

5 January 2021

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 12 January 2021 at 9.15 am
Microsoft Teams Meeting

A G E N D A

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 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

(Pages 1 - 2)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources to provide an update.

4 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect the Chairman of the Forum until August 2021.

5 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice Chairman of the Forum until August 2021.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider and agree the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020 as an accurate record.

To consider any matters arising not outlined on the Agenda.

7 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE (Pages 13 - 16)

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion to provide an update report.

8 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE (Pages 17 - 22)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources to provide an update report.

9 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2020-2021 (Pages 23 - 26)

Mark Golden, Finance Manager to provide an update report.

10 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2021 - 2022 PROPOSALS (Pages 27 - 36)

Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer, to provide an overview report.

11 DRAFT DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2021-2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL (Pages 37 - 40)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources to provide an overview report.

12 DE-DELEGATION OF SERVICES AND RETENTION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION FUNCTIONS 2021 - 2022 (Pages 41 - 48)

Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer to provide an overview report.

13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Forum to note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 9 March 2019 at 9.15am.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Danielle Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477202, e-mail danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the group of the outcome of elections to Schools Forum for the term of office running from 1 January 2021 to 31 August 2023.

1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the membership update for the term of office running from 1 January 2021 to 31 August 2023 as set out in the table below.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 A new term of office for Schools Forum members commences in January 2021. An error in the recommendation to Schools Forum on 13 October 2020 and the minutes of that meeting incorrectly noted the end date of the term of office as 31 August 2022, rather than 31 August 2023 as should have been the case.

3.2 Each group represented on Schools Forum has undertaken an exercise to identify their representative(s) for the forthcoming term. The outcome is set out in the table below:

Category	Name	School (Trust) / Organisation
Maintained Primary Schools	Elaine Allen	St John Vianney
	Helen Moreton	Holy Family
Maintained Primary Governor	Michelle Lonican	Our Lady of the Assumption
Academies	Simon Brennand	Unity (FCAT)
	Roger Farley	Westminster (FCAT)
	Tracy Harrison	Thames/Roseacre (AtC)
	Matt McIver	St George's/Baines Endowed (Cidari)
	Edward Vitalis	Marton/South Shore (Bright Futures)

	Graeme Dow	Anchorsholme (Sea View)
	Simon Eccles	St Mary's (BEBCMAT)
	Amanda Bailey	Highfield (Star)
Maintained Special Schools	Neill Oldham	Highfurlong
Maintained Special Academy	Gill Hughes	Park (Sea View)
Pupil Referral Unit	Wendy Casson	Educational Diversity
Early Years	Richard Rendell	Langdale Nursery
Post-16	Jane Gray	Blackpool 6 th Form College
Trade Unions (shared seat)	Amanda Baines	National Education Union
	Neil Adams	Unison

Acronyms:

FCAT	Fylde Coast Academy Trust
AtC	Achievement through Collaboration
BEBCMAT	Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

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Present:

Primary School Head Teachers/Representative

Dr E Allen, St John Vianney

Primary School Governor Representative

Ms M Lonican, School Governor, Our Lady of the Assumption

Special School Academy Representative

Ms S Fielder, Chair of Governors, Park Community Academy

Academy School Representatives

Ms A Bailey, Highfield (Star Academies)

Mr R Farley, Westminster (Chair)

Ms T Harrison, Thames

Mr D Logan, Roseacre (Achievement Through Collaboration)

Mr D Medcalf, St Georges

Pupil Referral Unit

Ms W Casson, Educational Diversity

Non-Schools Members

Mr N Adams, Staff / Teacher Associations

Ms A Baines, Staff/Teacher Associations

Mr S Hughes, Blackpool and the Fylde College

Mr R Rendell, Early Years Strategic Group

In Attendance:

Councillor K Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration

Mr M Golden, Finance Manager

Mr P Thompson, Head of SEND

Mr P Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Mrs H Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Mrs D Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser (minutes)

Ms S Butler, Advanced Practitioner, HeadStart (Item 8 only)

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Roger Farley welcomed attendees to the meeting and confirmed that as the Vice Chair, he would chair the Schools Forum meeting until the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum in January 2021.

Introductions were made and apologies were noted from Karen Haworth, Woodlands, Janice Heywood, Revoe and Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer.

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2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Hilary Wood confirmed that she had an interest in item 8, Moving on Up – Support for Pupils in Transition from Primary to Secondary School as she supported HeadStart as a part of her role. It was recognised that she would be presenting information on the item, but would not be included in the decision of the Forum as she was not a member.

The union representatives Neil Adams and Amanda Baines had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 11 due to representing Staff / Teacher Associations and were unable to vote on the recommendation to use union duty reserves and the incorporation of Unison in the funding arrangements for union duties with effect from 1 January 2021.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2020 were considered and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes were noted:

Illuminate Funding – the process of applying for and receiving the Illuminate funding – it was agreed that primary headteachers would discuss Illuminate Funding at their dedicated meetings in November 2020 and report back to the next Schools Forum meeting.

Public Health Updates – it was noted that Public Health updates would be presented to the Joint Consultative Group and would no longer be presented to the Schools Forum for consideration.

North West Deficit position – an update was included in the High Needs report at item 7.

Resolved:

- **To seek comments on the Illuminate funding process to include the application for funding and subsequent receipt of funds from primary headteachers at their November 2020 meeting and report back to the next Schools Forum.**

4 REVIEW FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources provided an overview report. It was noted that the Schools Forum Constitution required a review of membership at the first meeting of each academic year. Consideration should be made to the proportion of primary, secondary and academy representatives to ensure the proportions remained representative of pupil numbers in each phase. The Forum was recommended to agree to the balance of representatives between primary, secondary and academy mainstream schools. It was noted that no further conversions were recorded therefore no changes were required to the 11 Forum places for mainstream school members.

The Forum was recommended to agree to the continuation of arrangements in relation to

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provisions in the Constitution relating to numbers of representatives from any federation, multi-academy trust or academy sponsor. It was noted that where a Multi Academy Trust sponsored at least three Blackpool schools, they were entitled to two places on the Forum, otherwise, one place was allocated.

The Forum was recommended to agree to the next term of office for Forum Members to run from 1 January 2021 until 31 August ~~2022~~ 2023(amended), with subsequent terms of office running for three academic years. It was noted that the new timescales would better accommodate the natural moving on of Members at the end of an academic year.

The Forum agreed to all of the recommendations outlined.

Resolved:

- **The balance of representatives between primary, secondary and academy mainstream schools was agreed as 11 out of the 17 Members.**
- **The continuation of arrangements in relation to provisions in the Constitution relating to numbers of representatives from any federation, multi-academy trust or academy sponsor was agreed.**
- **That the next term of office for Forum Members would run from 1 January 2021 until 31 August ~~2022~~ 2023 (amended), with subsequent terms of office running for three academic years.**

5 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion provided an overview report. Following the national school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was reported that most schools in Blackpool were fully open however Westcliff Primary Academy had closed and some bubble groups in South Shore Academy and St Mary's Catholic Academy were instructed to stay at home. It was noted that the overall attendance rate in Blackpool was above the regional average.

It was reported that the Improvement Board Strategy had been finalised and would be shared formally at a 'Moving Forward Together' event on 14 October 2020. The Literacy Strategy had been circulated for comments and would be re-drafted.

Further to the report, it was noted that there had been inspections at Westcliff Primary Academy and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School since the start of term. It was also reported that the Strategic Assessments and Moderation had been suspended but would resume in the same format after Christmas 2020.

In relation to Academies, it was noted that Sean Bullen and Rob Pritchard would assume executive leadership responsibilities and share the role of Chief Executive Officer at Fylde Coast Academy Trust. It was also noted that there was a new Headteacher at Langdale Free School, Linda Hillier. Tracey Harrison also reported that Thames Academy had joined Achievement Through Collaboration Multi-Academy Trust.

In relation to Inclusion, the BERA Report was presented for information and it was noted

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that there had been a rise in the numbers of Elective Home Educated pupils in comparison to previous years.

The report was noted.

6 DSG BUDGET MONITORING 2020 - 2021

Mark Golden, Finance Manager presented the report to show the budget position and reserves for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at August 2020. It was reported that budget monitoring forecasted a £582k overspend against a deficit budget of £1.231m. The total in year shortfall was estimated at £1.813m. Added to the brought forward deficit of £3.105m, the forecast by 31 March 2021 was a deficit of £4.918m excluding the maintained schools reserves of £2.392m and specific Union Fees reserves of £48k.

