

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Online meeting - via Microsoft Teams
Date: Thursday 5 October 2023
Time: 1.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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| Membership: | Representing: |
|-------------------------|---|
| Aileen Bates | WGA - Special School Governor Representative |
| Lyssy Bolton | Early Years Representative |
| Angela Brennan | Observer - Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum |
| Andy Bridewell | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |
| Helen Carpenter | WASSH (Chair) - Secondary Academy Representative |
| Rebecca Carson | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Michele Chilcott | WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative |
| Stella Fowler | WGA - Primary School Governor Representative |
| Jo Grenfell | Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College |
| John Hawkins | Teaching Association Representative |
| Cllr Ross Henning | Observer - Local Youth Network |
| Georgina Keily-Theobald | WASSH - Maintained Special School Representative |
| Graham Nagel-Smith | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Nick Norgrove | WASSH - Maintained Secondary School Representative |
| Emma Osmund | Early Years Representative |
| Lisa Percy | WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative |
| Giles Pugh | Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative |
| John Read | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |
| Graham Shore | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Trudy Srawley | Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council |
| Ros Sutton | WGA - Primary School Governor Representative |
| Mike Thomas | WASSH - Special School Academy Representative |
| David Whewell | WGA - Secondary School Governor Representative |
| Catriona Williamson | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |

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PART I

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1 **Election of Chair**

To elect a Chair of Schools Forum for 2023-24.

2 **Election of Vice Chair**

To elect a Vice Chair of Schools Forum for 2023-24.

3 **Apologies, Substitutions and Changes of Membership**

To note any apologies, substitutions and changes to the membership of the Forum.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 24*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 (copy attached).

5 **Chair's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

6 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

7 **Public Participation**

Schools Forum welcomes contributions from members of the public who are able to ask questions or make a statement in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Forum at each meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to this at the start of each meeting, and each question or statement should last no longer than 3 minutes. Please register with the Officer named on this agenda, and in accordance with the deadlines below.

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the Officer named on the agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 3 October 2023** (1 clear working day before the meeting). Statements must not be defamatory, frivolous, offensive, vexatious, unlawful or otherwise improper. They must not name or identify individual service users, members of staff or members of partner agencies.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions to the Officer named on the front of this agenda **no later than 5pm on**

Thursday 28 September 2023 to allow a response to be formulated. Questions are limited to a maximum of 2 per person/organisation. A response will be given as either a direct oral answer or a written reply. Questions must not require the disclosure of confidential information. The Chair's ruling on rejection of a question is final.

8 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 25 - 28*)

The Forum will be asked to note the minutes/updates from the following meeting:

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 25 September 2023

9 **Wiltshire Schools Forum Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference** (*Pages 29 - 40*)

The report of Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer/Clerk to Schools Forum) seeks to inform that a review of proportionality, Forum membership and terms of reference have been carried out and that no changes are proposed.

10 **School Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2022-23** (*Pages 41 - 52*)

The report of Debbie Williams (Schools Strategic Financial Management Adviser) presents the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at 31 March 2023 and identifies those in surplus and deficit.

11 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2023-24** (*Pages 53 - 62*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2023-24 as at 31 August 2023.

12 **Update on High Needs Sustainability: the Safety Valve Programme** (*Pages 63 - 64*)

Liz Williams (Finance Lead – High Needs Block Sustainability) and Ben Stevens (Sustainability Strategic Lead – High Needs Block) will update Schools Forum and give a presentation on High Needs Sustainability: the Safety Valve Programme.

13 **Early Years Operational and Funding Update** (*Pages 65 - 72*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to inform Schools Forum of a serious of DfE Early Years publications issued in July 2023.

14 **National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs - 2024-25** (*Pages 73 - 80*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to outline the DfE's funding proposals for schools and high needs in 2024-25.

15 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings, as follows:

5 December 2023
18 January 2024
14 March 2024
27 June 2024
10 October 2024.

16 **Urgent Items**

To consider any other items of business, which the Chair agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Item(s) during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

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Schools Forum

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2023 AT ONLINE MEETING - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

Present:

Nikki Barnett, Aileen Bates, Lyssy Bolton, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Michele Chilcott, Stella Fowler, John Hawkins, Cllr Ross Henning, Graham Nagel-Smith, Nick Norgrove, Lisa Percy (Chair), Giles Pugh, John Read, Graham Shore (Vice-Chair), Trudy Srawley, Ros Sutton, Ian Tucker, David Whewell, and Catriona Williamson.

Also Present:

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager)
Richard Hanks (Interim Co-Director - Education & Skills)
Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion and SEND)
Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer)
Marie Taylor (Head of Finance - Children and Education)
Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead)

14 Apologies, Substitutions and any Changes of Membership

Apologies for absence from Members were received from:

- Angela Brennan
- Georgina Keily-Theobald
- Emma Osmund

Further apologies were noted from:

- Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills)
- Anthony Fennell (Head of Special School Transformation)
- Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member for Children, Education, and Skills)
- Cllr Jane Davies (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND, Transition and Inclusion)
- Cllr Suzanne Wickham (Portfolio Holder for SEND and Inclusion)

The Chair announced the following Membership changes; namely, that Mike Thomas and Helen Carpenter would be taking over from Jon Hamp and Ian Tucker as the WASHH Special School Academy representative and Chair of WASHH – Secondary Academy representative respectively. Furthermore, it was noted that Richard Hanks had been appointed as the Interim Co-Director for

Education & Skills and would be working alongside Helean Hughes. The Chair welcomed the new Members and thanked Jon Hamp and Ian Tucker for their contributions while a part of the Schools Forum.

15 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 January 2023 were presented for consideration.

The Chair noted that Minute Item 10a and 10b seemed to be duplicated, which the Democratic Services Officer confirmed would be rectified. After which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum approved and signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 January 2023 as a true and correct record.

16 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair noted that depending on the length of the meeting, a comfort break may be had at an appropriate time.

17 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

18 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

19 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Chair raised the update from the last meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 31 March 2023, and the update from the last joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group held on 22 May 2023. There being no questions or comments on the updates, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the updates from the last meetings of the Early Years Reference Group and the joint School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group, held on 31 March 2023 and 22 May 2023 respectively.

Update on FACT (Families and Children Transformation)

An update on the FACT Programme was delivered by the FACT Programme Lead, Simon Thomas, who highlighted the following:

- The multi-agency 'Family Help' arrangements were introduced, and it was explained that the FACT partnership looked at how to respond to different pressures in the system felt pre and post COVID recovery, and to concentrate their collective energies into a combined approach focussing on the space of early intervention and prevention.
- The aim of the project and the different workstreams the partnership was engaged in were detailed; namely: family hubs, communications and branding, an online platform, workforce development, a pilot scheme in Westbury and Warminster, and outcomes and evaluation.
- It was explained that the pilot scheme was created to explore if working together in geographically defined areas in different ways could provide better and more effective early intervention and prevention.
- Additional funding had been secured to appoint Family Help and Early Help Mental Health Practitioners who would be working directly with families and providing training, support and advice to schools and other organisations. Thus, establishing strong relationships, delivering a quicker response, and easier, smoother, and more accurate operations.
- Monthly Pilot Operational Group meetings were being conducted to identify challenges, opportunities for development, and key priorities.
- The emerging priorities for the pilot scheme were then explained: early intervention activity, building parental confidence and competence, improving families' financial security, awareness of the programme, and accessibility of resources and support.
- A lot of time and effort had been invested into creating a cohesive brand following feedback that the existing system was relatively confusing, fragmented, and disjointed. Therefore, this umbrella brand would cover all services providing early intervention and prevention, communicating to families, schools, and other relevant organisations that these services were working in tandem to deliver a more collective and connected system across the County. This branding would be utilised through a new logo and straplines and would be linked closely to the development of an online platform which would be the single source of any and all relevant information.
- The workforce development aspect was briefly covered; in short, ensuring a competent and confident workforce. The practice framework to ensure this cohesion was then displayed.
- The education related outcomes and measures of success were then detailed, and it was confirmed that officers would be seeking more formal feedback from school colleagues to assess the impact of the project.
- It was confirmed that the rollout of the project and branding across the whole County was due to launch in Autumn 2023 onwards. Furthermore,

feedback from the pilots over the duration of the scheme would be shared to aid in the rollout into other areas as soon as appropriate.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that a paper on the Family Hubs Commissioning would be going to Cabinet in the near future, and an update would be brought back to the Forum after such. It was further confirmed that the Area Boards and Local Youth Networks would have input into the process and that it was officers' intention to maximise the links between the different youth groups, with a dedicated place at the table for the partnership representing these different groups. Furthermore, officers had attended Area Board meetings in Westbury and Warminster to inform Members and attendees of the pilot scheme.

The PHF – Maintained Primary Representative noted that they now had a Family Champion working within their school once a week, and that early reports were positive, and that parents were appreciative for the opportunity to drop in and get support from this dedicated officer as and when it was needed. The Chair expressed anticipation for the future when the programme was fully rolled out.

After which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the FACT update.

21 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring Year End Position for 2022-23**

Marie Taylor, Head of Finance – Children and Education, referred to the report which presented the budget monitoring year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2022-23 as at 31 March 2023, and highlighted the following:

- The appendices, particularly Appendix 1, outlined in detail the variance analysis on each of the budgets.
- Table 1 in the report showed a summary per funding Block and it was noted that all Blocks had underspent bar the High Needs Block (HNB). It was explained that there was a significant underspend in the Early Years Block (EYB) due to the difference between the take-up in comparison to the census funding levels taken from the Department of Education (DfE). However, it was confirmed that the DfE undertake yearly in-year and post-year financial adjustments in the next month or so, therefore the variance would to some degree disappear after the usual post adjustment in the 2023-24 financial year.
- Table 2 in the report showed the breakdown of Early Years Learners and an overspend in the Inclusion Support Fund, however it was emphasised

that this was not necessarily a negative thing, as it was likely a reflection of the benefits of the Fund and demand across the system.

- It was confirmed that Early Years Officers had been successful in their COMF funding bid to the Director of Public Health for grants for 2022-23. Furthermore, £100k had been ear-marked for the Hardship Fund, but no requests had been received in 2022-23 despite take-up in previous years.
- The forecasted underspend in Schools Budgets was explained as being due to the School Supply Cover Fund not being used as anticipated, alongside alternative grants being used to fund some of the relevant activity in that area. Thus, helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG.
- The High Needs Budget was projected to overspend by £13.499m, however it was stressed that when the level of funding available did not match local needs, no realistic budget could be set at an achievable level. Therefore, Members were reassured that it was not indicative of individual budget issues, but instead that the whole block was under significant pressure.
- Furthermore, throughout the pandemic, professionals could not assess children and young people in school, thus leading to an inevitable backlog in Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. Continual increases in assessment requests were noted as leading to assumptions around future plans needing to be constantly adjusted to ensure higher accuracy.
- It was explained that the major driver for the increased cost was volume, which was explained as being measured in full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils. Table 3 in the report was then referred to, where the percentage of children with an EHCP in Wiltshire had doubled to 12% since the previous financial year, which could be attributed to the impact of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.
- It was noted that the biggest areas of overspend within the High Needs Budget were Independent Special School packages, alternative provision, costs of pupils in non-Wiltshire schools, named pupil allowances and top ups. A breakdown of the data was shown in Table 4 in the report.
- Additionally, High Needs related overspends within mainstream schools were noted as not necessarily being negative, as it meant that Wiltshire had more inclusive schools who were helping to support those High Needs Learners.
- The Central Schools Services Block was driven by careful management of the specialist education packages for children in care, and alternative grant funding had been secured to help offset the costs in that area.
- DSG Reserve was noted as being one of the biggest financial concerns for the Council. Table 5 of the report was referred to, and it was noted that the reserve had brought forward £25.973m, which was increased by the positive Early Years Block adjustment of £0.564m.

- There was an actual variance of £9.276m across the whole piece, with £34.685m being carried forward, and it was reiterated that this sat within the Council's balance sheet and was cash flowed by the Council.
- It was explained that the Transformation Board within the Council and Chaired by the Chief Executive, Terence Herbert, had earmarked an investment of £1.6m into this area over the next two financial years by deploying temporary resources to drive the transformational change required.
- The Early Years Reference Group had considered limited one-off usage of the Early Years Contingency Reserves which was proposed to be utilised through appointing 4 temporary FTE Early Years Intervention Advisers, and Inclusion Support for settings including outreach, training, and mentoring, alongside an Early Years Conference in the Autumn term. All of which aimed to assist with COVID recovery for children while also contributing to the early help and prevention plans.

Following which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the budget monitoring position including the balance on the DSG reserve at the end of the financial year in conjunction with the high needs recovery plan and Delivering Better Value (DBV) update as per Agenda Item 10.

22 Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2023-24

Marie Taylor, Head of Finance – Children and Education, referred to the report as part of Agenda Supplement 1, which presented the budget monitoring information against the DSG for the financial year 2023-24 including forecasts of expenditure as at 30 April 2023. The following was highlighted:

- An overspend of £12.623 was currently forecast against the overall Schools Budget, and it was noted that the main driver for the variance was the ongoing pressure on the HNB, as discussed in the previous Agenda Item.
- Table 1 of the report was then summarised.
- The Early Years Budget was then discussed, and it was noted that no variance would be forecast on the free entitlement budgets; it was too early in the financial year as the summer adjustments were yet to be released by the DfE. Additionally, the small underspends in both age funding streams as per Table 2 of the report were noted as being aligned with the slight reduction in actual variance in take up and it was anticipated that it would be removed in whole, or part, as a result of the DfE's post financial year adjustments and if the January 2023 census numbers had fallen.

- Table 3 of the report was highlighted, and Members were notified of Wiltshire's huge success with the take up of the 2-year-old Disadvantaged Grant, ranking top compared with both South West Authorities and statistical neighbours for Spring 2023. Officers were anticipating that this would be a contributing factor in children's progress and attainment in their later academic years; again, linking to early intervention and prevention.
- Members were informed that in the Central Government Spring Budget, the Chancellor had announced changes to Universal Credit childcare payments, and the expansion of childcare support for working parents to include children from 9 months old up to school age. The specifics and timings of these changes were detailed in the report.
- Furthermore, it was explained that schools and Local Authorities would be receiving £289m in funding for a 'pathfinder' to tackle the barriers to working parents of Primary School age children by increasing the supply of wraparound care and providing financial incentives for those signing up as childminders. However, it was noted that the DfE anticipated that by September 2026, most Primary Schools would have the ability to provide their own before and after school care.
- No variance forecast was included within the report for Schools Budget as again, it was too early in the financial year as the timings of any census driven payments due to schools was yet to be released.
- The High Needs Budget was again forecasting significant overspends which was noted as being largely based around the previous year's forecast, however it did not account for rebanding requests and new plans, as many were yet to be finalised through the system.
- As mentioned in the previous Agenda Item, the number of children with EHCPs in Wiltshire had risen to 12% within the previous financial year, thus informing the estimates for 2023-24 as per Table 3 of the report.
- The biggest areas of overspend within the High Needs Budget were largely the same as the previous year, however it was noted that the plans for Capital Expansion were to provide more specialist school places in order to reduce reliance on the out-of-County and independent sectors. Officers highlighted that further updates on these plans would be discussed in more detail at the next planned meeting of the Schools Forum.
- Table 4 of the report was referred to and it was noted that the breakdown of the data was largely reflective of that of 2022-23.
- The DSG Reserve and Management Plan was discussed, and it was noted that the significant demand and pressure on resources was placing considerable strain upon the Council's Risk Register. Furthermore, the updated DSG management plan workbook had been shared with Newton as part of the DBV programme, and officers had seen reports suggesting that Wiltshire were underestimating rather than overestimating future demand.

- It was anticipated that the reserve brought forward of £34.685m from 2022-23 would be increased by the negative EYB adjustment following the 2022-23 underspend. Therefore, as a result of the current forecast overspend, officers were forecasting that the reserve would fall into a deficit position of £47.308m at the end of the financial year 2023-24.

Following which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the forecast budget monitoring position including the balance on the DSG reserve at the end of April 2024 alongside the update later in Agenda Item 10, on the HNB recovery plan and work with the DfE delivery partners Newton and CIPFA.

23 **Update from the High Needs Working Group and Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme**

Cate Mullen, Head of SEND and Inclusion, presented an update on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group alongside further updates on the DBV in SEND Programme, SEND Peer Review, and SEND Ofsted/CQC reports. The following was highlighted:

DBV In SEND Programme

- The background of the programme was briefly explained, and it was noted that it was split into two different phases; Diagnostic and Implementation, which when combined would take approximately two years. Members were informed that Wiltshire Council's diagnostic phase would be starting in August 2023, and if all went to plan, officers could submit a grant application by Christmas 2023 and upon approval, would then move into the Implementation phase.
- Further details of the Diagnostic phase were then given, and it was explained that its aim was to ensure that local HNB Sustainability Plans were informed by a solid evidence base regarding the current and projected HNB expenditure and activity.
- Through this phase, officers would receive support from financial, practice, and change advisors to:
 - Identify roots causes and underlying cost drivers.
 - Create mitigating solutions and reforms.
 - Assess current capabilities.
 - Facilitate engagement of families and delivery partners.
 - Develop a quality assured HNB Sustainability Management Plan.

- The funding criteria for the implementation phase was then explained, and it was noted that the Council would need to demonstrate that they:
 - Know the priority changes needed to impact on key HNB sustainability measures.
 - Have worked collaboratively with delivery partners and parents.
 - Have co-produced an aligned mitigation plan.
 - Have identified the necessary resources needed.
 - Have a realistic activity plan to implement high impact changes.
 - Have leadership capacity and necessary governance arrangements in place to successfully take implementation plan into next phase.

