

# Blackpool Council

02/10/2023

To: Members of the Schools Forum are requested to attend the:

## SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 9.15am  
in @theGrange, Batthurst Avenue FY37RW

## AGENDA

### 1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

### 3 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair of the Schools Forum until August 2024.

### 4 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum until August 2024.

**5 POWERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF SCHOOLS FORUMS (Pages 1 - 8)**

To remind members of the powers and responsibilities of Schools Forums, and to discuss the characteristics of an effective Schools Forum.

**6 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022 (Pages 9 - 14)**

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 June 2023 as a true and correct record.

**7 REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION (Pages 15 - 18)**

The Schools Forum Constitution requires a review of membership at the first meeting of each academic year. The review should take into account the proportion of primary, secondary and academy representatives in order to ensure that the proportions remain representative of pupil numbers in each phase.

**8 LOCAL AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Paul Turner, Assistant Director for Children's Services, to provide an overview of recent developments within the local authority to the Forum.

**9 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 (Pages 19 - 24)**

Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accountant, to report the budget position of the 2022-23 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 August 2023 and the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2023.

**10 SAFETY VALVE UPDATE (Pages 25 - 36)**

Paul Turner, Assistant Director for Children's Services to give a verbal update on developments relevant to the Safety Valve budget. The most recent monitoring document is attached for members' review at Item 10.

**11 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2024/25 (Pages 37 - 50)**

To note the local authority's update on the allocated schools funding for 2024/25.

**12 EXPANSION OF FUNDED CHILDCARE (Pages 51 - 52)**

Kim Wood, Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Manager to update Schools Forum members on the Government's current plans for the expansion of funded childcare, and the current work in progress.

**Venue information:**

Ground floor meeting room, accessible toilets, no-smoking building.

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Tyrone Wassell, Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253477211, e-mail [tyrone.wassell@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:tyrone.wassell@blackpool.gov.uk)

Copies of the agendas and minutes of the Schools Forum are available on the Council's website at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk)

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**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Paul Turner, Assistant Director School Improvement and SEND  
**Date of Meeting:** 10 October 2023

## **POWERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF SCHOOLS FORUMS**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To remind members of the powers and responsibilities of Schools Forums, and to discuss the characteristics of an effective Schools Forum.
- 1.2 Action required: for information (no decision required).

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

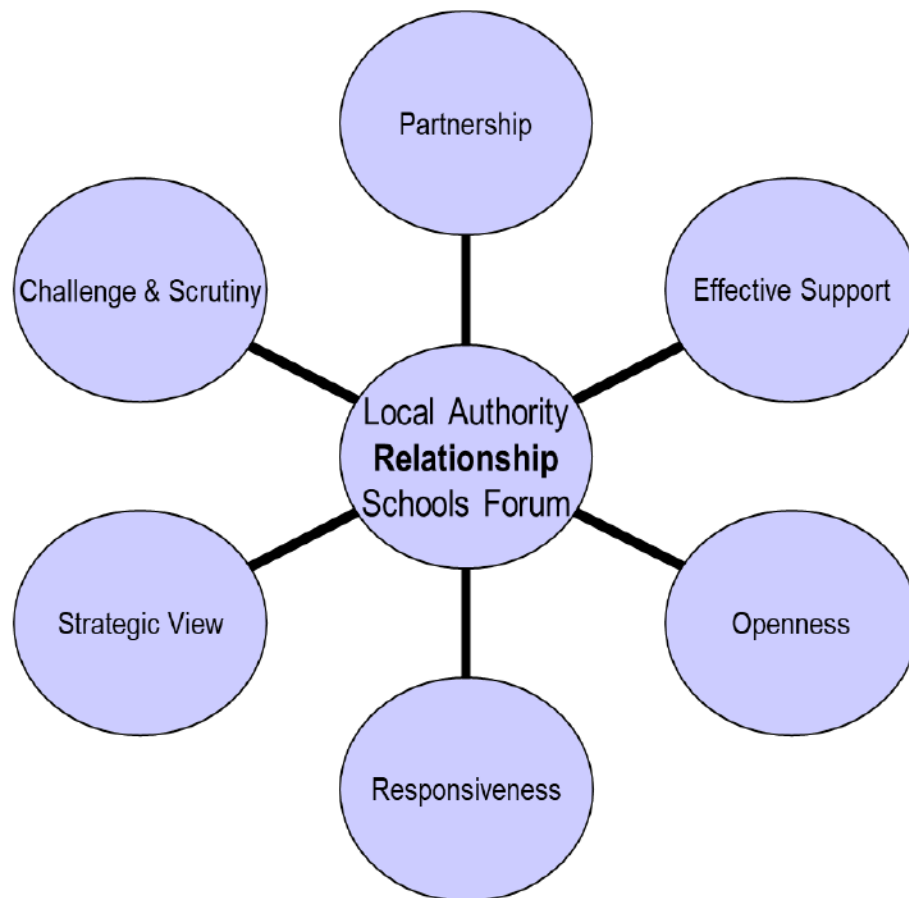
- 2.1 To note the powers and responsibilities of a Schools Forum, and to consider the characteristics of an effective relationship between the Schools Forum and the local authority.

### **3.0 Background Information**

- 3.1 The operation of Schools Forum is governed by the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, and by subsequent amendments. The regulations set out the powers and responsibilities of these statutory bodies.
- 3.2 The Department for Education (DfE) has helpfully set out a summary of the powers and responsibilities in the document that can be found at Appendix (5a). The main areas are summarised in the table below:

<b>Schools Forum must be consulted on:</b>	<b>Schools Forum decides on:</b>
Changes to schools formula	Movement of up to 0.5% from schools block to other blocks
Minimum funding guarantee in schools formula	Central spend and criteria for pupil growth and falling rolls
Changes to Early Years formula	Other central spend
Financial arrangements for pupils with SEND	De-delegation and education functions (maintained schools only)
Financial arrangements for pupils in Alternative Provision	Scheme for Financing Schools (maintained schools only)
Financial arrangements for Early Years provision	Election of chair and voting procedures

- 3.3 The DfE also publishes an Operational and Good Practice Guide for Schools Forums, which can be found at this link: [DfE external document template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk). This document summarises the requirements of the Regulations, including membership and constitution, and procedural matters.
- 3.4 Section 2 of the Operational and Good Practice Guide outlines some aspects of what local authorities and Schools Forums should consider in ensuring that their Schools Forums are as effective as possible. It sets out the characteristics of an effective relationship between Schools Forums and local authorities, as follows:



**List of acronyms:**

DfE – Department for Education

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



### Schools forum powers and responsibilities

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Financial issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding</li> <li>• arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding</li> <li>• arrangements for early years provision</li> <li>• administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants</li> </ul>	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions



Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contingencies</li> <li>administration of free school meals</li> <li>insurance</li> <li>licences/subscriptions</li> <li>staff costs – supply cover</li> <li>support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups</li> <li>behaviour support services</li> <li>library and museum services</li> <li>School improvement</li> </ul>	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
General Duties for maintained schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools <b>(please see <a href="#">operational guide</a> for more information)</b></li> </ul>	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>funding for significant pre-16 <a href="#">pupil growth</a>, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding for good or outstanding schools with <a href="#">falling rolls</a> where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years</li> </ul>			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• early years block provision</li> <li>• funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement</li> <li>• back-pay for equal pay claims</li> <li>• remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies</li> <li>• places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils</li> <li>• admissions</li> <li>• servicing of schools forum</li> <li>• Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged</li> <li>• contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a</li> </ul>	Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<p>contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged)</li> <li>prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013</li> </ul>	<p>Read <a href="#">establishing local authority DSG baselines</a> for more information.</p>		
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>high needs block provision</li> <li>central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State</li> </ul>	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None, but good practice to inform forum</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Scheme of financial management changes</p>	<p>Proposes and consults the governing body and Head of every school</p>	<p>Approves (schools members only)</p>	<p>Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal</p>
<p>Membership: length of office of members</p>	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None (but good practice would suggest that they gave a view)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Determine voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects (may not be an elected member of the Council or officer)	None

## **In Attendance:**

### **Academy/Free School Representative**

Abrar Hussain, Highfield (Star)  
Roger Farley, Roseacre (ATC) – In the Chair  
Simon Eccles, St Marys (BEBCMAT)  
Tracy Harrison, Thames/Roseacre (ATC)  
Matt McIver, St George's / Baines Endowed (Cidari)  
Edward Vitalis, South Shore/Marton (Bright Futures)  
Graham Dow, Anchorsholme (Sea View)  
Simon Brennand, Unity (FCAT)

### **Maintained Special School Representative**

Neill Oldham, Highfurlong

### **Maintained Primary School Headteachers/representative**

Claire Taylor, St Nicholas

### **Maintained Primary School Governor**

Michelle Lonican, Our Lady of the Assumption

### **Pupil Referral Unit**

Victoria O'Farrell, Educational Diversity

### **Non-school members**

Amanda Baines, Staff/Teacher associations

### **Others**

Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services  
Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accountant.  
Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services  
Charlotte Baron, Head of SEND  
Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding  
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser

## **1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Roger Farley welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Cath Benson (Cabinet Member for Young People and Aspiration), Elaine Allen (St John Vianney), Gill Hughes (Park School), Rachel Dey (Pebbles Day Nursery), Jill Gray (Blackpool Sixth Form) and Neil Adams (Unison).