It was reported that special school numbers continued to rise creating a pressure of £366k. Costs incurred due to the new Resource Provision of £409k should see a reduction in Out of Borough placements over time and would be monitored as a part of the High Needs Block Medium Term Financial Plan progress. It was also reported that there were one off Covid-19 related costs of £372k for Out of Borough Placements and Post 16 Education but the pressures had been partially offset by the underspend on the Children's Centres (£733k).

Members were welcomed to raise comments or questions following the update:

It was asked whether the high spend Covid-19 costs could be reclaimed. It was noted that the costs incurred relating to schools could be reclaimed but currently not relating to the High Needs Block. Philip Thompson, Head of SEND indicated that Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn Councils had collectively written to the Department for Education through the Lancashire Resilience Forum outlining the costs incurred in the High Needs block due to Covid-19 to look to recoup them.

It was commented that the increased overspend was not good but was mainly due to one-off costs as opposed to rolling costs. It was noted that some of the set-up costs had been built into the SEND and Alternative Provision arrangements to make later savings. The Central Schools Services Block underspend was also acknowledged.

The report was noted.

7 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources provided an overview report to update on the latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget.

It was reported that there continued to be financial pressures on the High Needs budget. Following a survey of other North West local authorities regarding deficit levels Blackpool had the ninth highest predicted deficit at March 2021 but the fifth when taken as a percentage of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocations out of the 20 respondents.

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It was reported that the Medium Term Financial Plan had been updated and the proposed Vision for SEND and Alternative Provision as outlined in July 2020 to Schools Forum had begun to be implemented, with the nine proposals intended to contribute to the repayment of the accumulated deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant. A progress table was presented to outline progress of the nine proposals and the progress was noted as encouraging.

It was noted that the pupil numbers in special schools and Out of Borough placements continued to rise however plans for SEND Resource Provision within mainstream schools would help to address the rise in placements locally rather than using Out of Borough provision.

It was reported that the Department for Education had developed a designated template to help local authorities create a DSG management plan. Use of the plan was not compulsory but was encouraged to facilitate discussion with Schools Forums. After consideration, it was agreed that the local authority would continue to use their High Needs medium term financial plan to update Schools Forum on progress against deficit recovery costs, unless the Department for Education specifically required Blackpool Council to use the DSG management plan in future.

Given the large increases in High Needs funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and the anticipated increase in 2022/23 as well as the recovery plans, the local authority proposed a 4% increase in overall funding levels for special schools and the PRU from April 2021. The annual cost was estimated as £549k and would be in addition to the funding allocated next year through the High Needs block for teacher pay and pension grants.

Schools Forum members were asked to consider the proposal to increase funding for special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit of 4% increase and all agreed to the proposal.

Resolved:

- **The increase of 4% to funding levels for special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit was agreed.**

8 MOVING ON UP - SUPPORT FOR PUPILS IN TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

(Sharon Butler, Advanced Practitioner, HeadStart attended the meeting for this item only.)

Hilary Wood confirmed that she was presenting the item in her role as a part of HeadStart. The report requested funding from the High Needs Block for the continuation of Resilience Coaches to provide targeted support to pupils in their transition from primary to secondary school. Schools Forum were asked approve an allocation of £216k per year from any Schools Block headroom and the High Needs Block to fund Resilience Coaches from January 2021 as outlined in the report. Furthermore, they were requested to receive a report after the first 12 month period to consider the continuation of funding subject to evaluation of the ongoing effectiveness of the Moving On Up programme.

It was reported that the Moving On Up project had been previously funded by the National

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Lottery Community Fund to support pupils and their families to ensure an effective transition from primary to secondary school. The Lottery funding would cease in December 2020. The aim was to identify and support those with lower resilience. Due to Covid-19 although more virtual ways of working had been developed, the data generated on the success of the project remained positive.

It was reported that the six resilience coaches would cost £216k per year to support two pupils per year six class, therefore a school with a three form entry would be able to access six places on the scheme. Schools would be able to buy more places as required.

Members of the Forum were invited to ask questions or make comments following the report:

It was requested that the proposal be viewed in context as there was the culmination of the request for the 4% increase to special school and PRU funding from Item 7 that had been agreed in addition to this request.

It was noted that without the approval of the funding some Unison members were at risk of redundancies. The Members affected wanted their representative to reiterate the success of the scheme as part of the discussion of the proposal.

It was commented that there were funds available from the Opportunity Area to support secondary school initiatives but no major projects so far for primary schools. It was requested that alternative ways be sought other than the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant and that the Opportunity Area be approached regarding a contribution to the Moving On Up programme. It was also recognised that some current year 6 children may need additional support this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was acknowledged that there may be some funding available from the Opportunity Area fund and agreed that Roger Farley would formally request that the Opportunity Area consider this.

It was noted that the funding would support children identified in year 6 for two terms and follow them to year 7 for one term. It was suggested that the places could be targeted rather than equitably spread across all schools and more places made available based on need rather than allocation to each school year 6 group. It was suggested that a whole town picture was required following the initial survey.

Schools Forum members were asked to agree to the requested funding from the High Needs Block for the continuation of Resilience Coaches to provide targeted support to pupils in their transition from primary to secondary school. Schools Forum members were asked approve an allocation of £216k per year from the Schools Block headroom and High Needs Block to fund Resilience Coaches from January 2021 as outlined in the report.

Pending availability of any funds from the Opportunity Area Fund, Members agreed to fund for 12 months and receive a report after the initial 12 month period to consider the continuation of funding subject to evaluation of the ongoing effectiveness of the Moving On

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Up programme.

Resolved:

- **Roger Farley to formally ask the Opportunity Area whether funding was available for the Moving On Up programme.**
- **Pending availability of any funds from the Opportunity Area Fund, Members agreed to approve the allocation of £216k from the Schools Block headroom to fund the Resilience Coaches from January 2021 for 12 months.**
- **Members agreed to receive a report after the initial 12 month period to consider the continuation of the funding subject to evaluation of the ongoing effectiveness of the Moving On Up programme.**

9 SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources presented the report on the latest developments relevant to Blackpool's Schools Funding Formula. It was reported that the Department for Education had released details for the Schools Formula for 2021/22. The majority of the factors in the National Funding Formula would increase by 3% although the free school meals factor would be increased by an inflation rate of 2.2%. It was reported that the Income Deprivation Affecting Children index would change which may favour more deprived areas including Blackpool.

In relation to Early Years funding, it was noted that nursery numbers were expected to be lower than usual due to Covid-19 therefore the Department for Education had announced that the local authority funding for September to December 2020 would be based on the January 2020 census information. Local authorities were expected to fund Early Years settings at the same level as in the autumn term 2019 if their numbers were lower than they were in autumn 2020.

There were no questions following the report.

10 UPDATE OF SCHEME FOR FINANCING BLACKPOOL SCHOOLS

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources presented the report to update on the latest changes to the Department for Education guidance which were expected to be reflected in Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools. Members representing maintained schools were asked to approve the revisions for incorporation into Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools.

The guidance indicated that Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March each year. It was recognised that the local authority preferred to set a lower threshold than 5% and requested to maintain the current process that a school should submit a recovery plan for any level of deficit to enable early support to be provided.

The Members representing maintained schools approved the revisions for incorporation into Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools as outlined.

Resolved:

- **The Members representing maintained schools approved the revisions for incorporation into Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools as outlined.**

11 TRADE UNION DUTIES

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources presented the report to request approval of the proposal for the use of accumulated reserves relating to union duties. Forum members were asked to approve the use of the accumulated union duty reserves, including the incorporation of Unison in the funding arrangements for union duties with effect from 1 January 2021.

It was noted that the information presented was based on the discussion held at the last Schools Forum meeting in July 2020 where reserves of £48,746 were reported to have accumulated in relation to union duties.

It was reported that historically, only the Teaching Associations had been included in the arrangements with requests from Unison for inclusion not being previously supported. It was noted that in consultation with other North West local authorities, of the 17 respondents, 12 had collective service offer and de-delegation arrangements in place that covered non-teaching as well as teaching unions.

It was recognised that the issue had been discussed at the Joint Union Meeting and members there were in support of the changes to include Unison.

Members were asked to agree to the recommendations in the report and indicate their preference for either Proposal A or Proposal B as highlighted. The main differences between the two proposals were considered.