- Slides taken directly from the DBV team (and included within the Agenda) were then displayed, with comments from Wiltshire Council officers in the blue boxes included for further information. These slides outlined the specific tranche and wave that the Council were a part of, a roadmap and indicative timeline of the Diagnostic Phase, and an introduction on the Case Reviews aspect.
- Case Reviews were then explained in more detail; in short, the Council would work together with schools, settings, and others to look at individual case level data for children with SEND, bringing a collective focus on the individual experiences and outcomes for these children and young people.
- An example Case Review was shown, but it was highlighted that the programme gave the ability for the Council to amend the process depending on areas of focus and what works best and most effectively for officers within Wiltshire.
- Furthermore, officers would give significant consideration as to how these reviews would work in practice, ensuring that officers were not overloaded and respecting the relevant stakeholders' availability, while maintaining the appropriate level of time and attention dedicated to each individual case.
- It was noted that the Case Reviews were scheduled to begin in the second week of September 2023, but due to the pressures across the education system during that time, officers were keen to rearrange this to the end of September 2023. However, officers would soon be meeting with DBV officers to work towards finalising the timeframes in more detail.
- It was confirmed that officers had been successful in securing Transformation Funding from the Council which had been used to appoint a range of roles such as a Sustainability Strategic Lead Officer (High Needs Block), Finance Lead Officer, Data Officer, and Mitigation Lead Officers. These additional resources could therefore allow the Council to undertake the DBV to the level of scrutiny and detail needed to be successful.

- Members were encouraged to contact Ben Stevens, the Sustainability Strategic Lead, with any further questions or if they would like to be a part of those case conversations, however it was clarified that the opportunity would be available to all schools and settings. Email: ben.stevens@wiltshire.gov.uk.

SEND Peer Review

- Members were informed that the SEND peer review would be taking place between 13-16 June 2023 and would be looking at 5 key lines of enquiry:
 - The impact of effectiveness of the local area partnership.
 - The early identification of SEND/support through a graduated approach across the local area partnership.
 - Voice and engagement of service users and families.
 - The neurodevelopmental pathway in Wiltshire – process and lived experience for CYP in Wiltshire.
 - Joint commissioning arrangements across the local area in Wiltshire.

SEND Ofsted/CQC

- Members were informed that 5 reports had been published for Hartlepool, Brighton and Hove, Cornwall, Warrington, and Nottinghamshire, with examples of each of the 3 possible outcomes seen:
 - *“Arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes”.*
 - *“Inconsistent experiences and outcomes”.*
 - *“Widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes”.*

In response to a question regarding SEND Ofsted/CQC, officers noted that they recognised that there was always scope for improvements for Wiltshire families’ SEND experiences and although officers aspired to be within the top tier, they felt they were more realistically placed within the middle outcome. However, once further inspection reports were published, officers would get a better sense of where they were likely to sit. It was also highlighted that as the framework looked at the whole of a local area, it sometimes presented a challenge to effectively demonstrate joined up and effective working across the County.

Furthermore, although it was assumed that those Local Authorities also within the DBV would have similar overspend percentages to that of Wiltshire, a correlation between overspend and performance was not as linear as often

expected. This was noted as being an historical issue within Wiltshire, as 50% of the funding formula for the HNB is based on a past number of what were called 'statements', thus not being representative of the County as a whole, in the present. Therefore, it could be said that other Local Authorities could have a more accurate funding formula, and as a result have more balanced figures.

Following which, it was:

Resolved

- 1) The Schools Forum noted the update on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group.**
- 2) The Schools Forum noted the update on the Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme.**

24 DfE Consultation - Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula

Members took a comfort break from 14.55pm – 15.05pm.

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, provided an update following the DfE consultation with stakeholders regarding the reforms to the National Funding Formula (NFF), which took place between June and September 2022. The following was highlighted:

- It was explained that as the Schools Forum had aligned itself with the current NFF, the impact of the new changes on Wiltshire schools were broadly minimal, and that many of these changes would take effect in the 2024-25 academic year.
- With the aim of creating greater national consistency and convergence towards the NFF, the key areas of the consultation included:
 - Flexibility to transfer funding between Blocks.
 - National approach to calculating "Notional SEN".
 - Growth and Falling Rolls funding.
 - Split Site and Exceptional Circumstances (rentals) funding.
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee and the Funding Cycle.
- The outcomes of the consultation, as detailed within the report, and their impacts on Wiltshire schools, were then further explored and briefly noted below.

High Needs

- Continued flexibility to transfer funding to High Needs Budgets through an application process to the Secretary of State. Further details on how it would work in practice were still being finalised, but upon the

announcement, the Schools Forum would be updated at the next appropriate meeting.

- A national approach to calculating schools' indicative SEND budgets would be introduced and further consultations on the design and operation of the approach would follow in due course.

Growth and Falling Rolls Funding

- It was noted that Wiltshire did not have a Falling Rolls Fund, however it had been announced that as part of the transition to a full NFF, establishing and implementing minimum criteria requirements with regard to the delivery of Growth and Falling Rolls Funding before moving to full NFF standards, could be required.
- Further consultations and information on the changes to the two funding opportunities would follow in due course, at which point officers could begin undertaking more meaningful conversations on the topic.
- The requirement for schools to be "Good" or "Outstanding" in order to be eligible to receive Falling Rolls funding would be removed.
- Funding would now be calculated on both a 'growth' and 'significant decline' in numbers basis from 2024-25.
- Growth and Falling Rolls Funding would be expanded to allow Local Authorities to fund the revenue costs associated with repurposing school buildings or school places, thus supporting Local Authorities to use surplus space to create further SEND Units or Resource Bases in mainstream schools.
- Local Authorities would have the ability to retain some local flexibility in the allocation of growth funding to schools.

Split Sites

- Split Sites Funding would be allocated on the basis of a formula factor made up of a 'basic eligibility' element and a 'distance' element. Wiltshire had 6 split site schools, all of which would continue to meet the funding criteria.
- It was being proposed that approximately 60% of the 2024-25 NFF lump sum was an appropriate amount for the split site allowance. This figure was still under review, but if confirmed, would lead to a 16% decrease in funding for these Wiltshire schools, as they were currently funded at 76% of the lump sum.
- However, those schools which would lose funding, or were no longer eligible, would see their funding protected through the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Exceptional Circumstances (Rentals) Funding

- This was explained as being for schools across the County who don't have suitable accommodation for the provision of tasks such as holding whole school events or PE activities.
- At present, where these schools spend more than 1% of their budget on renting such facilities, Wiltshire provided funding to help support this cost. However, the funding threshold was proposed to raise to 2.5%, thus impacting on those 7 schools eligible for Exceptional Circumstances Funding in Wiltshire.
- Yet, it was reiterated that those schools which would lose funding, or were no longer eligible, would see their funding protected through the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Minimum Funding Guarantee

- During the transition to the direct NFF, Local Authorities still had the ability to continue to use their local formula for the purposes of determining the MFG.
- A move to a simplified pupil-led funding protection under the direct NFF was being proposed, which officers welcomed, as it would simplify the calculation significantly, would improve the transparency of the funding system, and would make understanding the calculations more accessible for schools.

Funding Cycle

- As it was recognised that schools and the sector needed early information to support their budget and strategic planning, this would continue with early information regarding the design of the subsequent year's formula provided in July of each year.
- A calculator tool was also in development, thus supporting schools, academies, and Local Authorities in estimating more accurate budgets.

- The next steps and a brief breakdown of the impact of the changes in Wiltshire were then referred to, as per the report.
- The importance of the role of the Schools Forum was emphasised in spite of some of the reforms discussed.

Following which, it was:

Resolved

The Schools Forum noted the DfE's response to their consultation on reforms to the NFF.

25 **Planned Local Autumn Consultations (in Principle decisions)**

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, presented the report and relevant appendices with regard to the Annual Schools Consultation. The following was highlighted:

- There were three areas of focus within the consultations for 2024-25: namely, De-delegation of Central Expenditure, Funding for Education Functions, and Transfer of Funding from the Schools Block to the HNB. Proposed questions for each of the three areas were in the appendices to the report.
- Background on the De-delegation of Central Expenditure was given, and it was explained that the purpose of the consultation was to get feedback from maintained schools to see whether they would prefer to continue contracting the Local Authority to provide services centrally, or whether they would prefer to have the funding delegated to them directly, and therefore independently commission these services.
- Further details as to Funding for Education Functions, or School Improvement Functions, were then given and it was explained that Local Authorities had the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation or on a traded basis, as a result of the reduction to the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering Grant (LAMB). Therefore, the consultation aimed to determine whether maintained schools would elect to de-delegate this funding from their budgets to support the loss in the LAMB grant.
- Finally, it was reiterated that the transfer of funding between Blocks could be impacted by the DfE proposed NFF reforms as discussed in the previous Agenda Item, alongside the significant DSG deficit both existing and forecasted. Although the deficit was supported by a recovery plan, the aim of the consultation was to gain feedback from all schools with regard to their opinions surrounding such a transfer. It was stressed that the transfer would only go ahead if it was deemed affordable.
- Furthermore, a briefing note would be circulated to all schools regarding the work being undertaken as part of the DBV Programme.

Following which, it was:

Resolved

- 1) **The Schools Forum approved the consultation questions for maintained schools around delegation and de-delegation of**

budgets for central services and school improvement within the Schools' Block (Appendix 1 & 2).

2) The Schools Forum approved the consultation questions for all schools around setting the 2024-25 Schools Budget (Appendix 3).

26 **Update on the work of the F40 Group**

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, provided a verbal update on the work of the F40 Group, in which the following was highlighted:

- The F40 was composed of 43 of the lowest funded Local Authorities in the Country and was created to seek a greater level of fairness and equal opportunities for all children, regardless of where they live, and to remove historical discrepancies locked into how schools are funded.
- Further aims were to secure the sufficiency of funding for all schools to ensure they all have the same opportunities, and that the impacts felt from challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis, COVID, budget cuts, and recruitment and retention issues would not prejudice the education of children at any school.
- Throughout 2022-23 the Group had campaigned to influence policy and decision making nationally by engaging with appropriate and relevant Members of Parliament and Central Government departments, through actions such as setting up briefings, engaging in conversations, and tabling questions.
- Particular areas of focus in their current campaigning were noted as being SEND, Early Years Learners, and Capital Funding. The latter was briefly detailed; in short, there was a national backlog for school maintenance, repairs, and improvements which was being compounded by a lack of funding. This was particularly concerning in respect of the national proposal to be carbon neutral and at net-zero by 2040, which would not be achievable within school settings unless further investments were made to support these changes.

The Chair noted that she found the updates especially useful and was glad to see the work the Group were doing to campaign on Wiltshire's behalf. Following which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the update of the work of the F40 Group.

27 **Scheme for Financing Local Authority Maintained Schools**

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, provided a brief verbal update on the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools, where the following was highlighted:

- It was explained that Local Authorities were required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain, and that this needed to be updated yearly in line with any DfE revisions.
- A minor tweak on the income from the sale of assets following the 2023 DfE updated guidance, as per the report, was highlighted.
- Furthermore, it was noted that another minor change on borrowing by schools was required following the 2022 DfE updated guidance, which would be incorporated into the 2023-24 Wiltshire scheme.
- Upon the inclusion of the above changes, Wiltshire would be completely compliant with the DfE's guidance.

Following which, it was:

Resolved

The Schools Forum noted the updates required to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

28 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 5 October 2023 at 1.30pm and was planned to be held online via Microsoft Teams.

Future meeting dates were confirmed as below:

5 December 2023 – 1.30pm

18 January 2024 – 1.30pm

14 March 2024 – 1.30pm

29 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 3.45 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email lisa.pullin@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services - e-mail committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line 01225 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Schools Forum

School Funding and SEN Working Group

MS TEAMS MEETING

25 September 2023

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA), Lisa Percy (Chair of SF / Hardenhuish), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere) Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan’s Vale & Woodfalls), Graham Shore (Deputy Chair SF / Holy Trinity), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Georgina Keily-Theobald (Downland) Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Ben Stevens (HNB Recovery, LA), Liz Williams (Finance, LA)

Apologies: Simon Thomas (LA), John Read (Lyneham)

Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle) is now represented by CW at the working group.

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | <p>Welcome and Apologies MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting.</p> <p>Introductions to the new group members Ben and Liz – who many remembered from her previous role in Wiltshire.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Minutes from last meeting – 22 May 2023 There were no outstanding actions.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>School Balances 2022/23 (GD) GD shared his report and appendices – highlights, the year-end position of balances in maintained schools was £12.2m, with £14.4m surplus and £2.2m deficit balances. GD shared appendices whereby continual surplus or deficit balances could trigger a DfE investigation – this has never taken place in Wiltshire. Schools, however, are utilising their deficits to fund increased wage bills, energy and other costs with high levels of inflation and increases than the funding increases. MT asked GD to confirm if he was working with all schools with deficits – confirmed HH noted there was a significant number of balances and welcomed headteacher views on this, LP said school leaders were conscious of non-funded pay awards and emergency site costs which needed to be allowed for, CW said schools should be using funds on pupils and not retaining such high reserves HH agreed that having a one-year settlement was not conducive to strategic planning GS shared that as an academy he was expected to retain a 5% + balance with an SRMA follow up if not achieved, that the school estate was aging and the lack of clarity around future funding unhelpful. HH was concerned that f40 lobbying around school funding would be challenged by the DfE in Wiltshire with such high balances GD confirmed the 2.5% increase for 2024/25 and that schools would be forced to rely on surplus balances where costs exceeded this - there had been no long-term settlement since the “Boris Billions” years GK-T said for special schools, funding is based on pupils and can be volatile, small teams commit to spend but can’t deliver due to capacity.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Schools Funding (DSG) Budget Monitoring – August Report 2023/24 (MT) MT shared her report & appendices – highlights.</p> | |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| | <p>This year, the drawdown from the DSG reserve has been taken at the beginning of the year rather than at the end. In this way, a more realistic budget can be set, and budget holders can be held to account. The transfer for 2022/23 is £16.648m</p> <p>The EY block adjustment has taken place. Schools block small underspend offsets the HNB pressures.</p> <p>HNB pressures are attributable to demand for services and not price increases. The forecast is significantly higher than in previous years which is largely attributable to investment in specialist places in mainstream and special with no counter reduction in ISS and requests for assessments being higher than previous years, 2022/23 total 950 with the year to date being 824.</p> <p>The overall forecast overspend is £1.971m which should be viewed in conjunction with the planned drawdown. The forecast DSG deficit reserve is £53.832m</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Safety Valve (LW & BS)</p> <p>LW and BS took us through the slide pack provided with the agenda. The Safety Valve (SV) programme is a DfE programme for councils with very high deficits against their DSG accounts. Wiltshire was invited to join the SV programme in July and this now means that work on the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme has ceased. Under the SV programme the council will commit to developing a plan to bring the high needs block into a position of in-year financial balance and the DfE will commit to pay off the legacy deficit (up to a maximum of 15% of DSG). There is a potential opportunity to submit a business case for capital funding if this clearly links to the recovery plan. The plan must be submitted to the DfE in January and recovery must be within 5-7 years.</p> <p>DLUC and DfE message is that the statutory override will end 2026/27 which means 2/3 local authorities will need to have sufficient reserves to fund their deficits, and many will be unable to do this.</p> <p>Approach – deficit first, outcomes second, LA leads on own solutions so key to this is partner approach – co-design is key, SF, schools, parents, carers, children – workshops to surveys.</p> <p>Ben had 3 asks of Schools Forum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme Board / Task & finish group membership 2. November – ½ day workshop 3. Survey <p>HH asked – how can we engage more schools?</p> <p>LP – lots of inclusive heads have other priorities, many new secondary HT in the north – suggest coffee and cake, working lunch, networking opportunity, personal invite not global email</p> <p>CM – important as lots of our data is out of step with national / local data e.g.: requests for assessment in Wiltshire are too high</p> <p>MT asked – how many LAS in SV? BS – 34 + 5 invited this year from DBV including ourselves so 39 and another 5 will be invited next year</p> <p>HH and CM left for Ofsted KIT meeting at 9.30am</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Early Years updates (MT)</p> <p>MT took the group through her report including the new requirements on wraparound childcare for primary schools.</p> <p>The DfE surveyed schools and have published that 74% of schools offer before and after childcare. MT asked the group if any schools offered wraparound childcare from 8am til 6pm and only one school (CM) currently offered this.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Indicative Schools Funding 2024/25 (GD)</p> <p>GD took the group through his report. Highlights as follows.</p> <p>MSAG will be rolled into 24/25 funding and so the announced national 2.7% increase in funding is in reality a 2.4% increase in core funding factors</p> | |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| | <p>£440m national HNB increase – 4.3%</p> <p>DfE are tightening the National Funding Formula but Wiltshire already mirrors the NFF so no impact for Wiltshire (66% of LA's now mirror the NFF)</p> <p>Overall increases for Wiltshire</p> <p>Schools Block 3.08%</p> <p>High Needs Block B 5.29%</p> <p>Central Schools Services Block 2.07%</p> <p>Early Years Block – TBC in due course</p> <p>Schools Forum will still be making funding decisions for the 2024-25 year.</p> <p>GD ran through a couple of key areas including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notional SEN - Split Site Funding - Growth Funding - Falling Rolls Funding <p>De-delegation consultation is open now, results to be considered in December</p> <p>The role of SF will be to make funding decisions including the potential transfer of funds between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>AOB</p> <p>MT informed the group that Helen Carpenter and Mike Thomas would be attending Schools Forum for the first time in October as WASSH and Special school reps and that she had recently run through an induction with them both.</p> | |
| 10 | <p><i>Date and Time of next Meeting</i></p> <p>The next Schools Forum meeting after our October meeting will be Tuesday 5th December 2023 @ 1.30pm. This is planned as a face-to-face meeting at County Hall.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting of this group is scheduled for Monday 27th November at 8.30am. This is planned as a virtual teams meeting.</p> | |

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Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Schools Forum

5 October 2023

Wiltshire Schools Forum Review of Proportionality and Confirmation of Membership

Summary

The Membership of Schools Forum is reviewed on an annual basis with all those that make appointments (including Primary Heads Forum, Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special School Heads and the Wiltshire Governors Association) of named representatives to the Forum being asked to confirm those persons for the ensuing academic year.