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest noted at the meeting.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2023

The Forum considered the minutes and actions arising from the 7 March 2023 meeting and noted that some of the actions arising would be covered by items on the agenda.

In respect of the action under Item 7 – Early Years Funding 2023/24, Ms Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding, advised that the issues surrounding the amended timetabling of Budget Statements had been considered and that it was planned that proposals for future Early Years formula changes would be brought to the January meeting of the Forum rather than to the March meetings.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 January 2023 were considered and agreed as an accurate record.

### 4 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services, presented the Local Authority and Inclusion Update to the Forum. He reported that 2022/23 had been a difficult year in respect of attendance levels but that Blackpool continued to perform better than the national average. It was expected that new funding streams would assist in work being undertaken in Blackpool to improve inclusion and attendance going forward.

Exclusions and suspensions levels in Secondary school settings were shown to have increased during 2022/23. This was in part the result of schools experiencing greater challenges compared with before the Covid -19 Pandemic.

The number of pupils in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) were highlighted, with Mr Turner explaining that it was expected that of the 140 pupils on roll, 61 would be leaving at the end of the school year. With respect of Elective Home Educated (EHE) pupils, Mr Turner reported that Children's Services had continued to visit between seventy and eighty children each month, which was significantly higher than in other areas.

Mr Turner also reported that approximately £960k of Priority Education Investment Area (PEIA) funding was expected to be received from the Department of Education (DfE). Of this money £300k would be for literacy initiatives, which would be targeted to improving writing skills. In future £650k had been allocated for attendance and behaviour projects to work with families and improve support for them. Mr Turner also advised that he would be meeting with representatives of the DfE and it was the Council's preference that schools be offered a list of options to allow better targeting based on their individual circumstances.

### 5 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT YEAR END BUDGET MONITORING 2022/2023

Mr Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accounts, presented the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring 2022 -23 report. The report showed that the High Needs Budget had overspent by £813k in part due to ongoing out of Borough placements, Special Schools, the Resourced Provision, Mainstream Top-Up and Post -16 Education. In addition to this the Early Years Block was overspent by £57k due to higher child care demand than expected and the Schools Block had also overspent by £18k due to school improvement pressures.

These pressures had meant that the overall underspend for 2022-23 was £621k against a target of reducing the year deficit by £1.609m. This position however was improved following the receipt of £1.55m in Safety Valve grant funding, resulting in an overall reduction in the year deficit of £2.785m.

In addition to this the conversion of two maintained schools to academies had reduced the Maintained School balance to £3.648m. Mr Maddocks added that overall, balances remained healthy and represented 15.5% of the Schools Budget and reported that no schools were in deficit.

The impact of the reducing number of primary aged pupils was discussed with it being noted that the "bulge" in numbers experienced by primary settings in recent years had begun to be passed on to secondary schools. Mr Turner explained that predicting overall pupil numbers remained a challenge, in part due to the increase moving into secondary education, but also as the result of Blackpool's transitory population. Ms Hilary Wood added that capital funding to support the condition of school buildings would be managed to address priority locations, based on the outcome of conditions surveys.

## 6 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

Mr Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accountant, presented the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring 2023-2024 report. He reported that the monitoring report had been amended from that previously seen by the Board in March 2023 to reflect the adjusted Pupil Growth Contingency from £295k to nil. This had been as a result of an error in the local funding formula relating to business rates, and the inadvertent omission of the Highfield Leadership Academy Public Finance Initiative (PFI) factor. The Education and Skills Funding Agency had agreed that these errors could be rectified by the adjustment to the Pupil Growth Contingency, so as not to impact funding level already reported to schools.

The budget monitoring forecast for the end of April 2023 was forecast as an underspend of £690k which was in line with the agreed budget. However it was noted that this excluded any Safety Valve funding.

The major in-year variances to the agreed budget were reported as:

- Special School Top Up related to additional costs at the Lotus School.
- Pupil Referral Unit Top Up related to additional income from schools.
- Mainstream School Top Up as the result of increased demand.
- Post-16 Education due to lower placement costs than anticipated.

Going forward it was forecast that the underspend of £690k with the addition of Safety Valve funding of £470k would reduce the deficit brought forward in March 2024 to £1.625m, excluding maintained school reserves.

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director Children Services, stated that financial forecasting for the upcoming year had been difficult due to being unable to predict factors such as exclusions and the number of new pupils coming into Blackpool. However it had been recognised that schools had performed well financially and that Blackpool had

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2023

demonstrated that it was able to plant to meet challenges and that this would assist in securing funding going forward.

It was also reported that it was anticipated that the remaining maintained schools may convert into academies within the next five years. However Mr Turner stressed that this was not guaranteed and not a meta-ble for such a transition existed. Further to this, Mr Turner stated that the Council would not be encouraging or discouraging any change in status as it was regarded as a decision to be made based on each school's individual circumstances.

### 7 SAFETY VALVE UPDATE

Ms Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding, presented an update on the Safety Valve Programme. She reported that the first monitoring return had been sent to the Department for Education (DfE) in June 2023 and that a response was being awaited. As part of the return the Council had included Key Performance Indicators and it was believed that these presented an accurate summary of the current situation in Blackpool.

The DfE had allocated £3.876m to write off historic Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits with an additional £6.153m in grant funding towards capital projects at Highfurlong, Park Community Academy, and Educational Diversity aimed at improving local provision. It was planned that these projects would deliver value for money by improving the local education infrastructure and reducing out of borough spend going forward.

Ms Wood also reported that it was expected that Blackpool would experience a similarly high level of additional needs in reception pupils in September 2023 as experienced in the previous year. Therefore work had been undertaken to plan for the start of the new school year by issuing more Education Health and Care Plans to ensure schools were prepared for the expected high demand. The Forum was also informed that schools had been informed that 2023/24 would be the final year in which secondary inclusion funding for the High Need block of £60k per school would be paid. Following this it was planned that inclusion funding would be used in a more targeted way, based on pupil need.

It was noted that the Forum needed a better understanding of the way in which discretionary High Needs funding was used and it was therefore asked that a list be developed for consideration by the High Needs Working Group.

Mr Paul Turner, Assistant Director Children Services, provided an update on national discussion to review Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) funding. A Blackpool representative is involved in these discussions and it was anticipated a timescale for the implementation of the outcomes of the SEND Review would be available within six months.

### Action

That Ms Wood and Mr Turner develop a list of where extra High Need funding had been spent for consideration by the High Needs Working Group.

### 8 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE

Ms Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding, presented an update on the



National Funding Formula (NFF). She reported that, under the direct NFF, the process for transfers from the Schools block to the High Needs block would be amended to a new process of applications to the Secretary of State for Education, taking into account feedback from local stakeholders. The calculation of notional Special Education Need and Disabilities funding under the NFF would also change to a standardised methodology nationally. The Department for Education had issued guidance to support this approach in the interim.

The funding for schools with growing and falling rolls was discussed, with it being noted that funding could be used to fund falling rolls if a school could predict vacant places would be filled within a three-year period. This would allow schools to retain staff during periods of falling rolls and be prepared for increases in numbers.

The Forum noted that no schools within Blackpool currently qualify for Split Site Factor funding under the local formula. While it was recognised that two schools met the basic criteria for the funding under the revised NFF for 2024/25 neither met the distance criteria to be eligible.

## 9 SECONDARY PUPIL GROWTH CRITERIA.

Ms Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding, presented proposed changes to the Pupil Growth Criteria for allocating funding to mainstream schools for approval by the Forum. The suggested amendments would, if agreed, be introduced in the 2024/25 formula, in anticipation of an increase in secondary admissions over the coming years. She also reported the changes outlined in the report had been circulated to all Blackpool secondary leaders and their feedback sought.

The Forum discussed the possible impact of a pupil "bulge" in growth. Ms Wood reported that an increase of approximately 1500 was expected, with a margin of error of 5% included. It was planned that this increase would be spread out among Blackpool's schools and it was noted that there was capacity within the system to ensure pupils were directed to vacant places.

