

# AGENDA

**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Place:** Online Meeting - Via Microsoft Teams  
**Date:** Thursday 6 October 2022  
**Time:** 1.30 pm

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

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<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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
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
Jon Hamp	Special School Academy Representative
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
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative
John Reed	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Ros Sutton	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Ian Tucker	Chair of WASSH - Secondary 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 2022-23.

2 **Election of Vice Chair**

To elect a Vice Chair of Schools Forum for 2022-23.

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 - 16*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022 (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. Please register with the Officer named on the Agenda 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 this agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 4 October 2022**. 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 29 September 2022** to allow a response to be formulated. Questions

are limited to a maximum of 2 per person or organisation.

8 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 17 - 22*)

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

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group held on 11 July and 23 September 2022
- Early Years Reference Group – 3 October 2022 (*to follow*).

9 **Wiltshire Schools Forum Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference** (*Pages 23 - 34*)

The report of Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer/Clerk to Schools Forum) seeks approval of the membership of the Forum and to revisions of the Terms of Reference in light of the review of proportionality that was carried out in September 2022.

10 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2022-23** (*Pages 35 - 40*)

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 2022-23 as at 31 August 2022.

11 **School Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2021-22** (*Pages 41 - 54*)

The report of Debbie Williams (Schools Strategic Financial Management Adviser) presents the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at 31 March 2022 and identifies those in surplus and deficit.

12 **Families and Children's Transformation Programme (FACT) Update**

Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead) will present an update on the Families and Children's Transformation Programme (FACT) to the Forum – particularly Wiltshire's multi-agency Family Help arrangements.

13 **Consultation - National Funding Formulae for Schools - 2023-24** (*Pages 55 - 62*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to confirm Schools Forum members response to the DfE's second stage consultation regarding implementing the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools.

14 **National Funding Formula for School and High Needs 2023-24** (*Pages 63 - 68*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to bring to the attention to Schools Forum the latest DfE funding changes for schools and high needs in 2023-24.

15 **Update from the High Needs Block Working Group** (*Pages 69 - 74*)

The minutes of the High Needs Block Working Group held on 7 July 2022 are attached. The Forum will also receive an update on behalf of the Working Group.

16 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings as follows, all to start at 1.30pm:

8 December 2022

19 January 2023

16 March 2023 (if required).

17 **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

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### **MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2022 AT ONLINE MEETING - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

#### **Present:**

Nikki Barnett, Aileen Bates, Lyssy Bolton, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Michele Chilcott, Sam Churchill, Stella Fowler, John Hawkins, Georgina Keily-Theobald, Lisa Percy (Chair), Graham Pike, John Proctor, Graham Shore (Vice-Chair), Trudy Srawley, Ian Tucker, David Whewell and Catriona Williamson

#### **Also Present:**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), and Cllr Suzanne Wickham (Portfolio Holder for SEND)

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#### **60 Apologies and Changes of Membership**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jane Davies (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND, Transition and Inclusion ), Jo Grenfell (Observer – Post 16, Wiltshire College), Jon Hamp (Special School Academy representative), Cllr Ross Henning (Observer – Local Youth Network), Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills), Cllr Dominic Muns (Portfolio Holder for Education), Graham Nagel-Smith (Primary Academy representative), Giles Pugh (Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education representative), Nigel Roper (Maintained Secondary School representative), Ros Sutton (Primary School Governor representative) and from Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director – People/Director of Children’s Services).

#### **Substitutions**

Nikki Bennett was the substitute for Jo Grenfell.  
Graham Pike was substitute for Graham Nagel-Smith.

There were no changes to the membership of Schools Forum.

#### **61 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 January 2022 were presented.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the Chair approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools Forum held on 20 January 2022.**

62 **Chair's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

63 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

64 **Public Participation**

No questions or statements were received in advance of the meeting.

65 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 31 March 2022.

There were no questions arising.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 23 May 2022.

There were no questions arising.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the minutes of the Early Years Reference group meeting on 31 March 2022 and the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 23 May 2022.**

66 **Update on the work from the F40 Group**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to provide Schools Forum with an update on the membership of the F40 group and their current work and highlighted the following:

- That Wiltshire were members of the F40 group as one of the 42 lowest funded local authority areas;
- The F40 group seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live and to remove historical discrepancies locked into how schools are funded;
- F40 more recently had become in highlighting the underfunding of SEND funding and the way it is calculated based on historic need and raises that there is a £1 billion overspend in local authorities for SEND;
- A number of senior politicians had been appointed to F40 – Sir Gary Streeter MP (Conservative), Layla Moran MP (Liberal Democrats) and



Emma Hardy MP (Labour). It is good to have political representation to bring issues to the fore;

- The recent work of the F40 group included MP briefings, meeting with the DfE in relation to the SEND review and working with the Education Policy Institute;
- Wiltshire benefits from its membership of F40 and follow their lead in the responses to national consultation; and
- When the DfE look at the per pupil funding rates on the 'league tables' Wiltshire primary schools are 109 out of 150 and secondary schools are 146 out of 150 worst funded authorities. The overall position of being 139 out of 150 of the worst funded does not sit comfortably.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) reported that they had received a letter from the F40 group to encourage local authorities and schools to ask their MP's to attend the MP briefings. WASSH were asked to write on behalf of Wiltshire Schools to encourage the Wiltshire MP's. Ian Tucker (Chair of WASSH) agreed to request this via WASSH.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the ongoing work of the F40 group on behalf of its members.**

67 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring - 2021-22**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which presented the year end budget monitoring information against the DSG for the financial year 2021-22 as at 31 March 2022 and highlighted the following:

- Despite low levels of funding and with an overspend of £7.066 million against the overall schools block, there was good recovery plan work being done and the final outturns ended up with more favourable position than previously forecast due to a slowing of EHCP plans;
- The Early Years underspend was largely due to the lower take up of the 3 and 4 year old funding - it was likely that some parents had decided not to send their children to take up their entitled place. The take up for disadvantaged 2-year-old take up was above what was planned and this was due to success with active promotion through Children's Centres staff and health visitors;
- The underspend on the Schools Budget largely relates to the schools growth fund which is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG;

- High needs budgets were overspent by £9.723m. The biggest areas of overspend are named pupil allowances and top ups, particularly post 16, independent special school packages, and Wiltshire pupils in non-Wiltshire provision. When the level of funding does not meet the local need the budget cannot be set at an achievable level and so the location of the overspend is not an indication of individual budget issues but that the whole block is under significant pressure;
- Whilst the numbers of EHCP's was still rising it had slowed slightly, however, this could be due to a number of factors including professionals having reduced access to and contact with pupils due to the Covid pandemic;
- The cost of Independent Special School fees had gone up by £784 per student but this would also be for the increase in teachers' pay and pension costs;
- The High Needs Working Group continue to meet regularly to discuss the recovery actions and look to investigate and address issues internally and with external partners;
- The DSG reserve brought forward of £18.717 million is adjusted by the negative early years block adjustment of £0.189 million. The overspend takes the reserve into an overall deficit position of £25.973 million which the local authority is cash flowing; and
- The DSG Management Plan is a live working document which continues to be updated. Officers from Wiltshire and two other local authorities had a meeting with the DfE in March to learn more about the DfE's Development Better Value (DVB) programme and the assistance on offer from the national recovery resources. Another meeting was planned to discuss the next steps and SEN and finance speciality and recovery plans and actions and funding attached to that transformational work and any funding for it.

A Primary School Governor representative asked about the slowing rate of EHCP and asked if that related to schools behaviour or the turnaround process and the changes affecting that? Marie Taylor responded that she felt it was slowing because there had not been eyes and ears on children (whilst there had not been during the school closures in the pandemic) and that since then they had been playing catch up and there were large numbers to keep up with back log. Transitional support payments were available to try and put funding into schools to respond to their needs. So, whilst there had been a drop in numbers off EHCP's this was due to a number of things, but mostly a catch up with the processing following a lull in the pandemic.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the year end budget monitoring position and the deficit DSG reserve balance as at 31 March 2022.**

68 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Statement 2022/23**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which presented the budget statement for the DSG for the financial year 2022-23 and highlighted the following:

- This report was a snapshot of the opening budget for 2022-23. The provisional allocation of the early years budget was £28.521 million and there would be adjustment by the DfE in the summer. The budgeted spend for 2 year old funding was £1.175 million with £25.254 million for 3 and 4 year olds. This budget was not increased by the supplementary grant due to the national increases to the hourly rates and other funds. The Inclusion Support Fund has been extended to 30 hours from 15 for 2022-23 as part of the preparation for schools programme within the high needs recovery plan. Any unspent COMF grant for Early Years could be rolled forward and this would be discussed with the Early Years Reference Group;
- The Schools budgets were increased and in addition schools have been allocated the schools supplementary grant to alleviate increases in energy, national insurance and other costs. Following consultation, a transfer of 0.5% was agreed from the Schools block to support the High Needs block and an amount equivalent to the 50% reduction in the school improvement brokerage and monitoring grant in January 2022 to replace the removal of this funding;
- The High Needs budget increased by £4.9 million (budget £65.105 million) but the estimates of requirement for 2022-23 exceeded this at the time of setting the budget by £11.160 million;
- The historical element of the Central Schools Services budget has been reduced by 20% in line with recent years, despite this a limited sum continues to be transferred to support the high needs block;
- The significant projected overspend for 2022-23 could create a deficit reserve of £37.133 million. The Director for Finance (Andy Brown) plans to co-ordinate a local authority response to the SEN review consultation as that DSG reserve is unsustainable for local authorities to manage; and
- It was hoped that the ongoing working of the High Needs Block Recovery Working Group would mitigate some of the projected overspend, however the impact of the majority of schemes was longer term.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the original dedicated schools budget statement and balance brought forward on the DSG reserve.**

69 **Update from the High Needs Block Working Group**

Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion) gave an update on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group and highlighted the following:

High Needs Block Recovery Plan

- The recovery plan was in place which detailed changes and mitigations in relation to the high needs block overspend. They were working to meet children's needs within Wiltshire schools so that there could be cost savings to reduce the overspend and to provide education for children in places as close to their homes as possible;
- There was DfE oversight and support in place with this and there was the possibility of additional support and funding for local authorities with significant overspends from the DfE;
- Additional places were being created through capital funding at special schools and resource bases including the creation of new resource bases for September 2022 at Silverwood School, Exeter House and other satellite locations; and
- There was ongoing consideration of gaps in available provision and how we can support this, e.g. SEMH provision and the wide range of need that this encompasses.

Wiltshire Costed Provision Map

- This tool had been set up to enable schools to detail what they are putting in place for their children with SEND. Cheshire East had developed a provision map and Officers had worked with them to gain their approval to utilise their costed provision map. Officers had worked with SENCO's in Wiltshire in its development and the feedback received so far was that the provision map was easy to use;
- A worked example an individual provision map for an NPA was shown at the meeting.