On 25 August 2023, Officers conducted a review of the balance of membership between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies and special school members (which must be broadly proportionate to pupil numbers) and this showed that the current membership would not need to be amended as it reflects the current breakdown of the total numbers on roll in schools as at the October 2022 census, updated for academy conversions.

The Terms of Reference of Schools Forum were last reviewed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 6 October 2022 and subsequently approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills on 4 January 2023. As there are no required changes to the proportionality then it is proposed that no changes to the Terms of Reference are required on this occasion.

Proposals

That Wiltshire Schools Forum:

- a) Notes that the proportionality of the Forum has been reviewed and that no changes are recommended.
- b) Notes that no changes to the Terms of Reference as at 4 January 2023 are recommended.
- c) Notes the current Membership details of the Forum.
- d) Recommends that any vacancies for Schools Forum be appointed to.

Reason for Proposal

To ensure that all types of Wiltshire Schools are represented on Wiltshire Schools Forum and to ensure that the Forum complies with Department for Education (DfE) guidance and relevant legislation.

Helean Hughes/Richard Hanks - (Co Directors – Education & Skills)

5 October 2023

Wiltshire Schools Forum Review of Proportionality and Confirmation of Membership

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Schools Forum that a review of the proportionality and the annual review of the membership of Schools Forum has been carried out with all those that make appointments (including Primary Heads Forum, Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special School Heads and the Wiltshire Governors Association) of named representatives to the Forum being asked to confirm those persons for the ensuing academic year. The Terms of Reference have also been reviewed and no changes are proposed.

2. Proportionality of Membership of Schools Forum

2.1 The table below sets out proportionality of schools in Wiltshire (based on the October 2021 census) following the changes that were agreed at the meeting of Schools Forum on 6 October 2022.

| Sector | Pupil Numbers | Current Representation | Vacancies |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Primary | 21,041 | 3 | |
| Primary Academy | 17,114 | 3 | |
| Secondary | 3,008 | 1 | |
| Secondary Academy | 23,094 | 3 | |
| Special | 505 | 1 | |
| Special Academy | 387 | 1 | |
| Governors | | 4 | |
| Union | | 1 | |
| Diocese | | 1 | |
| Early Years | | 2 | |
| TOTAL | 65,149 | 20 | 0 |

2.2 There has been a change to the current pupil numbers (based on the October 2022 census and any academy conversions since the census) but not to the proportionality of the membership of Schools Forum.

See table below:

| Sector | Pupil Numbers | Current Representation | Vacancies |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Primary | 19,993 | 3 | |
| Primary Academy | 17,596 | 3 | |
| Secondary | 3,136 | 1 | |
| Secondary Academy | 23,637 | 3 | |
| Special | 555 | 1 | |
| Special Academy | 462 | 1 | |
| Governors | | 4 | |
| Union | | 1 | |
| Diocese | | 1 | |
| Early Years | | 2 | |
| TOTAL | 65,379 | 20 | 0 |

3 Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The attached Terms of Reference (TOR) (Appendix 1) have been reviewed, however on this occasion it is not considered that any changes are needed following the TOR that were approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills that were approved on 4 January 2023 as a delegated Cabinet Member decision.

4. Membership of the Wiltshire Schools Forum

- 4.1 The current membership of the Forum is as detailed below:

Five maintained School representatives (3 primary, 1 secondary and 1 special school)

| Name | Representing | Appointed by |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Andy Bridewell | Maintained Primary | Primary Heads Forum (PHF) |
| 2. John Read | Maintained Primary | PHF |
| 3. Catriona Williamson | Maintained Primary | PHF |
| 4. Georgina Keily-Theobald | Maintained Special School | Wiltshire Association of Secondary School Heads (WASSH) |
| 5. Nick Norgrove | Maintained Secondary | WASSH |

Seven Academy representatives (3 primary, 3 secondary and 1 special school)

| Name | Representing | Appointed by |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 6. Rebecca Carson | Primary Academy | PHF |
| 7. Graham Nagel-Smith | Primary Academy | PHF |
| 8. Graham Shore (Vice Chair) | Primary Academy | PHF |
| 9. Michelle Chilcott | Secondary Academy | WASSH |
| 10. Lisa Percy (Chair) | Secondary Academy | WASSH |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------|
| 11. Helen Carpenter | Secondary Academy | WASSH |
| 12. Mike Thomas | Special School Academy | WASSH |

Four elected governor representatives (2 primary, 1 secondary and 1 special school)

| Name | Representing | Appointed by |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 13. Stella Fowler | Primary School Governor | Wiltshire Governors Association (WGA) |
| 14. Ros Sutton | Primary School Governor | WGA |
| 15. David Whewell | Secondary School Governor | WGA |
| 16. Aileen Bates | Special School Governor | WGA |

Two Early Years representatives are the only members allowed to vote on the funding formula.

| Name | Representing | Appointed by |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 17. Lyssy Bolton | Early Years | Early Years Reference Group |
| 18. Emma Osmund | Early Years | EYRG |

Two other nominated service partner representatives (1 from the Diocese and 1 teacher representative) who both have one vote. These are the **20** voting members.

| Name | Representing | Appointed by |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 19. John Hawkins | Teaching Association | |
| 20. Giles Pugh | Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education | Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education |

In addition to voting members, the following representatives will have **observer** status:

| Name | Representing | Elected by |
|---|--|--|
| i. Jo Grenfell (Nikki Barnett sub) | Post-16 (Wiltshire College) | Wiltshire College |
| ii. Trudy Srawley | Wiltshire Parent Carer Council | Wiltshire Parent Carer Council |
| iii. Angela Brennan (Chair of WCFVSF) | Wiltshire Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum | Wiltshire Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum |
| iv. Ross Henning | Local Youth Network | Local Youth Network |
| v. Any ESFA representative could attend SF meetings | Education & Skills Funding Agency | ESFA |

5. Proposals

5.1 That Wiltshire Schools Forum:

- a) Notes that the proportionality of the Forum has been reviewed and that no changes are recommended.
- b) Notes that no changes to the Terms of Reference (as agreed on 4 January 2023) are recommended.
- c) Notes the current Membership details of the Forum.
- d) Recommends that any vacancies for Schools Forum be appointed to as soon as possible.

6. Reason for Proposal

- 6.1 To ensure that all types of Wiltshire Schools are represented on Wiltshire Schools Forum and to ensure that the Forum complies with Department for Education (DfE) guidance and relevant legislation.

**(Helean Hughes and Richard Hanks)
(Co Directors – Education & Skills)**

Report Author: Lisa Pullin

Democratic Services Officer
lisa.pullin@wiltshire.gov.uk, Tel 01225 713015

26 September 2023

Appendices

- 1 – Current agreed Terms of Reference for Schools Forum

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WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Remit

The Schools Forum is a statutory body which the LA is required to consult on the following functions:

1.1 Consultation on School Funding Formula

- (1) The relevant LA shall consult the forum on:
 - (a) Any proposed changes in relation to the factors and criteria that were taken into account, or the methods, principles and rules that have been adopted, in their formula made in accordance with regulations made under section 47 and 47ZA of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; and
 - (b) The financial effect of any such change.
- (2) Consultation under paragraph (1) shall take place in sufficient time to allow the views expressed to be taken into account in the determination of the relevant authority's formula and in the initial determination of schools' budget shares before the beginning of the financial year.

1.2 Consultation on Contracts

- (1) The relevant authority shall at least one month prior to the issue of invitations to tender consult the forum on the terms of any proposed contract for supplies or services being a contract paid or to be paid out of the relevant authority's schools budgets where the estimated value of the proposed contract is not less than the specific threshold which applies to the relevant authority in pursuance of Regulation 8 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No 5).

1.3 Consultation on Financial Issues

- (1) The relevant authority shall consult the forum annually in respect of the relevant authority's functions relating to the schools budget, in connection with the following:
 - (a) The arrangements to be made for the education of pupils with special educational needs;
 - (b) Arrangements for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school;
 - (c) Arrangements for early years provision;
 - (d) Administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to the schools via the authority.
- (2) The relevant authority may consult the forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit.

2. Composition

- 2.1 The requirements for the Schools Forum were previously set out in regulations (Statutory Instrument No 344/2010, amended by 1172/2010). These regulations have been revoked and replaced by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument No 2261/2012) as amended. The constitution of the Wiltshire Schools Forum has been approved by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services through the delegated decision process, and any change to the constitution will require similar approval.
- 2.2 The majority of forum members are "schools members".
- 5 elected Maintained School Head teacher representatives (1 secondary school, 3 primary schools and 1 special school)
 - 7 Academy Head teacher representatives (3 secondary school, 3 primary schools and 1 special school)
 - 4 elected governor representatives (1 secondary school, 2 primary schools and 1 special school).

These 16 members, along with the two Early Years representatives are the only members allowed to vote on the funding formula.

There are 2 other nominated service partner representatives (1 from the Dioceses and 1 teacher representative) who both have one vote. These are the **20** voting members.

In addition to voting members, the following representatives will have observer status:

- i) Education & Skills Funding Agency
- ii) Post-16 representative
- iii) Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
- iv) Wiltshire Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
- v) Local Youth Network.

- 2.3 The Forum will appoint the same number of substitutes in respect of each voting representative group as that group holds ordinary seats on the Forum. Ordinary members may be substituted by any one of the named substitutes. Substitute members will have all the powers and duties of any ordinary member of the Forum.

3. Conduct

- 3.1 In carrying out their functions, members of the Schools Forum are expected to act in accordance with the seven principles of public life set out in the first report of the Committee on Standard in Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- 3.2 Members of the School Forum are required to declare an interest in any individual proposal or service contract which directly affects a school at which they are a

governor, member of staff, or which their children attend or in which they might have a direct pecuniary interest.

4. Term of Office

- 4.1 The term of office for members of the Schools Forum shall be three years subject to their remaining eligible. A member may resign at any time and is required to leave if he or she ceases to be eligible in the capacity in which elected/nominated.
- 4.2 There is no limit on the number of terms of office to which a member may be elected or re-nominated if still eligible. Where a member is replaced, the new member serves for the remainder of the term of office.

5. Chair and Vice-Chair

- 5.1 A chair and vice-chair will be elected annually by a majority of votes cast by individual members. Where possible, the chair and vice-chair will not be drawn from the same voting group. The term of office is for one year. A chair or vice-chair will cease to hold office if they resign by giving notice to both the Chair and clerk of the Forum, or if they cease to be members of the Forum. Both the chair and vice-chair may be re-elected. Where a casual vacancy arises, there will be a vote at the next meeting of the Forum.
- 5.2 The responsibilities of the chair and vice-chair include: chairing meetings, overseeing preparation of the record of the meeting, submitting a budget for LA approval and being accountable for expenditure against that budget.

6. Quorum

- 6.1 The quorum for the Forum is 40% of voting members. A meeting may continue if inquorate, but any advice given to the LA as a result of such a meeting would not have to be taken into account by the authority.

7. Clerk to the Committee

- 7.1 The clerk will be appointed by Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council.

8. Notice of Meetings

- 8.1 The clerk will ensure that meetings of the Forum are convened by giving a minimum notice of 5 working days in advance of the meetings, with a full agenda.

9. Proceedings

- 9.1 Each voting member has one vote and a majority decision is required.
- 9.2 The Forum may remit matters for discussion and research to sub-committees or working groups. However, any resulting advice formally passed to the LA shall have been approved by the Forum as a whole.

9.3 The Forum will meet at least 4 times per annum.

10. Public Participation

- 10.1 Members of the public are able to ask questions or make a statement in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Forum at each meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to this at the start of each meeting, and each question or statement should last no longer than 3 minutes.
- 10.2 Questions must be put in writing to the clerk of the Forum no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting, to allow a response to be formulated, and are limited to a maximum of 2 per person / organisation. A response will be given as either a direct oral answer or a written reply.
- 10.3 Statements must be given in writing and this should be submitted electronically to the Officer named on the Agenda no later than 5pm one clear working day before the meeting.
- 10.4 Statements and questions must be relevant to the powers and duties of the Forum. They must not be defamatory, frivolous, offensive, vexatious, unlawful or otherwise improper. They must not name or identify individual service users, members of staff or members of partner agencies. Questions must not require the disclosure of confidential information.
- 10.5 The Chairman's ruling on rejection of a question is final.

11. Discrimination

- 11.1 The Committee has an explicit duty to have regard to the duties placed on Local Education Authorities and school governors by the Equality Act 2010. The Forum will note the DfE view that the Human Rights Act 1998 applies.

12. Dissemination of the Results of Meetings

- 12.1 A copy of the minutes of the Forum meetings will be published on the Council's website and communicated to all schools via RightChoice and will be considered by the Children's Services Select Committee and the Cabinet if necessary.

13. Consideration of Confidential Reports

- 13.1 A report will only be considered in a confidential session when it contains confidential or exempt information. That will only apply if the report contains:
- a) Information furnished to the Council by a Government Department on terms which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public.
 - b) Information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any law or by the order of a court
 - c) Information relating to any individual.
 - d) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

- e) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority).
- f) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations and negotiations, in connection with labour relations matters.
- g) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.
- h) Information which reveals that the authority proposes to serve certain Notices or make certain Orders or Directions.
- i) Information relating to action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention investigation or prosecution of crime.

13.2 The intention to conduct Forum business in Confidential Session will be indicated by the inclusion of the following text within the agenda:

‘Exclusion of Public;

To consider passing a resolution, in accordance with the Wiltshire Council Schools Forum Terms of Reference, that the public be excluded during the remainder of the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted, there would be a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information of the following descriptions’

13.3 The descriptions referred to above relates to the categories of confidential information listed in paragraph 13.1.

13.4 Public would relate to anyone other than members of the Schools Forum plus the Democratic Services Officer, relevant officers and Cabinet members with exceptions determined by the Chair, in consultation with the Director – Education and Skills.

Agreed by Schools Forum – 6 October 2022

Approved by Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills – 4 January 2023

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Wiltshire Council

School Funding Working Group: 25 September 2023

Schools Forum: 5 October 2023

Schools Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2022/23

Introduction

1. This report presents the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at the 31 March 2023 and identifies those in surplus and deficit.
2. The net surplus balances for the financial year 2022/23 are £12.2 million with 104 schools holding surplus balances of £14.4 million and 12 schools in deficit to a value of £2.2 million.
3. In October 2022, members considered a report on schools' balances and deficits as at the 31 March 2022. In that report the net surplus balances were £13.3 million with 110 schools holding surplus balances of £15.9 million and 13 schools in deficit to a value of £2.56 million.
4. The number of LA maintained schools has decreased from 126 to 123 between 31 March 2022 and 31st March 2023. The data in this report does not include those schools which converted during the financial year.

Main considerations

5. The movement in net revenue balances over the last 3 financial years is shown in the following table: -

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2022/23 Balances as % of 2022/23 Budget Share % | Increase/ Decrease from 2021/22 £ | Increase/ Decrease from 2021/22 % |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | | | |
| Primary | 11,042,554 | 11,319,252 | 10,106,595 | 10.79 | 1,212,657 | 10.71 |
| Secondary | -545,039 | 708,889 | 1,067,840 | 5.92 | 358,951 | 50.64 |
| Special | 1,173,283 | 1,325,008 | 1,050,387 | 9.83 | 274,621 | 20.73 |
| | 11,670,798 | 13,353,150 | 12,224,822 | 26.54 | 1,846,229 | *82.08 |

*NB: this represents the total percentage increase in all schools' balances between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

6. Reporting of net revenue balances can obscure the underlying trend of gross revenue surplus and deficit balances. For transparency, the gross balances are identified below:

| | Surplus balances | | | Deficit balances | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2020/21 £ | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2020/21 £ | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ |
| Primary | 11,821,389 | 12,199,527 | 10,865,244 | -778,835 | -880,274 | -758,649 |
| Secondary | 1,398,129 | 2,396,774 | 2,525,619 | -1,943,168 | -1,687,885 | -1,457,779 |
| Special | 1,173,283 | 1,325,008 | 1,050,387 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 14,392,800 | 15,921,419 | 14,441,250 | -2,722,003 | -2,568,160 | -2,216,429 |

7. **Appendix 1**, attached to this report details the revenue surplus and deficit balances for individual maintained schools. (For Special Schools, their income comprises Place funding plus Top Up funding for the year.)

8. As part of the dedicated school's grant (DSG) assurance framework, the DfE may ask local authorities to provide additional information where:

a) the authority has 5% of schools that have had a surplus of 15% or more for the last 5 years and where the individual surplus is least £10,000 each year. Authorities will only be asked for more information if at least 3 schools meet the criteria.

b) the authority has 2.5% of its schools in deficit by 2.5% or more for the last 4 years and where the individual annual deficit is at least £10,000.

