deficit)
Alternative Provision(excl PRU)	4,145,018	4,083,002	4,194,181	-111,179
ARP Funding	10,001,189	10,276,640	10,478,006	-201,366
Education Inclusion	1,866,872	2,392,321	2,332,272	60,049
Out of Borough & Non Maintained	10,276,126	9,410,670	9,966,208	-555,538
HN Top Ups - Post 16	3,977,999	4,055,150	5,945,039	-1,889,889
Mainstream Top Ups	8,235,066	5,750,000	10,184,062	-4,434,062
SEND LAC & Language Support	377,667	382,324	490,267	-107,943
Initiatives (Rapid Response)	817,251	791,917	804,776	-12,859
Special School Funding	16,930,529	18,175,947	16,869,155	1,306,792

EY Portage & Youth Inclusion	404,597	395,049	459,033	-63,984
Speech , Language & Communication Support	1,130,509	1,281,651	791,554	490,097
	58,162,823	56,994,671	62,514,553	-5,519,882

Table – High Needs Outturn

6.2 High Needs overspend was driven by:

- Increased payments for mainstream top-up funding
- SEND Commissioned Services for New Arrivals.
- Post 16 costs.
- Outreach and home tuition service costs
- Additional Resourced Provision and support bases (ARPs)

6.3 The **mainstream top-up** budget overspent by £4.4m due to the increasing number of pupils presenting with complex SEND needs in mainstream schools, for both EHCP and non-EHCP pupils. This also includes provision funding to support schools in managing the financial burden of SEND pupils.

6.4 **SEND Commissioned Services for New Arrivals:** 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.

6.5 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.

6.6 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.

6.7 **Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs)** ended the year with an overspend of £201k. This is mainly due to additional ARP places and growth in schools.

6.8 **Post-16** top-up payments in support of continued growth for the 16–25 cohort reported an overspend of £1.8m, primarily due to increased placements. Post-16 continues to be a demand-driven area. The transition from pre-16 to post-16 is putting pressure on the budget.

Recommendation (iii): Schools Forum is requested to:

(a) Note the 2025/26 High Needs outturn position.

Noted by Schools Forum.

7	2026/27 Top-up rates for Additional Resource Provisions (ARPS) Special Schools & Mainstream schools
7.1	The High Needs working group met on 10th June and the following were discussed: • The top-up rates for 2026/27 for ARPS and Special schools will be increased by 3.4% starting from April 2026. • Place funding will remain at £10,000. • Introduction of Level 2 top-up rate of £16,180 for the most complex ASD/ASC pupils in mainstream Schools. • EHCP payments for Targeted and Specialist pupils (Bands G and H) will continue in 2026/27 • The remaining budget for mainstream top-up will be apportioned using one of the following options: • Option 1: Apportion by formula to allocate a £30k lump sum to both primary and secondary schools, an additional £20k to all-through schools, and apportion the balance proportionately to Band F and non-EHCP as provision funding. • Option 2: Apportion the remaining budget as per option 1 but weighting the formula towards schools with Band F EHCP pupils. • Option 3: Allocate funding to EHCP pupils with Band F, G, H, in the first instance and apportion the remaining balance for non-EHCP pupils and provision funding. 7.2 The local authority recommends Option 3 as the preferred option following consultation with the High Needs Working Group. Discussion following section 7.1 RL queried whether Option 3 included a lump sum. KA and MN clarified that Option 3 would include a lump sum element, but not necessarily at the same level as Options 1 and 2. MN supported Option 3 as the fairest approach, with funding prioritised for Bands F, G and H, followed by provision/SEND support funding using census data. SC supported Option 3 in principle but requested clarity on mainstream top-up funding, the EHCP cut-off date, monthly payments, census data and support for Reception and Year 7 pupils joining in September. KA confirmed these points would require further discussion. A 30 June EHCP cut-off date was suggested, alongside a small contingency to support schools with higher numbers of new SEND pupils. JH noted that Option 3 was agreed in principle, but further clarification was needed before implementation. Recommendation (iv): Schools forum is requested to: (a) Note & comment on the proposed top-up rates and payment options for 2026/27 <i>Noted and comments received by Schools Forum.</i>

