

To Members of the Schools Forum

Commercial Services Directorate

Schools Finance Team
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Dear Colleague

Re: SCHOOLS FORUM

Please find attached the agenda and papers for the next meeting of the Schools Forum, to be held at **5.30pm** on Wednesday 28 November 2018 in Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham. Tea and Coffee will be available. On arrival can colleagues report to Rochdale Road reception where there will be someone available to show you to the meeting venue.

Car parking passes will be available as usual from Rochdale Road reception.

If you are unable to attend this meeting could you please send your apologies to Vicky Gibbons 0161 770 1104 or email to Vicky.Gibbons@oldham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Samantha Smith

Senior Finance Manager

Agenda

SCHOOLS FORUM

Wednesday 28th November 2018 5.30pm
Crompton Suite

	<u>Approx duration</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Papers</u>
1 Welcome and Apologies Apologies/Declarations of Interest		Chair	-
2 Minutes and Matters Arising Minutes of meeting held on 11 th September 2018	5 mins	Chair	Attached
3 2018/19 DSG update and 2019/20 estimate	15 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
4 High Needs Places 2019/20	5 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
5 2019/20 Schools Funding and response to the consultation	40 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
6 Forward Plan	5 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
7 Any other Business			
Any other business – Must be notified to Liz Caygill @ liz.caygill@oldham.gov.uk or on telephone 0161 770 1012 24 hours before the meeting			

Dates of next meeting: 17th January 2019

Minutes

Meeting of Schools Forum

Tuesday 11 September 2018
at the Civic Centre
at 5.30pm

Present:	Councillor Brain Lord	Saddleworth School Governor (In the Chair)
	Ms Suzanne Thompson	Finance Director Harmony Trust
	Mr Iain Windeatt	Trade Union Representative
	Mr Leon Ashton	Crompton House School Governor
	Mr Carl Newall	Crompton House School
	Mr Peter Moores	Diocese Representative – St Edwards RC Primary
	Ms Tracey Cavangh	Diocese Representative – Holy Rosary RC Primary
	Mr Graham Quinn	New Bridge Academy Trust
	Ms Andrea Skelly	Kingsland School - PRU
Also Present:	Mr Andrew Sutherland	Director of Education and Early Years
	Ms Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
	Ms Liz Caygill	Finance Manager
	Mrs Samantha Smith	Senior Finance Manager
	Mrs Jean Coombs	Clerk

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Mr Brain Lord opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence were received from Mike Aston and Hardial Hayer

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3 DSG FUNDING UPDATE 2018-19 AND 2019-20 BUDGET

Ms Liz Caygill gave members an update on the 2018-19 Dedicated School Grant and explained the estimates for 2019-20.

Main points referred to:

3.1 Updated Settlement for 2017-18 and Estimates for 2019-20

- 3.1.1 There has been a change to the Early Years Block funding for 2017-18 of £0.751m, which was not budgeted for, and it is due to an increase in funding for 3 and 4 years with working parents. This is based on the January 2018 census figures. This funding is an additional resource and is to be put, initially into the Growth Fund, but if not needed will be used to reduce the DSG deficit.
- 3.1.2 There is an additional £0.220m in the Early Years Block for 2018-19 and this will be used in the Early Years Block.
- 3.1.3 Overall an additional £0.971m has been received for 2018-19, however the resources needed is estimated to have increased from £240,236k to £241,089k, an increase of £853,000.
- 3.1.4 The estimate includes a reduction in the High Needs Block funding due to pupil placements outside the borough, resulting in a net reduction of £118,000.
- 3.1.5 The individual schools' budgets have increased by £832,000 due to increased growth and the change in funding rates.
- 3.1.6 The high needs funding requirement has increased by £987,000.
- 3.1.7 The forecast in-year deficit was £395,000, but this has increased to £1.580m. This would increase the overall DSG deficit to £4.611m.
- 3.1.8 There is an increase of £899,000 in the Special School budgets due to an increase in the number of pupils attending Special Schools, of which 49% have come from mainstream schools and 12% are new pupils going into the Nursery class in Special Schools.

Challenge: Members asked if the finance team envisaged the increase in pupil numbers to be understated in future years. Officers responded by saying that they are working with the

SEN team and hope that they would be more accurate in future years. It was noted that the Special Schools are working at maximum capacity.