9. **Appendix 2** - analyses the 2022/23 revenue balances to categorise those that are classified as:

- In surplus and above 15% of school budget share
- in surplus but below 15% of school budget share
- in deficit

10. **Appendix 3** - demonstrates the Authority may trigger an investigation from the DfE, as described in 8a above, by identifying that 13 schools, (9.8%) have held revenue balances of 15% or more of their school budget share for the last 5 years.

11. **Appendix 4** - demonstrates the Authority may trigger an investigation from the DfE, as described in 8b above, by identifying that 4 schools, (3.3%) have held deficit balances of more than 2.5% and £10,000 for the last 4 years.

Key points

12. The net revenue balance of £12.2 million in 2022/23 has decreased by £1.1 million (8.91%) from the 2021/22 balance of £13.3 million.

13. Analysis of the gross revenue surplus and deficit balances reveals that between 2021/22 and 2022/23 surplus balances have decreased by 9% and deficit balances have decreased by 8.6%.

14. The number of schools in deficit is 12 and the value of the deficits has decreased by £0.36 million from £2.57 million in 2021/22 to £2.21 million in 2022/23.
15. The number of schools in surplus has remained the same at 110 in 2022/23. The value of surpluses has decreased by £1.48 million, from £15.92 million in 2021/22 to £14.44 million in 2022/23.
16. The appendices highlight that the Authority may trigger an investigation from the DFE due to the number of schools holding excess revenue or deficit balances.

Indicative Position for 2023-24

17. Whilst its impossible to provide a definitive figure for maintained school balances as at the end of the 2023-24 year, based upon budget template returns received, the forecast position is a drop in balances to around £8m.

Proposals

18. Schools Forum members are invited to comment on this report.

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School revenue balances as at 31st March 2023

| School number | School Name | CFR B01 Committed Revenue RO | CFR B02 Uncommitted Revenue RO | B01 & B02 Total Revenue Balances | School Budget Share | Balance as % of Budget Share |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2003 | Fynamore Community | 8,222 | 7,290 | 15,512 | 1,732,135 | 0.90% |
| 2005 | Nursteed Community Primary School | 3,548 | 185,586 | 189,134 | 901,449 | 20.98% |
| 2009 | Bratton Primary School | 5,305 | -70,641 | -65,336 | 672,801 | -9.71% |
| 2023 | St Pauls Primary School | 23,637 | 15,811 | 39,449 | 761,589 | 5.18% |
| 2027 | Marlborough St Mary's | 5,000 | 208,105 | 213,105 | 1,786,943 | 11.93% |
| 2031 | Neston Primary School | 10,354 | 131,951 | 142,305 | 867,572 | 16.40% |
| 2034 | Monkton Park Primary School | 10,474 | 51,674 | 62,148 | 1,107,810 | 5.61% |
| 2045 | Gomeldon Primary School | 18,318 | -5,107 | 13,211 | 582,175 | 2.27% |
| 2052 | Hilmarton Primary School | 0 | 46,054 | 46,054 | 578,025 | 7.97% |
| 2053 | Horningsham Primary School | 6,263 | 11,445 | 17,708 | 442,502 | 4.00% |
| 2060 | Luckington Community School | 512 | 79,051 | 79,563 | 368,136 | 21.61% |
| 2086 | Stanton St Quintin Primary School | 14,347 | 58,160 | 72,507 | 404,907 | 17.91% |
| 2087 | Ramsbury Primary School | 10,775 | 40,640 | 51,415 | 855,291 | 6.01% |
| 2091 | Harnham Infant School | 21,539 | 44,598 | 66,137 | 885,509 | 7.47% |
| 2136 | Westbury Infants | 13,622 | 119,598 | 133,220 | 1,007,287 | 13.23% |
| 2140 | Wootton Bassett Infants School | 16,548 | 1,961 | 18,509 | 667,439 | 2.77% |
| 2159 | Kiwi School | 36,076 | 313,557 | 349,633 | 1,579,831 | 22.13% |
| 2168 | Priestley Primary School | 0 | 89,988 | 89,988 | 1,356,054 | 6.64% |
| 2170 | Grove Primary School | 23,224 | 280,130 | 303,355 | 1,602,731 | 18.93% |
| 2178 | Princecroft School | 3,409 | 58,410 | 61,819 | 823,720 | 7.50% |
| 2180 | Redland Primary School | 94,318 | 180,818 | 275,136 | 1,268,790 | 21.68% |
| 2184 | Longleaze School | 16,600 | 184,013 | 200,613 | 1,066,023 | 18.82% |
| 2185 | Mere School | 10,180 | 32,699 | 42,879 | 896,550 | 4.78% |
| 2190 | Woodlands Primary School | 0 | -68,900 | -68,900 | 980,380 | -7.03% |
| 2191 | Manor Fields Primary School | 0 | -39,051 | -39,051 | 1,075,749 | -3.63% |
| 2196 | Holbrook Primary School | 11,397 | 60,803 | 72,199 | 1,031,834 | 7.00% |
| 2218 | Kings Lodge Primary School | 25,309 | 253,209 | 278,518 | 1,348,861 | 20.65% |
| 2222 | Walwayne Court Primary School | 24,678 | 146,419 | 171,097 | 1,162,194 | 14.72% |
| 2225 | Bitham Brook Primary School | 0 | 188,835 | 188,835 | 1,567,980 | 12.04% |
| 2226 | Charter Primary School | 9,938 | 67,185 | 77,123 | 1,030,124 | 7.49% |
| 2227 | Newtown Community Primary School | 16,423 | 172,150 | 188,573 | 892,135 | 21.14% |
| 3002 | Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School | 26,112 | 82,119 | 108,231 | 943,126 | 11.48% |
| 3013 | Box CE Primary School | 0 | 93,750 | 93,750 | 724,633 | 12.94% |
| 3015 | Christ Church Primary School | 34,423 | 424,360 | 458,783 | 1,783,024 | 25.73% |
| 3017 | Longford C of E Primary School | 19,663 | 19,577 | 39,240 | 443,149 | 8.85% |
| 3018 | Broad Hinton C. of E. Primary School | 12,811 | 87,382 | 100,193 | 538,731 | 18.60% |
| 3019 | Broad Town C of E Primary School | 21,066 | 91,348 | 112,414 | 414,273 | 27.14% |
| 3020 | St. Nicholas Church of England (VC) Primary School | 2,686 | 11,366 | 14,052 | 497,379 | 2.83% |
| 3035 | Cherhill CE Primary School | 851 | 20,021 | 20,872 | 856,684 | 2.44% |
| 3040 | Colerne CE Primary School | 15,144 | 91,512 | 106,656 | 1,118,020 | 9.54% |
| 3045 | St Sampsons CE Junior School | 0 | 258,828 | 258,828 | 1,348,779 | 19.19% |
| 3047 | Crockerton Church of England | 10,736 | 199,422 | 210,158 | 479,895 | 43.79% |
| 3048 | Crudwell C E Primary School | 8,651 | 49,623 | 58,274 | 570,874 | 10.21% |
| 3049 | Collingbourne CE Primary School | 18,762 | 38,055 | 56,817 | 531,412 | 10.69% |
| 3063 | Durrington CE Controlled Junior School | 23,857 | 96,000 | 119,857 | 827,539 | 14.48% |
| 3088 | Hilperton C. E. Primary School | 5,929 | 109,512 | 115,441 | 713,147 | 16.19% |
| 3090 | Holt V C Primary School | 20,005 | 89,125 | 109,129 | 679,262 | 16.07% |
| 3096 | Kington St Michael CE Primary School | 0 | 181,648 | 181,648 | 597,901 | 30.38% |
| 3100 | Lacock CE VC Primary School | 6,491 | 14,063 | 20,554 | 431,499 | 4.76% |
| 3102 | Langley Fitzurse C.E. School | 17,991 | 132,794 | 150,786 | 495,551 | 30.43% |
| 3104 | Lea and Garsdon C.E. Primary School | 12,399 | 31,698 | 44,096 | 566,608 | 7.78% |
| 3134 | Newton Tony Church of England Primary School | 4,707 | 143,020 | 147,727 | 473,394 | 31.21% |
| 3135 | North Bradley C of E Primary School | 77,721 | 291,282 | 369,003 | 845,447 | 43.65% |
| 3140 | Oaksey CE VC Primary School | 0 | 44,493 | 44,493 | 510,993 | 8.71% |
| 3149 | Preshute Primary School | 23,597 | 15,496 | 39,093 | 799,226 | 4.89% |
| 3150 | St. Marys C.E. Primary School | 19,665 | 92,429 | 112,094 | 1,492,999 | 7.51% |
| 3158 | Harnham Junior School | 8,807 | 60,578 | 69,385 | 1,352,851 | 5.13% |
| 3161 | Shalbourne C E Primary School | 12,912 | 32,762 | 45,674 | 294,195 | 15.53% |
| 3163 | Sherston (GE) Primary School | 2,913 | 83,345 | 86,258 | 591,933 | 14.57% |
| 3166 | Southwick CE Primary School | 51,945 | 104,257 | 156,203 | 832,276 | 18.77% |
| 3170 | Staverton CE Primary School | 5,000 | 42,329 | 47,329 | 1,102,858 | 4.29% |
| 3172 | Stratford-Sub-Castle VC Primary | 28,593 | -407,375 | -378,782 | 654,097 | -57.91% |
| 3174 | Sutton Veny CE Primary | 411 | 20,000 | 20,411 | 684,106 | 2.98% |
| 3186 | Urchfont CE Primary School | 34,363 | 118,119 | 152,482 | 515,378 | 29.59% |
| 3191 | The Minster CE Primary School | 10,281 | 136,565 | 146,846 | 879,298 | 16.70% |
| 3192 | Westbury C.E. Junior School | 8,774 | -13,978 | -5,204 | 1,224,284 | -0.43% |
| 3193 | Westbury Leigh C.E. Primary School | 10,000 | -13,772 | -3,772 | 1,390,602 | -0.27% |
| 3201 | Winterbourne Earls C E Controlled Primary School | 3,988 | 20,874 | 24,862 | 811,753 | 3.06% |
| 3205 | Sambourne CE Primary School | 5,607 | 8,169 | 13,776 | 560,775 | 2.46% |
| 3220 | Minety C E Primary School | 11,586 | 32,994 | 44,580 | 631,904 | 7.05% |
| 3222 | St. Barnabas School | 3,311 | 108,669 | 111,980 | 471,634 | 23.74% |
| 3229 | Coombe Bissett School | 12,650 | 10,943 | 23,593 | 563,159 | 4.19% |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 3230 Dinton Church of England Primary School | 25,720 | 41,954 | 67,674 | 494,798 | 13.68% |
| 3239 St Johns CE Primary School | 15,098 | 6,095 | 21,193 | 602,858 | 3.52% |
| 3242 Brinkworth Earl Danbys CE Primary School | 11,097 | 50,762 | 61,859 | 786,986 | 7.86% |
| 3300 St Michaels CE School | 0 | 8,616 | 8,616 | 844,017 | 1.02% |
| 3306 St Nicholas CE Primary School | 12,909 | 51,971 | 64,880 | 521,339 | 12.44% |
| 3316 Chapmanslade CE VA Primary School | 2,859 | -7,492 | -4,632 | 524,065 | -0.88% |
| 3318 Chilton Foliat C of E Primary School | 11,358 | -51,238 | -39,880 | 510,194 | -7.82% |
| 3330 Derry Hill C of E (Aided) School | 0 | 10,411 | 10,411 | 868,704 | 1.20% |
| 3355 St Nicholas Primary School | 28,979 | 95,719 | 124,698 | 619,617 | 20.13% |
| 3362 St. Andrews Primary School | 20,559 | 88,344 | 108,903 | 866,843 | 12.56% |
| 3383 Sarum St. Pauls C.E. (VA) Primary School | 7,763 | -128,598 | -120,835 | 910,896 | -13.27% |
| 3387 St Martins CE Primary Sch | 15,343 | 131,063 | 146,406 | 779,495 | 18.78% |
| 3402 Whiteparish All Saints C.E. (V.A.) Primary School | 1,552 | 134,725 | 136,278 | 496,030 | 27.47% |
| 3418 St Josephs Catholic School | 18,318 | 160,219 | 178,537 | 620,011 | 28.80% |
| 3425 St Osmunds Catholic Primary School | 3,912 | 180,695 | 184,607 | 892,525 | 20.68% |
| 3430 St Johns Catholic Primary School | 32,164 | 65,384 | 97,548 | 1,277,365 | 7.64% |
| 3435 Wardour Catholic Primary School | 378 | 127,038 | 127,416 | 492,907 | 25.85% |
| 3437 St Patricks RC Primary School | 6,628 | 22,284 | 28,913 | 808,367 | 3.58% |
| 3449 Broad Chalke C of E Aided Primary School | 1,584 | 75,397 | 76,981 | 877,251 | 8.78% |
| 3453 Chilmark Primary School | 0 | 32,489 | 32,489 | 443,499 | 7.33% |
| 3454 Semley CE VA Primary School | 6,321 | -5,575 | 746 | 566,089 | 0.13% |
| 3459 Hindon CEVA Primary School | 22,702 | 109,826 | 132,528 | 430,596 | 30.78% |
| 3460 Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School | 8,178 | 64,472 | 72,650 | 719,989 | 10.09% |
| 3461 Kennet Valley C.E School | 10,109 | 41,358 | 51,467 | 469,072 | 10.97% |
| 3465 Wyllye Valley C.E. VA Primary School | 0 | -16,714 | -16,714 | 530,087 | -3.15% |
| 3467 CHURCHFIELDS SCHOOL | 25,927 | 23,320 | 49,247 | 669,355 | 7.36% |
| 3468 Amesbury Primary School | 18,287 | 14,545 | 32,832 | 1,275,138 | 2.57% |
| 3469 Five Lanes CE Primary School | 16,079 | 76,326 | 92,405 | 469,935 | 19.66% |
| 3471 Lyneham Primary School | 139,960 | 0 | 139,960 | 1,292,058 | 10.83% |
| 3472 Bellefield Primary & Nursery School | 13,237 | 158,370 | 171,607 | 1,370,622 | 12.52% |
| 4000 Abbeyfield School | 58,822 | -1,516,601 | -1,457,779 | 4,789,567 | -30.44% |
| 4070 The Stonehenge School | 173,453 | 950,078 | 1,123,530 | 5,536,342 | 20.29% |
| 4610 St Josephs Catholic School | 91,190 | 180,807 | 271,997 | 3,332,668 | 8.16% |
| 5201 Downton CE VA Primary School | 4,696 | -20,240 | -15,544 | 1,117,046 | -1.39% |
| 5205 Frogwell Primary School | 11,706 | 223,325 | 235,031 | 1,037,355 | 22.66% |
| 5206 Studley Green Primary School | 34,377 | 172,652 | 207,029 | 1,288,278 | 16.07% |
| 5207 St.Georges Catholic Primary School | 13,345 | 15,541 | 28,886 | 641,959 | 4.50% |
| 5209 Paxcroft Primary School | 22,465 | 40,671 | 63,136 | 1,267,435 | 4.98% |
| 5215 Castle Primary School | 16,101 | 356,427 | 372,528 | 1,243,551 | 29.96% |
| 5218 Clarendon Junior School | 26,344 | 93,269 | 119,613 | 1,311,079 | 9.12% |
| 5219 Clarendon Infants School | 11,573 | 111,288 | 122,861 | 1,128,029 | 10.89% |
| 5415 Matravers School | 230,393 | 899,699 | 1,130,092 | 4,363,575 | 25.90% |
| 7003 Silverwood School * | 122,116 | 0 | 122,116 | 8,502,258 | 1.44% |
| 7007 Downland School * | 6,738 | 921,533 | 928,271 | 2,181,641 | 42.55% |
| 116 Schools | 2,334,762 | 9,890,060 | 12,224,822 | 122,320,664 | |

ANALYSIS OF REVENUE BALANCES 2022/23

| School Phase | Surplus balances above 15% of School Budget Share | | | | Surplus balances below 15% of School Budget Share | | | | Deficit Balances | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | Number | Balance Value | 2022/23 Budget Share | Balance as % of Budget | Number | Balance Value | 2022/23 Budget Share | Balance as % of Budget | Number | Balance Value | 2022/23 Budget Share | Balance as % of Budget |
| Primary | 37 | £6,844,093 | £30,032,918 | 22.8% | 62 | £4,021,151 | £53,991,493 | 7.4% | 11 | -£758,649 | £9,590,202 | -7.9% |
| Secondary | 2 | £2,253,622 | £9,899,917 | 0.0% | 1 | £271,997 | £3,332,668 | 8.2% | 1 | -£1,457,779 | £4,789,567 | -30.4% |
| Special | 1 | £928,271 | £2,181,641 | 42.5% | 1 | £122,116 | £8,502,258 | 0.0% | 0 | £0 | £0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 40 | 10,025,987 | 42,114,476 | 23.8% | 64 | £4,415,264 | £65,826,419 | 6.7% | 12 | -£2,216,429 | £14,379,769 | -15.4% |
| Number of schools | 116 | Total Balance | £12,224,822 | | | | | | | | | |