8	High Needs Budget 2026/27																		
8.1	The High Needs Block increased by £2.580m, from £56.995m to £59.575m, representing a 4.2% increase from the previous year. The DfE has suspended the High Needs National Funding Formula, which was used to calculate the prior year's allocation. Instead, the allocation is based on the 2025/26 allocations with some adjustment. The government will review the funding allocation so that HN funding supports the SEND reforms.																		
8.2	The table below shows the budget pressures for 2026/27. We are estimating £9.9m of pressure for the year if the various activities listed below happen. <table><tr><th colspan="2">Budget Pressures for 2026/27</th></tr><tr><td>Special schools - Level 2 (90 places)</td><td>£1,802,850</td></tr><tr><td>Intervention ARPS (60places)</td><td>£749,350</td></tr><tr><td>OOB Commissioned Services - New Arrivals</td><td>£875,777</td></tr><tr><td>Post 16 demand</td><td>£1,533,868</td></tr><tr><td>Pressures - Top-up, growth, demand etc</td><td>£1,100,000</td></tr><tr><td>2026/27 Estimated Pressure</td><td>£6,061,845</td></tr><tr><td>Provision funding & Other pressures</td><td>£3,877,740</td></tr><tr><td>2026/27 Revised Pressure</td><td>9,939,585</td></tr></table> Discussion following section 8.1 RL queried whether the full budget had been shared and asked what would happen to the projected overspend. KA confirmed that the full budget had been shared in January and had not changed. KA advised that Government will write off 90% of the 2025/26 DSG deficit, with the local authority covering the remaining 10%. For 2026/27, Government has indicated limited support, but the details are not yet known. Outcome: The position was noted. If Government support does not cover the full 2026/27 deficit, further savings options may need to be considered. Recommendation (v): Schools forum is requested to: a) Note & comment on the High Needs forecast for 2026/27. <i>Noted and comments received by Schools Forum.</i>	Budget Pressures for 2026/27		Special schools - Level 2 (90 places)	£1,802,850	Intervention ARPS (60places)	£749,350	OOB Commissioned Services - New Arrivals	£875,777	Post 16 demand	£1,533,868	Pressures - Top-up, growth, demand etc	£1,100,000	2026/27 Estimated Pressure	£6,061,845	Provision funding & Other pressures	£3,877,740	2026/27 Revised Pressure	9,939,585
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9	Early Years (EY) Outturn for 2025/26																		
9.1	The Early Years Block ended the year with a net underspend of £1.504m. This is net of early years provision funding to support children with SEND in early years including nurseries and reception, this is in line with provision funding allocations for other year groups. The underspend will be subject to claw back which will only be confirmed by the DfE in July.																		
9.2	The underspend is due to lower pupil numbers during the year compared to the																		

	census figures. Although the early years census now measures actual attendance on census day, fluctuations in take-up over the academic year mean that not all funding is spent. In addition, settings continue to find it difficult to recruit staff and are therefore not operating at full capacity. However, attendance continues to rise from an all-time low during the pandemic, and actual two-year-old and universal three- and four-year-old numbers now match pre-pandemic figures. Take-up of the extended entitlement has risen significantly since 2022. Discussion following section 9 JTS asked if any funding not clawed back would be passed on to providers. KA clarified that any unclaimed Early Years surplus is not ring-fenced to Early Years once the financial year ends and becomes part of the overall DSG position. Any use of DSG surplus would be a Schools Forum decision. JTS noted that PVI providers are also under financial pressure and asked that they be included in any future distribution of funding. KA confirmed this point was noted and that PVIs would be included in any future one-off funding decisions, where possible. SA asked whether the funding could also go to mainstream settings, not just PVIs. KA clarified that Early Years pass-through funding applies to early years providers, and SC clarified that this includes school-based nurseries. KA confirmed that school-based nurseries are included. Outcome: The position was noted. The final DfE claw back amount will be confirmed in July and reported back at the autumn Schools Forum. Any remaining DSG surplus would be considered by Schools Forum, with Early Years providers, including PVIs and school-based nurseries, included in future funding considerations where possible. Recommendation (vi): Schools Forum is requested to: (a) Note the Early Years outturn position for 2025/26. <i>Noted by Schools Forum.</i>	
10	Growth Funding for 2026/27	
10.1	Growth funding is allocated to Schools to manage an increase in pupil numbers in 2026/27 before the lagged funding catches up. The allocation is based on differences between the primary and secondary numbers on roll in each LA between the October 2024 and October 2025 school censuses. The methodology captures growth at the level of Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). Only positive MSOA growth is used to calculate the number of pupils to be funded.	
10.2	The 2026/27 DfE growth fund allocation is £0.654m and the growth requirement is £0.345m. The under allocation of growth fund of £0.309m will be put towards supporting schools with falling rolls.	
10.3	The criteria set by LBBD to qualify for growth funding is set out 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.
- 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).