**Resolved:** That the proposed amendments to the Pupil Growth Criteria be approved.

## 10 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Ms Hilary Wood, Head of School Finance and Funding, presented a report updating the Forum on changes to the Department for Education guidance which will impact on Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools. Following receipt of the guidance Ms Wood reported that Blackpool had reviewed its scheme to ensure that it was compliant and up-to-date. The proposed amendments to the scheme had been circulated to maintain schools for consultation.

In respect of point 5.1A of the proposed scheme the Forum queried if the Council had guidance on using school premises for letting for community or other purposes. Regarding 7.2B a question was asked regarding the applicability of the clause regarding the Construction Industry Taxation Scheme to voluntary aided schools.

**Actions**

Ms Wood to determine if the Council has guidance for maintained schools in respect of using premises for lettings for community or other purposes.

Ms Wood to check the wording under the Construction Industry Taxation Scheme section of the proposed scheme in relation to voluntary aided schools.

**Resolved:** That, subject to clarification under the Construction Industry Taxation Scheme section, the proposed Scheme for Financing Schools be approved.

**11 DATES OF SCHOOLS FORUM 2024**

The Chair informed the Forum that this would be the final meeting for the current term of members. He thanked all those who had sat on the Forum during the three-year term for their contributions to the Forum during this time.

Going forward it was reported that schools and other bodies would be contacted for nominations for the new term following the meeting.

**Resolved:**

1. That the date of the next meeting of the Forum was noted as 10 October 2023;
2. That the dates of meetings for 2024 be agreed as:
  - 16 January 2024
  - 5 March 2024
  - 18 June 2024
  - 8 October 2024

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended 10.39am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
John Greenbank Senior Democratic Governance Adviser  
Tel: 012534772 29  
E-mail: john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk

## **BLACKPOOLSCHOOLSFORUM CONSTITUTIONANDTERMSOFREFERENCE**

Updated – October 2020

### **Title**

The Blackpool Schools Forum is established in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012, which are amended through subsequent Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

### **Membership**

The Blackpool Schools Forum shall have 17 members as follows:

- 2 Primary School Headteachers or Senior Management Team Members
- 1 Primary School Governor
- 0 Secondary School Headteacher or Senior Management Team Member
- 8 Academy School Headteachers or Senior Management Team Members
- 1 Special School Headteacher or Senior Management Team Member
- 1 Academy Special School Headteacher or Senior Management Team Member
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher or Senior Management Team Member
- 3 Non-Schools nominated members.

The proportion of Primary, Secondary and Academy representatives will be reviewed at the first meeting of the academic year to ensure that the proportions remain representative of pupil numbers in each phase.

Each school, academy, federation, multi-academy trust or academy sponsor may nominate either one Headteacher (or Senior Management Team Member) or one Governor but not both. Federations, multi-academy trust and academy sponsor representing three or more schools in Blackpool may nominate up to two representatives.

The term of office for each representative shall be for three years and each member may hold more than one term of office subject to being re-selected in the appropriate manner.

Where a member ceases to hold the office by virtue of which he became eligible for appointment (e.g. head or governor of a specific phase or school category) an election shall take place where the remaining term of office exceeds one year. For vacant appointments of less than one year remaining the Schools Forum will have the right to co-opt a suitable person fulfilling the requirements of the vacated position.

Members may nominate an appropriate substitute from the group they represent, to attend the Forum on their behalf subject to notification in advance, to the Clerk.

### **Election of School Representatives**

The 14 places held for school and Academy members shall be elected for a three-year term.

The groups may determine their own procedures for nomination which will usually include elections.

Normally the election shall be organised by officers of the Children's Services Authority (CSA). Nominations will be sought from all schools.

Nominees must provide details of the category to be applied for and agree to the nomination. The CSA will give two term-time weeks' notice of the nomination process and closing date.

The CSA will issue voting papers not later than 10 working days from the closure date for the receipt of nominations and allow a further 10 working days for the closing date of voting.

Each school will be able to vote for the total number of vacant places within the category of their school, e.g. primary school. Headteachers may vote for up to two Primary Headteachers and Primary Governing Bodies for one Primary Governor.

Each Governing Body will make its own decision on the method by which it exercises its voting rights.

All schools will be notified of the results of the elections within 7 working days of the close of the election.

Where a group fails to make a nomination within two months of the vacancy arising, the remaining representatives in the relevant group may nominate a representative to be appointed to fill the vacancy. Where there are no remaining representatives of the relevant group, the remaining schools members may nominate the representative to fill the vacancy.

## **Appointment of non-school members**

Nominations will be sought by the CSA from relevant bodies. For this purpose, relevant bodies are as follows:-

- (1) Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Early Years providers
- (2) Trade union
- (3) Post-16 providers

The non-school members on the Forum shall comprise one representative of each of the above bodies. Where more than one relevant association exists, the arrangements for the selection of a single representative shall be at the discretion of the CSA. The CSA may appoint to any of the 3 non-school members positions in the event that there are no nominations received.

Eligibility for non-school membership of the Forum shall not include Council officers or elected members.

The Secretary of State may determine that a relevant body should not be represented following complaint to him/herself by any person.

The CSA shall notify all schools of any appointments of non-school members within one month of the appointment.

## **Meetings and Proceeding**

Meetings of the Schools Forum shall be held in public at least four times a year. Schools Forum papers, minutes and decisions will be published promptly on the Council's website.

The Forum shall be quorate if at least 40% of the total membership is present.

The Forum will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman annually by a simple majority of votes cast. The Chairman may not be an elected member or Council officer.

Voting will take place by a simple majority votes of members present indicated by a show of hands.

In the event of an equality of votes cast on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Only schools members, Academy members, and the private, voluntary and independent sector member may vote on the funding formulae. Votes on de-delegation of permitted items will be restricted to maintained school members of the phase or phases affected.

Local authority attendees may only participate in meetings if they are the relevant Lead Member for Children's Services or Resources (or their representative), the Director of Children's Services (or their representative), the Chief Finance Officer (or their representative), or are providing specific financial or technical advice (including presenting a paper to the Forum).

Changes to the Constitution and Terms of Reference may be made by the Executive, only after consultation with the Schools Forum.

The CSA has responsibility to update the Schools Forum Constitution and working practices in line with changes in legislation

The Education and Skills Funding Agency may attend meetings of the Forum and may participate in discussions.

## Functions

The Forum must be consulted by the CSA on matters relating to:

- a) any changes, and the financial effect of changes, in the formula used to allocate school budget shares and this consultation will allow sufficient time to take account of any views expressed to be incorporated into the school budget shares before the beginning of the financial year.
- b) contracts which are paid or may be paid out of the schools budget where the estimated value is greater than £150,000 p.a.

The CSA shall consult the Forum **annually** in respect of the 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 education;
- (d) prospective revisions to the relevant authority's scheme for the financing of schools; and
- (e) administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the relevant authority.

The CSA will consult the Forum on matters concerning the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Regulations stipulate that Schools Forums will not have any powers to initiate proposals.

## **Accountability to Schools and Others**

The Forum shall, as soon as reasonably possible, inform the governing bodies of all schools of all consultation carried out.

The Forum shall provide copies of minutes of its meetings to the Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

## **Expenses of the Forum**

All expenses of the Forum will be charged to the Schools Budget (as defined by the Local Government Funding blocks).

Members of the Forum shall be entitled to reimbursement of all reasonable expenses in connection with attendance at meetings, in accordance with the rates set out in the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme.

Constitution/Schools Forum – October 2020

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accountant  
**Date of Meeting:** 10 October 2023

## DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2023-2024

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To report the budget position of the 2023-24 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 August 2023 - Appendix 9a.
- 1.2 To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2023 – Appendix 9b.
- 1.3 Action required:
  - For information

### 2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To note contents of the report.

### 3.0 Background:

- 3.1 The monitoring report at Appendix 9a has been amended from the version that was shared at the March 2023 Schools Forum. An adjustment has been made to reduce the Pupil Growth Contingency from the original budget of £295k to nil. This is partly as a result of the business rates adjustment of £64k reported to Schools Forum in March 2023, but also as a result of a further error in the local funding formula notified by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) since the last meeting. The PFI factor accruing to Highfield Leadership Academy was inadvertently omitted from the formula return, meaning that funding of £270k was over-allocated to schools through the formula for 2023/24. In order that this does not impact on funding levels already notified to schools, the ESFA has agreed that the error be rectified by reducing the Pupil Growth Contingency by the remaining £231k, with the balance of £39k being adjusted against the 2024/25 DSG allocation. A recommendation regarding the partial reinstatement of a contingency for pupil growth is included in the Safety Valve report at item 7 of the agenda.
- 3.2 Budget monitoring to the end of August 2023 is forecasting an under spend of £690k against a budgeted under spend of £690k, so a break-even position. This excludes any Safety Value receipts from the Department for Education.
- 3.3 The major in-year variances are as follows:
  - Special School Top Up relating to commissioned places less than budgeted.
  - Pupil Referral Unit Top up relating to additional income from schools.
  - Mainstream School Top Up due to increased demand.
  - Post-16 Education due to lower placement costs than anticipated.
  - Out of Borough demand higher than budgeted.