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Analysis of LA schools (as at 31st March 2023) that have had revenue balances in excess of 15% of their total School Budget Share (excluding Pupil Premium Grant) in the last 5 years

| DfE No | School Name | Type | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | | 2022/23 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|--------------------|
| | | | % | % | % | % | % | | Balance |
| 2005 | Nursted | Primary | 16.0 | 15.3 | 26.9 | 24.8 | 21.0 | ↓ | £ 189,134 |
| 2027 | Marlborough St Mary's | Primary | 16.2 | 18.0 | 19.4 | 15.3 | - | | - |
| 2031 | Neston | Primary | - | - | - | - | 16.4 | ↑ | £ 142,305 |
| 2060 | Luckington | Primary | - | - | - | - | 21.6 | ↑ | £ 79,563 |
| 2086 | Stanton St Quintin | Primary | - | - | - | - | 17.9 | ↑ | £ 72,507 |
| 2159 | Kiwi School | Primary | - | - | - | 19.8 | 22.1 | ↑ | £ 349,633 |
| 2170 | Grove | Primary | - | - | - | 15.7 | 18.9 | ↑ | £ 303,355 |
| 2180 | Redland | Primary | 16.5 | - | - | 22.7 | 21.7 | ↓ | £ 275,136 |
| 2184 | Longleaze | Primary | - | - | - | 17.2 | 18.8 | ↑ | £ 200,613 |
| 2218 | Kings Lodge | Primary | - | - | - | 15.4 | 20.7 | ↑ | £ 278,518 |
| 2226 | Charter | Primary | 16.0 | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 2227 | Newtown | Primary | - | - | - | 20.7 | 21.1 | ↑ | £ 188,573 |
| 3013 | Box Primary | Primary | 21.4 | 16.9 | 22.5 | 18.4 | - | | - |
| 3015 | Christ Church | Primary | 19.6 | 24.5 | 32.2 | 33.9 | 25.7 | ↓ | £ 458,783 |
| 3018 | Broad Hinton | Primary | 16.2 | 15.2 | 17.0 | 15.6 | 18.6 | ↑ | £ 100,193 |
| 3019 | Broad Town | Primary | - | - | - | 19.6 | 27.1 | ↑ | £ 112,414 |
| 3020 | St Nicholas CE VC | Primary | 16.3 | 15.5 | - | - | - | | - |
| 3045 | St Sampson's | Primary | - | - | 18.6 | 21.1 | 19.2 | ↓ | £ 258,828 |
| 3047 | Crockerton | Primary | 28.7 | 32.9 | 38.8 | 40.2 | 43.8 | ↑ | £ 210,158 |
| 3049 | Collingbourne CE | Primary | - | - | 17.8 | - | - | | - |
| 3088 | Hilperton | Primary | - | - | - | 20.3 | 16.2 | ↓ | £ 115,441 |
| 3090 | Holt | Primary | - | - | - | 15.3 | 16.1 | ↑ | £ 109,129 |
| 3091 | Hullavington | Primary | 31.0 | 30.1 | 34.6 | 27.9 | - | | - |
| 3096 | Kington St Michael | Primary | - | - | - | 30.2 | 30.4 | ↑ | £ 181,648 |
| 3102 | Langley Fitzurse | Primary | 18.1 | - | 20.4 | 20.4 | 30.4 | ↑ | £ 150,786 |
| 3104 | Lea & Garsdon | Primary | - | 15.5 | 21.6 | 18.7 | - | | - |
| 3134 | Newton Tony | Primary | - | - | - | 31.3 | 31.2 | ↓ | £ 147,727 |
| 3135 | North Bradley | Primary | 21.5 | 29.2 | 36.9 | 41.8 | 43.7 | ↑ | £ 369,003 |
| 3161 | Shalbourne | Primary | - | - | - | - | 15.5 | ↑ | £ 45,674 |
| 3166 | Southwick CE | Primary | 23.6 | 20.3 | 24.0 | 22.9 | 18.8 | ↓ | £ 156,203 |
| 3186 | Urchfont CE | Primary | 42.5 | 50.7 | 58.9 | 23.4 | 29.6 | ↑ | £ 152,482 |
| 3191 | The Minster CE | Primary | 18.9 | 16.7 | 19.6 | 21.4 | 16.7 | ↓ | £ 146,846 |
| 3222 | St Barnabas | Primary | - | - | - | 16.1 | 23.7 | ↑ | £ 111,980 |
| 3230 | Dinton | Primary | - | - | - | 16.0 | - | | - |
| 3306 | St Nicholas | Primary | - | - | - | 16.9 | - | | - |
| 3355 | St Nicholas Porton | Primary | 20.7 | 19.9 | 21.1 | 20.1 | 20.1 | ↓ | £ 124,698 |
| 3387 | St Martin's CE | Primary | 17.8 | - | - | 15.7 | 18.8 | ↑ | £ 146,406 |
| 3402 | Whiteparish | Primary | 19.6 | 19.1 | 22.8 | 18.9 | 27.5 | ↑ | £ 136,278 |
| 3418 | St Joseph's Catholic | Primary | - | 26.3 | 32.3 | 31.5 | 28.8 | ↓ | £ 178,537 |
| 3425 | St Osmunds | Primary | - | - | - | 27.0 | 20.7 | ↓ | £ 184,607 |
| 3435 | Wardour | Primary | - | - | - | - | 25.9 | ↑ | £ 127,416 |
| 3459 | Hindon | Primary | - | - | - | - | 30.8 | ↑ | £ 132,528 |
| 3461 | Kennet Valley | Primary | 18.9 | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 3467 | Churchfields | Primary | 15.7 | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 3469 | Five Lanes | Primary | - | - | - | - | 19.7 | ↑ | £ 92,405 |
| 4070 | Stonehenge | Secondary | - | - | - | 15.2 | 20.3 | ↑ | £1,123,530 |
| 5205 | Frogwell | Primary | - | - | - | 29.0 | 22.7 | ↓ | £ 235,031 |
| 5206 | Studley Green | Primary | 20.6 | 16.4 | 21.7 | 18.4 | 16.1 | ↓ | £ 207,029 |
| 5207 | St George's | Primary | - | - | - | 16.5 | - | | - |
| 5215 | Ludgershall Castle | Primary | 16.9 | 18.8 | 24.5 | 29.3 | 30.0 | ↑ | £ 372,528 |
| 5218 | Clarendon Juniors | Primary | 15.3 | 16.6 | 22.3 | 17.5 | - | | - |
| 5219 | Clarendon Infants | Primary | 26.9 | 21.6 | 22.7 | 16.6 | - | | - |
| 5415 | Matravers | Secondary | - | - | 19.0 | 27.3 | 25.9 | ↓ | £1,130,092 |
| 7007 | Downland | Special | - | 36.2 | 42.7 | 43.3 | 42.6 | ↓ | £ 928,271 |
| Total number schools | | | 24 | 21 | 24 | 42 | 40 | | £10,025,987 |

% of schools with revenue balances of 15% and over of school budget share for the last 5 years

As at 31st March 2023, 13 LA schools have held surplus balances of 15% or more of school budget share, for the last 5 years

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Analysis of schools that have been in a deficit position in the last four years, 2019/20 to 2

| | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | Deficit £ | As a % of SBS | Deficit £ | As a % of SBS | Deficit £ | As a % of SBS | |
| 2009 | Bratton Primary School | Primary | - | - | 8,820 | -1.5 | -117,652 | -17.49 |
| 2178 | Princecroft | Primary | - | - | - | - | -35,672 | -4.33 |
| 2190 | Woodlands | Primary | -8,488 | -9.96 | - | - | - | - |
| 2191 | Manor Fields | Primary | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3017 | Longford CE | Primary | -81,156 | -21.16 | - | - | - | - |
| 3140 | Oaksey CE VA | Primary | -54,253 | -12.81 | -18,462 | -4.36 | - | - |
| 3172 | Stratford Sub Castle | Primary | -211,201 | -34.26 | -280,594 | -45.52 | -359,261 | -54.92 |
| 3174 | Sutton Veny | Primary | -2,587 | -0.38 | - | - | - | - |
| 3192 | Westbury Juniors | Primary | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3193 | Westbury Leigh | Primary | -186,552 | -13.72 | -96,400 | -7.1 | - | - |
| 3229 | Coombe Bissett | Primary | - | - | - | - | -8,396 | -1.49 |
| 3230 | Dinton | Primary | -4,138 | -1.02 | - | - | - | - |
| 3236 | Chapmanslade | Primary | - | - | - | - | -13,464 | -2.57 |
| 3238 | Chilton Foliat CE | Primary | -108,569 | -27.90 | -118,014 | -30.33 | -114,251 | -22.39 |
| 3383 | Sarum St Paul's | Primary | -132,183 | -14.99 | -60,206 | -6.83 | -69,516 | -7.63 |
| 3435 | Wardour | Primary | -4,584 | -1.12 | - | - | - | - |
| 3453 | Chilmark | Primary | -1,798 | -0.47 | - | - | - | - |
| 3459 | Hindon | Primary | -21,990 | -7.87 | - | - | - | - |
| 3465 | Wyllye Valley | Primary | - | - | -3,282 | -0.77 | -935 | -0.18 |
| 3469 | Five Lanes | Primary | -41,118 | -10.32 | -16,264 | -4.08 | - | - |
| 3471 | Lyneham Primary | Primary | -58,837 | -4.49 | -32,832 | -2.51 | -85,861 | -6.65 |
| 5201 | Downton | Primary | -47,841 | -0.05 | -23,783 | -2.45 | -26,279 | -2.35 |
| 4000 | Abbeyfield | Secondary | -2,238,206 | -42.20 | -1,943,168 | -36.82 | -1,687,885 | -35.24 |
| 4070 | Stonehenge | Secondary | -135,385 | -3.03 | - | - | - | - |
| Total value of deficits | | | -3,338,886 | | -2,601,824 | | -2,519,172 | |
| Total number of schools | | | | 17 | | 11 | | 11 |

As at 31st March 2023, 4 of the 117 LA maintained schools held a deficit of more than 2.5% and £10,000 for the last 4 years

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DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2023-24 as at 31 August 2023.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 and 2 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31 August 2023 including activity information for demand driven budgets.
3. An overspend of £1.971 million is currently forecast against the overall schools budget. The main driver for this forecast variance is the on-going pressures on the high needs block, the reasons for these are known and understood.
4. As the local authority must make arrangements to finance this pressure, some expenditure in the Schools Budget is ultimately financed from the DSG reserve. The drawdown upon this reserve since 2018 has created a deficit reserve position. In acknowledgement of deficits held by local authorities, which are estimated at £2.6bn nationally, the government introduced a three-year statutory override in 2020 which separates local authorities' DSG deficits from their wider financial position, this has now been extended until 2026.
5. Wiltshire's planned transfer from the DSG reserve is based on forecasts of expenditure to 31 July 2024 and is estimated at £16.648million. The overspend forecast of £1.971 million on the grant plus this transfer from reserves mean the overall estimated DSG pressure is therefore £18.619m.
6. Table 1 below shows the forecast variances by individual DSG block.

| | DSG Allocation from the DfE £m | Wiltshire Transfers £m | Current Annual Budget £m | Forecast Outturn £m | Forecast Outturn Variance £m | % Variance |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Early Years Block | 32.563 | 0.180 | 30.493 | 30.336 | (0.157) | -1% |
| Schools Block | 346.293 | (1.717) | 344.577 | 344.487 | (0.090) | 0% |
| High Needs block | 70.852 | 1.797 | 91.546 | 93.757 | 2.211 | 2% |
| Central Block | 2.600 | (0.260) | 2.340 | 2.346 | 0.006 | 0% |
| Overall | 452.308 | 0.000 | 468.956 | 470.926 | 1.971 | 0% |
| Planned transfer from DSG reserve (reflecting planned expenditure) | | | | | 16.648 | |
| Net in year forecast movement to the DSG reserve | | | | | 18.619 | |

Early Years Budgets (Budget £32.563M, forecast variance (0.157M))

7. The early years budgets are projected to underspend by £0.157m. For this financial year, the budgets have been decreased by the planned transfer to the DSG reserve. For early years this is £2.250m. This will facilitate improved budget monitoring and should reflect the DfE's post year adjustment of the variance.

8. The DfE have now adjusted the early years allocations as follows:
 - a. Post year adjustment to 2022/23 financial year – an uplift of £35,133
 - b. In year adjustment (2023/24 financial year) – an uplift of £77,322

| | Budgeted | Actual | Forecast PTE Variance | Budgeted Spend | Forecast Spend | Forecast Spend Variance |
|------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | PTE | PTE | PTE | £M | £M | £M |
| 3- & 4-year olds | 9,873 | 9,811 | -62 | 26.336 | 26.382 | 0.046 |
| 2-year-olds | 664 | 694 | 30 | 2.178 | 2.135 | (0.043) |
| ISF | 308 | 289 | -19 | 0.99 | 0.873 | (0.117) |

9. The local authority has a duty of sufficiency in this sector and is working closely with providers to support through these challenging times of rising costs and a highly competitive recruitment marketplace.

Schools Budgets (Budget £344.577M, forecast variance (£0.090M))

10. The minimal forecast underspend on schools relates to central teams and is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG.

High Needs Budgets (Budget £91.546M, forecast variance £2.211M)

11. The High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £2.211m. For this financial year, the budgets have been increased by the planned drawdown from the DSG reserve. For high needs this is £18.898m. This will facilitate improved budget monitoring, setting targets and measuring success in recovery planning.
12. The major driver of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in FTE – full time equivalent pupils. Full variance analysis is provided at Appendix 2. It is important to note that the number of EHCPs being requested continues to increase post pandemic.

| | Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire | Prior Year Data (2022-23) | Prior Year Data (2021-22) |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| As at August 2023 | 5,254 | | |
| Estimate as at 31 st March 2024 (based on 22/23 growth rate of 12%) | 5,884 | 4,762 | 4,371 |
| Annual movement | 630 | 391 | 253 |
| % Movement | 12% | 8% | 6% |

The forecast pressure has significantly increased with September placements confirmed. The biggest areas of growth are in our own special and mainstream provision with an additional 441fte since 2022/23 financial year. There are 83fte more pupils in post 16 education and 74fte more in independent provision than in the 2022/23 financial year.

Whilst we have been able to respond to the increasing demand with DfE capital grant to increase primary resource base provision; two new pilot secondary resource bases and the new 150 place free school; SAIL these developments have had a subsequent impact on expenditure levels. There has been particular pressure on the named pupil allowances which support children in mainstream settings.

Full detail on all activity data forecasts can be found at Appendix 2 and 3, highlights of the demand in FTE are included in the table overleaf.

| | Budgeted Volume FTE | Actual Volume FTE | Volume variance FTE | % change in volume | Actual unit rate |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Wiltshire School Provision | | | | | |
| Special School Places | 942.83 | 942.83 | - | 0% | £9,660 |
| Special School Top Ups | 1,041.05 | 1,034.92 | (6) | 16% | £13,183 |
| ELP Places | 291.00 | 291.00 | - | 0% | £6,079 |
| ELP Top Ups | 623.82 | 619.61 | (4) | 5% | £5,199 |
| Resource Base Places | 400.00 | 400.00 | - | 0% | £6,199 |
| Resource Base Top Ups | 636.11 | 575.97 | (60) | 46% | £6,524 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Prim | 813.97 | 941.65 | 128 | 10% | £6,272 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Sec | 541.48 | 517.27 | (24) | 6% | £5,266 |
| Transition Support Funding | 313.25 | 295.65 | (18) | 80% | £4,000 |
| Independent / External Provision | | | | | |
| Independent Special School Fees | 302.94 | 357.16 | 54 | 30% | £52,492 |
| 6th Form | 688.76 | 696.86 | 8 | 8% | £11,131 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 386.33 | 386.33 | - | 0% | £6,000 |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 248.84 | 248.61 | (0) | 40% | £15,733 |
| Alternative Provision & DP (SEN) | 501.20 | 467.39 | (34) | 175% | £14,277 |

13. As Schools Forum are aware, much work has been done, over recent years to investigate and address the issues. The Placement Strategy has expanded places however managing demand remains challenging. There is an update later in the agenda from the High Needs Sustainability team on their work with the DfE and partners.

Central School Services Budgets (Budget £2.340m, forecast variance £0.006m)

14. The small overspend in this area is a combination of an overspend on central services and an underspend in admissions due to appeals panel income.

DSG Reserve

15. The deficit reserve brought forward of £35.249 million is decreased by the positive early years block adjustment of £0.035 million. The planned drawdown of £16.648m and forecast overspend of £1.971 will take the reserve into a forecast deficit position of £53.832 million.

| | Total 23/24 FY £M |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Balance brought forward from 2022/23 | 35.249 |
| Early Years adjustment (prior year) | (0.035) |
| Planned drawdown from reserve | 16.648 |
| Forecast variance 23/24 | 1.971 |
| Balance carried forward 2023/24 | 53.832 |

DSG Management Plan

16. Every Local Authority in England that has a deficit against their high needs block is required to hold a DSG Management Plan and the financial summary of the Wiltshire plan has been reported to Schools Forum on a regular basis.

17. The report to the Schools Forum meeting in June 2023 confirmed that the DSG Management Plan was being updated to share with the DfE's consultants Newton Europe Ltd as part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme. Since that meeting the Council has been invited to join the Safety Valve programme for councils with significant DSG deficits, and work on the DBV programme has ceased. The DSG Management plan has been updated to reflect current estimates of demand, income and expenditure with an estimate of the impact of the currently agreed mitigations. A copy of the current plan is attached as Appendix 4 to this report.