Please Note:

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

10.4

The table below shows the **provisional** growth allocation for 2026/27 based on forecasts of pupil numbers that will be admitted to the borough's schools in September 2026. The Growth Fund has been calculated using the DfE-set allocation rates for 2026/27: **£1,570** per new primary pupil and **£2,350** per new secondary pupil. The area cost adjustment for LBBD, **1.13**, has been applied to these rates.

School	Pri Nos	Sec Nos	Prim. Growth £1,768.07	Sec. Growth £2,646.48	Growth Allocation 2026/27
Growth Fund (Sep 26 - Mar 27)					
Riverside Primary (Free School)	60		£106,084.27		£106,084.27
Robert Clack School of Science	60		£106,084.27		£106,084.27
Payment to Academy (Apr 26 to Aug					
Riverside Primary (Free School)	60		£75,774.48		£75,774.48
Greatfields Secondary school		30		£56,807.14	£56,807.14
Total					£344,750.16
DfE Growth Fund Allocation 2026/27					£654,384.00
(Shortfall)/ Surplus Growth Allocation to support Falling Rolls					£309,633.84

Table: Provisional Growth Fund allocation based on planned Sept. 26 Expansions

Discussion following section 10

SC asked whether the Growth Fund can now be used for both growth and falling rolls. **KA** and **FF** confirmed that this was correct.

TR queried whether the growth rate was a full-year amount. **KA** clarified that the rate relates to seven months, with a five-month calculation used for April to August.

TR asked why the DfE allocation was higher than the amount being used for growth. **KA** explained that the remaining funding is to support falling rolls.

RN asked how growth schools fit with the wider place planning strategy. **KA** agreed to refer this to the Place Planning team for a response.

RL noted that pupil place planning should be added to the autumn Schools Forum agenda, with Andy Carr invited to provide an update, including discussions on PAN capping.

Recommendation (vii): Schools Forum is requested to:

- Note the provisional growth fund allocations for 2026/27
- Approve the use of the unallocated growth fund to support schools with falling rolls

Noted and approved by Schools Forum.