A Primary Governor representative asked about the rates of EHCP assessments had returned to the pre Covid rates? Cate Mullen responded that the rate of requests for EHCP's was not behaving in the way it was before Covid, the rate per month had remained steady with some ups and downs. There had usually been predicable patterns before Covid but since Covid there were fairly unpredictable patterns.

SEND Review (Green Paper)

- This was a large consultation document and there would be an additional SEND Board meeting to look at the 22 consultation questions. Responses were also being collated from colleagues to gather a multi-agency response across the local area and a response would be drafted by the local authority.

The Parent Carer representative reported that the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council had some consultations coming up for any parent carers who were struggling to make sense of the green paper.

[What we do - Have your say! - Important Opportunity to Have a Say on the SEND System & Alternative Provision in England - WPC \(wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk\)](http://wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)

#### **Resolved: That Schools Forum**

- 1. Note the minutes of the meeting of the High Needs Block Working Group held on 5 May 2022.**
- 2. Note the updates on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group.**

#### **70 DFE Consultation - 'Completing the reforms to the National Funding Formula'**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to provide Schools Forum with an update on the DfE consultation with stakeholders regarding their reforms to the National Funding Formula which took place between July and September 2021. The DfE have published their response following the consultation and the report sets out the outcome from the response and the proposed next steps. Grant highlighted the following:

- The consultation reflected the continued DfE journey towards a 'hard' formula with not or little local flexibility. In Wiltshire, the formula had been already aligned to the NFF and so there would be no or very little impact on budgets for Wiltshire schools;
- The key outcome was that the Government would bring forward the relevant legislation to achieve this change when parliamentary time allows. It was not known when this would be, however in the second consultation (that was released on 7 June 2022), 2027-28 is mentioned which is some 5 years away;
- The second consultation refers to split sites funding, exceptional premises factors (e.g. schools that down have their own hall or playing field etc), PFI funding and a national approach to funding growth and falling rolls;

- As part of the first consultation, stakeholders were asked about their views for moving maintained schools to being funded on an academic year basis. In the findings there was no clear majority in favour of a move so this would not be prioritised as a move towards the direct NFF;
- The move to a direct NFF would mean that the role of schools forums would change but the DfE expect they would continue to play an important part in local decision making and stakeholder engagement and the DfE also plan to review how schools forums engage with high needs funding issues following the SEND review;
- Officers would look to arrange a meeting towards the end of Term 6 of the School Funding and SEN Working Groups to gather feedback to be able to prepare a response on behalf of the local authority and to also provide a suggested response for schools to be able to respond.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the DfE's response to their consultation on reforms to the NFF.**

71 **Annual Schools Consultation - Delegation of Central Expenditure 2023-24, Funding for Education Functions 2023-24, Transfer of Funding from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2023-24**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to brief Schools Forum and agree a set of questions to be sent out to all schools in the autumn of 2022 and highlighted the following:

- Officers were getting organised early with the three areas of consultation that would be sent out to all schools in the autumn which related to de-delegation, funding for education functions and a proposed transfer of funding from the School Block to the High Needs Block;
- In relation to de-delegation, traditionally maintained schools had agreed collectively that central budgets be de-delegated and provided by the local authority;
- In relation to the funding for education functions, the DfE decided to reduce the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering Grant (LAMB) by 50% in 2022-23 with full removal in the 2022-23 year. A local consultation exercise was undertaken in advance of the 2022-23 year to determine whether maintained schools would elect to de-delegate funding from their budgets to support the loss in the LAMB grant;
- The School Effectiveness team were working to set out proposals regarding options for the delivery of the service from 2023-24, in order to consult with maintained schools and understand the most appropriate route to fulfil their needs; and

- A transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was agreed to contribute to the High Needs Block recovery plan in the 2022-23 financial year. As we move towards the 2023-24 year, Officers would consult with ALL schools which would cover a range of options ranging from transferring funds from Schools Block.

An early years representative asked that within the consultation Officers make it clear of the amounts involved with the proposals and included the total quantum.

**Resolved: That Schools Forum**

- 1. Decide on the consultation questions for maintained schools around delegation/de-delegation of budgets for central services within the schools' block.**
- 2. Decide on the consultation questions for all schools around setting the 2023-24 Schools budget.**

72 **Household Support Fund (HSF) - 2022-23**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which presented the Council's expenditure plan for the Household Support Fund grant received from the Department of Work and Pensions and highlighted the following:

- This fund was introduced in December 2021 as the 'Winter Grant' which was to support children and families during the pandemic. This then became the 'Local Grant' and has now become the Household Support Fund;
- The total Wiltshire allocation to date was £5.3 million and originally the majority of this funding had been for families with children but would now be split equally between individuals and families without children and families with children;
- The planned use of the current year's allocation of £2,728,656.41 sees 45% going to families with children, 33% allocated to pensioners and remaining funds going to other vulnerable residents by way of food banks, housing services, and Working Age Households.
- No Council admin costs had been factored into the grant as this was being absorbed but there would be payment card costs of £22,034;
- There was also a contingency fund if there was higher take up than planned, e.g. food banks; and

- There would be another allocation in Autumn 2022.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the expenditure plan for the Household Support Fund and the change of focus from a majority of funding aimed at support for families to support both families and other households equally.**

73 **Schools Finance Manual Update**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) gave a verbal update on the Schools Finance manual that relates to maintained schools and highlighted the following:

- That there had been a complete update and re-write of the schools Finance Manual for maintained schools in April 2022. Academies would use their own Trust financial handbook. The manual was available on Rightchoice and there was a range of topics covered.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the update on the Schools Finance manual that relates to maintained schools.**

74 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

The Forum noted that the future meetings would be held on:

6 October 2022  
8 December 2022  
19 January 2023  
16 March 2023.

75 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 3.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk) of Democratic Services

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email [communications@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@wiltshire.gov.uk)



## Schools Forum

### School Funding and SEN Working Group

#### EXTRAORDINARY MEETING – DfE follow up Consultation Questions on the NFF

#### MS TEAMS MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### Minutes

**Present:** Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Lisa Percy (Chair of SF / Hardenhuish), Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan’s Vale & Woodfalls), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep),

**Apologies:** Catriona Williamson (Mere) Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Georgina Theobald-Kiely (Downlands) Graham Shore (Deputy Chair SF / Holy Trinity)

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting and explained colleagues would be joining and leaving during the meeting to cover school duties and teaching cover arrangements.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were not considered.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><b>DfE Consultation</b></p> <p>The group had been sent the DfE consultation paperwork and the local authority’s initial response to consider prior to the meeting.</p> <p>GD took the group through the 25 consultation questions. This is a follow up consultation from the DfE and not contentious for Wiltshire schools as Wiltshire took the decision to align as closely as possible to the NFF when it was first introduced.</p> <p>Q1 – Trf to high needs block – the group agreed the fairest way was % across all budgets to reflect size and funding of schools. It was noted that ideally, the HNB should be fully funded at a level which reflected pupil needs and a transfer should not be required. Wiltshire ensures the NFF local model can be funded in full before considering transfers between blocks.</p> <p>Q2 – Indicative SEN budget – the group agreed the £6k should be nationally set</p> <p>Q3 – Growth - the group prefer local discretion as up to date information is held around place planning, pupil numbers and anticipated changes due to military, housing developments etc</p> <p>Q4 - Falling rolls fund – Wiltshire does not set a falling rolls fund and is not supportive of a falling rolls fund especially one which is limited for Excellent &amp; Good Ofsted inspection outcomes, because falling rolls can be due to a number of factors not linked to quality of education in school</p> <p>Q5 – Retain existing methodology – use of historic data is not supported, this methodology is used to allocate a substantial level of high needs block and this has impacted negatively on Wiltshire’s HNB funding levels, contributing to the DSG deficit.</p> <p>Q6 – Reinvest – there could be occasions where falling rolls fund may be able to be reinvested in a resource base or other specialist placement arrangements</p> <p>Q7 – Growth – local approach preferred, when funding is based on estimates and these do not transpire or are delayed, the clawback arrangements are wholly inappropriate, incongruous to stability, long term planning and recruitment and retention of teaching staff</p>	

	<p>Q8 – popular schools funding – academies already receive this not maintained schools so there should be alignment at least. Lagged funding delay. Repeat comments around clawback on Q7 above.</p> <p>Q9 – Agree 0.5 mile – reflects Wiltshire’s formula</p> <p>Q10 – Agree split site – reflects Wiltshire’s formula</p> <p>Q11 – 500m – agree – reflects Wiltshire’s formula</p> <p>Q12 – the group felt that a % of the lump sum was fair as Wiltshire is a large rural county with many small schools. These are at the heart of the community. Some schools have merged to ensure financial viability. The group felt that 60% was too low to reflect the genuine doubling up of front office, photocopier, caretaker etc costs of a second school site. The % should be at least 75% to align with Wiltshire’s 76.14%</p> <p>Q13 – the group felt that this was not appropriate – teaching staff tend to be fixed to one site, with HT, caretaker and admin covering both. MATS often share the same pool of staff and these travel between sites with no additional funding. It is therefore not required at an additional level.</p> <p>Q14 – the group agreed this may increase / decrease due to locally known factors or be part of financial recovery plans</p> <p>Q15 – same points in Q12 – 75% not 60% - if this is lower than 75% then MFG protection should be made available to help with the small rural schools who rely on being adequately funded</p> <p>Q16 – Exceptional rental costs – in Wiltshire we submitted a disapplication to reduce from the current 1% to 0.75% to reflect the lower cost better value arrangements in place. Increasing the % will encourage schools to pay their village hall / parish council higher rents to ensure they are funded on top of their SBS. Incongruous to value for money guidance local authorities are bound by.</p> <p>Q17 – Exceptional circumstances are by their very nature vastly different and therefore should be based on actuals so that the latest position is captured and funded.</p> <p>Q18 – MFG – Wiltshire enjoys less than £0.2M due to close alignment with NFF but we agree that schools should be protected from volatility to ensure strategic planning.</p> <p>Q19 – Any simplification of this would be welcomed – dependent upon pupil characteristics and so difficult for schools to forward plan</p> <p>Q20 – Greater transparency – perhaps develop a calculator tool to help schools project the majority of Wiltshire schools find it hard to project accurately into the future</p> <p>Q21 – (i) notional allocations – potentially less helpful (ii) calculator tool preferred; national formula factors, NOR, characteristics, provide for any uplifts (three year data preferred) so much more stability for schools – providing estimates of pay award tricky but could be provided without prejudice based on forecast BoE inflation.</p> <p>Q22 – Calculator tool - 3 year rolling budget helpful for schools planning, re: providing pay inflation estimates - the ESFA/DfE would benefit from knowing schools are all setting budgets on the same basis? Some schools may be too prudent and plan for worst case scenario – depending on level of reserves and if so, appropriate levels of funding may not all be allocated to pupils</p> <p>Q23 – annual October verification could be speedier by the DfE- the most efficient option is the current local authority data driven one</p> <p>Q24 – De-delegation – interesting proposal to continue with de-delegation in new NFF, economies of scale for the LA can be shared with schools, not for profit approach, certain income levels allow LA’s better planning. Data collection just needs to be build into the academisation process, nothing more complex than that</p> <p>Q25 – Timing – works well in Wiltshire Schools Forum</p>	
5.	<p><b>Communication Strategy</b></p> <p>MT and GD thanked the group for their input and confirmed the SFWG response would be shared with  LA colleagues  Wilts Learning Alliance  PHF chair  WASSH chair  WGA chair</p>	GD