Ms Caygill confirmed that in three years' time the new Free School which is a Primary Special School will be open with the capacity to take 150 pupils. However, this will put additional pressures on the DSG.

- 3.1.9 The updated budget includes £519,000 for new EHC plans which have yet to be agreed.

3.2 **Additional Pressures for 2018-19 and 2019-20**

- 3.2.1 The additional pressures include the change to a Pupil Referral Unit of St Paul's Hathershaw and the additional funding for the places allocated. The amount for a full year would be £229,000. If this funding is agreed for 2018-19 the overall DSG deficit would increase to £4.74m.

- 3.2.2 Ms Caygill shared a table showing the increase over time from 2015-16 in the High Needs budget.

Challenge: Members asked for more details on the numbers of pupils requiring High Needs funding over the same period.

ACTION: Ms Caygill

- 3.2.3 The indicative High Needs Block funding is £31.595m, but the estimate of actual need is more than this figure. The allocation will change with changing numbers of pupils, but the current estimated shortfall for 2018-19 is £1.826m.

- 3.2.4 Officers have examined High Needs top-ups in relation to mainstream school budgets, considering schools' budgets as a whole, to look for savings.

3.3 **DfE Changes**

- 3.3.1 The Local Authority is now able to transfer an additional 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block without reapplying to the Secretary of State subject to Schools Forum approval.

- 3.3.2 There is a requirement for the DSG to balance and if the deficit is more than 1% of the DSG then the Local Authority has to report on the financial recovery plan to the DfE. Officers are working on a recovery plan.

3.4 **2019-20 Budget**

- 3.4.1 Ms Caygill explained the figures in the DSG out turn 2018-19 and 2019-20, explaining that the numbers will change due to the changing number of pupils in the sectors on the October census when the actual settlement is received for 2019-20

- 3.4.2 The resources have increased by £3.3m, but the requirement has also increased by £1.7m.
- 3.4.3 The capping at 1.7% and the minimum funding levels for primary and secondary pupils have been incorporated into the figures. The initial allocation into the Growth Fund has been included but further information is expected later this term. The Growth Fund has been allocated based on the formula; and £1.9m was received last year. In 2019-20 there will not be a drop of more than 0.5%, or £1.0m in the Growth Fund. The October 2017 and October 2018 census are used in the allocation of the Growth Fund.
- 3.4.4 The figures presented assumed a movement of 1% from the mainstream schools' budget to the High Needs Block.

Challenge: Members were reassured that the deficit recovery work is informed by the SEN pressures highlighted in the inspection.

3.5 **Growth Fund**

- 3.5.1 The allocation of the Growth Fund to individual schools based on estimated numbers to September 2018 was provided to members. In addition to this explicit growth there is an allocation to Oasis Leesbrook and Northmoor from formula funding. The change in funding required from the January 2018 estimates is £465,000. The additional Early Years funding (Item 3.1.1) had been included in the figures used.
- 3.5.2 Officers are considering if there should be a change in the criteria for Growth Funding allocation. At the moment funding is allocated on a basic pupil amount. A paper will be written and brought to the Schools Forum to suggest changes to the funding of places, including for those that are not filled.
- 3.5.3 At this stage the Local Authority does not know how much Growth Funding will be allocated after 2018-19.

- 3.6 **RESOLVED:**
- (i) that the latest settlement of Dedicated Schools Grant for 2018/19 of £241.089m be noted;
 - (ii) that the latest deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant 2018/19 be approved;
 - (iii) that the changes to the DSG allocation for 2017/18 and 2018/19 be noted;
 - (iv) that the current estimated cumulative overspend of £4.611m on the DSG for 2018/19 be noted;
 - (v) that the possible additional budget pressures 2018/19 be noted;

- (vi) that the High Needs budget pressures be noted;
- (vii) that the 2019/20 budget update be noted; and
- (viii) that the requirement to bring the DSG back towards a balanced position especially given the new requirement to provide a report to the DfE on the proposed action be noted.

4 NEW SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2019/2020

4.1 Part 1 - DSG Funding Announcements

Ms Liz Caygill presented a paper to inform members of the main changes to the schools funding for 2019-20, following recent announcements from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, in comparison with 2018-19.