### 3.4 **Reserves**

The statement of forecast reserves is set out at Appendix 9b to this report. Budget monitoring for the 2023/24 Financial Year is forecasting a £690k surplus, along with the Safety Valve funding of £470k. This will reduce the brought forward deficit of £2.785m to £1.625m by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. This excludes the maintained schools reserves of £3.648m.

## 4.0 **List of Appendices**

4.1 Appendix 9a - Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-2024 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2023.

Appendix 9a - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2023.

### **List of Acronyms :**

DSG	-	Dedicated Schools Grant
LA	-	Local Authority
HNB	-	High Needs Block
SSA	-	Special Support Assistant
ESFA	-	Education and Skills Funding Agency
SERF	-	Special Education Referral Unit
PRU	-	Pupil Referral Unit



## Appendix 9A - Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-2024 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2023

Service	2023/24						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
<b>SchoolsBlock</b>							
Local School Budget							
- Delegated	104,774	52	(84,952)	19,874	19,874	0	
- Third Party & Public Liability Insurance (de-delegated)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	0	18	0	18	18	0	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	0	19	0	19	19	0	
School Improvement	0	48	(4)	44	44	0	
- Education Functions (retained)	0	158	0	158	158	0	
Business Rates	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pupil Growth Contingency	295	(295)	0	0	0	0	
	105,069	(0)	(84,956)	20,113	20,113	0	
<b>CentralSchoolServicesBlock</b>							
Servicing of Schools Forum	18	0	0	18	18	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	104	0	0	104	104	0	
School Admissions	177	0	0	177	177	0	
Former ESG Retained Duties							
- Education Welfare	260	0	0	260	260	0	
- Asset Management	72	0	0	72	72	0	
- Statutory / Regulatory Duties	101	0	0	101	101	0	
	732	0	0	732	732	0	
<b>TotalSchoolsBlock</b>	<b>105,801</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(84,956)</b>	<b>20,845</b>	<b>20,845</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>HighNeedsBlock</b>							
<b>SpecialSchools</b>							
Place Funding	6,054	0	(3,480)	2,574	2,413	(161)	Commissioning less places than budgeted
Top-up Funding	5,242	0	30	5,272	5,263	(9)	
<b>SERFs</b>							
Place Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Top-up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>ResourceProvision</b>							
Place Funding	454	0	(328)	126	126	0	
Top-up Funding	873	0	(0)	873	873	0	
<b>PupilReferralUnits</b>							
Place Funding	1,750	0	0	1,750	1,750	0	
Top-up Funding	1,520	0	0	1,520	1,418	(102)	Income from Schools
Other AP	300	0	0	300	300	0	
<b>MainstreamSchools</b>							
Top-up Funding	2,949	0	3	2,952	3,424	472	More Pupils in Mainstream than forecast
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	158	0	0	158	110	(48)	Based on Aug Forecast
Post-16 Education	3,299	0	(1,190)	2,109	1,709	(400)	Less Places commissioned than budget
Out of Borough	5,671	(100)	(30)	5,541	5,789	248	Based on New Entrants
EOTAS	0	100	0	100	100	0	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,550	0	0	1,550	1,550	0	
Access and Inclusion	1,629	0	0	1,629	1,629	0	
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	772	0	0	772	772	0	
<b>TotalHighNeedsBlock</b>	<b>32,221</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,995)</b>	<b>27,226</b>	<b>27,226</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>EarlyYearsBlock</b>							
2 Year Old Grants	1,733	(188)	0	1,545	1,545	0	
Early Years Pupil Premium	118	7	0	125	125	0	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	7,069	4	0	7,073	7,073	0	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	0	60	0	60	60	0	
Disability Access Fund	75	0	0	75	75	0	
Early Years Central Services	264	74	0	338	338	0	
<b>TotalEarlyYearsBlock</b>	<b>9,259</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TotalExpenditure</b>	<b>147,281</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(89,951)</b>	<b>57,287</b>	<b>57,287</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>DedicatedSchoolsGrantIncome</b>	<b>(147,971)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89,951</b>	<b>(57,977)</b>	<b>(57,977)</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TotalIncome</b>	<b>(147,971)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89,951</b>	<b>(57,977)</b>	<b>(57,977)</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Inyear(under)/overspend</b>	<b>(690)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(690)</b>	<b>(690)</b>	<b>0</b>	

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**Appendix 9B - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2023**

Description	Brought Forward 1st April 2023	Total Forecast Expenditure FY 2023-24	Forecast Surplus/ (Deficit) at 31st March 2024	Comments
DSG Reserve	(2,784,865)	(690,000)	(2,094,865)	
Safety Valve Funding	0	(470,000)	470,000	
Maintained School Balances	3,647,766	0	3,647,766	
	862,901	(1,160,000)	2,022,901	

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## Appendix 10a

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) educated outside of Blackpool through the expansion of Highfurlong special school	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>Construction of the expansion is now underway, and on track to complete on time and within budget. Given the impact of inflation on construction costs, a value engineering exercise has taken place between the LA and the preferred bidder to reduce costs to within the available funding envelope. The delay in the announcement by the DfE of the outcome of the Safety Valve capital bids delayed the start of construction from May until early July, however the project plan still allows for the new building to be available for the start of the 2024/25 academic year as planned.</p>			
Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
<p>Condition 3:</p> <p>Create an intensive support centre at Park Community Academy for pupils with the most complex needs</p>	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>The delay in the announcement of the outcome of the Safety Valve capital bids, as well as another construction scheme at the school, have pushed the planned opening of the new facility back from September 2024 to September 2025. A project team is now in place, with detailed design works scheduled for September 2023, leading to a tendering exercise to allow demolition of the existing block in summer 2024. The Safety Valve plan only assumes a modest saving in the final year from this mitigation, so the delay is not expected to compromise achievement of the overall targets as evidenced in the latest financial forecasts.</p>			
Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
<p>Condition 4:</p> <p>Create a resourced provision base at a secondary school so that some pupils with SEND do not need to go to a special school</p>	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>While the DSG Management Plan only anticipates this facility commencing in September 2024, discussions have been underway with a mainstream secondary school on the creation of provision, with a soft opening in September 2023. Five commissioned places have now been agreed at Highfield Leadership Academy and these places are funded at a level that allows this provision to be sustainable and to provide evidence to other schools and trusts that this model is possible in mainstream secondary provision.</p>			

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AgreementCondition	AssuranceLevel		
<p>Condition5: Encouragemorepupilswith EducationHealthandCarePlans (EHCPs)to remaininmainstream schoolsthroughconsistencyofadvice andguidance,byrealigningrolesin theInclusionTeamtoprovidethe rightsupportattherighttime,andby givingmainstreamschoolstheskills andfundingtomeettheneedsof morechildrenwithSEND</p>	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>ProgressUpdate:</p> <p>Acombinedservicesbrochureforsupporttomainstreamschoolshasbeen introduced,andanimprovedInclusionTeamofferisbeingembeddedwith schools.</p> <p>VacantpostsintheInclusionTeamhavebeenremoved,withanewInclusionLead appointed,andresourceisnowbeingtargetedusinganevidencebaseofneed.The InclusionTeam wasrealignedin SeptembertoprovideLinkAdvisorsupport ,soa consistent personsupportsspecificschools.</p> <p>Apilowiththreeprimaryschoolsforcohortfundingforreceptionpupilsisworking wellinsomeareas,withlessonslearntbeingtakenintoplanningforSeptember 2023pupils.</p> <p>Aspecificbase hasbeencreated ato nemainstreamprimaryschoolforenhanced reception provision from September 2023 to allow the assessment of pupils’ needs, andtheavoidanceofspecialistprovisionforsome.</p> <p>Thegraduatedresponseforprofessionals(teachers/SENCOs)hasbeenupdated andis nowonourLocalOfferpage,withotheradditionalresourcesalsoaddedtothe website.</p> <p>A paper advising professionals about the Local Authority’s response regarding reducedtimetables hasbeencompleted . Alladvisors/EPsetc nowhaveaccessto this consistentresponse toadviseeschools .</p> <p>Thereviewofthebandingframeworkforspecialschools,andtheimplementationofa frameworkinmainstreamschools,areunlikelytobecompletedbySeptember2023 duetoanumberofotherprioritiestaking precedence.Thepurposeofthisactionisto improvesystemsandprocesses,andnosavingtargetsarethereforeassumedinthe DSGManagementPlan.</p>			
AgreementCondition	AssuranceLevel		