	Published on the Right Choice and on the HT weekly newsletter – whilst school leaders would be encouraged to submit responses, this consultation is not contentious for Wiltshire Schools	
6.	<b><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting – N/A</i></b>	

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**Schools Forum**  
**School Funding and SEN Working Group**

**MS TEAMS MEETING**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Debbie Williams (Finance, LA) Lisa Percy (Chair of SF / Hardenhuish), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere) Georgina Theobald-Kiely (Downlands) John Reed (Lyneham) Sharon Buxton (Business Manager, Walwayne Court, Observer)

**Apologies:** Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), Simon Thomas (LA), Gary Binstead (LA), Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Graham Shore (Deputy Chair SF / Holy Trinity)

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting and explained that the rearrangement due to Her Majesty the Queen's funeral on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 meant that higher numbers of officers and school leaders than usual were able to attend.</p> <p>MT welcomed John Reed (Lyneham Primary) to the group as PHF rep replacing Sam Churchill.</p> <p>GD introduced Sharon Buxton, Business Manager at Walwayne Court who was observing the meeting as part of her CPD.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>MT ran through the actions - complete with no outstanding actions.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Schools Funding (DSG) Budget Monitoring (MT)</b></p> <p>MT shared her report &amp; appendices – highlights, underspends in EY will be subject to a post financial year adjustment in June/July 2023 by the DfE. Schools block growth fund small underspend offsets the HNB pressures. HNB pressures in line with demand for services and previous years demand patterns – and the focus on assessments and September placements means that the current forecast is now believed to be understated. Joint schools and local authority recovery work in this area on going – Wiltshire have joined the DfE's Developing Better Value programme offer (phase 2) which gives us the opportunity to apply for transformational funding.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Schools Revenue Surplus &amp; Deficit Balances (DW)</b></p> <p>DW shared her report &amp; appendices – overall the number of maintained schools has fallen however the net combined balance has increased from £11.671m at the end of the 20-21 FY to £13.353m at the end of the 21-22 FY. Some of this increase is due to the pandemic and schools closures, being unable to spend ringfenced grants such as PPG PE grant. There was a lively discussion around appropriate levels of reserves in school and links to school performance and inspection outcomes. DW confirmed that some of the balances were genuine and ringfenced for capital programmes (GT-K confirmed this was the case for a joint LA project at her school) GD's view is that with the future pressures facing schools such as teachers pay award and starting pay bands, support</p>	

	<p>staff pay increase of £1,925 per full time employee and increases in inflation generally, especially energy costs, the schools would need those to manage the pressures. GD asked LP to confirm the advice for academies from the ESFA and LP explained that there was no guidance but that adequate reserves were expected. CW clarified that the LA no longer had no statutory powers to reclaim excess surplus deficits from maintained schools.</p> <p>Action: DW to update SS budgets to include top up funding in the 'total funding' for Special Schools for comparative purposes.</p>	DW
6.	<p><b>NFF – for Schools &amp; High Needs 2023-24 (GD)</b></p> <p>GD ran through his report which outlined the impact of the DfE's July publication. A positive is that we advised schools to budget for a 2% uplift and in the event, it is 2.4% The DfE recognise that Wiltshire is closely aligned to the NFF already and we anticipate the full hard NFF to be in place by 2027-28. As we know nationally HNB is poorly funded, and this is especially compounded for Wiltshire as so much of the formula is based on historic data.</p> <p>There are challenges for schools, around the pay award, inflation and energy costs and schools will need to use balances where they have them to manage this across the short to medium term.</p> <p>Decisions will need to be made in principle in December and once the actual allocations are received, the final budget set in January – consideration will be given to transfers between blocks, de-delegation, and minor formula factors not aligned to the NFF.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Consultations (GD)</b></p> <p>GD shared his report including the results from the second stage of the NFF consultation (July – Sept 21) from the DfE.</p> <p>As Wiltshire aligns closely with the NFF there are no issues however it will be interesting to see how the DfE develop their formulaic approach towards split site allowance, PFI, exceptional circumstances, growth &amp; falling rolls fund. GD went on to explain how the DfE intended SF to have a role moving forward but that this would be more consultation around early years, SEND and de-delegation.</p> <p>There were two questions for Schools Forum to consider which will give the local authority a steer when modelling for the December report suite.</p> <p>Following the extraordinary meeting of the SFWG in the summer, the f40 published their responses and these were aligned to our own.</p>	
8.	<p><b>AOB (MT)</b></p> <p>MT explained that the Council was taking steps to consider support for staff, residents and businesses with regard to the current financial situation in the UK. Alongside, HH, MT had been invited to attend a meeting later that day where she intended to represent EY settings and schools which form part of the business work cell.</p>	
9.	<p><b><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></b></p> <p>The next Schools Forum meeting after our October meeting will be <b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 @ 1.30pm</b>. This is planned as a face-to-face meeting.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting of this group is scheduled for <b>Monday 21st November at 8.30am</b>. This is planned as a virtual teams meeting.</p>	

**Wiltshire Council**

**Wiltshire Schools Forum**

**6 October 2022**

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## **Wiltshire Schools Forum Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference**

### **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.

The Proportionality was last reviewed on 15 September 2021 and confirmed the changes proposed at the meeting on 21 January 2021 to change the primary school representation from 4 maintained and 2 academy Head teacher representatives to 3 maintained and 3 academy representatives. These changes were implemented from September 2021 and ratified by Schools Forum at their meeting on 7 October 2021.

The Terms of Reference of Schools Forum was last reviewed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 10 October 2019 and subsequently approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills on 31 March 2020. Due to the changes above it is now necessary to review and update the Forum's Terms of Reference and then seek final approval by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills through the delegated decision process.

Officers have now conducted a further review of the balance of membership between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academies members (which must be broadly proportionate to pupil numbers) and it was agreed that the current membership should not be amended as it reflects the current breakdown of the total numbers on roll in schools as at the October 2021 census, updated for academy conversions.

### **Proposals**

That Wiltshire Schools Forum:

- a) Notes that the proportionality of the Forum has been reviewed and that no changes are recommended.
- b) Considers the revised Terms of Reference and endorse the proposed changes, requesting that that these then be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills for approval through the delegated decision process.

- c) Notes the current Membership details of the Forum.
- d) Recommends that representatives to any vacancies detailed in the report be requested to be appointed by appropriate bodies, as soon as possible.

**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**  
**(Director – Education & Skills)**



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**Wiltshire Schools Forum Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval of the membership of the of the Forum and agree revisions of the Forum's Terms of Reference by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills in light of the review of the proportionality of membership that was conducted in September 2022.

**2. Proportionality of Membership**

- 2.1 The table below sets out the current proportionality of schools in Wiltshire following the changes that were agreed at the meeting in October 2021.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>TORS 2019</b>	<b>TORS 2021</b>	<b>Current Representation</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
Primary	21,041	4	<b>3</b>	3	
Primary Academy	17,114	2	<b>3</b>	3	
Secondary	3,008	1	1	1	
Secondary Academy	23,094	3	3	3	
Special	505	1	1	1	
Special Academy	387	1	1	1	
Governors		4	4	4	
Union		1	1	1	
Diocese		1	1	1	
Early Years		2	2	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,149</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>

- 2.2 There has been a change to the pupil numbers but not to the proportionality of the membership of Schools Forum. However, the Terms of Reference do require to be updated to incorporate the change made in September 2021 and approval will be duly sought from the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills.

**3 Terms of Reference**

- 3.1 Attached as **Appendix 1** to this report is the "Proposed Terms of Reference for Schools Forum – October 2022". Minor amendments have been made to update the membership numbers, the procedure for submitting a

statement to the meeting and details of how the minutes of the meetings are disseminated.

- 3.2 Endorsement is sought for these changes to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills and for her to seek approval through the delegated decision process to confirm those changes to the Forum's Terms of Reference.

#### 4. Membership of the Wiltshire Schools Forum

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

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>
1. Andy Bridewell	Maintained Primary	Primary Heads Forum (PHF)
2. John Reed	Maintained Primary	PHF
3. Catriona Williamson	Maintained Primary	PHF
4. Georgina Keily-Theobald	Maintained Special School	Wiltshire Association of Secondary School Heads (WASSH)
5. <i>Vacancy</i> (Nick Norgrove for October 2022 meeting)	Maintained Secondary	WASSH

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>
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. Ian Tucker	Secondary Academy	WASSH
12. Jon Hamp	Special School Academy	WASSH

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>
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. John Proctor	Early Years	PVI

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) <i>Appointed September 2022</i>	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

- 4.4 In light of the above, the Forum is asked to note that a maintained secondary school representative is due to be appointed by WASSH following in October 2022 to fill the current vacancy. Nick Norgrove will represent the Maintained Secondary Heads for the October 2022 Schools Forum meeting.

## 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) Considers the revised Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix 1) and endorse the proposed changes, requesting that that these then be

presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills for approval through the delegated decision process.

- c) Notes the current Membership details of the Forum.
- d) Recommends that a representative to the vacancy detailed in the report be requested to be appointed by the Wiltshire Association for Secondary and Special School Heads (WASSH) 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)**  
**(Director – Education & Skills)**

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Report Author: Lisa Pullin

Democratic Services Officer  
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26 September 2022

## **Appendices**

- 1 - Proposed changes to the Forum's Terms of Reference

**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".
- **6 5** elected Head teacher representatives (1 secondary school, **4 3** primary schools and 1 special school)
  - **6 7** Academy representatives (1 secondary school, **2 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, in each financial year from April 2003.

## **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. ~~and can be received up to 10 minutes before the start of 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 sent 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 – 10 October 2019~~

~~Approved by Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills – 31 March 2020~~

To be agreed by Schools Forum – 6 October 2022

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**Schools Forum Funding & SEN Working Group**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**

**Schools Forum**  
**6th October 2022**

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**DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2022-23**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2022-23 as at 31st August 2022.

**Main Considerations**

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st August 2022.
3. An overspend of £7.037 million is currently projected 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. The detailed budget monitoring report is shown in Appendix 1.

***Early Years Budgets (Budget £31.047M, forecast variance (2.366M))***

4. The DfE have updated the early years allocations following the January census data collection. As a result, both the allocation and forecast underspend have increased significantly.
5. Although this is forecast, it is anticipated that the DfE’s post financial year adjustment will adjust for this in whole or, part in the 2023-24 financial year if the January 2023 census numbers fall.