Main points referred to:

- 4.1.1 The 2019-20 schools National Funding Formula will be broadly the same as for 2018-19.
- 4.1.2 The Schools Block funding has increased, but is indicative until after the October 2018 census.
- 4.1.3 The minimum per pupil funding levels are £3,500 for primary and £4,800 for secondary.
- 4.1.4 The allocation to the authority includes for all schools a 1% per pupil gain compared with 2017-18 baselines.
- 4.1.5 Underfunded schools can gain a further 3% per pupil in addition to the 3% gain in 2018-19.
- 4.1.6 A major change is to the Growth Funding formula as explained earlier.
- 4.1.7 The High Needs Block funding has changed due to the changes in pupil numbers, but spending is still above the funding level.
- 4.1.8 The historical commitments for 2019-20 will be allocated at the same level as in 2018-19.
- 4.1.9 The soft formula will continue in 2020-21 which will allow movement between blocks.
- 4.1.10 The Teachers Pay Grant will be paid to cover the teachers' pay award. However, it is not yet clear how this will be allocated.

- 4.1.11 The Free School Meals (FSM) supplementary grant, due to the roll out of Universal Credit, will be introduced. As a result, the number of pupils eligible for FSMs will increase.

RESOLVED: that the contents of the report be noted.

4.2 **Part 2 - Schools Block Funding**

Ms Caygill provided members with an overview of Oldham's 2018-19 Schools Block formula factor values in comparison to those chosen by other Local Authorities as at March 2018 with reference to the National Funding Formula (NFF).

Main points referred to:

- 4.2.1 In Oldham the basic entitlement is above the National average.
- 4.2.2 Some areas have not moved towards the NFF.
- 4.2.3 Oldham have moved towards the NFF in all except four areas.
- 4.2.4 The movement between the Schools and High Needs block has been considered an essential requirement. The Local Authority will be consulting with schools and will be holding meetings with the Fair Funding Group representatives to make the decisions about the 2019-20 schools block funding formula. The final decision rests with the Elected Members at the Cabinet meeting in December 2018.

RESOLVED: that the content of the report be noted.

6 **FORWARD PLAN**

The proposed agenda items for the following two Schools Forum meetings were provided to members.

The proposed dates of the meetings are 28 November 2018 and 17 January 2019.

(There being no further business, members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 18.47pm).

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Report of the Director of Finance

Item 3 – 2018/19 Dedicated Schools Grant Update and 2019/20 Estimate

Schools Forum – 28th November 2018

Purpose

This report sets out the following:

- An update for Schools Forum members on the deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2018/19 and the current forecast deficit at the year end.
- The estimated deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2019/20. The projected deficit in table 6 assumes the 1% movement to High Needs is actioned for 2019/20

2018/19 Forecast Outturn

- 1.1 The table below shows the change in the funding deployed for 2018/19 reported to Schools Forum on 11 September 2018.

Table 1 – DSG Forecast Outturn 2018/19	DSG 2018/19 @ September 2018 £000's	DSG 2018/19 @ November 2018 £000's	Change £000's
Schools Block (excludes central services)	185,894	185,894	0
Central Schools Services Block	3,001	3,001	0
Early Years Block	15,064	15,064	0
High Needs Block – pre/post 16	32,685	32,685	0
Two Year Olds' Funding	4,145	4,145	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	215	215	0
Early Years Disability Access Fund	85	85	0
Total Resources	241,089	241,089	0
Budget Requirement			
Individual Schools Budgets	186,726	186,726	0
Early Year Funding Delegated to Schools	6,111	6,111	0
High Needs Funding for Schools (incl Post 16)	25,733	25,832	99
Total Delegated to Schools	218,570	218,669	99
Central Schools Services	3,045	3,045	0
Central Early Years Services	1,297	1,297	0
Central High Needs Services	8,407	8,407	0
Three and Four Year old PVI's	7,164	7,164	0
Two Year Old Funding	3,876	3,876	0
Total Retained Centrally	23,789	23,789	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	225	225	0
Early Years Disability Access Fund	85	85	0
Total Budget Requirement	242,669	242,768	99
Deficit	(1,580)	(1,679)	(99)
Balance brought Forward	(3,031)	(3,031)	0
Revised Deficit/Change	(4,611)	(4,710)	(99)