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<p>Condition6:</p> <p>1. Develop more robust and consistent processes for requests for assessment and EHCPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the criteria for targeted high needs funding for mainstream schools</li> </ul>	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>Legal training on Code of Practice regarding threshold for assessment has been delivered to SEND staff. Further training is planned for Autumn 2023 for school governors, SENCOs and headteachers.</p> <p>Decision to Assess (DTA) and Decision to Issue (DTI) panels sit fortnightly with attendance from education, health and the Designated Social Care Officer for SEND chairing. Discussions are robust and offer challenge regarding the threshold for assessment and whether an EHCP is essential to meet the needs of children and young people. When an assessment is declined, or a plan is not issued, the Inclusion Team or Educational Psychologist will liaise with the setting to offer advice, guidance or support to meet the individual's needs. We have seen a significant increase in mediation over the last 8 months which is evidence of increased robustness in the system.</p> <p>Revised criteria were in place for the whole of the 2022/23 financial year, relating to targeted high needs funding for mainstream schools, resulting in spend of £134k compared to £158k planned in the DSG Management Plan, and £358k actual spend in 2021/22. So far in 2023/24, £26k has been spent in relation to summer term 2023.</p>			
Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
<p>Condition7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rationalise the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) estates so that pupils are not spread across multiple sites</li> <li>Reduce the budget in line with lower numbers</li> </ul>	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>The delay in the announcement of the outcome of the Safety Valve capital bids had an impact on this scheme due to capacity constraints for LA property staff and design partners. However, the smallest of the three PRU sites was closed earlier than planned in July 2023.</p> <p>Furthermore, an application is being considered by the DfE for an AP free school in Blackpool to accommodate pupils with medical needs. The LA has therefore taken the</p>			



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<p>decision to pause further planning for the PRU scheme pending the outcome of that application, so that a full appraisal can be made of future requirements at the PRU. The DSG Management Plans submitted prior to the Safety Valve agreement assumed savings from this mitigation from 2025/26, however, considering these uncertainties, the savings have been removed from the latest financial forecasts, with other opportunities to reduce expenditure identified to ensure that the deficit recovery plan can be achieved.</p> <p>The anticipated budget deficit in 2022/23 was avoided through robust budget management by the school. A balanced budget has been set for 2023/24, and the school has consulted on a restructure to align staffing with lower pupil numbers.</p>
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Risk	Assurance Level		
<b>Risk1:</b>  Parental confidence in mainstream schools to meet SEND needs	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<b>Mitigation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and support for schools in Quality First Teaching and Graduated Approach;</li> <li>• Embedding inclusive culture in all schools;</li> <li>• LA officers understand the mainstream offer of schools and promote as appropriate.</li> </ul>			
<p>The percentage of good or better schools in Blackpool, in the primary phase, is over 96%, with only one school rated less than good by Ofsted. In the secondary phase the landscape is more challenging. It is often difficult for parents to see the benefit of a mainstream education compared to a special school education when there is such disparity between Ofsted gradings, with the special school sector largely good or outstanding. Lots of schools being judged as inadequate has knocked confidence amongst some parents.</p> <p>The work of SENDIASS in signposting parents to mainstream schools and the growth in understanding of the value of a mainstream education has increased the percentage of children with an EHCP attending mainstream schools from 25.8% in 2022 to 30.5% in 2023, but this could increase further.</p>			
Risk	Assurance Level		
<b>Risk2:</b>  Insufficient additional capital funding awarded to create space required for new local provision	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<b>Mitigation:</b>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reprioritisation of existing and future capital allocations;</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to secure external funding, if required.</li> <li>• Exploration of modular buildsto increase value for money.</li> <li>• Innovative use of school buildings at Langdale School.</li> </ul>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>All 3 Safety Valve capital bids were successful, although the current high inflation rates were not fully factored into original costings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) High furlong expansion – value engineering exercise has been carried out to ensure scheme can be delivered within available funding envelope.</li> <li>2) Park Intensive Support Centre – detailed design and costing work to be carried out in autumn term 2023. Shortfall to be met from scheme 3) if required.</li> <li>3) PRU siterationalisation – on hold pending outcome of AP free school application and design work on scheme 2.</li> </ol>			
Risk		Assurance Level	
Risk 3:  Historically high numbers of permanent exclusions in secondary academies	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting funding within High Needs budget to promote inclusive practices</li> </ul>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>A target of 24 permanent exclusions across 8 secondary schools has been set. This has been close to being achieved in recent years, with only 25 in 2021/22 academic year. However, all but one of the schools has exceeded 3PX in 2022/23 and have had inclusion funding withheld as a consequence.</p> <p>Despite the increase in the number of pupils permanently excluded in 2022-23 school year, this pattern has been seen in other areas as well as in Blackpool.</p> <p>Schools have been made aware that the funding available to prevent permanent exclusion will be replaced by funding that specifically follows individual children, catering for bespoke needs rather than a pot of money for general inclusion. Schools must integrate ongoing initiatives for reducing PEX into their budgets, accepting that the high needs funding is finite and that they must prioritise these initiatives over others that have not had the same impact. The removal of the funding should focus schools more on the importance of spending a proportion of their own budget on preventing exclusion, rather than using high needs block funds. This should increase ownership.</p>			

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Removing the £480k per year from the plan increases the surplus in coming years and will allow reinvestment into schools and pupils as we move forwards.			
Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk5:	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
The recent inadequate Ofsted judgement for Lotus School (SEMH) has the potential to push more pupils into independent special schools	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement and safeguarding support from local authority</li> <li>Improvement support from external partners</li> <li>Strengthening of leadership by Trust</li> </ul>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>A review has been undertaken by the Trust in collaboration with the local authority of the curriculum delivery model, and of funding levels. An uplift in funding has been agreed by the LA from September 2023 in line with the enhanced operating model.</p> <p>The follow-up visit by Ofsted indicated that good progress is being made towards addressing the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report.</p> <p>An SLA is being put in place with an outstanding special school to provide advice and guidance on the improvement plan.</p> <p>We continue to monitor the progress being made alongside Ofsted and the DFE.</p>			
Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk6:	Update1 (May/June)	Update2 (September)	Update3 (December)
The Head of School Finance and Funding, who has been leading on the Safety Valve programme for Blackpool, is leaving the LA at the end of August 2023.	RAG	RAG	RAG
<p>Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge already spread across other LA officers relating to DSG Management Plan and Safety Valve agreement</li> </ul>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>Steps are being taken to replace the capacity, and comprehensive procedure and handover notes have been produced in order that delivery of the DSG Management Plan</p>			

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and Safety Valve conditions is not compromised.

An advertisement for a new senior accountant and responsibility for the preparation of all key documentation and monitoring is still with the AD education, who has overseen the agreement and projects since the start.

**Report to :** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer :** Paul Turner – Assistant Director  
**Date of Meeting:** 10 October 2023

## **SAFETY VALVE UPDATE**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report :**

1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the latest developments in the Safety Valve programme , including progress against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan .

1.2 Action required – for information.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To note the update relating to the Safety Valve programme and the Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan .

### **3.0 Background Information**

3.1 As reported in previous meetings, Blackpool, along with many other areas around the country, has experienced financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. The Department for Education's (DfE) Safety Valve programme targets those local authorities with the highest percentage DSG deficits , and requires them to develop plans for reform to their high needs systems and associated spending, with support and challenge from the DfE, to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing. The authorities are held to account for their reform and savings via regular reporting to the DfE. The DfE in turn help the local authorities with additional funding overtime to contribute to their historic deficits, contingent on delivery of the reforms. Capital funding can also be made available to support the creation of local provision if projected revenue savings can be demonstrated.

#### ***Safety Valve agreement***

3.2 On 16 March 2023, Blackpool Council's Safety Valve agreement was published on the DfE's website (see following link: [Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement: Blackpool 2022 -2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141112/Blackpool2022-2023_safety_valve_agreement.pdf) ). The Council has been successful in securing the full amount of funding requested, namely:

- £3.876 million of revenue funding to write off the historic DSG deficit (level anticipated in DSG Management Plan at 31 March 2024)

- £6.153millionofcapitalfundingtowards threeschemesthatunderpinactions intheDSGManagementPlan

3.3 Therevenue fundingwill bepaidtoBlackpoolCouncilininstalmentsoverthelifeof theDSGManagementPlan,withpaymentssubjecttocompliancewiththeconditions oftheSafetyValveagreement,mostnotablyadherencetotheplanforrepaymentof theDSGdeficit. Thefirstpaymentof£1.55 millionwasreceivedinMarch 2023. Whenaddedtothein -yearsurplusof£621k,thecumulative deficit reduced from £4.956 million asat31March2022 to£ 2.785 million at31March2023 .