	<b>Budgeted PTE</b>	<b>Forecast PTE</b>	<b>Forecast PTE Variance</b>	<b>Budgeted Spend £M</b>	<b>Forecast Spend £M</b>	<b>Forecast spend Variance £M</b>
2-year-olds	828	798	(30)	2.686	2.589	(0.097)
3- & 4-year olds	10,738	9,732	(1,006)	27.055	24.746	(2.309)
ISF	2,826 (hours)	3,240 (hours)	414 (hours)	0.537	0.616	0.079

**COMF Grant Funding**

6. Early Years officers have submitted a 2022-23 bid to the Director of Public Health to facilitate containment of the virus.
  - a. Payment to open or partially open settings - funded and non-funded provision; a one-off grant to support purchase of PPE and increased cleaning costs. £0.370 million.

- b. Deep cleaning and hardship fund – available for applications of support £0.100 million.
7. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

**Schools Budgets (Budget £326.956M, forecast variance (£0.099M))**

8. The forecast underspend on schools largely relates to the school supply cover fund which currently shows a forecast underspend and is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG.

**High Needs Budgets (Budget £66.415M, forecast variance £9.414M)**

9. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £9.414m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School packages, alternative provision, named pupil allowances and top ups. When the level of funding available does not match the local needs, the budget cannot be set at an achievable level and so the location of the overspend is not an indication of individual budget issues but that the whole block under significant pressure.
10. Following the pandemic, when professionals could not assess children and young people in school, EHC assessments were delayed due to inevitable backlog. Whilst we have put in place temporary support funding to support learners, we have not seen the same rate of growth in plans, and our assumptions around future plans will need constant adjustment to be as accurate as possible.
11. The major driver of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in FTE – full time equivalent pupils. Variance analysis is provided at Appendix 2. Please note the lower growth rate of EHCPs than in previous years in the table below.

	<b>Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire</b>	<b>Prior Year Data (2021-22)</b>
Number as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	4,371	(01/4/21) – 4,118
As at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	4,530	(31/8/21) – 4,242
Forecast demand to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 (based on historical trend)	4,817	(31/3/22) – 4,371
Annual movement	<b>446 (10.2% increase)</b>	<b>253 (6.1% increase)</b>

12. As Schools Forum are aware, much work has been done, over recent years to investigate and address the issues. More detail is reported regularly through the high needs working group update from the Director, Education and Skills.

**Central School Services Block (Budget £2.344M, forecast variance £0.089M)**

13. There is a small forecast overspend in this area driven by a higher than budgeted pay award and not achieving the 6.5% vacancy factor.

**DSG Reserve**

14. The reserve brought forward of £25.973 million is increased by the positive early years block adjustment of £0.564 million. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £32.446 million.

15. The local authority is working closely with the DfE Developing Better Value partners CIPFA and Newton to enhance our current plans, adding insight from other local authority action plans and offering the opportunity to bid for transformational funding.
16. At the next available meeting, the early years reference group will consider limited one off usage of the early years contingency to support children for school readiness and support for vulnerable early years pupils with additional needs.

<b>DSG Reserve</b>	<b>Early Years Ringfence (effective 01-04-21)</b>	<b>Schools Block, HNB &amp; Central</b>	<b>Total 20/21 FY</b>
Balance Brought Forward from 21-22	(1.692)	27.665	25.973
Early Years Adjustment 21-22 prior year	(0.564)		(0.564)
Forecast variance 22-23	(2.366)	9.404	7.037
Estimated balance CFWD 22-23	<b>(4.622)</b>	<b>37.069</b>	<b>32.446</b>

### **Proposals**

17. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of August 2022 in conjunction with the high needs recovery plan report later in the agenda.

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Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31st August 2022

70.474 5.63793552 23.059 0.9223634

a	b	c	d = (c-b)	e = (d/b)	f	d = (c-b)	g
Service Area	Current Annual Budget £m	Period 5 Forecast £m	Period 5 Forecast Variance £m	%	21/22 Outturn Variance	July forecast variance £m	Budget Move- ment from Previous Report
Three to Four Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding	27.055	24.746	(2.309)	-8.53%	(2.004)	(2.316)	0.007
Two Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding	2.686	2.589	(0.097)	-3.61%	0.111	(0.094)	-0.004
Early Years Inclusion Support Fund	0.537	0.616	0.079	14.63%	0.089	0.079	0.000
Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF	0.339	0.307	(0.032)	-9.46%	(0.049)	(0.032)	0.000
Early Years Central Expenditure	0.430	0.423	(0.007)	-1.57%	(0.032)	(0.006)	-0.000
<b>Early Years Block</b>	<b>31.047</b>	<b>28.681</b>	<b>-2.366</b>	<b>-7.62%</b>	<b>-1.885</b>	<b>-2.370</b>	<b>0.004</b>
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools	112.992	112.992	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools	210.762	210.762	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Education Functions	0.230	0.230	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Licences and Subscriptions	0.055	0.040	(0.015)	-27.49%	0.002	(0.015)	0.000
Free School Meals	0.029	0.029	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness)	0.641	0.547	(0.094)	-14.72%	(0.091)	(0.096)	0.001
Behaviour Support Team	0.665	0.665	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement	0.565	0.565	0.000	0.04%	(0.061)	(0.039)	0.039
<b>De Delegated Total</b>	<b>1.954</b>	<b>1.845</b>	<b>-0.109</b>	<b>-5.59%</b>	<b>-0.150</b>	<b>-0.150</b>	<b>0.040</b>
Growth Fund	1.019	1.029	0.010	0.95%	(0.795)	0.010	0.000
<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>326.956</b>	<b>326.857</b>	<b>-0.099</b>	<b>-0.03%</b>	<b>-0.795</b>	<b>-0.140</b>	<b>0.040</b>
Special School Place Funding	8.337	8.337	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Resource Base (RB) Funding	1.567	1.567	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	1.793	1.793	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>High Needs Block (all schools)</b>	<b>11.697</b>	<b>11.697</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	7.141	7.515	0.374	5.24%	1.093	0.374	0.000
Special School Top-Up	8.626	10.141	1.515	17.56%	1.664	1.515	0.000
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	1.982	2.457	0.475	23.97%	0.206	0.475	0.000
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	2.420	2.490	0.070	2.89%	1.163	0.070	0.000
Estimate of Transitional Support (TSP) payments	1.000	1.216	0.216	21.62%	0.459	0.220	-0.004
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.875	2.875	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00%	(0.029)	0.000	0.000
<b>Devolved to Maintained &amp; Top Up Total</b>	<b>24.044</b>	<b>26.694</b>	<b>2.650</b>	<b>11.02%</b>	<b>4.555</b>	<b>2.653</b>	<b>-0.004</b>
Wiltshire College Places	2.118	2.118	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	2.393	3.245	0.852	35.58%	0.775	0.847	0.004
Post-16 Top-Up	6.167	6.546	0.379	6.15%	3.050	0.379	0.000
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	11.637	14.404	2.766	23.77%	1.627	2.392	0.375
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	2.370	5.285	2.915	122.96%	0.308	2.915	0.000
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.491	0.486	(0.005)	-1.08%	(0.066)	(0.043)	0.037
<b>Funding for Places outside Schools</b>	<b>25.177</b>	<b>32.083</b>	<b>6.906</b>	<b>27.43%</b>	<b>5.695</b>	<b>6.490</b>	<b>0.416</b>
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.454	0.422	(0.032)	-7.05%	(0.032)	(0.032)	0.000
Speech & Language	0.564	0.564	0.000	0.00%	(0.015)	0.000	0.000
SEND Business Support	0.115	0.110	(0.005)	-4.36%	0.000	(0.004)	-0.001
0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams	2.564	2.519	(0.045)	-1.77%	(0.206)	(0.058)	0.013
Specialist Teacher Advisory Service	1.390	1.331	(0.059)	-4.28%	(0.132)	(0.154)	0.094
Other Special Education	0.409	0.409	0.000	0.00%	(0.149)	0.000	0.000
<b>Commissioned &amp; SEN Support Services</b>	<b>5.497</b>	<b>5.355</b>	<b>-0.142</b>	<b>-2.58%</b>	<b>-0.533</b>	<b>-0.248</b>	<b>0.106</b>
<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>66.415</b>	<b>75.829</b>	<b>9.414</b>	<b>14.17%</b>	<b>9.717</b>	<b>8.895</b>	<b>0.519</b>
Central Licences	0.409	0.409	(0.000)	0.00%	0.000	(0.000)	0.000
Central Provision (Former ESG)	1.191	1.272	0.081	6.80%	0.266	0.017	0.064
Admissions	0.447	0.455	0.008	1.76%	(0.015)	0.000	0.007
Servicing of Schools Forums	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Central Provision within Schools Budget</b>	<b>2.050</b>	<b>2.139</b>	<b>0.089</b>	<b>4.33%</b>	<b>0.251</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.071</b>
Education Services to CLA	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.00%	(0.081)	0.000	0.000
Child Protection in Schools & Early Years	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Prudential Borrowing	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Historic Commitments</b>	<b>0.294</b>	<b>0.294</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-0.081</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Central School Services</b>	<b>2.344</b>	<b>2.433</b>	<b>0.089</b>	<b>3.79%</b>	<b>0.170</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.071</b>
<b>Total Schools Budget</b>	<b>426.762</b>	<b>433.799</b>	<b>7.037</b>	<b>1.65%</b>	<b>7.056</b>	<b>6.404</b>	<b>0.634</b>
Pupil Premium (academy & maintained)	15.284	15.284	0.000	0			
6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant)	1.118	1.118	0.000	0			
UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained)	5.543	5.543	0.000	0			
PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained)	1.508	1.508	0.000	0			
<b>DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools</b>	<b>23.452</b>	<b>23.452</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING</b>	<b>450.214</b>	<b>457.251</b>	<b>7.037</b>	<b>1.56%</b>			

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 31st August 2022 - this is an estimate of net expenditure on the schools budget