Members agreed to approve the use of the accumulated union duty reserves, including the incorporation of Unison in the funding arrangements for union duties with effect from 1 January 2021 but wanted to consult with Headteachers on their preference for Proposal A or B. Amanda Baines and Neil Adams did not vote on this item owing to declarations of interest outlined at item 2.

Resolved:

- **Members approved the use of the accumulated union duty reserves, including the incorporation of Unison in the funding arrangements for union duties with effect from 1 January 2021.**
- **Members agreed that Headteachers should be consulted on their preference for proposal A or B to be supported.**
- **Danielle Bowater to email out to Headteachers to consult on preference of Proposal A or B.**

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12 CATCH UP FUNDING

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources presented the report to inform Schools Forum members of government Catch Up funding allocated to support the 2020/21 academic year disruption due to Covid-19.

The summary had been collated from information published by the Department for Education and indicated how the catch up premium would be allocated. It was noted that the £650m one off universal catch up premium allocated to mainstream schools equated to £80 per child up to year 11 and £240 per commissioned place for special schools and alternative provision. There was also £350m for targeted support through the National Tutoring Programme.

It was acknowledged that the £55m year 7 catch up premium to support those leaving key stage 2 had been discontinued as the government indicated that the funding was allocated through the national funding formula allocations.

The report was noted.

13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 9.15am.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 10.33am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Danielle Bowater Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: 01253 477202
E-mail: danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Relevant Officer: Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide a high-level overview of recent developments within the Local Authority relating to School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion to the forum.

1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note for information.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 Local Authority update

Schools have been feeling the impact of the Covid pandemic, but have been open and have had a relatively high percentage of attendance throughout the last half-term, with rates rising to above regional averages and closing in on national averages, despite the high infection levels in the North West.

Schools closed for the Christmas break on Friday 18 December 2020, with some schools taking an additional INSET day.

At the time of writing, schools were expected to return week beginning 4 January 2021, in the Primary phase, with Secondary phase Year 11 and Post-16 (Year 13) groups attending week beginning 11 January 2021, with the remaining pupil cohort attending school from 18 January 2021. The expectation is that mass testing of pupils occurs in schools in early January, to identify pupils who are asymptomatic. The additional expectation is that pupils who are not on-site receive remote learning.

The Council and school leaders are working collaboratively to ensure that Blackpool's actions in light of the new announcements are robust and pragmatic.

Ofsted inspections are still suspended, but Ofsted are visiting some schools to review their Covid actions. Devonshire Primary Academy had a remote visit at the start of December 2020.

3.2 **Academies**

No significant updates on Academies.

Marton, Thames, Revoe and Mereside (as did Boundary in the maintained sector) have all successfully submitted expressions of interest for the delivery of the SEND resource provisions. In the main, pupils will access the provision via an EHCP.

The Spring term for most of these schools will see the first use of the SEND resource provision although some had accepted pupils pre-Christmas.

3.3 **Statutory Assessment and Moderation**

Ongoing, with Sue Wilson leading.

Phonics testing has been completed in schools through the amended process of using previous tests. Results have been submitted to the Local Authority and look promising, with some schools seeing little difference to normal results, but some schools seeing a relative under-performance in light of the Covid pandemic. Town-wide results seem encouraging, but are below the normal levels of performance, albeit in-line with usual national and North West averages.

Year 4 Multiplication tests were completed earlier in the year.

3.4 **Inclusion update**

2 x PEX at time of writing in the secondary phase.

FTE numbers are lower than at this time last year.

PRU numbers are lower than expected.

PRU Key Stage 2 short-term provision at Chrysalis has been successful.

AP Quality Assurance panel is in place and shows real promise.

EHE numbers are still very high at 347 compared to 251 at the same time in 2019-20 year. 1.0FTE additional staffing capacity is in place until May.

List of Acronyms:

SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
EHCP Education and Health Care Plan

PEX Permanent Exclusions
FTE Fixed Term Exclusion
PRU Pupil Referral Unit
AP Alternative Provision
EHE Elective Home Education

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum members on latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget.
- 1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 As reported in previous meetings, Blackpool, along with many other areas around the country, is experiencing financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. In order to better understand Blackpool's financial position, a medium-term financial plan has been developed to monitor forecast expenditure against the High Needs Budget, and factor in predictions of where savings may be achievable.
- 3.2 Despite additional government funding in 2020/21, pupil numbers in special schools, Out of Borough and post-16 placements are continuing their upward trend, leading to a position where costs are forecast to exceed High Needs funding allocations by £2.8 million, with the cumulative deficit against DSG reaching £5.1 million by the end of 2020/21. It should be noted, however, that the local authority has already started to implement some of the proposals from its Vision for SEND and Alternative Provision, with savings only accruing in future years.
- 3.3 The medium-term financial plan has been revised to take account of updated forecasts and the provisional funding allocation for 2021/22 (see Appendix 8(a) to this report). Assumptions have been made in future years about the continuation of funding for the contribution to combined budgets on a reducing basis. No assumption has been made yet in the medium-term financial plan regarding any increases in High Needs funding for 2022/23, nor have any cost increases been built in; it is, however, anticipated that a further increase in funding will arise in the third and final year of the announced three-year settlement for schools and High Needs.

3.4 The medium-term financial plan assumes a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22, in line with the local authority's proposal to this meeting of Schools Forum. This would lead to a modest in-year surplus of £84k on the High Needs budget, and would contribute to a reduction in the cumulative deficit down to £4.4 million by the end of next financial year. On current assumptions, the cumulative deficit would reduce to c.£1.3 million by the end of 2024/25.

3.5 The table below sets out progress so far against Blackpool's Vision for Exceptional SEND and AP, as presented to the last meeting of Schools Forum. It should be noted that financial modelling within the Vision was based on start dates for each proposal of September 2021, given uncertainties around the impact of Covid-19 on plans. However, it has been possible to move ahead to start to implement some of the proposals sooner.

Proposal	Progress	Included in MTFP?
1) Enhanced SEND and inclusion advisory support	Early consideration underway	No
2) Secondary inclusion provision	Project underway	Yes
3) Primary behaviour provision	SERF provision ceasing end of autumn term. KS2 provision commenced at Educational Diversity September 2020.	Yes
4) Revised PRU offer	Fixed budgets agreed for 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years in line with medium-term plan and Vision for SEND/AP	Yes
5) Widened AP landscape	Alternative Provision Quality Assurance Panel now meets regularly to consider new Blackpool providers	N/A
6) Specialist vocational centres 14-16	Capital works planned for catering facilities at Highfield Day Centre and Pegasus	N/A
7) SEND Resource Provision	Mereside (SEMH KS1) and Thames (SEMH KS2) commenced November 2020. Marton (ASD/complex needs), Boundary (SEMH KS2), and Revoe (complex needs) due to commence in January 2021.	Yes
8) Local post-16 specialist provision	Plans under discussion for use of Oracle	No
9) Reduced number of other AP places	Underway	Yes

3.6 The original forecast recovery from the Vision of SEND and AP can be seen in the table below, shown against the latest forecast in the medium-term financial plan. The unplanned overspend in 2020/21 is impacting on the level of deficit recovery in future years, with a residual deficit of £1.3 million still to recover by the end of 2024/25.