18. The purpose of the plan is to demonstrate how the deficit in the high needs block will be reduced. As part of the Safety Valve Programme the council will need to be able to demonstrate that it can achieve in year financial balance by the end of the plan period. At this stage the plan does not achieve financial balance and therefore further work is required to develop a plan that can be implemented as part of a Safety Valve deal for Wiltshire. The final plan will need to be signed off with the DfE in January 2024. The Transformation Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council has approved project spend of £1.620m over 23/24 and 24/25 financial years to deploy temporary resources to drive the change programme forward.

Proposals

19. Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast budget monitoring position including the balance on the DSG reserve at the end of August 2023 together with the report later in the agenda on the HNB recovery plan and the Safety Valve programme.

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Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31st August 2023

| a | b | c | d = (c-b) | e = (d/b) | f | d = (c-b) | g |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Service Area | Current Annual Budget | Period 5 Forecast | Period 5 Forecast Variance | | 22/23 Outturn Variance | July forecast variance | Budget Move-ment from Previous Report |
| | £m | £m | £m | % | | £m | |
| Three to Four Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding | 26.336 | 26.382 | 0.046 | 0.18% | (2.178) | (2.201) | 2.247 |
| Two Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding | 2.178 | 2.135 | (0.043) | -1.96% | (0.178) | (0.576) | 0.533 |
| Early Years Inclusion Support Fund | 0.990 | 0.873 | (0.117) | -11.79% | 0.223 | 0.408 | -0.525 |
| Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF | 0.359 | 0.359 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.011 | 0.005 | -0.005 |
| Early Years Central Expenditure | 0.630 | 0.587 | (0.043) | -6.86% | (0.023) | (0.008) | -0.036 |
| Early Years Block | 30.493 | 30.336 | -0.157 | -0.51% | -2.145 | -2.372 | 2.215 |
| Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools | 113.299 | 113.299 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools | 228.279 | 228.279 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Education Functions | 0.460 | 0.460 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Licences and Subscriptions | 0.057 | 0.057 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Free School Meals | 0.030 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness) | 0.635 | 0.635 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.183) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Behaviour Support Team | 0.695 | 0.695 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement | 0.590 | 0.500 | (0.090) | -15.21% | (0.085) | (0.027) | -0.063 |
| De Delegated Total | 2.007 | 1.917 | -0.090 | -4.47% | -0.268 | -0.027 | -0.063 |
| Growth Fund | 0.533 | 0.533 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.953) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Schools Block | 344.577 | 344.487 | -0.090 | -0.03% | -1.221 | -0.027 | -0.063 |
| Special School Place Funding | 9.108 | 9.108 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Resource Base (RB) Funding | 2.480 | 2.480 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding | 1.769 | 1.769 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| High Needs Block (all schools) | 13.356 | 13.356 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Named Pupil Allowances (NPA) | 8.215 | 8.630 | 0.415 | 5.05% | 0.893 | 0.523 | -1.107 |
| Special School Top-Up | 12.337 | 13.644 | 1.307 | 10.60% | 1.951 | 0.039 | 1.268 |
| Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up | 3.816 | 3.758 | (0.058) | -1.53% | 1.395 | (0.058) | 0.000 |
| Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up | 3.221 | 3.221 | 0.000 | 0.01% | 0.265 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Estimate of Transitional Support (TSP) payments | 1.253 | 1.183 | (0.070) | -5.62% | 0.126 | (0.061) | -0.009 |
| Secondary Alternative Provision Funding | 3.011 | 3.011 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.200) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.055 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Devolved to Maintained & Top Up Total | 31.852 | 33.446 | 1.594 | 5.00% | 4.486 | 0.442 | 1.152 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 2.318 | 2.318 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools | 3.428 | 3.912 | 0.483 | 14.10% | 0.945 | 0.168 | 0.316 |
| Post-16 Top-Up | 7.613 | 7.757 | 0.144 | 1.89% | 0.463 | 0.000 | 0.143 |
| Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools | 17.428 | 18.748 | 1.320 | 7.58% | 4.305 | 0.514 | 0.806 |
| SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education | 6.634 | 6.673 | 0.039 | 0.59% | 3.742 | 0.039 | -0.000 |
| Education Other than at School (EOTAS) | 0.519 | 0.456 | (0.062) | -12.04% | (0.153) | (0.073) | 0.010 |
| Funding for Places outside Schools | 37.940 | 39.864 | 1.924 | 5.07% | 9.302 | 0.649 | 1.275 |
| High Needs in Early Years Provision | 0.768 | 0.457 | (0.310) | -40.43% | (0.026) | (0.310) | 0.000 |
| Speech & Language | 0.764 | 0.560 | (0.204) | -26.74% | (0.005) | (0.204) | 0.000 |
| AP & SEND Support Services | 0.389 | 0.370 | (0.020) | -5.03% | 0.004 | (0.033) | 0.013 |
| 0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams | 3.069 | 2.728 | (0.341) | -11.10% | 0.012 | (0.391) | 0.050 |
| Specialist Teacher Advisory Service | 1.687 | 1.255 | (0.432) | -25.62% | (0.176) | (0.367) | -0.065 |
| Other Special Education | 1.721 | 1.721 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.097) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Commissioned & SEN Support Services | 8.398 | 7.091 | -1.307 | -15.56% | -0.289 | -1.305 | -0.002 |
| High Needs Block | 91.546 | 93.757 | 2.211 | 2.41% | 13.499 | -0.214 | 2.425 |
| Central Licences | 0.457 | 0.457 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.000) | (0.000) | 0.000 |
| Central Provision (Former ESG) | 1.171 | 1.202 | 0.031 | 2.66% | (0.224) | 0.150 | -0.119 |
| Admissions | 0.474 | 0.448 | (0.025) | -5.30% | (0.032) | (0.080) | 0.055 |
| Servicing of Schools Forums | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Central Provision within Schools Budget | 2.105 | 2.111 | 0.006 | 0.29% | -0.256 | 0.070 | -0.064 |
| Education Services to CLA | 0.103 | 0.103 | 0.000 | 0.00% | (0.037) | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Child Protection in Schools & Early Years | 0.056 | 0.056 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Prudential Borrowing | 0.076 | 0.076 | 0.000 | 0.00% | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Historic Commitments | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.000 | 0.00% | -0.037 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Central School Services | 2.340 | 2.346 | 0.006 | 0.26% | -0.293 | 0.070 | -0.064 |
| PLANNED DRAWDOWN FROM DSG RESERVE AT YEAR END | -16.648 | -16.648 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | |
| Total Schools Budget | 452.308 | 454.278 | 1.971 | 0.44% | 9.840 | -2.543 | 4.514 |
| Pupil Premium (academy & maintained) | 17.725 | 17.725 | 0.000 | | | | |
| 6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant) | 1.330 | 1.330 | 0.000 | | | | |
| Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant Apr-Aug 23 | | | 0.000 | | | | |
| National Tutoring Programme AY 22/23 & recovery | 0.332 | 0.332 | 0.000 | | | | |
| UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained) | 3.451 | 3.451 | 0.000 | | | | |
| PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained) | | | 0.000 | | | | |
| DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools | 22.839 | 22.839 | 0.000 | 0 | | | |
| TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING | 475.146 | 477.117 | 1.971 | 0.41% | | | |

March 23 allocations subject to change by DfE
 Figure from S251
 To follow from DfE
 May payment
 To be published - June 23

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 30th June 2023 - this is an estimate of net expenditure on the schools budget
 TREND ANALYSIS HAS BEEN APPLIED TO FUTURE DEMAND - however this is based on bet estimates at Q1 and will be subject to
 Appendix 2 - the service forecasts of planned activity in FTE (full time equivalent pupils) as at 30th April 2022- this is a measure of volumes of pupil placements / support arrangements

Appendix 2 - Variance Analysis

| <i>h</i> | <i>i</i> | <i>j</i> | <i>k = (j-i)</i> | <i>l = (k/i)</i> | <i>m</i> | <i>n</i> | <i>o</i> | <i>n</i> | <i>o</i> |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Volume analysis | Budgeted Activity | Period 5 Forecast Activity | Period 5 Forecast Variance | | 22/23 Outturn Volume | Volume movement from Previous Report | Forecast Average Prices | 22/23 Actual Average Prices | Unit |
| | FTE | FTE | FTE | % | | | | | |
| Three/Four Year Olds | 9,873 | 9,811 | (62) | -1% | 9,721 | 514 | £4.68 | £4.42 | p/hr |
| Two Year Olds | 664 | 694 | 30 | 5% | 828 | 140 | £5.75 | £5.69 | p/hr |
| ISF | 308 | 289 | (19) | -6% | n/a | 19 | £3,023 | £3,213 | per child |
| | | | | | | | £828 | £615 | pa |
| | | | | | | | £0.53 | £0.53 | p/hr |
| Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET | 10,845 | 10,794 | (51) | 0% | 10,549 | 635 | | | |
| Sp Sch Place Funding | 943 | 943 | 0 | 0% | 806 | 0 | £9,660 | £10,000 | pa |
| RB Funding | 400 | 400 | 0 | 0% | 329 | - | £6,199 | £6,000 | pa |
| ELP Funding | 291 | 291 | 0 | 0% | 315 | - | £6,079 | £6,000 | pa |
| | 1,634 | 1,634 | 0 | 0% | 1,449 | 0 | | | pa |
| NPA | 1,355 | 1,459 | 103 | 8% | 1,215 | 32 | £5,915 | £5,889 | pa |
| Special School Top-Up | 1,041 | 1,035 | (6) | -1% | 872 | 40 | £13,183 | £11,394 | pa |
| RB Top-Up | 636 | 576 | (60) | -9% | 383 | 1 | £6,524 | £10,257 | pa |
| ELP Top-Up | 624 | 620 | (4) | -1% | 444 | 34 | £5,199 | £4,964 | pa |
| TSP | 313 | 296 | (18) | 0% | 95 | 48 | £4,000 | £2,755 | pa |
| | 3,970 | 3,985 | 15 | 0% | 3,009 | 152 | £8,393 | £8,029 | pa |
| Wiltshire College Places | 386 | 386 | 0 | 0% | 350 | 0 | £6,000 | £6,000 | pa |
| Non Wiltshire Schools | 249 | 249 | (0) | 0% | 216 | 4 | £15,733 | £13,419 | pa |
| Post-16 Top-Up | 689 | 697 | 8 | 1% | 544 | 14 | £11,131 | £10,783 | pa |
| Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch | 303 | 357 | 54 | 18% | 259 | 10 | £52,492 | £56,075 | pa |
| SEN AP, DP & EHE | 480 | 467 | (13) | -3% | 197 | 55 | £14,277 | £12,914 | pa |
| | 2,107 | 2,156 | 49 | 2% | 1,566 | 27 | £18,487 | £17,448 | pa |
| High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET | 7,711 | 7,775 | 65 | 1% | 6,024 | 125 | £12,058 | £11,512 | |

The total activity FTE is higher than total no of EHCPS as children in SS, ELP & RB may also have top ups
 SS, ELP & RB places above those agreed with the DfE are costed to top ups

| Analysis of Price & Volume Variance as at August 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Budgeted Volume FTE | Projected Volume | Volume variance | % change in volume | Budgeted unit rate | Budgeted £ | Variance | Projected £ | Actual Unit rate | Unit Rate Variance | Variance | % change in rate | Total Variance |
| Wiltshire School Provision | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Special School Places | 942.83 | 942.83 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 10,000 | 9,428,333 | - | 9,428,333 | 10,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - |
| Special School Top Ups | 1041.05 | 987.67 | -53.38 | -5.1% | 11,850 | 12,336,500 | - 632,557 | 12,748,661 | 12,908 | 1,058 | 8.9% | 412,161 |
| Special School Top Ups Trend Analysis | | 47.25 | 47.25 | | | | 895,175 | 18,946 | 18,946 | | | 895,175 |
| Special Schs Top Ups Total Forecast with Trend Analysis | 1041.05 | 1034.92 | -6.13 | | | 12,336,500 | | 13,643,836 | | | | 1,307,336 |
| ELP Places | 291.00 | 291.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 1,746,000 | - | 1,746,000 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - |
| ELP Top Ups | 623.82 | 577.19 | -46.63 | -7.5% | 5,163 | 3,220,800 | - 240,768 | 3,000,698 | 5,199 | 36 | 0.7% | - 220,102 |
| ELP Top Ups Trend Analysis | | 42.42 | 42.42 | | | | 220,559 | 5,199 | 5,199 | | | 220,559 |
| ELP Top Ups Total Forecast with Trend Analysis | 623.82 | 619.61 | -4.21 | | | 3,220,800 | | 3,221,257 | | | | 457 |
| Resource Base Places | 400.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 2,400,000 | - | 2,400,000 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - |
| Resource Base Top Ups | 636.11 | 439.25 | -196.86 | -30.9% | 5,999 | 3,816,000 | - 1,180,966 | 2,865,558 | 6,524 | 525 | 8.7% | - 950,442 |
| Resource Base Top Ups Trend Analysis | | 136.72 | 136.72 | | | | 891,952 | 6,524 | 6,524 | | | 891,952 |
| RB Top Ups Total Forecast with Trend Analysis | 636.11 | 575.97 | -60.14 | | | 3,816,000 | | 3,757,510 | | | | - 58,490 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Prim | 813.97 | 941.65 | 127.68 | 15.7% | 6,496 | 5,287,568 | 829,399 | 5,906,058 | 6,272 | -224 | -3.4% | 618,490 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Sec | 541.48 | 517.27 | -24.21 | -4.5% | 5,406 | 2,927,232 | - 130,889 | 2,723,883 | 5,266 | -140 | -2.6% | - 203,349 |
| NPA Trend Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | - |
| NPA Total Forecast with Trend Analysis | 1355.45 | 1458.92 | 103.47 | | | 8,214,800 | | 8,629,941 | | | | 415,141 |
| Transition Support Funding | 313.25 | 295.65 | -17.60 | -5.6% | 4,000 | 1,253,000 | - 70,416 | 1,182,584 | 4,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - 70,416 |
| Independent / External Provision | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Independent Special School Fees | 303.21 | 353.11 | 49.90 | 16.5% | 57,478 | 17,427,800 | 2,868,364 | 18,535,406 | 52,492 | -4,986 | -8.7% | 1,107,606 |
| Independent Special School Fees Trend Analysis | | 4.05 | 4.05 | | | 0 | - | 212,754 | 52,492 | 52,492 | #DIV/0! | 212,754 |
| ISS Forecast with Trend Analysis | 303.21 | 357.16 | 53.96 | | | 17,427,800 | | 18,748,160 | | | | 1,320,360 |
| 6th Form | 688.76 | 696.86 | 8.10 | 1.2% | 11,053 | 7,612,900 | 89,497 | 7,756,554 | 11,131 | 78 | 0.7% | 143,654 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 386.33 | 386.33 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 2,318,000 | - | 2,318,000 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 248.84 | 248.61 | -0.22 | -0.1% | 13,777 | 3,428,200 | - 3,060 | 3,911,535 | 15,733 | 1,956 | 14.2% | 483,335 |
| Alternative Provision & DP (SEN) | 501.20 | 467.39 | -33.81 | -6.7% | 13,236 | 6,633,900 | - 447,537 | 6,672,990 | 14,277 | 1,041 | 7.9% | 39,090 |
| Total Forecast | 7731.86 | 7775.27 | 43.41 | 0.6% | | 79,836,233 | 1,081,066 | 83,416,699 | | 2,499,400 | | 3,580,466 |

0.00

0 Control check

0

Planned use of reserves

18,898,000

Budgets have been grossed up and offset with a transfer to reserves to give a more realistic budget

Forecasted high needs overspend combined with transfer to reserve 23-24

20,061,696

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Financial summary

Summary of end of year positions

| | 2019-20 £ 000s | 2020-21 £ 000s | 2021-22 £ 000s | 2022-23 £ 000s | 2023-24 £ 000s | 2024-25 £ 000s | 2025-26 £ 000s | 2026-27 £ 000s | 2027-28 £ 000s | 2028-29 £ 000s | 2029-30 £ 000s |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Planned DSG position (surplus)/deficit | £10,812 | £18,907 | £25,409 | £35,214 | £53,832 | £66,011 | £79,585 | £96,206 | £118,501 | £145,959 | £178,912 |
| Unmitigated expenditure forecast | | | | | £474,116 | £497,771 | £528,406 | £560,773 | £597,264 | £633,682 | £671,641 |
| Savings forecast | | | | | £3,189 | £8,724 | £12,014 | £13,915 | £15,760 | £16,399 | £16,506 |
| Mitigated expenditure forecast | | | | | £470,926 | £489,047 | £516,392 | £546,859 | £581,504 | £617,284 | £655,135 |