Appendix 2 - the service forecasts of planned activity in FTE (full time equivalent pupils) as at 31st August 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>	$k = (j-i)$	$l = (k/i)$	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>o</i>
Volume analysis	Budgeted Activity FTE	Period 5 Forecasted Activity FTE	Period 5 Forecasted Variance FTE	Variance %	21/22 Outturn Volume	Volume movement from Previous Report	Forecast Average Prices	21/22 Actual Average Prices	Unit
Three/Four Year Olds	10,738	9,732	(1,006)	-9%	9,721	4	£4.42	£4.25	p/hr
Two Year Olds	828	798	(30)	-4%	828	44	£5.69	£5.48	p/hr
ISF	2,826	3,240	414	0%	0	3,240	£190	£615	per child
							£0.53	£0.53	p/hr
<b>Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET</b>	<b>14,392</b>	<b>13,770</b>	<b>(622)</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>10,549</b>	<b>3,200</b>			
Sp Sch Place Funding	862	862	0	0%	806	-	£9,671	£10,000	pa
RB Funding	335	335	0	0%	329	-	£4,679	£6,000	pa
ELP Funding	301	301	0	0%	315	0	£5,965	£6,000	pa
	<b>1,498</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>0</b>			
NPA	1,620	1,569	(52)	-3%	1,215	1	£4,791	£6,235	pa
Special School Top-Up	799	931	132	17%	872	2	£10,891	£11,370	pa
RB Top-Up	330	397	66	20%	383	0	£6,191	£5,800	pa
ELP Top-Up	513	507	(6)	-1%	444	1	£4,911	£6,374	pa
TSP		106	106	0%	95	0	£11,470	£4,325	pa
	<b>3,262</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£7,606</b>	<b>£8,539</b>	pa
Wiltshire College Places	353	353	0	0%	350	-	£6,000	£6,000	pa
Non Wiltshire Schools	178	231	53	30%	216	1	£14,052	£13,196	pa
Post-16 Top-Up	568	685	117	21%	544	31	£9,551	£10,629	pa
Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch	219	271	52	23%	259	4	£53,183	£52,022	pa
SEN AP, DP & EHE	172	419	247	144%	197	2	£12,600	£13,185	pa
	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>£16,372</b>	<b>£17,415</b>	pa
<b>High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>£10,884</b>	<b>£11,522</b>	

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



**Wiltshire Council**

**School Funding Working Group: September 2022**

**Schools Forum: 6 October 2022**

## Schools Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2021/22

### Introduction

1. This report presents the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and identifies those in surplus and deficit.
2. The net surplus balances for the financial year 2021/22 are £13.3 million with 110 schools holding surplus balances of £15.9 million and 13 schools in deficit to a value of £2.57 million.
3. In October 2021, members considered a report on schools' balances and deficits as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. In that report the net surplus balances were £11.67 million with 113 schools holding surplus balances of £14.39 million and 13 schools in deficit to a value of £2.72 million.
4. The number of LA maintained schools has decreased from 126 to 123 between 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 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: -

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Balances as % of 2021/22 Budget Share %	Increase/ Decrease from 2020/21 £	Increase/ Decrease from 2020/21 %
	£	£	£			
Primary	7,511,918	11,042,554	11,319,252	9.35	276,699	2.51
Secondary	-1,645,752	-545,039	708,889	0.59	1,253,928	-230.06
Special	571,713	1,173,283	1,325,008	1.09	151,725	12.93
	<b>6,437,878</b>	<b>11,670,798</b>	<b>13,353,150</b>	<b>11.02</b>	1,682,352	<b>*14.42</b>

\*NB: this represents the total percentage increase in all schools' balances between 2020/21 and 2021/22

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		
	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Primary	8,611,811	11,821,389	12,199,527	-1,099,893	-778,835	-880,274
Secondary	727,840	1,398,129	2,396,774	-2,373,592	-1,943,168	-1,687,885
Special	619,073	1,173,283	1,325,008	-47,360	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,958,724</b>	<b>14,392,800</b>	<b>15,921,419</b>	<b>-3,520,845</b>	<b>-2,722,003</b>	<b>-2,568,160</b>

7. **Appendix 1**, attached to this report details the revenue surplus and deficit balances for individual maintained schools. (For Special Schools, their income comprise 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:
- 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.
  - 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 2021/22 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 12 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 £13.35 million in 2021/22 has increased by £1.68 million (14.4%) from the 2020/21 balance of £11.67 million.
13. Analysis of the gross revenue surplus and deficit balances reveals that between 2020/21 and 2021/22 surplus balances have increased by 10.6% and deficit balances have decreased by 5.6%.
14. The number of schools in deficit has remained the same at 13 and the value of the deficits has decreased by £0.15 million from £2.72 million in 2020/21 to £2.57 million in 2021/22.

15. The number of schools in surplus has decreased from 113 in 2020/21 to 110 in 2021/22, This is due to 3 schools with surplus balances converting to academy status. The value of surpluses increased by £1.53 million, from £14.39 million in 2020/21 to £15.92 million in 2021/22.
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.
17. Many schools are still holding large surplus balances following the Covid 19 pandemic and the additional funding granted to support schools.

## **Proposals**

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

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## School revenue balances as at 31st March 2022

School number	School Name	B01 & B02 Total Revenue Balances	School Budget Share	Balance as % of Budget Share
2003	Fynamore Community	123,164	1732135	7.11%
2005	Nursteed Community Primary School	223,683	901449	24.81%
2009	Bratton Primary School	-117,652	672801	-17.49%
2023	St Pauls Primary School	55,403	761589	7.27%
2027	Marlborough St Mary's	273,584	1786943	15.31%
2031	Neston Primary School	112,017	867572	12.91%
2034	Monkton Park Primary School	71,321	1107810	6.44%
2045	Gomeldon Primary School	80,404	582175	13.81%
2052	Hilmarton Primary School	28,734	578025	4.97%
2053	Horningsham Primary School	19,565	442502	4.42%
2060	Luckington Community School	26,558	368136	7.21%
2086	Stanton St Quintin Primary School	30,077	404907	7.43%
2087	Ramsbury Primary School	101,819	855291	11.90%
2091	Harnham Infant School	69,237	885509	7.82%
2136	Westbury Infants	121,996	1007287	12.11%
2137	Westwood with Iford School	79,406	416305	19.07%
2140	Wootton Bassett Infants School	16,672	667439	2.50%
2159	Kiwi School	313,569	1579831	19.85%
2168	Priestley Primary School	162,303	1356054	11.97%
2170	Grove Primary School	251,590	1602731	15.70%
2178	Princecroft School	-35,672	823720	-4.33%
2180	Redland Primary School	287,396	1268790	22.65%
2184	Longleaze School	183,066	1066023	17.17%
2185	Mere School	109,466	896550	12.21%
2190	Woodlands Primary School	60,834	980380	6.21%
2191	Manor Fields Primary School	55	1075749	0.01%
2196	Holbrook Primary School	88,284	1031834	8.56%
2218	Kings Lodge Primary School	207,525	1348861	15.39%
2222	Walwayne Court Primary School	141,286	1162194	12.16%
2225	Bitham Brook Primary School	110,621	1567980	7.06%
2226	Charter Primary School	90,086	1030124	8.75%
2227	Newtown Community Primary School	184,819	892135	20.72%
3002	Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School	110,397	943126	11.71%
3013	Box CE Primary School	133,165	724633	18.38%
3015	Christ Church Primary School	605,138	1783024	33.94%
3017	Longford C of E Primary School	39,896	443149	9.00%
3018	Broad Hinton C. of E. Primary School	84,016	538731	15.60%
3019	Broad Town C of E Primary School	81,157	414273	19.59%
3020	St. Nicholas Church of England (VC) Primary School	9,145	497379	1.84%
3035	Cherhill CE Primary School	50,378	856684	5.88%
3040	Colerne CE Primary School	86,182	1118020	7.71%
3045	St Sampsons CE Junior School	284,672	1348779	21.11%
3047	Crockerton Church of England	193,107	479895	40.24%
3048	Crudwell C E Primary School	20,571	570874	3.60%
3049	Collingbourne CE Primary School	63,523	531412	11.95%
3063	Durrington CE Controlled Junior School	83,385	827539	10.08%
3086	Heddington C E Primary School	34,264	436833	7.84%
3088	Hilperton C. E. Primary School	144,453	713147	20.26%
3090	Holt V C Primary School	103,644	679262	15.26%
3091	Hullavington C.E. Primary School	186,665	668542	27.92%
3096	Kington St Michael CE Primary School	180,675	597901	30.22%
3100	Lacock CE VC Primary School	18,036	431499	4.18%
3102	Langley Fitzurse C.E. School	101,135	495551	20.41%
3104	Lea and Garsdon C.E. Primary School	105,965	566608	18.70%
3134	Newton Tony Church of England Primary School	148,355	473394	31.34%

3135 North Bradley C of E Primary School	352,999	845447	41.75%
3140 Oaksey CE VC Primary School	6,025	510993	1.18%
3149 Preshute Primary School	6,377	799226	0.80%
3150 St. Marys C.E. Primary School	170,609	1492999	11.43%
3158 Harnham Junior School	133,813	1352851	9.89%
3161 Shalbourne C E Primary School	39,901	294195	13.56%
3163 Sherston (CE) Primary School	77,026	591933	13.01%
3166 Southwick CE Primary School	190,537	832276	22.89%
3170 Staverton CE Primary School	147,444	1102858	13.37%
3172 Stratford-Sub-Castle VC Primary	-359,261	654097	-54.92%
3174 Sutton Veny CE Primary	76,342	684106	11.16%
3186 Urchfont CE Primary School	120,521	515378	23.38%
3191 The Minster CE Primary School	187,936	879298	21.37%
3192 Westbury C.E. Junior School	5,972	1224284	0.49%
3193 Westbury Leigh C.E. Primary School	33,728	1390602	2.43%
3201 Winterbourne Earls C E Controlled Primary School	85,948	811753	10.59%
3205 Sambourne CE Primary School	13,589	560775	2.42%
3220 Minety C E Primary School	40,911	631904	6.47%
3222 St. Barnabas School	75,852	471634	16.08%
3229 Coombe Bissett School	-8,396	563159	-1.49%
3230 Dinton Church of England Primary School	79,166	494798	16.00%
3239 St Johns CE Primary School	664	602858	0.11%
3242 Brinkworth Earl Danbys CE Primary School	48,340	786986	6.14%
3300 St Michaels CE School	43,760	844017	5.18%
3306 St Nicholas CE Primary School	88,033	521339	16.89%
3316 Chapmanslade CE VA Primary School	-13,464	524065	-2.57%
3318 Chilton Foliat C of E Primary School	-114,251	510194	-22.39%
3330 Derry Hill C of E (Aided) School	37,378	868704	4.30%
3355 St Nicholas Primary School	124,447	619617	20.08%
3362 St. Andrews Primary School	114,104	866843	13.16%
3383 Sarum St. Pauls C.E. (VA) Primary School	-69,516	910896	-7.63%
3387 St Martins CE Primary Sch	122,667	779495	15.74%
3396 St Thomas aBecket C.E. Aided School	93,495	310969	30.07%
3402 Whiteparish All Saints C.E. (V.A.) Primary School	93,932	496030	18.94%
3412 Christ the King RC Primary School	-3,952	761746	-0.52%
3418 St Josephs Catholic School	195,240	620011	31.49%
3425 St Osmunds Catholic Primary School	240,700	892525	26.97%
3430 St Johns Catholic Primary School	156,461	1277365	12.25%
3435 Wardour Catholic Primary School	73,775	492907	14.97%
3437 St Patricks RC Primary School	68,358	808367	8.46%
3449 Broad Chalke C of E Aided Primary School	94,224	877251	10.74%
3453 Chilmark Primary School	24,989	443499	5.63%
3454 Semley CE VA Primary School	55,166	566089	9.75%
3459 Hindon CEVA Primary School	51,265	430596	11.91%
3460 Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School	36,988	719989	5.14%
3461 Kennet Valley C.E School	36,794	469072	7.84%
3464 Old Sarum	139,547	1400847	9.96%
3465 Wylve Valley C.E. VA Primary School	-935	530087	-0.18%
3467 CHURCHFIELDS SCHOOL	64,803	669355	9.68%
3468 Amesbury Primary School	161,477	1275138	12.66%
3469 Five Lanes CE Primary School	25,708	469935	5.47%
3471 Lyneham Primary School	-85,861	1292058	-6.65%
3472 Bellefield Primary & Nursery School	151,578	1370622	11.06%
4000 Abbeyfield School	-1,687,885	4789567	-35.24%
4070 The Stonehenge School	843,159	5536342	15.23%
4610 St Josephs Catholic School	362,889	3332668	10.89%
5201 Downton CE VA Primary School	-26,279	1117046	-2.35%
5205 Frogwell Primary School	301,040	1037355	29.02%
5206 Studley Green Primary School	237,485	1288278	18.43%
5207 St.Georges Catholic Primary School	105,710	641959	16.47%
5208 St Marys RC School	-45,036	693280	-6.50%