	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
DSG cumulative deficit as per SEND/AP Vision	3541	3416	2757	1663	531
DSG cumulative deficit as per MTFP	5149	4425	3275	2187	1302

List of acronyms:

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

AP – Alternative Provision

DfE – Department for Education

MTFP – Medium-Term Financial Plan

List of Appendices:

Appendix 8(a): High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan

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High Needs Block Medium-Term Financial Plan

Forecasts exclude inflationary impact, and costs and income are stated at 2021/22 levels

Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Notes Current Version
	Actual £000s	Forecast £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	
High Needs Block							
New Free School (opening September 2020 - c£1m pa when full)	-						Assumes 24 places from September 2020, increasing to 40 from September 2021 & 48 places from September 22
Special Schools							
Place Funding	4,879	5,090	5,663	5,806	5,842	5,842	Special School places: from April 2020 290 (P), 85 (HF), 120 (W); from September 2020 24 (L); from September 2021 300 (P), 80 (HF), 120 (W), 40 (L); from September 2022 300 (P), 80 (HF), 120 (W), 48 (L) 2021/22 onwards includes £660 per place for TPG/TPECG
Top-up Funding	2,768	3,306	4,085	4,271	4,318	4,321	Special School top-up: based on Sept 2020 figures
SERFs							
Place Funding	320	260	-	-	-	-	Mereside SERFs decommissioned from Nov 2020; Boundary and Bispham Endowed SERFs decommissioned from Dec 2020
Top-up Funding	111	115	-	-	-	-	Mereside SERFs decommissioned from Nov 2020; Boundary and Bispham Endowed SERFs decommissioned from Dec 2020
Transport	54	20	-	-	-	-	
Resource Provision							
Place Funding		195	760	760	760	760	Mereside and Thames Resource Provisions opening Nov 2020; Boundary, Revoe and Marton Resource Provisions opening Jan 2021
Top-up Funding		214	585	570	570	570	Mereside and Thames Resource Provisions opening Nov 2020; Boundary, Revoe and Marton Resource Provisions opening Jan 2021
AP Provision							
PRU - Place Funding	2,533	2,208	2,039	1,972	1,972	1,972	Reduced from 250 places to 200 from September 2020, 185 from September 2021 2021/22 onwards includes £660 per place for TPG/TPECG
PRU - Top-up Funding	1,147	1,307	1,237	1,117	1,117	1,117	Forecast numbers:- September 2019 to March 2020 240, April to August 2020 272, September 2020 to March 2021 173, April to August 2021 215, September 2021 to March 2022 147, April to August 2022 178, September 2022 to March 2023 152, Less Proposal 4. Teachers Pay award./Superannuation Costs and New Services KS2, Engagement Coaches & Therapist & 4% Uplift.
Other AP	-	270	100	100	100	100	
Mainstream Schools							
Top-up Funding	1,250	1,576	1,576	1,576	1,576	1,576	2.75% Uplift 2020/21 & 0% Uplift in 2021/22.
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	119	165	165	165	165	165	
Post-16 Education	2,030	2,395	2,364	2,199	2,199	2,199	3% Uplift in 2021/22.
Out of Borough	5,081	5,572	4,440	3,631	3,443	3,443	based on 16 year-olds leaving, 40 new placements each year @ £30k per place, offset by transfers into new Free School starting in September 2020 and Resource Provision from Apr 21. 3% Uplift in 2021/22
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,028	1,050	1,399	1,399	1,399	1,399	2.75% Uplift 2020/21 & 0% Uplift in 2021/22.
Access and Inclusion	508	795	890	728	728	728	2.75% Uplift 2020/21 & 0% Uplift in 2021/22.
Other High Needs Central Services	767	772	772	772	772	772	
(Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)							
Total High Needs Block Expenditure	22,594	25,309	26,076	25,066	24,961	24,964	
Available High Needs Block funding	19,496	22,276	25,369	25,369	25,369	25,369	
ESFA Free School Income	-	140	333	447	480	480	
Additional High Needs Block allocation in-year	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Schools Block Transfer	431	101	457	-	-	-	
Central Schools Services Block	-	8	-	-	-	-	
Council Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	2,667	2,784	(84)	(750)	(888)	(885)	
Cumulative HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	3,016	5,800	5,716	4,966	4,078	3,193	
Cumulative Schools & Early Years Block (Surplus) / Deficit	89	(651)	(1,291)	(1,691)	(1,891)	(1,891)	
Cumulative DSG (Surplus) / Deficit	3,105	5,149	4,425	3,275	2,187	1,302	
Movement	2,684	2,044	(724)	(1,150)	(1,088)	(885)	

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Mark Golden, Finance Manager
Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2020-2021

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To report the budget position of the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 November 2020 - Appendix 9(a).
- 1.2 To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 30 November 2020 – Appendix 9(b).
- 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 9(a) reflects the budgets as approved at the March 2020 Schools Forum.
- 3.2 Budget monitoring to the end of November 2020 is forecasting a £811k over spend against a deficit budget of £1.231m. Therefore, the total in-year shortfall is estimated at £2.042m. Added to the brought forward deficit of £3.105m the resulting forecast DSG deficit by 31 March 2021 is £5.147m. This excludes the maintained schools reserves (£2.392m) and the specific Union Fees reserve (£48k).
- 3.3 The major in-year variances are as follows:
 - Special school numbers are continuing to rise creating a pressure of £349k.
 - Costs are being incurred for the new Resource provision of £409k which should see a reduction in Out of Borough placements. This will be monitored as part of the High Needs Block Medium Term Financial Plan progress.
 - There have been one off COVID19 related costs within Out of Borough placements and Post 16 Education totalling £539k.
 - These pressures have been partially offset by the under spend on the Children’s Centres of £733k.

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 9(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-2021 Budget Monitoring Report to 30 November 2020.
- Appendix 9(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 30 November 2020.

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 9(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-2021 Budget Monitoring Report to 30 November 2020

Service	2020/21						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Schools Block							
Local School Budget							
- Delegated	88,191	0	(69,386)	18,805	18,805	0	
- Third Party & Public Liability Insurance (de-delegated)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	18	0	0	18	18	0	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	14	0	0	14	14	0	
- Education Functions (retained)	161	0	0	161	161	0	
Pupil Growth Contingency	180	0	798	978	978	0	
	88,564	0	(68,588)	19,976	19,976	0	
Central School Services Block							
Servicing of Schools Forum	16	0	0	16	16	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	88	0	0	88	88	0	
School Admissions	160	0	0	160	140	(20)	Vacant post
Contribution to Combined Budgets - Children's Centres	800	0	0	800	67	(733)	Released Underspend
Former ESG Retained Duties							
- Education Welfare	212	0	0	212	212	0	
- Asset Management	59	0	0	59	59	0	
- Statutory / Regulatory Duties	80	0	0	80	80	0	
	1,415	0	0	1,415	662	(753)	
Total Schools Block	89,979	0	(68,588)	21,391	20,638	(753)	
High Needs Block							
Special Schools							
Place Funding	5,000	0	(2,817)	2,183	2,273	90	Increase in numbers
Top-up Funding	3,047	0	0	3,047	3,306	259	Increase in numbers
SERFs							
Place Funding	320	0	(80)	240	180	(60)	Replaced by KS2 Provision
Top-up Funding	111	0	0	111	115	4	Replaced by KS2 Provision
Transport	48	0	0	48	20	(28)	Replaced by KS2 Provision
Resource Provision							
Place Funding	0	0	0	0	195	195	New Provision
Top-up Funding	0	0	0	0	214	214	New Provision
Pupil Referral Units							
Place Funding	2,208	0	0	2,208	2,208	0	
Top-up Funding	1,112	0	0	1,112	1,307	195	KS2 Provision
Other AP	165	0	0	165	270	105	2019/20 Costs under Accrued
Mainstream Schools							
Top-up Funding	1,550	0	(6)	1,544	1,570	26	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	96	0	0	96	165	69	Based on Early Forecast 20/21
Post-16 Education	2,082	0	(784)	1,298	1,611	313	Additional Year for some Y11 (Covid)
Out of Borough	5,345	0	(60)	5,285	5,511	226	Additional Year for some Y11 (Covid)
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,064	0	0	1,064	1,050	(14)	
Access and Inclusion	698	0	0	698	795	97	Cost of Oracle building, £55k Resilience Coaches
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	772	0	0	772	772	0	
Total High Needs Block	23,618	0	(3,747)	19,871	21,562	1,691	
Early Years Block							
2 Year Old Grants	1,651	(15)	0	1,636	1,636	0	
Early Years Pupil Premium	100	2	0	102	102	0	Additional Cost of Early Years Placements due to Covid. Impact of COVID currently being assessed. This will impact these figures.
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,527	(58)	0	6,469	6,482	13	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	30	0	0	30	30	0	
Disability Access Fund	47	0	0	47	47	0	
Early Years Central Services	377	0	0	377	377	0	
Total Early Years Block	8,732	(71)	0	8,661	8,674	13	
Total Expenditure	122,329	(71)	(72,335)	49,923	50,874	951	
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(121,098)	71	72,335	(48,692)	(48,692)	0	
ESFA Free School Income	0	(140)	0	0	(140)	(140)	Lotus School Income
Total Income	(121,098)	(69)	72,335	(48,692)	(48,832)	(140)	
In year (under)/over spend	1,231	(140)	0	1,231	2,042	811	

Appendix 9(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves

Description	Brought Forward 1st April 2020	Total Forecast Expenditure FY 2020-21	Forecast Surplus / (Deficit) at 31st March 2021	Comments
DSG Reserve	(3,104,758)	2,042,000	(5,146,758)	
Maintained School Balances	2,392,362	0	2,392,362	
Union Fees Reserve	48,274	0	48,274	
	(664,122)	2,042,000	(2,706,122)	

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer
Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22 PROPOSALS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the local authority's proposal for the allocation of the schools funding formula for 2021/22.
- 1.2 Local Authorities are required to consult with their Schools Forum members on decisions relating to Schools Funding Formula Proposals.
- 1.3 Action required – for approval by relevant members, voting restricted to school and Early Years representatives.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2021/22 by applying the following principles:
 - Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values with the exception of Basic Entitlement values (refer to paragraph 3.17);
 - Set a minimum funding guarantee of 2% per pupil funding (refer to paragraph 3.17);
 - Transfer 0.50% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, by way of a reduction in the Basic Entitlement formula values (refer to paragraphs 3.18 to 3.19);
 - Transfer £91k from the growth funding contingency into the Schools Block (refer to paragraph 3.20).