- 1.2 At its September 2018 meeting, Schools Forum was advised that it was expected, subject to there being no other revisions, that there would be an in-year deficit for 2018/19 of £1,580k. This would have the impact of increasing the cumulative deficit still further to £4,611k if recovery action was not introduced. Table 1 above shows a revised position with a small increase (£99k) to the projected in year deficit of £1,679k. This in turn has increased the overall deficit to £4,710k.
- 1.3 The main reasons for the changes reported at September 2018 Schools Forum whereby the deficit stood at £4.611m are highlighted in table 2. It shows that the additional funding for fulfil statutory duties of £131k together with revisions in funding for Special Schools for real time movement (both positive and negative from a schools perspective) have increased the projected deficit by £99k.

Table 2 – Changes since September 11th 2018 Schools Forum

Reason	Pressure Amount (£m)	Savings Amount (£m)
DSG Projected Overspend at September 2018	(4,611)	
Additional funding agreed to fulfill statutory duty (approved as a delegated decision September 2018)	(131)	
Adjustments to Springbrook re Autumn real time movement	(11)	
Adjustments to Kingfisher re Autumn real time movement	(50)	
Adjustments to New Bridge re Autumn real time movement		109
Adjustments to Hollinwood re Autumn real time movement	(18)	
Rounding Adjustment		2
TOTAL (PRESSURES)/SAVINGS	(4,821)	111
Estimated Net Deficit 2018/19	(4,710)	

- 1.4 The increasing pressure on the High Needs Block is the main reason for the DSG deficit and to highlight this the table below details the financial position of the High Needs block over the last 3 years before any transfers from the schools block and the estimated outturn position for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Table 3

DSG High Needs Block	Budget £	Spend £	Deficit £	Cumulative £
2015/16	25,584	26,255	(671)	(671)
2016/17	26,263	29,231	(2,968)	(3,639)
2017/18	27,520	31,856	(4,336)	(7,975)
2018/19 est	30,807	34,239	(3,432)	(11,407)
2019/20 est	31,953	34,403	(2,450)	(13,857)

- 1.5 There are no indications that the national funding for SEND will increase in the near future and therefore a solution must be sought locally.

- 1.6 To further illustrate the High Needs pressure table 4 below shows the overall change in spend from 2015/16 to 2018/19 at a cost of £7.851m.
- 1.7 The table shows an updated financial position for High Needs expenditure in Oldham and compares this spending to 2015/16. It shows an increase in spending from 2015/16 to 2018/19 of £7.851m.
- 1.8 This provides evidence of the estimated shortfall of £3.450m between the indicative 2019/20 allocation of £31.953m and the estimated spend on High Needs of £34.403m.

Table 4

	2015/16	2017/18	Change from 2015/16 to 17/18 January 18	2018/19 Estimate at September Schools Forum	Change from 2017/18 to 2018/19 at September 18
	£	£	£	£	£
Statements (EHCP'S)	3,880,910	5,226,066	1,345,156	6,362,329	1,136,263
Special Schools	12,239,764	14,475,708	2,235,944	15,481,907	1,006,199
Special schools Growth - econ of scale	568,458	27,709	(540,749)	0	(27,709)
PRU	1,337,016	1,511,504	174,488	1,689,203	43,900
Resourced	619,465	677,252	57,787	519,055	(158,197)
High Needs Contingency	79,450	69,529	(9,921)	20,183	(49,346)
Early Help		350,000	350,000	350,000	0
OOB	2,363,000	3,659,973	1,296,973	3,952,019	292,046
Central Education Support Services including HI/VI Services	4,104,650	4,104,649	(1)	4,104,649	0
Post 16	1,061,891	1,754,525	692,634	1,761,000	6,475
Increase in spend 15/16 to 18/19	26,254,604	31,856,915	(a) 5,602,311	34,238,345	(b) 2,249,631

Change 2015/16 to 2017/18

(a) £5,602,311

Change 2017/18 to 2018/19

(b) £2,249,631

Total Change

7,851,942

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- 1.9 Transfers from the Schools block have been used to fund the deficit in the Table 4 High Needs in previous years as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5

Financial Year	£000
2016/17	385
2017/18	2,380
2018/19	1,878
2019/20 – being consulted	1,899

2019/20 Budget Update

- 2.1 Table 6 below shows the estimated budget for 2019/20 and a comparison to the estimated 2019/20 budget at September 2018 and assumes the **1% movement to High Needs is actioned** for 2019/20.
- 2.2 The actual resources for 2019/20 will be known in late December so the position will change. Schools Forum members will recall that there was a significant change in the allocation for 2018/19 which improved the position. Time will tell if this will be the case for 2019/20.
- 2.3 These 2019/20 projections are based on the following estimates and include an assumption of additional income for pupils at Oasis Leesbrook and Northmoor who will be on the October 2018 census and therefore will form part of 2019/20 funding. The costs for these have also been included.