5209 Paxcroft Primary School	92,602	1267435	7.31%
5215 Castle Primary School	364,755	1243551	29.33%
5218 Clarendon Junior School	229,900	1311079	17.54%
5219 Clarendon Infants School	186,981	1128029	16.58%
5415 Matravers School	1,190,727	4363575	27.29%
7003 Silverwood School *	242,555	7277600	3.33%
7007 Downland School *	1,082,453	2499400	43.31%
<b>123 Schools</b>	<b>13,353,150</b>	<b>126,102,287</b>	

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**ANALYSIS OF REVENUE BALANCES 2020/21**

School Phase	Surplus balances above 15% of School Budget Share				Surplus balances below 15% of School Budget Share				Deficit Balances			
	Number	Balance Value	2020/21 Budget Share	Balance as % of Budget	Number	Balance Value	2020/21 Budget Share	Balance as % of Budget	Number	Balance Value	2020/21 Budget Share	Balance as % of Budget
Primary	41	£7,748,177	£35,275,874	22.0%	64	£4,451,350	£53,974,109	8.2%	12	-£880,274	£9,053,151	-9.7%
Secondary	2	£2,033,885	£9,899,917	0.0%	1	£362,889	£3,332,668	10.9%	1	-£1,687,885	£4,789,567	-35.2%
Special	1	£1,082,453	£2,499,400	43.3%	1	£242,555	£7,277,600	0.0%	0	£0	£0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10,864,515</b>	<b>47,675,192</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>£5,056,794</b>	<b>£64,584,377</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-£2,568,160</b>	<b>£13,842,718</b>	<b>-18.6%</b>

Number of school: 123    Total Balance    £13,353,150

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**Analysis of LA schools (as at 31st March 2022) 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	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		2021/22
			%	%	%	%	%		Balance
2005	Nursted	Primary	-	16.0	15.3	26.9	24.8	↓	£ 223,683
2027	Marlborough St Mary's	Primary	-	16.2	18.0	19.4	15.3	↓	£ 273,584
2136	Westbury Infants	Primary	22.1	-	-	-	-		-
2137	Westwood with Iford	Primary	17.9	22.6	19.2	19.7	19.1	↓	£ 79,406
2159	Kiwi School	Primary	-	-	-	-	19.8	↑	£ 313,569
2168	Priestley	Primary	15.8	-	-	-	-		-
2170	Grove	Primary	-	-	-	-	15.7	↑	£ 251,590
2180	Redland	Primary	-	16.5	-	-	22.7	↑	£ 287,396
2184	Longleaze	Primary	-	-	-	-	17.2	↑	£ 183,066
2218	Kings Lodge	Primary	-	-	-	-	15.4	↑	£ 207,525
2226	Charter	Primary	19.3	16.0	-	-	-		-
2227	Newtown	Primary	-	-	-	-	20.7	↑	£ 184,819
3013	Box Primary	Primary	25.0	21.4	16.9	22.5	18.4	↓	£ 133,165
3015	Christ Church	Primary	17.0	19.6	24.5	32.2	33.9	↑	£ 605,138
3018	Broad Hinton	Primary	-	16.2	15.2	17.0	15.6	↓	£ 84,016
3019	Broad Town	Primary	-	-	-	-	19.6	↑	£ 81,157
3020	St Nicholas CE VC	Primary	-	16.3	15.5	-	-		-
3035	Cherhill	Primary	16.1	-	-	-	-		-
3045	St Sampson's	Primary	-	-	-	18.6	21.1	↑	£ 284,672
3047	Crockerton	Primary	21.7	28.7	32.9	38.8	40.2	↑	£ 193,107
3049	Collingbourne CE	Primary	16.6	-	-	17.8	-		-
3088	Hilperton	Primary	-	-	-	-	20.3	↑	£ 144,453
3090	Holt	Primary	-	-	-	-	15.3	↑	£ 103,644
3091	Hullavington	Primary	25.8	31.0	30.1	34.6	27.9	↓	£ 186,665
3096	Kington St Michael	Primary	-	-	-	-	30.2	↑	£ 180,675
3102	Langley Fitzurse	Primary	-	18.1	-	20.4	20.4	↑	£ 101,135
3104	Lea & Garsdon	Primary	-	-	15.5	21.6	18.7	↓	£ 105,965
3134	Newton Tony	Primary	-	-	-	-	31.3	↑	£ 148,355
3135	North Bradley	Primary	-	21.5	29.2	36.9	41.8	↑	£ 352,999
3149	Preshute	Primary	18.0	-	-	-	-		-
3166	Southwick CE	Primary	24.6	23.6	20.3	24.0	22.9	↓	£ 190,537
3186	Urchfont CE	Primary	33.3	42.5	50.7	58.9	23.4	↓	£ 120,521
3191	The Minster CE	Primary	-	18.9	16.7	19.6	21.4	↑	£ 187,936
3222	St Barnabas	Primary	-	-	-	-	16.1	↑	£ 75,852
3230	Dinton	Primary	-	-	-	-	16.0	↑	£ 79,166
3306	St Nicholas	Primary	-	-	-	-	16.9	↑	£ 88,033
3355	St Nicholas	Primary	19.1	20.7	19.9	21.1	20.1	↓	£ 124,447
3387	St Martin's CE	Primary	16.4	17.8	-	-	15.7	↑	£ 122,667
3396	St Thomas A Beckett	Primary	15.5	19.4	17.8	20.9	30.1	↑	£ 93,495
3402	Whiteparish	Primary	16.3	19.6	19.1	22.8	18.9	↑	£ 93,932
3418	St Joseph's Catholic	Primary	-	-	26.3	32.3	31.5	↓	£ 195,240
3425	St Osmunds	Primary	-	-	-	-	27.0	↑	£ 240,700
3453	Chilmark	Primary	16.8	-	-	-	-		-
3461	Kennet Valley	Primary	-	18.9	-	-	-		-
3467	Churchfields	Primary	16.3	15.7	-	-	-		-
3468	Amesbury	Primary	-	21.9	30.4	22.4	-		-
4070	Stonehenge	Secondary	-	-	-	-	15.2	↑	£ 843,159
5205	Frogwell	Primary	-	-	-	-	29.0	↑	£ 301,040
5206	Studley Green	Primary	27.9	20.6	16.4	21.7	18.4	↓	£ 237,485
5207	St George's	Primary	-	-	-	-	16.5	↑	£ 105,710
5215	Castle	Primary	-	16.9	18.8	24.5	29.3	↑	£ 364,755
5218	Clarendon Juniors	Primary	-	15.3	16.6	22.3	17.5	↓	£ 229,900
5219	Clarendon Infants	Primary	21.3	26.9	21.6	22.7	16.6	↓	£ 186,981
5415	Matravers	Secondary	17.6	-	-	19.0	27.3	↑	#####
7007	Downland	Special	-	-	36.2	42.7	43.3	↑	#####
<b>Total number schools</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>		<b>£10,864,515</b>

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

As at 31st March 2022, 12 (9.8%) of the 123 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, 2018/19 to 2021/22

		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		
		Deficit £	As a % of SBS	Deficit £	As a % of SBS	Deficit £	As a % of SBS	Deficit £	As a % of SBS	
2009	Bratton Primary School	Primary	-	-	-	-	-8820	-1.5	-117,652	-17.49
2159	Kiwi	Primary	-60,625	-6.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
2178	Princecroft	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-35,672	-4.33
2190	Woodlands	Primary	-	-	-8,488	-9.96	-	-	-	-
3017	Longford CE	Primary	-96,417	-26.3	-81,156	-21.16	-	-	-	-
3100	Lacock	Primary	-19,000	-5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
3134	Newton Tony	Primary	-23,533	-10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
3140	Oaksey CE VA	Primary	-2,029	-0.6	-54,253	-12.81	-18,462	-4.36	-	-
3172	Stratford Sub Castle	Primary	-86,062	-14.7	-211,201	-34.26	-280,594	-45.52	-359,261	-54.92
3174	Sutton Veny	Primary	-	-	-2,587	-0.38	-	-	-	-
3193	Westbury Leigh	Primary	-114,997	-8.2	-186,552	-13.72	-96,400	-7.1	-	-
3222	St. Barnabas	Primary	-16,302	-5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
3229	Coombe Bissett	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-8,396	-1.49
3230	Dinton	Primary	-	-	-4,138	-1.02	-	-	-	-
3306	Chapmanslade	Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-13,464	-2.57
3328	Chilton Foliat CE	Primary	-75,801	-18.4	-108,569	-27.90	-118,014	-30.33	-114,251	-22.39
3383	Sarum St Paul's	Primary	-103,187	-12.4	-132,183	-14.99	-60,206	-6.83	-69,516	-7.63
3412	Christ the King	Primary	-40,893	-4.0	-134,599	-16.45	-61,808	-7.56	-3,952	-0.52
3435	Wardour	Primary	-	-	-4,584	-1.12	-	-	-	-
3453	Chilmark	Primary	-	-	-1,798	-0.47	-	-	-	-
3459	Hindon	Primary	-24,564	-10.5	-21,990	-7.87	-	-	-	-
3465	Wylve 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	-1,415	-0.2	-47,841	-0.05	-23,783	-2.45	-26,279	-2.35
5208	St. Marys RC	Primary	-	-	-	-	-58,371	-8.62	-45,036	-6.5
4000	Abbeyfield	Secondary	-2,510,112	-57.9	-2,238,206	-42.20	-1,943,168	-36.82	-1,687,885	-35.24
4070	Stonehenge	Secondary	-412,848	-11.4	-135,385	-3.03	-	-	-	-
7007	Downland	Special	-80,473	-11.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total value of deficits</b>			<b>-3,668,258</b>		<b>-3,473,485</b>		<b>-2,722,002</b>		<b>-2,568,160</b>	
<b>Total number of schools</b>				16		18		13		13

As at 31st March 2022, 4 (3.3%) of the 123 LA maintained schools held a deficit of more than 2.5% and £10,000 for the last 4 years

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**Wiltshire Council**

**School Funding Working Group: 23 September 2022**

**Schools Forum: 6 October 2022**

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## **Consultation - National Funding Formulae for Schools– 2023-24**

### **Purpose of report**

1. This report is presented to confirm Schools Forum members response to the DfE's second stage consultation regarding implementing the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools.