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced its plans to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for schools. Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 the NFF model is being 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.
- 3.2 In September 2019, the DfE announced that school funding would rise by £2.6 billion for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22, and £7.1 billion for 2022/23. The Spending Review in November 2020 confirmed that this commitment will continue as planned.

- 3.3 In July 2020, the ESFA provided further detail on how the increase in funding will be implemented via the schools NFF for 2021/22. The NFF formula factors values will increase by 3%, with the exception of the free school meals factor, which will be increased by an inflation rate of 2.2%, as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs. In addition, the IDACI bands have been revised to take account of the updated 2019 deprivation data, and have been reworked to use rankings of areas rather than the previous methodology that was based on scores. The IDACI factor values will increase by between 2% and 10% across the six bands. 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 2020/21 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor only.
- 3.4 An additional change next year will be the inclusion of funding replacing the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) within the NFF and consequently within schools' core budget allocations. These grants will be rolled into the NFF at a rate of £180 per primary pupil, and £265 per secondary pupil, which is on top of the 3% increase in the basic entitlement funding factor. This funding has also been added to the previous year's baselines to ensure the funding is passed on to schools.
- 3.5 The Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels, which are now mandatory in local funding formulae, will increase to £4,180 for primary schools, and £5,415 for secondary schools; these include the adjustment for TPG and TPECG referred to in the previous paragraph.
- 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. The funding floor used in the national formula will be set at 2% in 2021/22, meaning that all schools' NFF allocations see a minimum gain per pupil of 2% above their 2020/21 baseline pupil-led funding.
- 3.7 Other changes relating to the sparsity factor in the NFF do not affect any Blackpool schools.
- 3.8 Growth funding is based on the same methodology as 2020/21, and will have the same transitional protection ensuring that no authority whose growth funding is unwinding will lose more than 0.5% of its 2020/21 schools block allocation. The allocation in 2021/22 for growth funding is £645k, compared to £798k in 2020/21.

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Consultation

- 3.9 As required by funding regulations, the local authority conducted a consultation on proposals for the 2021/22 schools funding formula in December 2020. This year, the review has focused on the following areas:

- That we should continue to replicate where possible the National Funding

- Formula for Blackpool Schools.
- Whether schools think a transfer of 0.50% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2021/22.
- Any surplus funding available from the 2021/22 growth fund to be set aside in the Growth Fund Contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years;

3.10 The local authority received responses covering the views of 23 mainstream schools. The responses are summarised below:

Question 1

3.11

Do you agree that we should continue to replicate as far as possible the National Funding Formula for Blackpool schools?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100.0%	23
2 No	0.0%	0
3 Did Not Answer	0.0%	0
Comments:		1
Total		23

Question 2

3.12

Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2021/22?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	87%	20
2 No	13%	3
3 Did Not Answer	0.0%	0
Comments:		1
Total		23

Question 3

3.13

Do you agree that any surplus funding available from the 2021/22 growth funding may be set aside in a growth fund contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100.0%	23
2 No	0.0%	0
3 Did Not Answer	0.0%	0
Comments:		0
Total		23

3.14 While the proposal to transfer 0.50% to the High Needs block was supported by a significant majority of respondents, an alternative proposal was made regarding the methodology for calculating the contribution to the transfer by individual schools.

- 3.15 Consequently, illustrations for two options were drawn up:
- **Option A** generates the 0.50% transfer by placing a cap on gains, whereby no school would receive an increase in funding compared to the previous year's per pupil amount above a certain percentage.
 - **Option B** generates the 0.50% transfer by reducing the basic entitlement factor for primary, Key Stage 3, and Key Stage 4 by a percentage, sufficient to release 0.5% of the total Schools Block.

3.16 The second part of the consultation closes on 8 January 2021 and a verbal update on responses received will be given at the Schools Forum meeting. However after this second part of the consultation was launched the DfE issued the data to be used in the preparation of school budgets based on October 2020 census. Having re-run the formula, the impact of the two options outlined above is somewhat different than the initial modelling showed. Appendix 10(a) to this report shows the actual impact of a transfer to the High Needs block using option A and option B.

Blackpool's proposed schools funding formula 2021/22

- 3.17 Given the unanimous support for the replication of the NFF, the Local Authority proposes the following features:
- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values (with the exception of Basic Entitlement values, as explained in paragraph 3.19 below);
 - Set a minimum funding guarantee of 2% per pupil funding.
- 3.18 Given that a majority (87%) of respondents to the consultation supported a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the Local Authority proposes to implement a transfer of 0.50% which equates to £457k. By running the October 2020 census data through the formula, there is headroom of £152k within the schools block. This means that individual school budgets only need to be reduced by £305k.
- 3.19 With reference to appendix 10(a), and in light of the significant impact of option A on one particular school (reduction of £126k), the Local Authority is of the opinion that this option is not fit for purpose. It is therefore proposed that the transfer is effected by way of a reduction in the Basic Entitlement factor values, as illustrated in option B. By contrast this has a maximum impact on one school of £40k. The effect on the Basic Entitlement is shown in the table below:

Description	Amount Per Pupil NFF Values	Amount Per Pupil Option B	Difference Per Pupil	% Change
Primary (Years R-6)	£3,123.00	£3,099.29	£23.71	0.76%
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,404.00	£4,370.57	£33.43	0.76%
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,963.00	£4,925.33	£37.67	0.76%

- 3.20 All respondents to the consultation supported the allocation of any surplus growth funding to the growth contingency. However the continued growth of Armfield Academy requires additional funding of £736k to cover the new pupils who will commence in September 2021. This compares to growth allocation of only £645k. It is therefore proposed that the shortfall of £91k is covered by drawing down from the growth contingency that has been set aside in previous years.
- 3.21 The proforma showing full details of Blackpool’s proposed formula is contained in Appendix 10(b) to this report.

List of acronyms:

- DfE Department for Education
DSG Dedicated Schools Grant
ESFA Education & Skills Funding Agency
NFF National Funding Formula
RPIX Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest
PFI Private Finance Initiative
TPG Teachers’ Pay Grant
TPECG Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution Grant

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 10(a) - Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2021/22 options for transfer to High Needs Block
Appendix 10(b) - Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Proforma 2021/22

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Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2021/22 options for Transfer to High Needs Block