11	Falling Rolls Fund for 2026/27																																																																		
11.1	Details of falling rolls were shared at the January 2026 Schools Forum. The table below is a summary of changes in numbers on roll (NOR) by phase. Overall, pupil numbers have decreased by 377 between October 2024 and October 2025 censuses. All-through schools have a net increase of 28, and secondary schools have a net increase of 29 pupils. The primary phase is reporting a net reduction of 434 pupils. <table><tr><th>Phase</th><th>Oct 2024 Primary NOR</th><th>Oct 2024 Secondary NOR</th><th>Oct 2025 Primary NOR</th><th>Oct 2025 Secondary NOR</th><th>Primary Movement</th><th>Secondary Movement</th><th>Net</th></tr><tr><td>Primary</td><td>22,399</td><td>0</td><td>21,965</td><td>0</td><td>-434</td><td>0</td><td>-434</td></tr><tr><td>Secondary</td><td>0</td><td>9,235</td><td>0</td><td>9,264</td><td>0</td><td>29</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>All-Through</td><td>1,775</td><td>7,233</td><td>1,829</td><td>7,207</td><td>54</td><td>-26</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>24,174</td><td>16,468</td><td>23,794</td><td>16,471</td><td>-380</td><td>3</td><td>-377</td></tr></table>	Phase	Oct 2024 Primary NOR	Oct 2024 Secondary NOR	Oct 2025 Primary NOR	Oct 2025 Secondary NOR	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																										
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All-Through	1,775	7,233	1,829	7,207	54	-26	28																																																												
	24,174	16,468	23,794	16,471	-380	3	-377																																																												
11.2	The previous criteria that a school had to be judged outstanding or good by OFSTED has now been removed. a) Reduction of 2% or more in pupil numbers. b) Only pay falling rolls above the 2% drop in pupil numbers. c) Review the rate annually to ensure affordability within the cash envelope d) There must be a year-on-year reduction in delegated budget. e) The school's reserves do not exceed 8% of the delegated budget for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools.																																																																		
11.3	The table below identifies the schools that meet the eligibility criteria, along with the allocated budget to support reductions in pupil numbers. The Falling Rolls Fund will be funded using £0.310m from the unallocated Growth Fund for 2026/27. <table><tr><th>School Name</th><th>NOR TOTAL</th><th>Rate per Pupil</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>£ 512</td></tr><tr><td>William Bellamy Primary School</td><td>-81</td><td>£ 41,455</td></tr><tr><td>Roding Primary School</td><td>-79</td><td>£ 40,431</td></tr><tr><td>Eastbury Community School</td><td>-71</td><td>£ 36,337</td></tr><tr><td>Valence Primary School</td><td>-53</td><td>£ 27,125</td></tr><tr><td>Manor Primary School</td><td>-46</td><td>£ 23,542</td></tr><tr><td>Rose Lane Primary School</td><td>-41</td><td>£ 20,983</td></tr><tr><td>Dorothy Barley Infants' School</td><td>-31</td><td>£ 15,865</td></tr><tr><td>The Leys Primary School</td><td>-28</td><td>£ 14,330</td></tr><tr><td>Ripple Primary School</td><td>-28</td><td>£ 14,330</td></tr><tr><td>Beam Primary School</td><td>-27</td><td>£ 13,818</td></tr><tr><td>Dagenham Park CofE School</td><td>-20</td><td>£ 10,236</td></tr><tr><td>George Carey C of E Primary School</td><td>-15</td><td>£ 7,677</td></tr><tr><td>Godwin Primary School</td><td>-14</td><td>£ 7,165</td></tr><tr><td>Richard Alibon Primary School</td><td>-14</td><td>£ 7,165</td></tr><tr><td>William Ford CofE Junior School</td><td>-13</td><td>£ 6,653</td></tr><tr><td>Marsh Green Primary School</td><td>-13</td><td>£ 6,653</td></tr><tr><td>Hunters Hall Primary School</td><td>-12</td><td>£ 6,141</td></tr><tr><td>Monteagle Primary School</td><td>-12</td><td>£ 6,141</td></tr><tr><td>Furze Infant School</td><td>-7</td><td>£ 3,583</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>-605</td><td>£ 309,633</td></tr></table> Table: Falling Rolls Allocations 2026/27 Comments raised following section 11 SC noted that the support is very limited compared with the loss of income schools face when pupil numbers fall. KA acknowledged this and explained that, due to limited DSG reserves, the available funding has been distributed as far as possible.	School Name	NOR TOTAL	Rate per Pupil			£ 512	William Bellamy Primary School	-81	£ 41,455	Roding Primary School	-79	£ 40,431	Eastbury Community School	-71	£ 36,337	Valence Primary School	-53	£ 27,125	Manor Primary School	-46	£ 23,542	Rose Lane Primary School	-41	£ 20,983	Dorothy Barley Infants' School	-31	£ 15,865	The Leys Primary School	-28	£ 14,330	Ripple Primary School	-28	£ 14,330	Beam Primary School	-27	£ 13,818	Dagenham Park CofE School	-20	£ 10,236	George Carey C of E Primary School	-15	£ 7,677	Godwin Primary School	-14	£ 7,165	Richard Alibon Primary School	-14	£ 7,165	William Ford CofE Junior School	-13	£ 6,653	Marsh Green Primary School	-13	£ 6,653	Hunters Hall Primary School	-12	£ 6,141	Monteagle Primary School	-12	£ 6,141	Furze Infant School	-7	£ 3,583		-605	£ 309,633
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	KA explained that the DfE now expects Growth Fund allocations to cover both growth and falling rolls. This is why the growth funding rate has been reduced, leaving some funding available to support schools with falling rolls. Recommendation (viii): Schools Forum is requested to: a) Agree to fund falling rolls allocation from the surplus of growth budget (£0.310m) <i>Agreed by Schools Forum.</i>	
12	Inclusive Mainstream Fund (New)	
12.1	The Department for Education (DfE) has announced the Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) for 2026/27. This fund is designed to provide early support directly to children without the need for diagnosis or statutory process. It aims to strengthen mainstream settings by improving the inclusivity of their universal provision. As part of this initiative, schools will be expected to publish an inclusion strategy	
12.2	The funding will be provided over a 3-year spending period.	
12.3	The IMF allocations will be paid to mainstream school providers for pupils aged 5 to 16, as well as to post-16 providers. Please refer to Appendix A for the estimation of the funding schools will receive, these have been derived using the calculator tool provided by the DfE. Funding will be paid to local authorities at the end of June and directly to academy trusts in July.	
12.4	The base funding rates for 2026/27 financial year are: • Lump sum of £3,000 per school • Primary school pupils, including pupils in reception - £16 per pupil • Secondary school pupil - £14 per pupil • Low Prior Attainment rate of £88 per eligible pupil The Area Cost Adjustment for LBBD schools of 1.12616 will be applied to the above rates.	
12.5	Based on current pupil numbers, the total funding allocated to LBBD maintained schools is approximately £1.579m. The DfE has not indicated that any additional funding will be made available beyond this allocation. Schools should note that grants previously paid separately, namely: • Teachers' Pay Additional Grant - TPAG • Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant - TPECG • Core Schools Budget Grant - CSBG • National Insurance Contributions grant - NICs • Schools Business Support Grant - SBSG	
12.6	The above grants have now been incorporated into the baseline budgets and will not be paid as separate grants for 2026/27.	