### **Background**

2. The Department for Education (DfE) launched its consultation '*Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula*' on the 7 June 2022, with a response date of the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
3. Due to the timing of the consultation, a special meeting of the Schools and SEN Funding Working Group was convened to address the questions raised in the consultation.
4. The second stage of the consultation focussed on the following areas of school funding.
  - a. Transfer of funding between 'blocks'
  - b. Indicative SEND budgets
  - c. Growth and Falling Rolls funding
  - d. Premises funding – Split Sites
  - e. Premises funding – Exceptional Circumstances (rent of facilities)
  - f. Use of the Minimum Funding Guarantee
  - g. The annual funding cycle
  - h. De-delegation

### **Response from Schools Forum**

5. Following the meeting with the Schools and SEN Funding Working Group, the proposed response was circulated amongst members for perusal, prior to submission in advance of the closing date and a copy of the response is appended to this report.

### **Proposal**

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

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## Consultation on the National Funding Formula – Summer 2022

### Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula

Government consultation

Launch date 7 June 2022

Respond by 9 September 2022

#### [Link to Consultation](#)

#### Background

The Department for Education have launched the second stage of their consultation with stakeholders regarding the implementation of the Direct National Funding Formula (NFF).

Colleagues within the local authority (LA) have worked with members of the Schools and SEN Working Groups to prepare a response to the consultation. The response is being shared with colleagues in schools and governors, to help with submitting their own returns.

#### Consultation Questions & Working Group Responses

##### Question 1

Do you agree that local authorities' applications for transfers from mainstream schools to local education budgets should identify their preferred form of adjustment to NFF allocations, from a standard short menu of options?

Do you have any other comments on the proposals for the operation of transfers of funding from mainstream schools to high needs?

##### Response – Q.1

- a. A short menu of options could be useful to identify any adjustments to the overall NFF funding, however the preferred option from any menu would be a straight % reduction to the overall quantum of funding which would in effect represent a % reduction to all NFF funding factors. This would result in a proportionate impact for all schools.
- b. There should be no requirement to transfer funds between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block of funding. The under-funding of High Needs and SEN in schools is a huge issue and if SEN was funded appropriately, then transfers between Blocks would not be required. The current method of transfer, following consultation with Schools Forum, represents the most transparent and fair operation of agreeing any transfers. Wiltshire ensures that NFF values can be funded through the formula before considering transfers.



### **Question 2**

Do you agree that the direct NFF should include an indicative SEND budget, set nationally rather than locally?

#### **Response – Q.2**

Notional SEN is currently the least transparent of all areas of school funding and causes much confusion. Setting a national formula for the notional SEN allocation would ensure consistency nationally for the proportions of AWPU/FSM6 and Low Prior Attainment comprising the notional SEN amount for each school. The amount to be funded by each school towards meeting SEN of any pupil should remain at £6,000.

### **Question 3**

Do you have any comments on the proposals to place further requirements on how local authorities can operate their growth and falling rolls funding?

### **Question 4**

Do you believe that the restriction that falling rolls funding can only be provided to schools judged “Good” or “Outstanding” by Ofsted should be removed?

#### **Response – Q.3**

Schools Forum agrees its growth funding criteria annually and would continue to support a model that allows for local flexibility. It is widely recognised that up-to-date information is held locally around place planning, pupil numbers, housing developments and military moves and therefore enabling local discretion would be the most appropriate solution.

#### **Response – Q.4**

Wiltshire does not set a falling rolls fund and is not supportive of a falling rolls fund especially one which is limited for Excellent & Good Ofsted inspection outcomes, because falling rolls can be due to several factors not linked to the quality of education in a school. Therefore, if the option of a falling rolls fund is to continue, the application of ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ should be removed.

### **Question 5**

Do you have any comments on how we propose to allocate growth and falling rolls funding to local authorities?

#### **Response – Q.5**

Retain existing methodology for calculating growth funding allocations. Use of historic data is not supported, this methodology is used to allocate a substantial level of high needs block and this has impacted negatively on Wiltshire’s HNB funding levels, contributing to the DSG deficit.

Do not net off growth in pupil numbers against falls in pupil numbers in different 'Middle Layer Super Output Areas', just use the growth numbers.

### **Question 6**

Do you agree that we should explicitly expand the use of growth and falling rolls funding to supporting local authorities in repurposing and removing space?

#### **Response – Q.6**

Yes, as we are anticipating a decline in pupil numbers and therefore rationalisation of space may be required, additional use of the growth fund to repurpose accommodation may be helpful.

Would this only apply to maintained schools only or would it also apply to academy schools?

### **Question 7**

Do you agree that the Government should favour a local, flexible approach over the national, standardised system for allocating growth and falling rolls funding; and that we should implement the changes for 2024-25?

#### **Response – Q.7**

A local approach is far better as it uses local intelligence regarding growth. There is a danger of a national system allocating funding on projected numbers in the Spring, with pupils not firmed up and final decisions not taken.

The prospect of a clawback should not be entertained! Clawback arrangements are wholly inappropriate, incongruous to stability, long term planning and recruitment and retention of teaching staff.

### **Question 8**

Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to popular growth?

#### **Response – Q.8**

Popular Growth should be available to Academies and Maintained Schools consistently. Funding for popular growth suffers clawback which does not provide stability to schools and is not favoured as it does not work hand-in hand with the LA's place planning strategy and increases volatility amongst school pupil numbers.

**Question 9**

Do you agree we should allocate split site funding on the basis of both a schools' 'basic eligibility' and 'distance eligibility'?

**Question 10**

Do you agree with our proposed criteria for split site 'basic eligibility'?

**Question 11**

Do you agree with our proposed split site distance criterion of 500m?

**Response – Q.9**

Yes, the split site allowance should be allocated based on both 'basic' eligibility and 'distance' eligibility for the criteria.

**Response – Q.10**

Yes, agree with the 'basic' eligibility criteria - split site by public road, distance of 500m, requires buildings and maintenance at both sites, not ancillary buildings e.g., at sports pitches.

**Response – Q.11**

In Wiltshire, the current distance eligibility criteria of ½ mile is comparable with the proposal, so 500m would be perfectly acceptable. In Wiltshire, this will not bring any more schools into scope.

**Question 12**

Do you agree with total available split sites funding being 60% of the NFF lump sum factor?

**Question 13**

Do you agree that distance eligibility should be funded at twice the rate of basic eligibility?

**Response – Q.12**

In Wiltshire, an exercise was undertaken which suggested that the lump sum needed to be funded at 76% of the lump sum, to provide for additional reception and administration, caretaking, catering, pastoral support, leadership costs, maintenance, broadband lines, photocopiers and other costs.

**Response – Q.13**

Funding distance eligibility at twice the rate of basic eligibility is immaterial, it is the size of the lump sum that is important and funding at 60% of the lump sum is too low.

**Question 14**

Do you agree with our proposed approach to data collection on split sites?

**Question 15**

Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to split sites funding?

**Response – Q.14**

Yes, the LA holds data about all schools, including those that would meet any criteria for being eligible for split site funding and would be able to provide data, as required.

**Response – Q.15**

A higher % to be used, as in Wiltshire. If the threshold is set at 60%, then the split site allowance would need to be captured in the MFG calculation, to ensure transition protection for split site schools seeing a 'drop' in their funding.

**Question 16**

Do you agree with our proposed approach to the exceptional circumstances factor?

**Question 17**

Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to exceptional circumstances?

**Response – Q.16**

No, in Wiltshire, we only currently use for rentals of village halls or playing fields for those schools who do not have their own facilities. We use the 0.75% of a school's budget as the threshold, which ensures less than 5% of Wiltshire schools are entitled to the funding. If this threshold were increased to 2.5% then several our schools would no longer be eligible to receive the funding.

However, perversely this could incentivise schools to increase their bookings or rental for their bookings to ensure that they meet the threshold of 2.5% to receive the funding. This feels incongruous to value for money guidance local authorities and schools are bound by.

Setting threshold at 2.5% is too high and again the drop in funding would need to be captured in the MFG calculation, to protect these schools from a drop in funding.

**Response – Q.17**

As this factor only applies to a minimal number of schools, it is virtually impossible to fund formulaically and needs to be funded on an historic cost basis. Alternatively, it could be funded as a flat extra lump sum for those schools who do not have their own facilities!

### **Question 18**

Do you agree that we should use local formulae baselines (actual GAG allocations, for academies) for the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in the year that we transition to the direct NFF?

#### **Response – Q.18**

Yes, schools need to be protected from any significant funding movements during the transition period.

### **Question 19**

Do you agree that we should move to using a simplified pupil-led funding protection for the MFG under the direct NFF?

#### **Response – Q.19**

The MFG is one of the least transparent of calculable factors and causes much confusion therefore any simplification based on pupil-led protection is welcomed. Schools should be protected from volatility to ensure strategic planning decisions can be made.

### **Question 20**

Do you have any comments on our proposals for the operation of the minimum funding guarantee under the direct NFF?

#### **Response – Q.20**

Anything that provides greater transparency and predictability is welcomed. The use of a tool (calculator) to help schools project future entitlement to MFG funding would be helpful.

### **Question 21**

What do you think would be most useful for schools to plan their budgets before they receive confirmation of their final allocations: (i) notional allocations, or (ii) a calculator tool?

### **Question 22**

Do you have any comments on our proposals for the funding cycle in the direct NFF, including how we could provide early information to schools to help their budget planning?

#### **Response – Q.21**

The calculator tool as it can replicate 'actual' NOR and circumstances. Notional allocations do not reflect a change to the pupil cohort in the school.

**Response – Q.22**

The calculator would be the most helpful tool along with known percentage (%) uplifts in funding rates on a three-year basis. Three-year rolling budgets would be helpful for schools strategic planning. Providing pay inflation estimates would also benefit the DfE as they would then know schools are all setting budgets on the same basis. Some schools may be overly prudent and plan for the worst-case scenario therefore, appropriate levels of funding may not all be allocated to pupils each year.

**Question 23**

Do you have any comments on the two options presented for data collections in regards to school reorganisations and pupil numbers? When would this information be available to local authorities to submit to DfE?

**Response – Q.23**

As the October census is still the key driver of data, Local Authorities would be able to provide all other data, PFI, Split Site, Exceptional Premises at a similar time to ensure that the early collection of data by the DfE allows for preparation of budgets in a timely fashion.

**Question 24**

Regarding de-delegation, would you prefer the Department to undertake one single data collection in March covering all local authorities, or several smaller bespoke data collections for mid-year converters?

**Question 25**

Do you have any other comments on our proposals regarding the timing and nature of data collections to be carried out under a direct NFF?

**Response – Q.24**

Just do 1 data collection in March, to catch any converters.