School Number	Before transfer to High Needs Block	Option A: Transfer to High Needs Block by cap on gains		Option B: Transfer to High Needs Block by reducing Basic Entitlement	
	21-22 Post MFG Budget no reduction	21-22 Post MFG Budget with cap	Difference vs No Transfer to HN Block	21-22 Post MFG Budget with reduction in BE	Difference vs No Transfer to HN Block
	£95,250,850	£94,945,580	(£305,270)	£94,945,580	(£305,270)
1	£501,211.93	£501,211.93	£0	£498,959.86	(£2,252)
2	£841,785.57	£837,876.63	(£3,909)	£837,091.80	(£4,694)
3	£872,900.10	£872,900.10	£0	£868,135.21	(£4,765)
4	£873,824.77	£873,824.77	£0	£869,012.47	(£4,812)
5	£894,736.00	£894,736.00	£0	£894,736.00	£0
6	£908,717.18	£908,717.18	£0	£908,717.18	£0
7	£973,360.10	£973,360.10	£0	£968,334.44	(£5,026)
8	£979,332.71	£979,332.71	£0	£974,378.17	(£4,955)
9	£1,004,425.63	£999,682.04	(£4,744)	£999,708.16	(£4,717)
10	£1,053,747.02	£1,053,747.02	£0	£1,048,721.36	(£5,026)
11	£1,093,687.22	£1,093,687.22	£0	£1,088,756.39	(£4,931)
12	£1,192,785.32	£1,192,785.32	£0	£1,192,785.32	£0
13	£1,438,492.95	£1,438,492.95	£0	£1,438,492.95	£0
14	£1,564,151.92	£1,564,151.92	£0	£1,555,783.74	(£8,368)
15	£1,713,222.40	£1,713,222.40	£0	£1,713,222.40	£0
16	£1,715,674.96	£1,715,674.96	£0	£1,715,674.96	£0
17	£1,766,526.56	£1,766,526.56	£0	£1,766,526.56	£0
18	£1,784,749.69	£1,784,749.69	£0	£1,776,594.85	(£8,155)
19	£1,877,596.08	£1,877,596.08	£0	£1,868,706.36	(£8,890)
20	£1,930,499.65	£1,905,763.30	(£24,736)	£1,921,989.23	(£8,510)
21	£2,036,655.35	£2,036,655.35	£0	£2,027,410.04	(£9,245)
22	£2,079,946.11	£2,079,946.11	£0	£2,076,345.38	(£3,601)
23	£2,092,266.62	£2,092,266.62	£0	£2,085,102.55	(£7,164)
24	£2,109,030.14	£2,079,959.24	(£29,071)	£2,097,627.59	(£11,403)
25	£2,419,898.40	£2,419,898.40	£0	£2,419,898.40	£0
26	£2,450,777.13	£2,442,496.00	(£8,281)	£2,442,496.00	(£8,281)
27	£2,453,262.92	£2,433,281.37	(£19,982)	£2,439,940.20	(£13,323)
28	£2,492,443.20	£2,492,443.20	£0	£2,492,443.20	£0
29	£2,558,401.60	£2,558,401.60	£0	£2,558,401.60	£0
30	£2,787,472.78	£2,787,472.78	£0	£2,787,472.78	£0
31	£2,856,228.87	£2,856,188.57	(£40)	£2,841,697.14	(£14,532)
32	£4,154,033.22	£4,027,808.14	(£126,225)	£4,131,491.13	(£22,542)
33	£4,278,375.16	£4,278,375.16	£0	£4,253,348.08	(£25,027)
34	£5,118,315.52	£5,118,315.52	£0	£5,116,993.26	(£1,322)
35	£5,226,498.53	£5,226,498.53	£0	£5,226,498.53	£0
36	£5,940,129.33	£5,940,129.33	£0	£5,940,129.33	£0
37	£6,141,225.21	£6,101,594.57	(£39,631)	£6,105,074.15	(£36,151)
38	£6,336,774.76	£6,291,665.28	(£45,109)	£6,299,335.88	(£37,439)
39	£6,737,687.59	£6,734,145.30	(£3,542)	£6,697,547.33	(£40,140)

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Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

LA Name:	Blackpool
LA Number:	890

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level	Disapplication number where alternative MPPF values are used
£4,180	£5,215.00	£5,715.00	£5,415.00	

Pupil Led Factors

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00		Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)								
	Description	Amount per pupil	Pupil Units		Sub Total	Primary Notional SEN (%)			Secondary Notional SEN (%)								
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,099.29	11,656.00		£36,125,372	£66,232,858	38.25%										
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,370.57	3,982.33		£17,405,068			18.43%									
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,925.33	2,579.00		£12,702,419			13.45%									
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)							
	FSM	£460.00	£460.00	4,261.57	2,471.75	£3,097,329					£14,986,436	15.87%	10.00%	10.00%			
	FSM6	£575.00	£840.00	4,502.98	3,223.98	£5,297,361							10.00%	10.00%			
	IDACI Band F	£215.00	£310.00	1,277.98	756.98	£509,431							50.00%	50.00%			
	IDACI Band E	£260.00	£415.00	1,414.78	812.72	£705,122							50.00%	50.00%			
	IDACI Band D	£410.00	£580.00	414.79	244.42	£311,829							50.00%	50.00%			
	IDACI Band C	£445.00	£630.00	1,018.38	569.50	£811,966							50.00%	50.00%			
	IDACI Band B	£475.00	£680.00	1,293.39	804.03	£1,161,100							50.00%	50.00%			
IDACI Band A	£620.00	£865.00	2,681.19	1,653.13	£3,092,298	50.00%	50.00%										
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)							
	LAC March 19	£0.00		273.16		£0					0.00%						
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)							
	EAL 3 Primary	£550.00		521.82		£287,004					£467,722	0.40%					
EAL 3 Secondary		£1,485.00			61.81	£91,792											
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£900.00	£1,290.00	92.04	4.72	£88,926		0.09%									
6) Low prior attainment	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)							
	Primary low prior attainment		£1,095.00	33.33%	3,884.82	£4,253,876					£6,805,058	7.21%	75.00%				
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	64.53%		21.82%													
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	64.53%		21.98%													
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	63.59%	£1,660.00	24.80%	1,536.86	£2,551,181											
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	58.05%		23.57%													
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)	48.02%		25.02%													

Other Factors

Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	
7) Lump Sum	£117,800.00	£117,800.00			£4,594,200	4.86%		
8) Sparsity factor	£0.00				£0	0.00%		

Please provide alternative distance and pupil number thresholds for the sparsity factor below. Please leave blank if you want to use the default thresholds. Also specify whether you want to use a tapered lump sum or the NFF weighting for any of the phases.

Primary distance threshold (miles)	Primary pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity primary lump sum?	Fixed
Secondary distance threshold (miles)	Secondary pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity secondary lump sum?	Fixed
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)	Middle school pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity middle school lump sum?	Fixed
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)	All-through pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity all-through lump sum?	Fixed
9) Fringe Payments		£0	0.00%
10) Split Sites		£0	0.00%
11) Rates		£638,618	0.68%
12) PFI funding		£134,820	0.14%

13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)

Circumstance	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY20-21	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools	£0	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance3	£0	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance4	£0	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance5	£0	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance6	£0	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance7	£0	0.00%		

Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)	£93,859,712	99.38%	
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14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level	£581,154	0.62%	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)	£94,440,866	100.00%	

15) Minimum Funding Guarantee	2.00%	£504,714	
Where a value less than 0.5% or greater than 2% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value			
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)		No	
Capping Factor (%)		Scaling Factor (%)	
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied		£0	
	Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)	Notional SEN (%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)	£504,714	0.53%	10.00%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£94,945,580		£9,289,607
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)			
Additional funding from the high needs budget			
Growth fund (if applicable)			
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)			
Other Adjustment to 20-21 Budget Shares		£0	
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)	£94,945,580		
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement		70.13%	
% Pupil Led Funding		93.70%	
Primary: Secondary Ratio	1 :	1.36	

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

DRAFT DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET 2021/22

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To share with Schools Forum the provisional estimates for the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2021/22.
- 1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the provisional estimates for future use of DSG.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 On 17 December 2020, the Department for Education issued the provisional allocations of DSG for 2021/22. Blackpool’s allocations, shown alongside the original allocations for 2020/21, are as follows:

	2021/22	2020/21	Increase
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	95.312	88.665	6.647
Central Schools Services Block	1.283	1.423	-0.140
High Needs Block	25.369	22.276	3.093
Early Years Block	8.783	8.733	0.050
Total	130.747	121.097	9.650

- 3.2 Appendix 11(a) to this report sets out the provisional forecast expenditure against DSG for 2021/22. Final proposals for the allocation of funding will be brought to the meeting of Schools Forum in March 2021, taking into account discussions arising at this meeting, as well as final estimates of expenditure.
- 3.3 The Schools Block funding has increased by £6.6 million, which equates to almost 7.5%. As outlined in the Schools Funding Formula 2021/22 proposals report (Item 10), the Local Authority is proposing to add £91k to this from the growth fund contingency, and also make a transfer of 0.5% to the High Needs Block, which amounts to £457k.