	Discussion following section 12 JTS noted that the Inclusive Early Years Fund is also available and asked about the timeline. RD confirmed that information had already been shared with providers in May. SA asked what the low prior attainment measure is based on, given that Key Stage 1 results no longer apply. KA advised that the data comes from the Government/National Funding Formula and is based on information submitted through the school census. Recommendation (ix): Schools Forum are requested to note: a) The total Inclusive Mainstream Fund at school level. <i>Noted by Schools Forum.</i>					
13	Any Other Business					
13.1	RL queried the Schools Forum membership, noting there appeared to be seven maintained primary representatives and two maintained secondary representatives. He asked whether the balance was correct and whether it should reflect pupil numbers.					
13.2	KA confirmed there were no known maintained school vacancies but agreed to check the regulations and membership position.					
13.3	SC noted that academy and all-through school representation may affect the balance. Outcome: KA agreed to review the Schools Forum membership and representation ahead of the next academic year.					
14	Date of Next Meeting					
	20 th October 2026					
15	Action Log					
	No	Date of Meeting	Item No	Action	Owner	
	1	23/06/26	5.2	Share the wider borough picture on schools in deficit and surplus after the meeting.	Finance	
	2	23/06/26	5.4	Seek further update from the Place Planning team before the end of term on scaling down schools and reviewing site use.	KA	
	3	23/06/26	5.6	Share clarification with business managers that reserves usage plans can include provision for known pressures such as sickness, maternity, shared parental leave or jury service cover.	KA	
	4	23/06/26	7.1	Arrange a single-item High Needs Working Party meeting to agree the detailed implementation of Option 3, including lump sum, EHCP cut-off	KA / MN	

				date, payment timing, census data and support for new Reception/Year 7 pupils.			
	5	23/06/26	9	Confirm the final DfE Early Years clawback amount in July and report back to Schools Forum in autumn.	Finance		
	6	23/06/26	10	Add pupil place planning to the autumn Schools Forum agenda and invite Andy Carr to provide an update, including PAN capping.	FF		
	7	23/06/26	13	Check Schools Forum regulations and review membership/representation balance ahead of the next academic year.	KA		