It is an interesting proposal to continue with de-delegation in the new NFF, economies of scale for the LA can be shared with schools, applying a not-for-profit approach. Certainty over income levels allows LA's better planning opportunities. The data collection just needs to be built into the academisation process, nothing more complex than that.

**Response – Q.25**

Continued use of October census, LA can deliver other funding information and deliver on decisions around transfer between blocks and de-delegation. This all works well in terms of timings for Schools Forum too.

**Wiltshire Council**

**School Funding Working Group: 23 September 2022**

**Schools Forum: 6 October 2022**

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## **National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs – 2023-24**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To outline the Department for Education (DfE) funding proposals for schools and high needs in 2023-24. The DfE published its document '*The national funding formulae for schools and high needs – 2023-24*', in July 2022.
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. All funding decisions relating to the 2023-24 year will be taken later this year, following the announcement of the 2023-24 funding settlement.

### **Background**

3. In the Autumn of 2019, the government announced its pledge to boost schools and high needs funding, affectionately referred to as '*the Boris Billions*'. Building on the 2019-20 funding levels, the cash increases of £14.5 billion over 3 years comprised;
  - i. £2.6 billion in 2020-21
  - ii. £4.8 billion in 2021-22 (increase by £2.2bn)
  - iii. £7.1 billion in 2022-23 (increase by £2.3bn)
4. In addition, a further £700million was pledged for High Needs nationally in 2020-21, a further £730m for 2021-22 and a further £780m in 2022-23.
5. The DfE have continued to allocate school funding on the basis of the National Funding Formula (NFF) which should see all schools benefitting from the additional funding. 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
6. The 2023-24 year will be another 'soft' year with local Schools' Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology.

## Proposals for 2023-24

7. The 2023-24 year will be the first transition year towards the direct schools National Funding Formula (NFF). A tightening of the of the formula was confirmed following the first stage of the government’s consultation on the direct NFF. This tightening will ensure that for the 2023-24 year that:
  - Only NFF factors can be used in the local formula
  - All NFF factors must be used in the formula
  - LA’s are required to move their formula 10% closer to the NFF values
8. 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.
9. The DfE have announced the indicative DSG Block allocations, based upon October 2021 census data which formed the basis of the 2022-23 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.
10. The table below sets out the indicative DSG funding for the Schools, High Needs and Central Blocks. *(The figures for 2022-23 include the Supplementary Grant for both the Schools Block and the High Needs Block.)* The Early Years Block figures are simply replicated from the 2022-23 allocation in order to provide a view of the overall quantum of funding for 2023-24.

	<b>Schools*</b>	<b>High Needs</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Early Years</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2022-23	£336,281,937	£64,768,256	£2,604,175	£30,866,919	<b>£434,521,287</b>
2023-24	£343,027,141	£67,825,547	£2,596,327	£30,866,919	<b>£444,315,934</b>
Headline Uplift	£6,745,204	£3,057,291	-£7,848	£0	<b>£9,794,647</b>
% Uplift	2.01%	4.72%	-0.3%	0.00%	<b>2.25%</b>

\* - Net of Growth funding – was £1.912m in 2022-23

11. The main formula for the 2023-24 year is broadly similar to the formula for the 2022-23 year however there are some changes, as detailed below.
  - a. Overall, funding through the NFF will increase by 1.9%
  - b. Core pupil-led funding factors and the lump sum to increase by 2.4%
  - c. Disadvantaged funding, FSM6 and IDACI factors to increase by 4.3%
  - d. The ‘Minimum per pupil funding level’ to increase by 3.3% to;
    - i. £4,405 for Primary
    - ii. £5,715 for Secondary
  - e. The School Supplementary Grant from 2022-23 has been rolled into the baseline funding and then inflated by the relevant percentage increases.
  - f. The Free School Meals factor (for the costs of providing a meal for eligible pupils) to increase by 2%
  - g. Every school to receive at least 0.5% more funding per pupil
  - h. Increasing the DfE’s High Needs funding by £570m or 6.3%
  - i. All local authorities to see an increase in High Needs funding of between 5% and 7%



- j. A transfer of up to 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block will be permitted, subject to Schools Forum approval
- k. The Central School Services Block comprises of 2 elements, funding towards;
  - i. Historic Commitments - £235,110 (20% reduction year on year)
  - ii. Ongoing local authority responsibilities - £2,361,217
- l. The School Supplementary Grant to continue to be funded for academy schools for the period between April 2023 and August 2023, to avoid an unfair gap in funding between maintained schools and academies. From the end of August 2023, the Supplementary Grant will cease to operate as a separate grant.
- m. All NFF factors must be used in the formula
- n. 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.

## Funding Values Proposed in the NFF for 2023-24

12. The table below sets out the NFF funding values for school for the 2022-23 year.

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

\* - 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

## Key Funding Decisions taken by Schools Forum in 2022-23

13. A number of funding decisions were taken by Schools Forum for the 2022-23 year including;
- To apply all of the NFF factors in full
  - To fund sparsity in line with the NFF guidance
  - To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF)
  - To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block

## Role of Schools Forum and the Local Authority

14. The government has confirmed its intention to move to a single direct NFF to determine every schools budget. For the 2023-24 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.
15. In its consultation 'Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula' issued in July 2022, the DfE are expecting to move to the Direct (Hard) NFF by the 2027-28 funding year, at the latest. This is the first time that a timeline for a move to the Direct NFF has been shared.
16. All NFF factors will be mandatory from 2023-24 and the formula 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 2023.

## Budget Setting Process 2023-24

17. Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE in January 2023. The DfE are required to confirm the formula is fully compliant with the funding regulations and will then confirm budgets to academies during February 2023. The LA and the ESFA will need to notify maintained schools and academies of their budget shares by the end of February 2023, as in previous years.
18. The LA will engage 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 2023-24, 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	<b>xxx,xxx,xxx</b>

## Growth Funding

19. 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 2022 census and the October 2021 census will attract funding at:

- £1,520 per primary pupil
- £2,275 per secondary pupil
- £74,700 for each new school (no new schools in Wiltshire this year)

20. The level of Growth funding required in 2023-24 and size of the Growth Fund will be determined later in the year along with confirmation of Growth funding criteria.

### **Initial Modelling**

21. Initial modelling of the Schools Block demonstrates that the NFF is affordable, based upon the October 2021 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**

22. There are a number of 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.

23. For the 2022-23 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 2021-22 and in previous years.

### **Notional SEN**

24. 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**

25. 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.

26. 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 is one of 78 LA's out of the 150 in England, who are already mirroring the NFF)

### **Proposal**

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

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## High Needs Block Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Attending: Sean McKeown, Lyssy Bolton, Cate Mullen (notes), James Wood, Lesley Lowe, Marie Taylor, Andrew Morrison, Lisa Fryer, Grant Davis

Apologies: Sarah Garbett, Jon Hamp

1. Actions reviewed from last meeting
  
2. Recommendations from recent DfE Paper explored (see separate document)
  - Need to talk about co-working in a positive way, whilst acknowledging the legacy which is less positive
  - We mustn't forget the impact of the pandemic
  - EHCP is still seen as what is needed by a range of professionals e.g. social workers for very young children. Also feels as if the onus is placed upon the school to support once a plan is in place. Family hubs may support with this
  - Work to do with our own professionals e.g. looking at rate of CLA with an EHCP but also need to work with families in relation to this
  - TAC and TAS meetings have been helpful – process change

Other notes are captured on the table attached to these notes

Points to note:

- Engagement of schools is key – need to have intrinsic motivators
- Role of learning alliance is important here
- Need to think about the geographical approach here – clusters?
- This is of varying importance to schools in Wiltshire – dependent upon the SEND needs within the school
- DBV communication needed – partners need to have oversight of the programme and some of the potential challenges this could result in

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Recommendation	Response Do we agree with this recommendation? What are we currently doing to address this? What more can we/should we be doing?	Actions
<b>Partnership culture</b>		
<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> Local authorities should review and further develop their approaches to partnership with key stakeholders, taking into account some of the <b>positive practices described in this report</b> (in addition to any broader policy emphasis on this area).</p>	<p>Good collaborative working with schools in Wiltshire Multi-agency HELM, TAC multi disc meetings work well</p> <p>Some historical systems/practice issues to overcome (legacy)</p> <p>Pandemic – inevitable delay</p> <p>Alternative to EHCP route – early help improvement EHC process is the only clear defined process currently</p> <p>Link to dingley’s promise intervention work (EY) Non EHC assessment place for EY</p> <p>Family HUB? April 2024</p> <p>Changing family focus for an EHC – OAPL families want an explanation of YP behaviour how do we develop validation / reason for parents without an EHC</p> <p>Overrepresentation of CiC with an EHC – why</p>	<p>Reduce EHC focus: health &amp; SC colleagues Work at parent level Must have an alternative EH</p> <p>Focus on EY – long term benefit</p> <p>Comms: best use of resource available (need a strapline)</p> <p>SENCO network – 4 key issues raised</p> <p>Invite groups to a forum: visioning links to SEN strategy &amp; EH roadshow approach – geographically</p> <p>Consider response and investment requirement Ensure links to 0-25 SEN</p> <p>What does a good alternative look like to parents?</p> <p>Social care audit of SEMH cases – see if family support learning or, further family work could lead to removal of EHCP</p>

	Culture change Collectively bring all schools with us – senior leadership build relationships & trust	HT briefings work well – not necessarily title SEN to get buy in from all HT
<b>Developing local provision</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b> Do we agree with this recommendation? What are we currently doing to address this? What more can we/should we be doing?	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Recommendation 8:</b> With regard to developments in local mainstream provision, investment should be targeted at strengthening inclusion, with impact monitored and evaluated at that level.	Overlaps with 6  Cluster groups of primaries – work with schools on determining this  SS outreach development – explore what we need to commission & provide – tendering process for LA?  Should we develop RBs to share and support other schools (or support them in some cases)  Costed Provision Map – good practice (green paper expectation)  OAPL  Early Intervention ? Primary clusters – collective commissioning perhaps linked to 0.5% - SB transfer  Internal work – LA services on offer	Work with schools  Would be additional cost to LA if control / direction was required (most useful?)  Would need to consider SLA and funding to facilitate this though  Audit of spend Annual review comparison to outcomes for YP  Key – promote / sign up?  Key – notional SEN Flowchart of support available  LA Directory of support available



	Medical Needs – no EHC where not required but support	Eventually on Local Offer?  POG – low incidence from outset – referral route in to access to services without EHC – comms to families, schools, professionals
<b>Recommendation 9:</b> Local authorities should set out more clearly their expected pathways for young people with different levels of need, ensure that these are presented earlier and more clearly to young people and their parents, and evaluate quality and outcomes on a more regular basis. Pathways should be realistic but ambitious.	Need to ensure pathway does not inappropriately end up with an EHC as the outcome  Routes to services for YP  Links / pathways to family support	Clarity for parents carers schools health professionals on alternatives  Local Offer  Raise with SC colleagues

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