- 3.4 The Central Schools Services Block has decreased in total by £140k. This is made up of an increase of £20k (3.2%) on the main block funding, and a decrease of £160k (20%) on the historic commitments funding. There is a balance of £28k that requires allocating within this Block, and updated proposals will be brought to the next Schools Forum meeting in March 2021. Given that the Children’s Centre review has concluded, the £640k allocation in respect of historic commitments will be used to help offset the cumulative deficit on DSG.
- 3.5 The High Needs block increase of £3.1 million includes an amount of £434k which relates to the incorporation of the Teachers’ Pay Grant and the Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution Grant into the national formula. The remaining £2.7m represents an increase of 11.9% on the previous year’s allocation. As per the High Needs update considered in the earlier agenda item, the estimated costs of the High Needs budget exceed the available funding by £373k. This would be covered by the proposed transfer of £457k from the Schools Block, resulting in a contribution of £84k towards offsetting the cumulative deficit on DSG.
- 3.6 It is proposed that the Early Years Block funding is fully allocated to Early Years provision and services. The hourly funding rate for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by 6p to £4.50 (1.35%), and the rate for 2 year olds has increased by 8p to £5.36 (1.51%). There have been no increases in the per pupil funding amounts for Early Years Pupil Premium or Disability Access Fund. The Early Years Provider Strategy Group will meet early in the New Year to consider proposed funding rates for Blackpool providers, as well as the level required for the Early Years Inclusion Fund.
- 3.7 With the proposed transfer of funding from the Schools Block, it is currently estimated that the in-year surplus on DSG will amount to £724k, which would reduce the forecast cumulative deficit at 31 March 2022 to £4,425k.

List of acronyms:

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11(a) – Draft DSG Budget 2021/22

	2021/22	2020/21	Movement	% Change	Notes
	Total	Total			
Schools Block					
Local Schools Budget	94,945,579	88,190,540	6,755,039		
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	-	18,192	(18,192)		Assumes £457k transfer to HN To be confirmed
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	-	14,383	(14,383)		To be confirmed
- Education Functions (retained)	-	160,681	(160,681)		To be confirmed
Pupil Growth Contingency	-	180,490	(180,490)		
	94,945,579	88,564,286	6,381,293	7.2%	
Central Schools Services Block					
Servicing of Schools Forum	15,600	15,600	-	0.0%	
Licences & Subscriptions	89,217	88,261	956	1.1%	
School Admissions	159,710	159,710	-	0.0%	
Contribution to Combined Budgets	-	800,000	(800,000)	-100.0%	£640k to offset against deficit
Former ESG retained duties					
- Education Welfare	212,160	212,160	-	0.0%	
- Asset Management	58,864	58,864	-	0.0%	
- Statutory / Regulatory duties	80,080	80,080	-	0.0%	
Still to be Allocated	27,777		27,777		Uplifts not yet applied to block
	643,408	1,414,675	(771,267)	-54.5%	
High Needs Block					
Special Schools					
Place Funding	5,663,125	5,000,000	663,125	13.3%	Includes TPG and TPECG
Top-up Funding	4,084,835	3,047,413	1,037,422	34.0%	Includes 4% uplift
Total Special Schools	9,747,960	8,047,413	1,700,547	21.1%	
SERFs					
Place Funding	-	320,000	(320,000)	-100.0%	Ceased December 2020
Top-up Funding	-	111,108	(111,108)	-100.0%	Ceased December 2020
Transport	-	47,676	(47,676)	-100.0%	Ceased December 2020
Total SERFs	-	478,784	(478,784)	-100.0%	
Resource Provision					
Place Funding	760,000	-	760,000		New provision 2020/21
Top-up Funding	585,180	-	585,180		New provision 2020/21
Total Resource Provision	1,345,180	-	1,345,180		
Alternative Provision					
Place Funding	2,038,725	2,208,333	(169,608)	-7.7%	Includes TPG and TPECG
Top-up Funding	1,237,418	1,112,164	125,254	11.3%	Includes 4% PRU uplift
Other AP Provision	100,000	165,000	(65,000)	-39.4%	
Total Alternative Provision	3,376,143	3,485,497	(109,354)	-3.1%	
Mainstream Schools					
Top-up Funding	1,575,853	1,549,853	26,000	1.7%	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	165,200	96,000	69,200	72.1%	Based on actuals 2020/21 to date
Total top-up for Mainstream Schools	1,741,053	1,645,853	95,200	5.8%	
Post-16 Education	2,364,294	2,081,769	282,525	13.6%	
Out of Borough	4,440,026	5,344,554	(904,528)	-16.9%	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,398,665	1,064,006	334,659	31.5%	Enhanced advisory support
Access and Inclusion	890,377	697,550	192,827	27.6%	Cont of Prov/Resilience Coaches
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	771,865	771,865	-	0.0%	
	26,075,563	23,617,291	2,458,272	10.4%	
Early Years Block					
2 Year Old Grants	1,725,791	1,650,492	75,299	4.6%	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,904,391	6,527,552	376,839	5.8%	
Early Years Pupil Premium	102,171	100,373	1,798	1.8%	
Disability Access Fund	50,430	47,355	3,075	6.5%	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	-	30,000	(30,000)		To be confirmed
Other Early Years Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Training, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	-	377,324	(377,324)		To be confirmed
	8,782,783	8,733,096	49,687	0.6%	
Total	130,447,333	122,329,348	8,117,985	6.6%	
DSG	(130,747,483)	(121,097,541)	(9,649,942)	8.0%	
ESFA special free school funding	(333,333)	-	(333,333)		
Transfer from growth contingency	(90,729)	-	(90,729)		
Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations	(131,171,545)	(121,097,541)	(10,074,004)		
Deficit / (Surplus)	(724,212)	1,231,807	(1,956,019)		

	Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
Original DSG Allocations 2021/22	95,311,830	1,283,408	25,369,462	8,782,783	130,747,483
Proposed transfers between blocks	(456,980)		456,980	-	-
ESFA special free school funding	-	-	333,333	-	333,333
Transfer from growth contingency	90,729				90,729
	94,945,579	1,283,408	26,159,775	8,782,783	131,171,545
Allocations as above	94,945,579	643,408	26,159,775	8,782,783	130,447,333
Offset against cumulative DSG deficit	-	640,000	80,000	-	724,212

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer
Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

DE-DELEGATION OF SERVICES AND RETENTION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION FUNCTIONS 2021/22

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Approval is sought for the continued de-delegation of services and the retention of funding for Education Functions.
- 1.2 Action required- for approval by relevant members, as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 The local authority recommends that de-delegation is approved by maintained primary school representatives for 2021/22 in respect of Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Checks (outlined in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.9) and Union Duties (outlined in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.11).
- 2.2 Maintained school representatives, including primary, special and pupil referral unit members, are asked to approve an amount to be retained from school budgets in respect of education functions, previously funded by the Education Services Grant (outlined in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13).

3.0 Background Information

De-delegation of Services

- 3.1 The Schools Finance Regulations that came into effect in April 2013 require the delegation to schools of the entirety of the Schools Block funding, subject to certain prescribed exceptions.
- 3.2 Maintained, mainstream schools may choose, by vote at Schools Forum, to de-delegate some of these prescribed elements of funding to be managed centrally by the local authority on behalf of them. Delegation means the allocation of funding to schools through the local schools funding formula. De-delegation means the retention of funding by the local authority.
- 3.3 Decisions are to be made by primary and secondary phases separately, and voting is restricted to school members representing those phases. De-delegation does not apply to academies, which could instead choose to buy into local authority services.

It also does not apply to special schools or Pupil Referral Units, as they no longer receive delegated budgets in the same way that mainstream schools do, but they will be able to access any collective arrangements using their funding.

- 3.4 The difference between de-delegation and buy back is that, with de-delegation, all maintained schools in that phase will not receive an element of funding in their delegated budgets, and the local authority will hold the de-delegated budgets centrally and provide services on behalf of all schools. If de-delegation is not voted for, all schools will receive the full amount of funding, and may choose, on a school-by-school basis, how to fund those responsibilities. As with any item of expenditure, should Schools Forum not vote for de-delegation, groups of schools could still choose to combine their resources in order to achieve best value, including buying services back from the local authority where available.
- 3.5 In 2020/21, maintained schools voted to de-delegate the following services:
- a) Free School Meal eligibility checks
 - b) Union duties
- 3.6 Decisions are now required whether to continue to de-delegate the functions listed in 3.5 above for the 2021/22 financial year, as detailed below.