Table 6 – DSG 2019/20 estimated budget September 2018 & November 2018	DSG 2019/2020 @ September 2018 £000's	DSG 2019/20 @ November 2018 £000's	Change £000's
Schools Block (excludes central services)	188,843	188,098	(745)
Central Schools Services Block	2,985	2,985	
Early Years Block	14,381	14,381	
High Needs Block – pre/post 16	33,860	33,852	(8)
Two Year Olds' Funding	4,067	4,067	
Early Years Pupil Premium	225	225	
Early Years Disability Access Fund	85	85	
Total Resources	244,446	243,693	(753)
Budget Requirement			
Individual Schools Budgets	188,844	188,049	(795)
Early Year Funding Delegated to Schools	6,111	6,111	0
High Needs Funding for Schools (incl Post 16)	25,371	25,996	625
Total Delegated to Schools	220,326	220,156	(170)
Central Schools Services	3,045	3,030	(15)
Central Early Years Services	1,297	1,297	0
Central High Needs Services	8,407	8,407	0
Three and Four Year old PVI's	7,164	7,164	0
Two Year Old Funding	3,876	3,876	0
Total Retained Centrally	23,789	23,774	(15)
Early Years Pupil Premium	225	225	0
Early Years Disability Access Fund	85	85	0
Budget Requirement	244,425	244,240	(185)
Surplus/ (Deficit)	21	(547)	(568)
Balance brought Forward	(4,611)	(4,710)	(99)
Revised Deficit/Change	(4,589)	(5,257)	(668)

If the movement of 1% was not actioned the deficit for 2019/20 would increase by £1.9m to **£7.157m**.

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- 2.4 It has been assumed there will be a reduction in income for growth of £745k for Northmoor and the estimated allocation for growth.
- 2.5 Growth expenditure has been reduced by £745k for Northmoor and the estimated allocation for growth for 2019/20 has reduced also by £745k. A balance on the schools block model has been included at £50k.
- 2.6 High Needs Funding for schools has increased by £625k. This is made up of £229k for Kingsland, and a change to commissioned Special places from September 2019 of £396k. A breakdown of the increased places is shown in agenda item 4.
- 2.7 The projections for 2019/20 assumes the contribution of £350k to Early Help continues, additional funding of £99k continues for St Pauls and Hathershaw resourced provision and the additional funding for Kingsland of £171k.
- 2.8 The projection for 2019/20 includes a reduction to the Central Schools Services Block of £15k.
- 2.9 However it is of great concern that even with the 1% movement, the projected DSG overspend for 2019/20 is set to increase still further to £5,257k. As the DSG deficit is continuing to rise, the agreement of the action required to bring it towards a balanced position becomes more urgent and necessarily more significant.

DSG Recovery Plan

- 2.10 The DfE is currently consulting on the implementation of new arrangements for reporting deficits of the DSG. The consultation document suggests that a report will be required from all local authorities that have an overall cumulative DSG deficit of 1% or more at the end of 2018 to 2019, outlining their recovery plans. Oldham's deficit for 2018/19 is currently 2.16% and there will be a requirement to submit a report.
- 2.11 The recovery plan should look to bring the overall DSG into balance within a maximum of three years. Where this is difficult for a local authority the DfE would look at evidence explaining the problem, and may accept a recovery plan that leaves some or all of the deficit accumulated to date outstanding. In all cases the DfE expects all local authority recovery plans to demonstrate how they will bring in – year spending in line with in-year resources within three years at most. The evidence to support a recovery plan should include:
- A full breakdown of specific budget pressures
 - An assessment and understanding of the specific local factors that have caused an increase in high needs costs
 - Evidence of how expenditure will be contained within future funding levels
 - Details of movements between blocks
 - Assumptions on future transfers between blocks of the DSG, if permitted in future years, and evidence of support from the schools forum and wider school community for these.