### ***SafetyValvemonitoring***

3.4 ThelocalauthorityisrequiredtoreturnmonitoringinformationtotheDfEatleast threetimesayear(June,SeptemberandDecember),usingatemplatetobeprovided bythem. Inordertoavoidduplication,thesameinformationwillbeusedtoreport toSchoolsForum,and theSeptember returncanbeseenat Appendix 10a tothis report.

3.5 ThemonitoringreportsshowthatmostconditionsoftheSafetyValveagreementare currentlybeingmet,withkeyperformanceindicatordatashowingpositiveprogress towardsthetargetsfor2023/24.Thedelayto theannouncementofcapitalfunding hasledtoanadjustmenttothecapitalprogrammetoalignwithcapacityand timescalestodeliverschemes,butthelocalauthorityisconfidentthatthiswillhavea negligibleimpactontheabilitytomeetthedeficit recoverytargets.

3.6 Additionalgovernmentfundinginrecentyearshashelpedtooffsetsomeofthe pressuresontheHighNeedsblock.Blackpoolisnowinapositionwhereitis reducingthecumulativedeficitontheDSG. Thein -yearsurplusof£621kcompares favourablywiththeprojectionwithintheDSGManagementPlanforthedeficitto reduceby£394kin2022/23. Noinformationhascometolighttosuggestthatthe planneddeficitreductionfor2023/24,cannotbeachieved.

### ***OtherHighNeedsdevelopments***

3.7 AsignificantnumberofnewEducationHealthandCarePlans(EHCPs)havebeen issuedinrecentmonthstochildrenwhoentered ReceptionyearinSeptember2023. Thisisanintentionalmove,basedonfeedbackfromheadteachers,toensurethat schoolsareprovidedwithasmuchinformationaspossibleabouttheneedsofpupils theyareadmitting. Inordertoensurethatthereisappropriateprovisioninplacefor thosechildrenwiththegreatestlevelofneed,anewenhancedprovisionhasbeen established at Revoe Learning Academy from September 2023. The children’s needs willbeassessedduringtheReceptionyeartoestablishwhethertheycancontinue theireducationinmainstreamwithsupport,orwhethertheyneedtomovetoa specialschoolor. Itisanticipatedthatthecostsofrunningthisprovisionwillgenerate

saving to the High Needs block in future years, and also result in better outcomes for those pupils who are able to remain in mainstream education.

3.8 In addition to the enhanced provision, not all schools who are admitting a large number of pupils with EHCPs will be offered “cohort funding” to afford them the flexibility to make provision for the group of children, rather than being constrained by funding requirements linked to individual pupils.

3.9 Since the last meeting of Schools Forum, the local authority has reviewed planned expenditure on inclusion within the High Needs block. Secondary schools and trusts have been notified that 2023/24 will be a final academic year in which secondary inclusion funding of £60k per school will be paid. After that, assuming that deficit recovery plans remain on track, this budget will be available to apply in a more targeted way to follow those pupils whom most need it. There are other areas of discretionary spend on inclusion within the High Needs budget, and these can be considered in the future should deficit recovery targets look at risk.

3.10 One of the mitigations included within Safety Valve plans included an amendment to the methodology for awarding Exceptional Circumstances funding, as approved by Schools Forum in January 2022. The change has delivered the anticipated savings in 2022/23, with funding paid out of £134k across four schools, compared to £357k paid to 21 schools in the previous year. The scheme now targets funding to those schools meeting the most exceptional level of need, so no further changes are recommended.

**List of acronyms:**

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

DfE – Department for Education

EHCP – Education Health and Care Plan

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**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Darren Maddocks, Strategic Management Accountant  
**Date of Meeting:** 10 October 2023

## Schools Funding Formula 2024/25

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the local authority's proposals for the allocation of schools funding in 2024/25.

1.2 Action required:

- Recommendation 2.1: for consultation (local authority decision); voting restricted to school and Early Years representatives.
- Recommendation 2.2: for approval (Schools Forum decision).

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To support to the local authority's proposals for the allocation of school funding in 2024/25 by applying the following principles:

- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula (NFF) unit values;
- Set a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% per pupil funding;
- Transfer any surplus from the growth funding allocation into the growth funding contingency.

2.2 In line with feedback from schools, to approve the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block by way of a reduction to the Basic Entitlement.

### 3.0 Background Information

3.1 In July 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the provisional school funding allocations for local authorities in 2024/25.

3.2 The provisional Schools Block allocation is calculated by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through the schools NFF using October 2022 pupil data. Individual school budgets are then aggregated at local authority level to calculate a Primary Unit of Funding and a Secondary Unit of Funding, which will then be multiplied by the number on roll in October 2023 to determine Blackpool's final Schools Block funding. Blackpool's Primary Unit of Funding has been set at £5,303, and the Secondary Unit of Funding has been set at £7,269.

3.3 The majority of the NFF formula factors values will increase by 2.4%, with the free school meals factor increasing by 1.6%. Premises funding (Rates, Private Finance

Initiative, Split site and Exceptional Premises) will continue to be allocated at local authority level on an historic basis, based on actual spend in the 2023/24 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative factor only.

- 3.4 The Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels, which are mandatory in local funding formulae, will increase to £4,655 for primary schools, and £6,050 for secondary schools.
- 3.5 The funding floor used in the national formula will be set at 0.5% in 2024/25, meaning that all schools' NFF allocations will see a minimum gain per pupil of 0.5% above their 2023/24 baseline pupil-led funding. In order to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes in funding, local authorities are obliged to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in their local formula. This is based on a school's per pupil funding excluding Rates, Sparsity and Lump Sum, and must be set at a rate between 0.0% and 0.5% per pupil for 2024/25.
- 3.6 There will be no NFF gains cap applied to local authority level allocations, but local authorities will still be able to use a cap in their local formulae.
- 3.7 Other technical changes of note for 2024/25 include:
- Rolling the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant into the NFF, including adjusting the baseline for 2023/24.
  - Transition requirements to bring local formulae closer to the NFF (not applicable to Blackpool given that the local formula already mirrors the NFF).
- 3.8 Subject to updates for October 2023 Census information, the Schools Block allocation is likely to increase by c.£3.3 million, or 3.03% per pupil, compared to 2023/24. The provisional figures have enabled the local authority to produce illustrative school-level funding, taking account of the additional funding from Government.

### **Blackpool proposed Schools Funding Formula 2024/25**

- 3.9 As previously agreed by Schools Forum, it is proposed that Blackpool's school funding formula will continue to mirror the NFF by applying the NFF factor values, and setting a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% per pupil funding in line with the NFF funding floor. Furthermore, any surplus from the growth funding allocation will be transferred into the growth funding contingency.
- 3.10 As required by funding regulations, the local authority launched a consultation on proposals for the 2024/25 schools funding formula on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (see Appendix 11a). This year, the review has focused on the single matter of a proposed transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
- 3.11 The consultation closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, with 10 responses received covering the views of 9 mainstream schools plus 1 other settings. Given that the

other settings are not funded by the school funding formula, their responses have been excluded from the analysis below. The responses are summarised below:

Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2024/25 by way of a reduction to the Basic Entitlement?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1   Yes	77.8%	7
2   No	22.2%	2
Comments:		
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

- 3.12 The comments received, both from schools who supported the proposed transfer and those who did not, referred to schools being under significant cost pressures and an understanding of the wider High Needs Block issues.
- 3.13 Despite these concerns, given the majority support for the continued transfer of funding from the Schools Block, the Local Authority recommends that this proposal is implemented in 2024/25.

**Next steps**

- 3.14 In December 2023, the ESFA will publish the final allocations of the Schools Block of funding based on October 2023 Census data. The local authority will then produce the draft 2024/25 formula in advance of the Schools Forum in January 2024 before individual school budgets are issued before the end of February 2024.

**List of acronyms:**

- NFF National Funding Formula
- DfE Department for Education
- ESFA Education and Skills Funding Agency
- RPIX Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest
- MFG Minimum Funding Guarantee

**List of Appendices:**

- Appendix 11a - Blackpool Schools Funding Formula consultation 2024/25

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# Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2024/25 Consultation Document September 2023

Appendix 11a

Blackpool Council



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## Introduction

This document sets out proposals and options for Blackpool's school funding formula in 2024/25, and seeks feedback from Blackpool schools. **The consultation runs until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**, and the outcome will be presented to Schools Forum in October 2023, with approval of the final formula sought at Schools Forum in January 2024.