Financial plan per funding block

| | Date output last updated: 16/08/2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Overall DSG position (pre recoupment total) | 2019-20 outturn | 2020-21 outturn | 2021-22 outturn | 2022-23 outturn | 2023-24 Mitigated forecast | 2023-24 Unmitigated forecast | 2024-25 Mitigated forecast | 2024-25 Unmitigated forecast | 2025-26 Mitigated forecast | 2025-26 Unmitigated forecast | 2026-27 Mitigated forecast | 2026-27 Unmitigated forecast | 2027-28 Mitigated forecast | 2027-28 Unmitigated forecast | 2028-29 Mitigated forecast | 2028-29 Unmitigated forecast | 2029-30 Mitigated forecast | 2029-30 Unmitigated forecast |
| Income/surplus should be shown as negative | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Expenditure (Positive figures) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools block | 272,797,079 | £288,839,483 | £315,261,652 | £325,745,325 | £344,487,035 | £344,487,035 | £365,100,357 | £365,100,357 | £386,863,238 | £386,863,238 | £409,923,359 | £409,923,359 | £436,540,750 | £436,540,750 | £462,562,046 | £462,562,046 | £490,134,418 | £490,134,418 |
| Central schools services block | £1,973,370 | £2,228,064 | £2,350,691 | £2,051,159 | £2,346,161 | £2,346,161 | £2,415,034 | £2,415,034 | £2,708,701 | £2,708,701 | £2,764,650 | £2,764,650 | £2,821,755 | £2,821,755 | £2,880,040 | £2,880,040 | £2,939,529 | £2,939,529 |
| Early years block | £27,492,050 | £27,132,004 | £27,324,713 | £28,901,451 | £30,336,127 | £30,336,127 | £34,188,660 | £34,188,660 | £36,156,457 | £36,156,457 | £38,099,451 | £38,099,451 | £40,146,859 | £40,146,859 | £42,304,292 | £42,304,292 | £44,577,662 | £44,577,662 |
| High needs block | £80,158,002 | £65,219,771 | £69,417,975 | £79,850,443 | £93,757,151 | £96,946,200 | £87,342,865 | £96,066,871 | £90,863,798 | £102,677,715 | £96,071,070 | £109,985,705 | £101,994,451 | £117,754,407 | £109,537,499 | £125,936,022 | £117,483,789 | £133,989,829 |
| Planned spend from DSG reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total expenditure | £362,420,501 | £383,419,322 | £414,354,931 | £436,548,378 | £470,926,474 | £474,115,523 | £489,046,917 | £497,770,923 | £516,392,194 | £528,406,111 | £546,858,529 | £560,773,164 | £581,503,815 | £597,263,771 | £617,283,877 | £633,682,400 | £655,135,398 | £671,641,438 |
| 2. DSG income (Negative figures) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools block | £275,215,164 | £293,142,767 | £317,724,345 | £328,593,782 | £346,293,208 | £346,293,208 | £366,935,033 | £366,935,033 | £388,807,274 | £388,807,274 | £411,983,275 | £411,983,275 | £436,540,750 | £436,540,750 | £462,562,046 | £462,562,046 | £490,134,418 | £490,134,418 |
| Central schools services block | £2,270,343 | £2,479,715 | £2,565,122 | £2,600,176 | £2,653,884 | £2,653,884 | £2,708,701 | £2,708,701 | £2,764,650 | £2,764,650 | £2,821,755 | £2,821,755 | £2,880,040 | £2,880,040 | £2,939,529 | £2,939,529 | £2,999,529 | £2,999,529 |
| Early years block | £26,949,309 | £27,637,791 | £29,770,351 | £30,902,052 | £32,562,682 | £32,562,682 | £34,312,552 | £34,312,552 | £36,156,457 | £36,156,457 | £38,099,451 | £38,099,451 | £40,146,859 | £40,146,859 | £42,304,292 | £42,304,292 | £44,577,662 | £44,577,662 |
| High needs block | £46,866,826 | £51,981,188 | £57,793,120 | £64,643,236 | £70,851,826 | £70,851,826 | £72,967,232 | £72,967,232 | £75,145,795 | £75,145,795 | £77,389,403 | £77,389,403 | £79,699,998 | £79,699,998 | £82,079,580 | £82,079,580 | £84,530,209 | £84,530,209 |
| Total income | £351,601,642 | £375,241,461 | £407,852,938 | £426,743,247 | £452,307,894 | £452,307,894 | £476,868,700 | £476,868,700 | £502,818,227 | £502,818,227 | £530,236,779 | £530,236,779 | £559,209,362 | £559,209,362 | £589,825,958 | £589,825,958 | £622,181,818 | £622,181,818 |
| 3. High needs block - other income (Negative figures) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ICS contributions | £2,287,129 | £R2,830 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other (Please specify) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total other income | £2,287,129 | £R2,830 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| 4. Block transfers (Income/Block moved to as negative, outgoing/block moved from as positive. Should net to 0) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools block | £2,200,000 | £1,466,000 | £1,517,725 | £1,627,856 | £1,716,505 | £1,716,505 | £1,834,675 | £1,834,675 | £1,944,036 | £1,944,036 | £2,059,916 | £2,059,916 | | | | | | |
| Central schools services block | £334,000 | £184,000 | £384,162 | £260,285 | £260,100 | £260,100 | £238,850 | £238,850 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | | | | | | |
| Early years block | | £0 | £180,000 | £180,000 | £180,000 | £180,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High needs block | £2,534,000 | £1,650,000 | £1,901,807 | £1,708,141 | £1,796,805 | £1,796,805 | £2,073,525 | £2,073,525 | £1,944,036 | £1,944,036 | £2,059,916 | £2,059,916 | | | | | | |
| Block Transfers (should net to 0) | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| 5. Year end net position deficit / (surplus) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools block | £218,085 | £2,837,284 | £945,068 | £1,220,601 | £89,668 | £89,668 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Central schools services block | £262,973 | £67,651 | £169,731 | £292,731 | £6,085 | £6,085 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Early years block | £542,741 | £505,787 | £2,445,638 | £2,180,601 | £2,406,555 | £2,406,555 | £123,892 | £123,892 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| High needs block | £8,470,047 | £11,505,753 | £9,722,968 | £13,499,064 | £21,108,718 | £24,297,767 | £12,302,108 | £21,026,115 | £13,573,967 | £25,587,884 | £16,621,750 | £30,536,385 | £22,294,453 | £38,054,409 | £27,457,919 | £43,856,442 | £32,953,580 | £49,459,620 |
| Total net | £8,531,730 | £8,095,031 | £6,501,993 | £9,805,311 | £18,618,580 | £21,807,629 | £12,178,216 | £20,902,223 | £13,573,967 | £25,587,884 | £16,621,750 | £30,536,385 | £22,294,453 | £38,054,409 | £27,457,919 | £43,856,442 | £32,953,580 | £49,459,620 |
| 6. Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council contribution (negative) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Add brought forward deficit / (surplus) (net) | £2,279,880 | £10,811,610 | £18,906,641 | £25,408,634 | £35,213,765 | £35,213,765 | £53,832,345 | £57,021,394 | £66,010,562 | £77,923,617 | £79,584,529 | £103,511,501 | £96,206,279 | £134,047,886 | £118,500,732 | £172,102,295 | £145,958,651 | £215,958,737 |
| Brought forward earmarked amounts in other blocks (optional memorandum item, not used in calculation) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planned year end position | £10,811,610 | £18,906,641 | £25,408,634 | £35,213,765 | £53,832,345 | £57,021,394 | £66,010,562 | £77,923,617 | £79,584,529 | £103,511,501 | £96,206,279 | £134,047,886 | £118,500,732 | £172,102,295 | £145,958,651 | £215,958,737 | £178,912,231 | £265,418,357 |

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Update on High Needs Sustainability: the Safety Valve Programme

Liz Williams (Finance Lead – High Needs Block Sustainability) and Ben Stevens (Sustainability Strategic Lead – High Needs Block) will update Schools Forum and give a presentation on High Needs Sustainability: the Safety Valve Programme

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Funding & SEN Working Group

25 September 2023

Schools Forum

5 October 2023

Spring Budget 2023 Childcare Expansion

[Spring Budget 2023 Childcare Expansion Policy costing information note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Early Years Supplementary Grant 2023/24

[Early years supplementary grant 2023 to 2024: methodology - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Early Years Funding – Extension of the Entitlements – Government Consultation

[Early years funding – extension of the entitlements \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

Purpose of the Report

1. This report considers a series of DfE Early Years publications issued in July 2023.

Main Considerations

Spring Budget 2023 Childcare Expansion

2. In the spring budget of 2023, the Chancellor announced that funded childcare hours would be extended to children of eligible working parents in England from nine months old to support increased parental engagement in the labour market.
3. The measures announced will expand the existing system by offering up to 30 funded hours of childcare per week over 38 weeks of the year to children aged nine months and over whose parents meet the same income eligibility criteria as applied to the existing 30 hours entitlement for three and four-year-olds. The policy will have a phased rollout, with 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year offered to eligible two-year-olds from April 2024 and to eligible children under two from September 2024. The new entitlement will be offered in full of September 2025.
4. Operationally changes are aimed to increase flexibility for providers and the availability of childcare provision for parents, the government will proceed with changing staff-to-child ratios from 1:4 to 1:5 for 2 year-olds in England, to align with Scotland and other countries. Also that, childminders can care for more than the specified maximum of three young children if they are caring for siblings of children they already care for, or if the childminder is caring for their own child.'
5. Nationally, the investment is £1.740m for the 2024/25 financial year rising to £4.100m in the 2027/28 financial year.
6. The Spring budget and Wiltshire indicative hourly rates for 2024/25 are detailed in the table overleaf.

| | Spring Budget Hourly Rate | Wiltshire Illustrative Hourly Rate |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 9-months up to two years | £11.06 | £9.96 |
| Two-year-olds | £8.17 | £7.35 |

7. Whilst these moves are welcomed by parents and the increased rates welcomed by providers, not all providers will be able to extend their offer due to physical space requirements in settings and their ability to recruit and retain staff.
8. Early years officers will continue to monitor sufficiency of childcare places in Wiltshire.

Wraparound Childcare

9. The DfE report that 74% of primary schools currently offer childcare at both ends of the school day. They aim to help ensure that working parents are not forced to reduce their hours due to caring responsibilities, the government is launching a new wraparound childcare pathfinder scheme and setting out the ambition that all parents of primary-aged children in England can access care in school from 8am-6pm. The government will provide £289 million in start-up funding to enable schools and local authorities to test options to increase the availability of wraparound childcare in the longer term, with national roll out over academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Early Years Supplementary Grant 2023/24

10. The expansion plans were to be rolled out from September 2023 and as such, a separate mechanism of funding was put in place to facilitate a timely rollout.
11. Nationally, the DfE has provided £204 million of supplementary grant funding to local authorities in the 2023 to 2024 financial year. Wiltshire's allocation is £1.642m. This will provide supplementary funding for all existing early years funding streams:
 - 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
 - 15 hours universal entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - 15 hours additional entitlement for 3 and 4-year-old children of working parents
 - maintained nursery schools supplementary funding
 - early years pupil premium
 - disability access fund
12. The supplementary funding provided to local authorities is separate to the funding provided through the early years block of the DSG for the existing entitlements in the 2023 to 2024 financial year. Rates are detailed overleaf.

| | Wiltshire Provider Rates 2023/24 | | | 2024/25 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Current Rates | Supplementary Grant | Effective combined Rate | Wiltshire Illustrative Funded Hourly Rate |
| 9-months up to two years | | | | £9.96 |
| Two-year-olds | £5.75 | £1.86 | £7.61 | £7.35 |
| Three and Four-year-olds | £4.68 | £0.33 | £5.01 | |
| Early Years Pupil Premium | £0.62 | £0.04 | £0.66 | |
| Disability Access Fund | £828.00 | £53.00 | £881.00 | |

13. For the majority of local authorities, the 2024/25 illustrative hourly rate is higher than the effective combined rate. Wiltshire is one of the 42 local authorities for whom there is a reduction. Wiltshire's reduction is £0.26 per hour which is a 3.4% reduction before taking into account 2024/25 inflationary pressures.

Early Years Funding – Extension of the Entitlements – Government Consultation

14. The DfE launched a consultation on 21 July with a response date of 8 September 2023 requesting views from local authorities, early years providers and sector representative bodies on a number of proposals regarding the approach to funding for the early years entitlements for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25.
15. Section 1 focused on the national funding formula that the DfE will be using to distribute entitlements funding to local authorities for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25. It also included proposals to extend eligibility for early years pupil premium (EYPP) and the disability access fund (DAF).
16. Section 2 set out the overall illustrative impact that these proposals will have on funding rates for local authorities in 2024-25. Alongside this consultation document the DfE also published illustrative modelling which sets this out in more detail, accompanied by a technical note.
17. Section 3 then set out the proposals regarding the framework of rules for the distribution of all entitlements funding by local authorities.
18. In light of the turnaround time, Wiltshire responded to the consultation and shared the response with the early years sector and reference group, encouraging them to respond by the deadline of 8 September 2023.
19. A copy of Wiltshire's responses is attached as Appendix A.

Proposals

20. Schools Forum is asked to note the three July 2023 publications from the DfE and consider the implications for Wiltshire.

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Early Years Funding – Extension of the Entitlements

Consultation Questions:

Section 1: National funding distribution for entitlements for children aged 2-years-old and under

Introduction:

These questions relate to proposals regarding the national funding formula that will be used to distribute funding to local authorities for 2-year-olds and under from April 2024 in light of the new entitlements. There are also questions in this section relating to proposals to extend eligibility for the disability access fund (DAF) and early years pupil premium (EYPP) to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024.

Q1: Do you agree that we should introduce IDACI as a new proxy, and use it alongside FSM as a basket of measures for deprivation in the additional needs factor in the new national funding formula for 9-month-olds to 2-year-olds?

A: We agree. It mirrors school funding. Whilst Wiltshire is not an area of large-scale deprivation, there are pockets of deprivation and the principle of mirroring the National Funding Formula and using IDACI is supported.

Q2: Do you agree that we should continue to use EAL and DLA as proxies in the additional needs factor in the new funding formula?

A: We agree. In Wiltshire we have localised communities of high numbers of EAL, specifically Nepalese, Somalian, Polish. In addition, we have a high number of military families (42 different nationalities in one barracks alone).

Q3: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the area cost adjustment in the new national funding formula?

A: We agree on the understanding that energy costs are included in the “remaining 10%”. Also, we’re aware of issues regarding recruitment in the local labour market and the higher staffing costs.

Q4: Overall, do you agree with our proposed approach of following the same structure and weightings for the new national funding formula as in the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula?

A: We agree a consistent approach is sensible, transparent and defensible.

Q5: Do you agree that we should extend DAF eligibility to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024?

A: We agree, but this will be a considerable pressure for the DfE to fund and local authority funding rates will need to reflect this. DAF rates should be consistent for all age ranges.

Q6: Do you agree that we should extend EYPP eligibility to all children accessing a free childcare entitlement from April 2024?

A: We agree, but this will be a considerable cost pressure for the DfE to fund and local authority funding rates will need to reflect this. EYPP rates should be consistent for all age ranges.

Section 2: Impact of proposals

Introduction:

Alongside the consultation document, we have published modelling which provides illustrative 2024-25 funding rates and allocations for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under.

We propose to give each local authority rates in 2024-25 for the 2-year-old and 9-month-old up to 2-year-old entitlements calculated using the formula set out above. These funding rates are for a new working parent entitlement for under 2s, and for a new mixed cohort of the

disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds, and they will be calculated using a new funding formula. This means that there is no baseline against which they should be compared.

Year-to-year protections for these funding rates may be desirable in future years. We will keep this under review and consider whether any protections are appropriate when we are setting rates for 2025-26.

Q7: Do you agree with this approach?

- **A:** Year-to-year protections are imperative with immediate effect to avoid fluctuating rates for providers. Wiltshire's combined rate for 2-year-olds for September 2023 - March 2024 is **£7.61**. However, the indicative rate for Wiltshire for 24/25 has been given as **£7.35**, this means an immediate funding reduction of **£0.26p** per PTE hour (3.4%) and this is unacceptable. We understand 40 local authorities are in this position. We have been encouraged to pass on the supplementary grant in full and wanted to do this to ensure provider sufficiency across this rural county. If we reduce the £7.35 to fund centralised services (which we will need to do), the decrease to providers will be even less than 26p per provider.

Section 3: Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

Introduction:

With the expansion of the entitlements, we are proposing to extend the current framework of rules for the distribution of entitlements funding by local authorities to the existing offer for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and to the new offers for working parents of children aged 2-years-old and under. The questions in this section focus on the key features of this framework as well as seek views on the current processes around SEND funding and options for change.

Q8: Do you agree a pass-through rate of 95% should be applied to each funding stream in 2024-25: the 3-and-4-year-old universal and 30 hours offer; the two-year-old disadvantaged and working parent offers; and the 9 months to two-year-old offer?

A: We think a pass-through rate of 95% is essential but believe local authorities should have discretion to apply different rates to each age group funding allocation. This will allow local flexibility.

Q9: Do you agree that the same list of allowable supplements should be applied to every entitlement funding stream, capped at a maximum 12 percent of planned funding for that entitlement?

A: We agree, so long as Local Authorities have the choice to use the supplements or not.

Q10: Do you agree that the deprivation supplement should be mandatory for every entitlement funding stream?

A: Yes, we agree. This is aligned to our disadvantaged learner data.

Q11: Do you agree with our proposal that local authorities should establish a special educational needs inclusion fund for children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the entitlements?

A: Wiltshire already issues Inclusion Support Funding for 2-year-olds for a maximum of 15hrs/wk. Unless we were funded appropriately to issue ISF for up to 30hrs/wk, we would struggle to finance this with increased numbers of 2-year-olds. In addition, if the expectation is to fund ISF for under 2's, we'd have to finance from the centrally retained budget which is why we cannot support increasing pass-through rate to 97% until we have actual pupil data.

Q12: What more can be done to support local authorities and providers to reduce bureaucracy and streamline SENIF processes whilst also ensuring the system remains fair and financially sustainable?

A: In Wiltshire, our process to issue the ISF have been reviewed, we regularly hold panel decision-making meetings and providers are happy with these changes. Providers have responded well to good quality support around provision planning, funding is allocated at the start of each term so that providers can spend effectively. We already use our Case

Management System to log all applications. Currently we are overspending in this area due to high demand.