If an authority judges that it cannot recover its deficit within three years, the reason for this must be presented.

Conclusion

3.1 The proposed DSG budget for 2018/19 for each funding block is set out below.

Block	Allocation 2018/19 £000	Proposed Budget 2018/19		
		Retained £000	Delegated £000	Total £000
Schools	185,894	0	186,726	186,726
Central Schools Block	3,001	3,045	0	3,045
Early Years	19,509	12,647	6,111	18,758
High Needs	32,685	8,407	25,832	34,239
Total Funding	241,089	24,099	218,669	242,768

3.2 Schools Forum is requested to:

- Approve the latest deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant 2018/19 (table 1).
- Note there is currently an estimated cumulative overspend of £4.710m on the DSG for 2018/19 (table 1) for which remedial action is required
- Note the changes to the 2018/19 budget (table 2).
- Note the financial position of the High Needs Block (table 3).
- Note the change in spend on High Needs (table 4).
- Note the transfers from the Schools Block (table 5).
- Note the 2019/20 budget update (table 6) which shows a further increase in the projected DSG deficit requiring more urgent and significant recovery action.

Report of the Director of Finance

Item 4 – High Needs Places 2019/20

Schools Forum – 28th November 2018

1. Purpose of the Paper

- To provide members of the Schools Forum with an update of the number of high needs places commissioned for 2019/20.

2. Background

- The High Needs Block covers the majority of funding for pupils with SEN in mainstream, special schools, specialist units and FE institutions.
- The table below shows the increase in pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan from January 2015 to January 2018, showing a total increase of 558 pupils and a year by year stepped increase.

EHCP PLAN DATA					
FROM SEN2 survey	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Change from Jan 2015 to Jan 2018 (increase / (decrease))
Under age 5	83	77	89	96	13
5 to 10	438	439	525	587	149
11 to 15	531	550	574	636	105
16 to 19	108	182	260	308	200
20 to 25		13	50	91	91
	1160	1261	1498	1718	558
Registered Early Year Setting	1	3	16	13	12
Maintained Mainstream	344	306	323	366	22
Maintained Special	225	222	16	16	(209)
Maintained Resourced Provision	35	37	12	0	(35)
Mainstream Academy Resourced Provision			25	15	15
Mainstream Academies	184	195	220	241	57
Mainstream Free Schools	1	8	5	22	21
Special School - Academy	304	360	634	707	403
Non - Maintained Special	8	3		16	8
Independent Special	23	43	51	55	32
Other Independent	10	3	4	4	(6)
Pupil Referral Units		2	1	4	4
Post 16 - Colleges/Sixth Form/Alternative Provision		60	167	248	248
Other Arrangements	25	19	24	11	(14)
	1160	1261	1498	1718	558

3. Special Schools & Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

3.1 The key issues in relation to the commissioning and funding of places in special schools the PRU are set out below:

- Special schools and academies receive their base funding (Elements 1 & 2) £10,000 per pupil from the local authority for maintained schools and the ESFA for academies.
- The number of places commissioned / funded is agreed annually with the local authority and the school/academy and then submitted to the ESFA.
- Discussions were held between the local authority and Oldham special schools to agree the places that will be commissioned for September 2019 and these were submitted to the ESFA by the 16th November 2018.

3.2 The funded places agreed in special schools for the financial year 2019/20 is shown in the table below at a total of 890 places. This is an increase of 80 places from 2018/19 financial year. This increase is clearly one of the factors contributing to the continued financial pressure on the High Needs block and thus the increase in the projected DSG deficit. The table below shows the additional cost for 2019/20 as £658,697.