## Timetable

8 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023	Consult Blackpool schools on 2024/25 formula options
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Outcome of consultation presented to Schools Forum
December 2023	Department for Education (DfE) publishes Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for local authorities based on pupil data from October 2023 census
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Schools Forum to consider local authority's final proposals for schools funding formula for 2024/25
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Submission of 2024/25 funding formula to Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
February 2024	Budgets issued to schools for 2024/25

## Background

In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced its plans to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for mainstream schools.

Since 2018/19, the Schools NFF has been used to determine the Schools Block total allocation for each local authority in the country as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation. The DfE is working towards using the NFF to directly set individual mainstream school budgets, but until that time, funding at school level will continue to be determined by local authority formulae.

In 2023/24, the Department for Education provided additional funding through the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant that allocated an extra £3.7 million to Blackpool mainstream schools on top of funding through the local formula.

### Details of national funding formula for 2024/25

In July 2023, the ESFA provided further detail on the schools NFF for 2024/25. The majority of the NFF formula factors values will increase by approximately 2.4%, with the free school meals factor increasing by 1.6%. Premises funding (Rates, Private Finance Initiative, and Exceptional Premises) will continue to be allocated at local authority level on a historic basis, based on actual spend in the 2023/24 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor only.

The Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels, which are mandatory in local funding formulae, will increase to £4,655 for primary schools, and £6,050 for secondary schools.

There will be no NFF gains cap applied to local authority level allocations, but local authorities will still be able to use a cap in their local formulae. The funding floor used in the national formula will be set at 0.5% in 2024/25, meaning that all schools' NFF allocations will see a minimum gain per pupil of 0.5% above their 2023/24 baseline pupil-led funding.

From 2024/25, a new split site factor is being added into the NFF, which will be allocated to any school with more than one site separated by a road or railway. There is a basic amount of £54,300 per additional site plus up to £27,100 based on the distance between sites separated by more than 100 metres. Since the closure of Langdale Free School, only Armfield Academy qualifies for this new element.

A new calculation in the NFF will see the allocation of funding to local authorities for schools with falling rolls. Local authorities have always been able to set funding aside for schools with falling rolls, but this has not previously been recognised in the national formula. There are strict rules as to when falling rolls funding can be allocated to schools, with the key feature being that places in the school would be needed within the subsequent three years. Given that these circumstances are not anticipated in Blackpool, there are no proposals to introduce a falling rolls fund in the foreseeable future.

Other technical changes of note for 2024/25 include:

- Rolling the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant into the NFF, including adjusting the baseline for 2023/24.
- Transition requirements to bring local formulae closer to the NFF (not applicable to Blackpool given that the local formula already mirrors the NFF).
- Local authorities have the freedom to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee in their local formulae between +0.0% and +0.5% per pupil.

### **Proposals for Blackpool's formula**

The July 2023 announcement included provisional funding allocations for local authorities in 2024/25 using October 2022 pupil numbers. While the total allocation will be updated using the October 2023 census pupil numbers, we know that Blackpool's Primary Unit of Funding has increased by 6.5% to £5,303, and the Secondary Unit of Funding has increased by 6.8% to £7,269. An element of this increase is due to the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant sitting outside of the funding units in 2023/24.

Subject to updates for October 2023 Census information, the Schools Block allocation (including Mainstream Schools Additional Grant) is likely to increase by almost £3.3 million, or 3.03% per pupil. The provisional figures have enabled us to produce illustrative school-level funding, taking account of the additional funding from Government.

In order to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes in funding, local authorities are obliged to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG). This is based on a school's per pupil funding excluding Rates, Sparsity and Lump Sum. In support of the Government's intention to increase funding at school level, the DfE's regulations on funding formulas require local authorities to set an MFG at a rate between 0.0% and 0.5% per pupil for 2024/25.

Following previous consultations with schools, it was agreed that Blackpool's local formula would continue to mirror the national formula as far as possible, including setting the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at the same level as the funding floor, which for 2024/25 will be 0.5%. It was also agreed that any surplus growth funding will be set aside in a growth fund contingency, which will be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years. The surplus will be calculated after ensuring that the new national funding formula flows in full to all schools. This principle will also be followed to ensure that split site funding is received in Blackpool's formula by any school that meets the national criteria.



This year, therefore, we are only consulting on a proposed transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

### **Transfer of funding to the High Needs Block**

As has been the case in recent years, the Schools Block allocation within the DSG funding framework remains ring-fenced in 2024/25, but the local authority retains limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block funding into other blocks, with the approval of Schools Forum. To make such a transfer, the local authority is required to consult with all schools and seek the agreement of Schools Forum.

The local authority may submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education in cases where the Schools Forum does not support the proposal to move funding out of the Schools Block, or where a transfer of more than 0.5% is proposed.

Blackpool, along with many other areas around the country, has experienced financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. In March 2023, Blackpool entered into a Safety Valve agreement with the DfE. The programme is for the local authorities with the highest percentage DSG deficits, and requires those local authorities to develop plans for reform to their high needs systems and associated spending, with support and challenge from the DfE, to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing. The authorities are held to account for their reform and savings via regular reporting to the DfE. The DfE in turn helps the local authorities with additional funding over time to contribute to their historic deficits, contingent on delivery of the reforms. However, the DfE expects Safety Valve authorities to be able to not only reach a sustainable 0-year balance, but also to contribute to the reduction of the historic deficit through use of DSG surpluses.

A summary of the DSG Management Plan that underpins Blackpool's Safety Valve agreement can be seen at Appendix 1. The plan received the support of Schools Forum at its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The target for 2022/23 was over-achieved, with the cumulative deficit at March 2023 standing at £4.335 million (before Safety Valve grant) compared to £4.563 million in the plan. Forecasts for 2023/24 so far indicate that the planned reduction in the deficit will be achieved.

However, despite the good progress that is being made and actions that have been taken to address ongoing pressures, a balanced High Needs budget is only being achieved through the ongoing transfers of funding from other blocks. Subject to annual approval by Schools Forum, the DSG Management Plan therefore assumes an ongoing transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block until such time as the historic deficit is written off.

For this reason, the local authority is proposing to continue to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2024/25. Subject to the final DSG settlement, this would reduce the cumulative DSG deficit by approximately £559k. The ongoing transfer of this funding enables the continued support by the High Needs block of a number of discretionary Early Help initiatives, such as inclusion projects, family support in schools, Elective Home Education support, and safeguarding advice to schools.

In recent years, the reduction in school budgets has been effected by reducing the Basic Entitlement formula factor values by a small percent. Schools have previously commented that this methodology most fairly distributes the transfer of funding across the majority of schools. The only schools where budgets would not be affected are those where the Minimum Funding Guarantee and/or the Minimum Per Pupil Level of Funding applies.

Appendix 2 to this document contains an anonymised illustration of the impact on individual schools' provisional allocations of making a 0.5% transfer by reducing the Basic Entitlement factor value . In the illustration, a reduction of 0.8% (or between £2.9 and £4.6 per pupil) has been applied to the Basic Entitlement values to release £559k.

It should be noted that the data used in the illustration is derived from the October 2022 School Census, and that final school budgets will use October 2023 School Census data. The illustrations are therefore provided to allow stakeholders to see a hypothetical scenario of the impact across schools of the transfer, in order that informed views can be provided .

Question 1	Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2024/25 by reducing the Basic Entitlement formula factor values ?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

## How to Respond

This consultation closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

We would ask that only one coordinated response is made for each mainstream school affected by this consultation, and that you indicate the name of the school for the purpose of analysis. Individual responses will not be shared with other schools and evaluation will be anonymised.

It would be helpful if you could complete your responses to the questions posed and any associated comments using the link below:

[Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2024 -25](#)

You can alternatively complete a copy of the survey at the final section of this document and return by email to [paul.turner2@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner2@blackpool.gov.uk). Any queries regarding the consultation can be sent to this same email address.