Q13: Would local authorities and providers find it helpful for the Department to be more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs?

A: We would like the flexibility to best determine how to issue support to providers.

Section 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction:

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Public authorities include the Department for Education, local authorities, governing bodies.

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

Q14: Do you have any comments about the potential impact, both positive and negative, of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics? Where any negative impacts have been identified, do you know how these might be mitigated?

A: In Wiltshire we are beginning to see an increasing number of parents who are wishing for their children to be identified as neither male nor female, asking their childcare provider to use the pronouns of them/they. This has implications for many aspects of running provision. We see there is a gap in advice, support, and training for providers around this issue.

Any Other Comments

Q15: Are there any other comments that you would like to make about our proposals set out in this consultation?

A: Although the additional funding is welcomed, the scope of the ask is huge and rushed.

- The sooner we can be told about the “Delivery Funding” the better – allocations in October 2023 to prepare buildings and have fully trained and recruit staff in place for April 2024 will be challenging. It is imperative that the appropriate training and support can be given to the sector to develop high quality additional places. We have no capacity within the Local Authority service teams to currently do this.
- In addition, Capital funding is required to develop physical space. Planning permission for new temporary structures (mobiles) can take 10 weeks alone and works need to take place on school premises during the holidays.
- The combined rate for 23/24 is currently higher than the indicative rate for 24/25 –

- Considering the national minimum wage (National Living Wage proposed at £11.16 from April 2024 – an uplift of 11%) and inflationary raises are expected in April 24, the indicative rate being lower than the combined 2023/24 rate is very concerning.
- We are also concerned that expectations have been unrealistically raised that ALL parents will benefit from entitlement **from the month after** their child turns 9-months old.
- Despite that this consultation has been run during the school holidays, we have liaised and obtained the views from our provider representatives.

Wiltshire Council

School Funding Working Group: 25 September 2023

Schools Forum: 5 October 2023

National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs – 2024-25

Purpose of report

1. To outline the Department for Education (DfE) funding proposals for schools and high needs in 2024-25. The DfE published its document '*The national funding formulae for schools and high needs – 2024-25*', in July 2023.
2. This report is presented purely to bring the latest DfE funding changes to the attention of members of the Schools' Forum rather than for consultation and decision making. All funding decisions relating to the 2024-25 year will be taken later this year, following the announcement of the 2024-25 funding settlement.

Background

3. Following the additional school funding awarded during the 'Boris billions' years between 2020-21 and 2022-23, the government announced a further pledge to increase core school funding in 2023-24 and 2024-25.
4. In recognition of the turbulent economic position, cost of pay awards, inflationary pressures and extreme energy costs, the government pledged additional funding for schools for the 2023-24 year, through the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG).
5. Unfortunately, the additional funding was announced too late to be built into National Formula Funding (NFF) rates for the 2023-24 financial year and hence why the MSAG was paid as a separate grant. Funding received by schools through the MSAG will be rolled into core school funding rates for the 2024-25 year.
6. In addition, a further £440million has been pledged for High Needs nationally, an increase of 4.3% on 2023-24 funding levels. This is significantly less of an increase than in previous years where increases have been more than £700million.
7. The DfE have continued to allocate school funding based on the NFF which will see an overall increase by 2.7% per pupil, compared to funding in 2023-24. Nationally, the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been awarded an average increase of:
 - a. 4% in the pupil-led funding factors for 2020-21 compared to 2019-20
 - b. 3% in the pupil-led funding factors for 2021-22 compared to 2020-21
 - c. 3% in the pupil-led funding factors for 2022-23 compared to 2021-22
 - d. 2.4% in the pupil-led funding factors for 2023-24 compared to 2022-23
 - e. 2.7% in the pupil-led funding factors for 2024-25 compared to 2023-24

Proposals for 2024-25

8. The 2024-25 year will be the second transition year towards the direct schools National Funding Formula (NFF). A tightening of the formula will continue, following the first year of a move towards the direct NFF. This tightening will ensure that for the 2024-25 year that:
 - Only NFF factors can be used in the local formula
 - All NFF factors must be used in the formula
 - LAs are required to move their formula 10% closer to the NFF values
9. As with last year, Wiltshire's local school formula already mirrors the NFF and this is acknowledged by the DfE, therefore the tightening will have a minimal impact upon Wiltshire schools.
10. The DfE have announced the indicative DSG Block allocations, based upon October 2022 census data which formed the basis of the 2023-24 allocations. The only Block which can't be proposed at this early stage is the Early Years Block, which is subject to further work by the DfE and in-year changes.
11. The table below sets out the indicative DSG funding for the Schools, High Needs and Central Blocks. *(The figures for 2023-24 include the MSAG monies to enable a fair comparison to be drawn.)* The Early Years Block figures are simply replicated from the 2023-24 allocation to provide a view of the overall quantum of funding for 2024-25.

| | Schools* | High Needs | Central | Early Years | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2023-24 | £355,982,301 | £69,303,114 | £2,600,176 | £30,866,919 | £458,752,510 |
| 2024-25 | £366,935,033 | £72,967,232 | £2,653,884 | £30,866,919 | £473,423,068 |
| Headline Uplift | £10,952,732 | £3,664,118 | £53,708 | £0 | £14,670,558 |
| % Uplift | 3.08% | 5.29% | 2.07% | 0.00% | 3.20% |

* - Net of Growth funding

12. The main formula for the 2024-25 year is broadly similar to the formula for the 2023-24 year however there are some changes, as detailed below.
 - a. Overall, funding through the NFF will increase by 2.7%
 - b. Core pupil-led funding factors and the lump sum to increase by 2.4%
 - c. The 'Minimum per pupil funding level' to increase to.
 - i. £4,655 in primary (was £4,405 in 2023-24)
 - ii. £6,050 in secondary (was £5,715 in 2023-24)
 - d. The MSAG from 2023-24 has been rolled into the baseline funding and then inflated by the relevant percentage increases.
 - e. The Free School Meals factor (for the costs of providing a meal for eligible pupils) to increase by 1.6%
 - f. Setting the Minimum Funding Guarantee between 0.0% and 0.5%
 - g. Increasing the DfE's High Needs funding by £440m or 4.3%
 - h. A transfer of up to 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block will be permitted, subject to Schools Forum approval
 - i. The Central School Services Block comprises of 2 elements, funding towards.

- i. Historic Commitments - £188,089 (20% reduction year on year)
 - ii. Ongoing local authority responsibilities - £2,465,795
 - j. The MSAG Grant to continue to be funded for academy schools for the period between April 2024 and August 2024, to avoid an unfair gap in funding between maintained schools and academies. From the end of August 2024, the MSAG Grant will cease to operate as a separate grant.
 - k. All NFF factors must be used in the formula
 - l. The funding for EAL must be the EAL3 factor, meaning pupils will attract funding for the first three years they are within the state school system.
 - m. Formularising the split sites factor (national rather than local approach)
 - n. Adhere to new NFF requirements for growth funding
13. The 2024-25 year will be another 'soft' year with local Schools' Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology.
14. The Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) for the 2023-24 year will continue to be allocated outside of the NFF funding in the 2024-25 year.
15. Whilst most of the formula is unchanged, Appendix 1 highlights some of the subtle key changes to funding criteria of the NFF.

Funding Values Proposed in the NFF for 2024-25

16. The table below sets out the NFF funding values for school for the 2024-25 year.

| Factor | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|--------------------|
| Primary KS1&2 AWPU | £2,747 | £2,857 | £3,123* | £3,217 | £3,394** | £3,597*** |
| Secondary KS3 AWPU | £3,863 | £4,018 | £4,404* | £4,536 | £4,785** | £5,072*** |
| Secondary KS4 AWPU | £4,386 | £4,561 | £4,963* | £5,112 | £5,393** | £5,717*** |
| Primary & Secondary FSM | £440 | £450 | £460 | £470 | £480 | £490 |
| Primary FSM6 | £540 | £560 | £575 | £590 | £705** | £830*** |
| Secondary FSM6 | £785 | £815 | £840 | £865 | £1,030** | £1,210*** |
| IDACI Primary Band A | £575 | £600 | £620 | £640 | £670 | £685 |
| IDACI Primary Band B | £420 | £435 | £475 | £490 | £510 | £520 |
| IDACI Primary Band C | £390 | £405 | £445 | £460 | £480 | £490 |
| IDACI Primary Band D | £360 | £375 | £410 | £420 | £440 | £450 |
| IDACI Primary Band E | £240 | £250 | £260 | £270 | £280 | £285 |
| IDACI Primary Band F | £200 | £210 | £215 | £220 | £230 | £235 |
| IDACI Secondary Band A | £810 | £840 | £865 | £890 | £930 | £950 |
| IDACI Secondary Band B | £600 | £625 | £680 | £700 | £730 | £750 |
| IDACI Secondary Band C | £560 | £580 | £630 | £650 | £680 | £695 |
| IDACI Secondary Band D | £515 | £535 | £580 | £595 | £620 | £635 |
| IDACI Secondary Band E | £390 | £405 | £415 | £425 | £445 | £455 |
| IDACI Secondary Band F | £290 | £300 | £310 | £320 | £335 | £345 |
| Prior Attainment – Primary | £1,022 | £1,065 | £1,095 | £1,130 | £1,155 | £1,185 |
| Prior Attainment – Secondary | £1,550 | £1,610 | £1,660 | £1,710 | £1,750 | £1,790 |
| EAL – Primary | £515 | £535 | £550 | £565 | £580 | £595 |
| EAL - Secondary | £1,385 | £1,440 | £1,485 | £1,530 | £1,565 | £1,605 |
| Mobility – Primary | £0 | £875 | £900 | £925 | £945 | £970 |
| Mobility – Secondary | £0 | £1,250 | £1,290 | £1,330 | £1,360 | £1,395 |
| Lump Sum | £110,000 | £114,400 | £117,800 | £121,300 | £128,000** | £135,700*** |
| Sparsity – Primary (Max.) | £25,000 | £26,000 | £45,000 | £55,000 | £56,300 | £57,700 |
| Sparsity – Secondary (Max.) | £65,000 | £67,500 | £70,000 | £80,000 | £81,900 | £83,900 |
| Primary - MPPFL | £3,500 | £3,750 | £4,180 | £4,265 | £4,405 | £4,655 |
| Secondary – MPPFL | £4,800 | £5,000 | £5,415 | £5,525 | £5,715 | £6,050 |

* - Includes the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants of £180 for Primary and £265 for Secondary

** - Incorporates the Schools Supplementary Grant funding for 2022-23 for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum

*** - Incorporates the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant for 2024-25 for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum

Key Funding Decisions taken by Schools Forum in 2023-24 and for 2024-25

17. A number of funding decisions were taken by Schools Forum for the 2023-24 year and will have to be taken for the 2024-25 year including.
- To apply all the NFF factors
 - To fund all factors in line with the NFF guidance
 - To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee between 0.0% and +0.5%
 - To transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
 - Confirm compliance with any changes due to NFF

Role of Schools Forum and the Local Authority

18. The government has confirmed its intention to move to a single direct NFF by 2027-28 and to determine every school's budget centrally. For the 2024-25 year, the DfE have confirmed it will be another 'soft' year, with each LA along with its Schools Forum being able to determine its school funding formula.
19. All NFF factors have been mandatory since 2023-24 and the formula for Wiltshire will be presented to Schools Forum when the final allocations have been confirmed in December and then to the LA for political ratification and approval in February 2024.

Budget Setting Process 2024-25

20. Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE in January 2024. The DfE are required to confirm the formula is fully compliant with the funding regulations and will then confirm budgets to academies during February 2024. The LA and the DfE will need to notify maintained schools and academies of their budget shares by the end of February 2024, as in previous years.
21. The Local Authority has engaged in consultation with schools in the County, including any changes to the formula, movement between blocks and any de-delegation for maintained schools. In terms of setting the budgets for schools for 2024-25, the amount of funding available for distribution to schools will be calculated as follows.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| DSG Schools Block Allocation | xxx,xxx,xxx |
| Less: Growth Fund | x,xxx,xxx |
| Less: Transfer to Other Blocks | x,xxx,xxx |
| Total available for School Funding | xxx,xxx,xxx |

Growth Funding

22. The new approach introduced as part of the NFF for calculating the Growth funding will continue in the 2023-24 year. The County will be broken down into middle layer super output areas (MSOA's) and the growth in pupils in the MSOA area between the October 2023 census and the October 2022 census will attract funding at:
- £1,550 per primary pupil
 - £2,320 per secondary pupil
 - £76,195 for each new school (no new schools in Wiltshire this year)

23. The level of Growth funding required in 2024-25 and size of the Growth Fund will be determined later in the year along with confirmation of Growth funding criteria, to ensure compliance with NFF criteria

Initial Modelling

24. Initial modelling of the Schools Block demonstrates that the NFF is affordable, based upon the October 2022 census and therefore the full NFF could be fully implemented. There are questions for Schools Forum to consider regarding a move to the full NFF.

De-Delegation

25. There are several budgets included in the local formula that maintained schools only, can agree to de-delegate so that certain services continue to be provided centrally by the LA. De-delegation cannot be applied to amounts delegated to academies or to special schools. Schools Forum will take this decision on behalf of maintained schools, based upon the results of consultation responses.
26. For the 2023-24 year, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue as it had for those services de-delegated in 2022-23 and in previous years. This included the de-delegation of funding to support School Improvement services, previously funded by the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering Grant (LAMB).

Notional SEN

27. Mainstream schools and Academies will continue to receive a clearly identified budget for SEN, known as the Notional SEN budget. Using their notional SEN budget, mainstream schools and Academies will be expected to:
- meet the needs of pupils with low-cost, high-incidence SEN and
 - contribute the first £6,000 of provision for all pupils with high needs.

Questions for Schools Forum

28. Under the funding guidance for 2023-24, Schools Forum will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools Block allocation to other Blocks of the DSG.
29. As Wiltshire already mirrors the NFF, a decision regarding continuing to follow the NFF will need to be confirmed. No impact from the tightening requirements is likely to be felt in Wiltshire if a decision to continue following the NFF is agreed. (Wiltshire, alongside over 66% of LAs in England, is already mirroring the NFF).

Proposal

30. Schools Forum to note the content of the report and to consider the questions raised.

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Exceptional Circumstances

This factor is used in Wiltshire for those school who do not have their own facilities for holding 'whole school' events such as a hall or playing fields and are required to rent facilities.

Where the rental cost is greater than 1% of a school's budget then the school receives funding to help offset this additional cost.

Whilst the DfE will introduce a standardised system, there are no changes for 2024-25.

Growth Funding

From the 2024-25-year growth funding must be awarded to a school where the local authority (LA) has asked a school to provide a class to meet local basic need.

The funding to be awarded must be at least

Primary Growth Factor (£1,550) x Number of Pupils

The Wiltshire Growth Fund criteria exceeds this minimum standard expected and already applies growth funding where a school is expanded to meet basic need.

Falling Rolls Funding

For the first time, the DfE will issue funding to LAs based on falling rolls as well as growth in pupil numbers. Funding will be allocated based on the reduction in pupil numbers between the most recent October census and the previous October census.

There is no requirement to operate a falling rolls fund and if one were to be introduced, funding could only be awarded where the 2022 'School Capacity Data' demonstrated that school places would be required in the subsequent three to five years.

The requirement for schools to Ofsted judged 'Outstanding' or 'Good' has been removed.

Wiltshire, along with the majority of LA's does not have a Falling Rolls Fund, currently only 20 out of 153 LA's have such a Fund.

The formula for allocating funding to LA's will look at the MSOA's (Middle Layer Super Output Areas) between the October census dates. Where a fall in pupil numbers of greater than 10% is experienced, then for each MSOA area experiencing the fall, an allocation of £140,000 will be allocated to the LA.

Notional SEN

Each LA has discretion around how it calculates and sets the Notional SEN budget for its schools. Wiltshire has always followed the DfE's guidance around setting the Notional SEN budget, where the DfE would expect the calculation of Notional SEN to include.

- *A small part of the basic entitlement funding (AWPU)*
- *A larger part of the deprivation funding (to reflect the higher prevalence of lower-level SEN amongst disadvantaged pupils)*
- *The majority or whole of the low prior attainment funding (the best proxy for pupils with low-cost, high-incidence SEN)*

The DfE provide data relating to each LA's budget position and an analysis of the data has revealed that Wiltshire is very 'centrally placed' with its application of the Notional SEN calculation and comprises.

- *5% of Basic Entitlement funding (AWPU)*
- *50% of FSM6 and IDACI factors, but not FSM funding*
- *100% of Low Attainment funding*

Given that Wiltshire is using the key factors and very much in proportion with the National average, no changes to the formula will be proposed, pending any NFF guidance.

Split Site Funding

Split site funding is awarded to schools operating across more than one site and has formed part of the Wiltshire formula for several years. After a consultation period last year, the DfE have now determined that funding for this factor will be based upon a two-pronged criterion.

- **Basic eligibility** – schools attract a lump sum of funding for each additional eligible site (up to a maximum of three sites). Funding for this element in 2024-25 will be £54,300
- **Distance funding** – the additional site must be at least 100 metres from the main site. A tapering calculation will apply for distances between 100 metres and 500 metres, with the maximum funding being £27,100 and the minimum funding £0. The tapering will be on a straight-line basis.

The maximum amount of funding a school can receive for split site funding will be £81,400 for having two sites. This compares unfavourably to the current Wiltshire allocation for 2023-24 of £97,795. Schools impacted by this funding reduction will receive protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).