Free School Meal eligibility checks

- 3.7 This service is carried out by the Council's Benefits Team, who access DWP and Council benefits information in order to determine eligibility for free school meals. Eligibility is reviewed on a weekly basis and communicated to schools. The full FSM eligibility checking service specification includes:
- Establishing entitlement to FSM for each pupil via Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme claims for parents/guardians;
 - Processing of Free School Meal applications for parents who are not entitled to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction, including those in receipt of Universal Credit, by completion of the Free School Meal application form;
 - Processing of claims relating to FSM entitlement, including collection and verification of evidence when required, notification of entitlement to parent/guardian/school, and maintenance of records, within 10 working days of receipt of all information;
 - Provision of a comprehensive enquiry and resolution service for the school and parents or guardians, to be resolved within 5 working days;
 - Maximisation of income available to parents by awarding Free School Meals in all appropriate cases;
 - Production and issue of standard weekly reports to the school;
 - Notification to parent/guardian when entitlement ceases due to a change of circumstances, within 10 working days of receipt of all information;
 - Processing changes of address/school;

- Provide information as required to assist the school in their reconciliation of data and quarterly census returns;
- Provision of guidance to the school as and when required;
- Secure storage of data to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

3.8 Schools are not permitted to access the benefits information directly from the relevant agencies, and therefore a school based solution would necessitate the regular provision by parents of benefits entitlement, significant administrative resource for schools, as well as the development of technical expertise. For this reason, the local authority would strongly advise the continued de-delegation of funding for this purpose.

3.9 In order to fund the current level of service as described in paragraph 3.7, the de-delegation amount per Free School Meal pupil will be set at £13.00 in 2021/22, compared to £12.65 in 2020/21. The increase equates to 2.75% which is in line with the local government 2020/21 pay award.

Vote – do maintained mainstream primary school members agree to the continued de-delegation of funding for free school meal eligibility checks?

Union duties

3.10 Historically, this budget has been held centrally in order to fund the facilities time of the teaching unions. Agreement is reached between unions through the Professional Teaching Association regarding the number of days that each union can claim from the central pot.

3.11 In October 2020 it was agreed at Schools Forum that Unison will now be included within the collective funding arrangements. This means that members of both teaching and non-teaching unions can be supported by local representatives during the school day. To cover this level of support for those schools that are part of the collective agreement, the de-delegation amount for 2021/22 shall increase by 20p per pupil to £4.20 compared to £4.00 per pupil de-delegated in 2020/21.

A joint letter from teaching unions NAHT, NEU and ASCL has been sent to all Directors of Children's Services. The letter outlines the benefits of de-delegation in respect of union duties, and asks for the support of local authorities in attempting to secure continued de-delegation. It also asks local authorities to support a mechanism for academies to buy into collective funding arrangements; this is already in place in Blackpool. The letter can be seen at Appendix 12(a) to this report.

Vote – do maintained mainstream primary school members agree to the continued de-delegation of funding for union duties?

Education Functions

- 3.12 In the 2015 Spending Review, the Government announced that it would be cutting £600m from the Education Services Grant (ESG), a funding stream paid to local authorities outside of the local government finance settlement in respect of certain education functions.
- 3.13 There were two elements of ESG – the retained grant, and the general grant. Retained ESG was only paid to local authorities, and funded the responsibilities they hold for all pupils in the area, regardless of whether they are educated in maintained or academy schools. The general element of ESG was paid to local authorities in respect of the pupils in maintained schools. It was also paid separately to each academy in respect of the pupils in their own school.
- 3.14 In November 2016, details were released of how the £600m of savings would be realised. The retained element of ESG was transferred into Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2017, and has formed part of the Central Schools Services Block since April 2018. The general element of the grant ended in September 2017 for both local authorities and academies.
- 3.15 The functions of the local authority covered by the general element of the grant include:
- School improvement
 - Statutory and regulatory duties in respect of maintained schools, such as best value and procurement advice, internal audit compliance, pension scheme administration
 - Education welfare, including the inspection of attendance registers
 - Asset management to ensure maintained school buildings are in a satisfactory condition
 - Central support services, such as music tuition, visual, creative and performing arts, outdoor education centres
 - Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments
- 3.16 The local authority remains responsible for providing these functions on behalf of its maintained schools, and financial regulations allow for funding to be retained from the budgets of maintained schools in order to cover the costs.
- 3.17 In 2020/21, Schools Forum agreed to allow the local authority to retain an amount of £35.33 per pupil from maintained school budgets. In arriving at this figure, the local authority has taken regard of the functions and support provided to maintained schools (but not to academies) at no cost. The education functions covered by the retention in respect of maintained schools include:
- Budgeting, accounting and finance functions, e.g. production of statement of accounts, year-end audit, VAT advice, treasury management

- Production of and monitoring of compliance with the Scheme for Financing Schools
- Internal audit compliance visits
- Administration of local government and teachers' pension schemes
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown
- Functions under the Equality Act 2010
- Asset management, including condition surveys to ensure assets are in suitable state of repair
- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments

3.18 The 2021/22 amount has been calculated at £36.30 per pupil, which equates to a 2.75% increase on 2020/21 in line with the local government pay award.

Vote – do maintained school members, including primary, special and pupil referral unit members, agree to the amount of £36.30 per pupil being retained from school budgets for the purpose of funding education functions?

List of acronyms:

FSM – Free School Meals
 DWP – Department for Work and Pensions
 GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations
 NAHT – National Association of Head Teachers
 NEU – National Education Union
 ASCL – Association of School and College Leaders
 ESG – Education Services Grant
 VAT – Value Added Tax

List of Appendices:

Appendix 12(a) – joint letter from NAHT, NEU and ASCL

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Dear Director

We are writing on behalf of all employees working in your local authority area who are members of NAHT, ASCL and the National Education Union (NEU).

You will recall, last year, local schools agreed through your Schools Forum to 'de-delegate' funding for supply cover costs, including for trade union facilities time. We believe that this was the right decision – and a very big majority of Schools Forums made the same decision, acting in accordance with advice issued by the Local Government Association and the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers.

We believe that the central retention and distribution of this funding is the most effective and efficient arrangement and we would like to work with you to ensure that this arrangement continues. Discussions are now taking place in your authority on funding arrangements for supply cover costs from April next year and we are asking you to pass the information in this letter to members in your Schools Forum and to encourage them to vote again for de-delegation of funding arrangements for supply cover costs.

Successive governments have recognised the importance of good industrial relations and have legislated to provide a statutory basis for facilities time as follows.

- Paid time off for union representatives to accompany a worker to a disciplinary or grievance hearing.
- Paid time off for union representatives to carry out trade union duties.
- Paid time off for union representatives to attend union training.
- Paid time off for union 'learning representatives' to carry out relevant learning activities.
- Paid time for union health and safety representatives during working hours to carry out health and safety functions.

These provisions are contained within the Employment Relations Act 1999 and the Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977.

NAHT, ASCL and NEU have members and union representatives in academies as well as maintained schools within your local authority area and, in addition to seeking your support for continued de-delegation, we are seeking your agreement for the local trade union funding arrangement to be formally extended to academies within your local authority boundary.

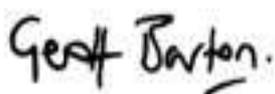
As the DfE Advice on Trade Union Facility Time acknowledges, the trade union recognition agreement between the authority and the recognised unions will have transferred to each academy school as the new employer of the transferred staff as part of the conversion process to academy status under TUPE. We believe that, following conversion, academies should also become parties to local authority trade union facilities arrangements.

The academies within your authority will have received funding for trade union facilities time in their budgets and they are permitted to use that funding to buy-back into local authority arrangements. Indeed, many academies across England have already agreed to buy in to local authority trade union facilities arrangements.

Pooled funding will help the local authority and all schools to meet their statutory obligations on trade union facilities time. Setting up a central funding arrangement will allow academies to pay into a central pool if they wish to. But most importantly it will help maintain a coherent industrial relations environment where issues and concerns whether individual or collective can be dealt with more effectively. All these points are echoed in the advice issued by the LGA and NEOST.

We urge you therefore to support the de-delegation of funding for trade union facilities time and to continue or establish (if you did not do so previously) a mechanism whereby academies within your authority are able to buy into a central fund for trade union facilities time. If you agree to do so, we will write to academy principals to encourage them to buy in to your arrangement.

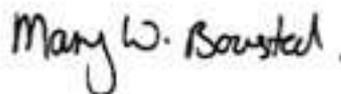
Yours sincerely



**General Secretary
ASCL**



**General Secretary
NAHT**



**Joint General Secretary
NEU**



**Joint General Secretary
NEU**