## Glossary

<b>DfE</b>	<b>Department for Education</b>
<b>DSG</b>	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>
<b>ESFA</b>	<b>Education and Skills Funding Agency</b>
<b>NFF</b>	<b>National Funding Formula</b>
<b>PFI</b>	<b>Private Finance Initiative</b>
<b>MFG</b>	<b>Minimum funding guarantee</b>

## Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2024/25 Consultation

### Appendix 1 – Safety Valve DSG Management Plans Summary

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget	Actual
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total High Needs expenditure (unmitigated)	27804	30116	32730	34214	36033	37433
High Needs allocation	-25617	-29207	-31974	-32933	-33921	-34939
In-year (surplus)/deficit - High Needs (unmitigated)	2187	909	756	1281	2112	2494
Planned mitigations	0	-365	-506	-991	-1590	-1954
In-year (surplus)/deficit - High Needs (mitigated)	2187	544	250	290	522	540
Transfer from Schools Block *	-457	-494	-528	-528	-528	-528
(Surplus)/deficit from other DSG blocks	-2535	-444	-410	-328	-262	-210
In-year (surplus)/deficit - DSG	-805	-394	-688	-566	-268	-198
Cumulative DSG (surplus)/deficit (excluding Safety Valve grant)	<u>4957</u>	<u>4563</u>	<u>3875</u>	<u>3309</u>	<u>3041</u>	<u>2843</u>
Safety Valve grant funding		-1550	-470	-470	-470	-930
Cumulative DSG (surplus)/deficit (including Safety Valve grant)		<u>3013</u>	<u>1855</u>	<u>819</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>-1047</u>
Actual deficit at 31st March 2023		2785				

\*NB transfer from Schools Block was estimated at time of submission of Safety Valve plan at 2023/24 levels

Appendix 2 – Illustrative202 4/25 budgetallocationsatschoollevel

School	Actual2023/24allocation			Illustrative2024/25nottransfer			Illustrative2024/250.5%transfer			Impactof 0.5% transfer
	Formula	MSAG	Total	£	Diff£	Diff%	£	Diff£	Diff%	
1	2,718,598	88,407	2,807,005	2,873,782	66,777	2.38%	2,873,782	66,777	2.38%	0
2	1,003,636	33,328	1,036,964	1,050,968	14,003	1.35%	1,050,968	14,003	1.35%	0
3	1,552,555	53,309	1,605,864	1,615,364	9,500	0.59%	1,615,364	9,500	0.59%	0
4	2,643,703	88,464	2,732,167	2,794,544	62,378	2.28%	2,794,544	62,378	2.28%	0
5	1,826,926	60,090	1,887,016	1,934,025	47,009	2.49%	1,932,047	45,031	2.39%	-1,978
6	552,016	18,400	570,416	641,195	70,779	12.41%	638,528	68,112	11.94%	-2,667
7	1,036,837	35,306	1,072,143	1,104,415	32,271	3.01%	1,099,080	26,936	2.51%	-5,335
8	966,318	33,555	999,873	1,030,184	30,311	3.03%	1,024,424	24,551	2.46%	-5,760
9	944,778	30,970	975,748	1,005,667	29,919	3.07%	999,878	24,130	2.47%	-5,789
10	1,182,879	39,008	1,221,887	1,258,936	37,048	3.03%	1,253,090	31,203	2.55%	-5,846
11	956,454	32,664	989,118	1,019,567	30,449	3.08%	1,013,722	24,604	2.49%	-5,846
12	932,557	32,976	965,533	991,916	26,383	2.73%	986,070	20,537	2.13%	-5,846
13	1,023,667	33,303	1,056,970	1,089,082	32,112	3.04%	1,083,208	26,238	2.48%	-5,874
14	1,070,103	34,477	1,104,580	1,137,526	32,946	2.98%	1,131,595	27,016	2.45%	-5,931
15	1,131,245	38,236	1,169,481	1,203,879	34,398	2.94%	1,197,920	28,438	2.43%	-5,959
16	1,489,587	51,944	1,541,531	1,586,847	45,317	2.94%	1,578,959	37,428	2.43%	-7,889
17	1,911,370	68,799	1,980,169	2,035,581	55,412	2.80%	2,026,301	46,132	2.33%	-9,279
18	1,612,174	55,889	1,668,063	1,721,545	53,482	3.21%	1,712,096	44,033	2.64%	-9,449
19	2,122,450	72,326	2,194,776	2,263,608	68,832	3.14%	2,253,166	58,390	2.66%	-10,443
20	1,763,765	61,332	1,825,097	1,888,286	63,189	3.46%	1,877,786	52,689	2.89%	-10,499
21	2,005,452	69,786	2,075,238	2,138,001	62,763	3.02%	2,127,445	52,207	2.52%	-10,556
22	2,282,319	75,183	2,357,502	2,427,909	70,407	2.99%	2,416,587	59,084	2.51%	-11,322
23	2,350,817	83,534	2,434,351	2,506,985	72,634	2.98%	2,495,407	61,056	2.51%	-11,578
24	2,317,755	81,559	2,399,314	2,470,465	71,151	2.97%	2,458,688	59,375	2.47%	-11,776
25	1,937,542	63,924	2,001,466	2,062,655	61,189	3.06%	2,050,794	49,327	2.46%	-11,861
26	2,199,159	75,905	2,275,064	2,346,201	71,136	3.13%	2,333,119	58,055	2.55%	-13,082
27	2,519,163	87,875	2,607,038	2,689,429	82,391	3.16%	2,674,361	67,323	2.58%	-15,068
28	2,810,166	99,971	2,910,137	2,998,521	88,384	3.04%	2,982,999	72,861	2.50%	-15,522
29	2,597,888	88,459	2,686,347	2,775,735	89,389	3.33%	2,759,759	73,412	2.73%	-15,976
30	2,540,962	93,674	2,634,636	2,716,248	81,612	3.10%	2,700,243	65,607	2.49%	-16,004
31	3,139,939	105,909	3,245,848	3,358,653	112,805	3.48%	3,341,144	95,297	2.94%	-17,508
32	3,963,288	150,212	4,113,500	4,169,354	55,853	1.36%	4,146,445	32,945	0.80%	-22,908
33	5,832,953	217,742	6,050,695	6,238,377	187,682	3.10%	6,205,920	155,225	2.57%	-32,457
34	6,210,496	238,978	6,449,474	6,646,892	197,417	3.06%	6,611,120	161,646	2.51%	-35,772
35	6,302,756	235,101	6,537,857	6,733,862	196,005	3.00%	6,698,006	160,149	2.45%	-35,857
36	6,540,991	238,458	6,779,449	6,993,072	213,622	3.15%	6,950,734	171,284	2.53%	-42,338
37	6,546,081	233,365	6,779,446	7,052,381	272,934	4.03%	7,009,990	230,544	3.40%	-42,391
38	6,855,567	244,486	7,100,053	7,324,080	224,027	3.16%	7,279,910	179,857	2.53%	-44,170
39	7,442,445	275,410	7,717,855	7,952,818	234,963	3.04%	7,904,113	186,258	2.41%	-48,705
	<b>104,837,359</b>	<b>3,722,314</b>	<b>108,559,673</b>	<b>111,848,553</b>	<b>3,288,880</b>	<b>3.03%</b>	<b>111,289,311</b>	<b>2,729,639</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>-559,242</b>

# Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2024/25 Consultation

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## Consultation Response Form

Name:	
Title:	
School/Trust:	<i>We would ask that only one coordinated response is made for each mainstream school affected by this consultation, and that you indicate the name of the school for the purpose of analysis.</i>

Question 1	Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2024/25 by redefining the Basic Entitlement formula factor values?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Please return completed forms to [paul.turner2@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:paul.turner2@blackpool.gov.uk) by Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Kim Wood, Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Manager.  
**Date of Meeting:** 10 October 2023

## EXPANSION OF FUNDED CHILDCARE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To note the Government's current plans for the expansion of funded childcare, and the current work in progress.
- 1.2 Purpose of the report – for information.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the present position.

### 3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 In the Government's spring budget new childcare entitlements were announced for working parents:

- From April 2024 all working parents of 2 year olds can access 15 hours per week
- From September 2024 all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years can access 15 hours per week
- From September 2025 all working parents aged 9 months up to 3 years can access 30 hours childcare per week

- 3.2 The budget also announced an uplift in the funding rates from September 2023 via a new Early Years Supplementary Grant. Local authorities are expected to pass the uplift through in full to Early Years settings:

#### 3 and 4 year olds

Current provider base rate excluding supplements £4.59 per hour  
Increase £0.37 per hour  
Revised provider rate excluding supplements £4.96 per hour  
Increase 8.4%

The actual percentage increase will vary per provider due to supplement rates for deprivation, quality and teachers pay and pensions.

## **2 year olds**

Current provider base rate £5.48 per hour  
Increase £1.63 per hour  
Revised provider rate £7.11 per hour  
Increase 29%

## **Early Years pupil premium**

Additional 4p per hour, meaning 66p per hour per child

## **Disability Access Fund**

Annual increase from £828 to £881

- 3.3 The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on a new proposed funding formula for children aged two and below, together with provisional indicative funding rates that could be applied from April 2024 onwards. The consultation ran from 21 July to 8 September 2023, and full details can be found on the DfE's website: [Early years funding - extension of the entitlements - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#).
- 3.4 The proposed new formula broadly follows the current formula for 3 and 4 year olds. It is proposed that deprivation supplements will also apply to children aged two and below.
- 3.5 Longer term it is also proposed that the maximum of grant funding that can be retained by local authorities to cover their own expenses for administration of the grant is capped at 3% (currently 5%).

## **List of Acronyms**

DfE – Department for Education