	Places Funded				
School	Current numbers Nov 18	Sep 19 place numbers	2019/20 Financial Year	2018/19 Financial Year	Additional cost for 2019/20
Spring Brook	91	78	83	78	(£88,417)
Kingfisher	191	185	188	174	£26,892
New Bridge	382	394	388	365	£83,796
Kingsland	40	40	40	40	£0
Hollinwood	155	185	173	153	£390,533
Springboard	0	30	18	0	£245,893
Total	859	912	890	810	£658,697

- 3.3 In addition to the numbers shown in the table above, Hollinwood currently have 28 places for pupils without EHC plans. From September 2019 this will increase to 30 places for pupils without EHC plans. The 30 non EHC plan places are only funded for element 1.
- 3.4 Additional places at individual institutions have to be funded from within the total notionally allocated to Oldham in the 2019/20 financial year. This creates a pressure for Oldham as no additional funding is allocated to fund the increases in place numbers during the year.
- 3.5 In addition to the 40 places detailed in the table above, Kingsland School also operates a hospital teaching provision with 30 places. Additional funding of £400k has been required by Kingsland during 2018/19 and this is likely to continue to 2019/20 which adds to the on-going pressure.
- 3.6 Special schools receive Element 3 tops ups and these are banded based on individual needs. The current rates for the financial year 2018/19 are shown below together with those proposed for 2019/20 which reflect the reduction as outlined in the consultation document.

School	Primary Need	Band	Element 3 2018/19 rate	Proposed rate 2019/20
Spring Brook	SEBD	3	£14,051	£13,714
	SEBD plus 1:1	3.1	£34,652	£33,820
Kingfisher	PMLD	1	£12,507	£12,207
(Note: nursery pupils band 2-5 funded 0.60fte)	ASD	2	£9,444	£9,217
	SLD	4	£6,402	£6,248
	MLD	5	£4,577	£4,467
	PMLD plus 1:1	1.1	£33,108	£32,313
	ASD plus 1:1	2.1	£30,045	£29,324
	SLD plus 1:1	4.1	£27,003	£26,355
	MLD plus 1:1	5.1	£25,178	£24,574
New Bridge	PMLD	1	£11,664	£11,384
	ASD	2	£7,124	£6,953
	BESD	3	£6,776	£6,613
	SLD	4	£5,559	£5,426
	MLD	5	£2,811	£2,744
	PMLD plus 1:1	1.1	£32,265	£31,491
	ASD plus 1:1	2.1	£27,725	£27,060
	BESD plus 1:1	3.1	£27,377	£26,720
	SLD plus 1:1	4.1	£26,160	£25,532
	MLD plus 1:1	5.1	£23,412	£22,850
Hollinwood	ASD	2	£8,888	£8,675
	ASD plus 1:1	2.1	£29,156	£28,456

4. Resourced Units

- 4.1 There are 3 resourced units in operation attached to both primary and secondary schools / academies. The units receive place funding (Element 2) at £6,000 per place and Elements 3 top ups to meet the individual pupil needs. Schools will be funded via their individual school budget share for pupils in their resourced unit.

The number of places in each unit and the current top up rates for 2018/19 are shown below.

School/Academy	No of Places funded	Element 3 2018/19
St Pauls Primary School	12	£5,127
North Chadderton Secondary Academy	12	£9,869
Hathershaw Secondary Academy	12	£804

Note: Hathershaw operate alongside support from the Hearing Impaired Service and staff employed directly by the local authority work within the unit.

-
- 4.2 The number of places funded is agreed on an annual basis by the local authority and the school / academy. Top ups for individual pupils are adjusted to reflect real time movement and funding adjusted on a termly basis.

Currently there is a need to fund the difference in actual and projected spend on the St Paul's Resource Base while efforts to address the funding and inclusion challenges continue.

Hathershaw school is likely to require additional funding to accommodate additional pupils, and to meet the increasingly complex needs of the young people in the cohort.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The report clearly highlights both the increasing number of pupils being included within the special schools sector and the goes some way to explain the financial pressures on the DSG which are outlined in report on the Schools Forum agenda.
- 5.2 In this regard Members of Schools Forum are asked to note the report.

Report of the Director of Finance

Item 5 – 2019/20 Schools Funding

Schools Forum – 28th November 2018

Schools National Funding Formula

Reason for Decision

Following the Government announcement on Schools Funding for 2019/20 at the end of July 2018, it is necessary to consider options and agree a recommended approach as to how the funding for Schools and Academies should be distributed in 2019/20.

Executive Summary

This report provides a breakdown of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2019/20 and provides information about the National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs Blocks for Oldham. It also presents options for the distribution of the Schools block of the DSG to schools and academies from 2019/20.

The report presents a preferred option which is to provide a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil and move further to the National Funding Formula for secondary schools. For secondary schools IDACI (Income deprivation affecting children index) has been included at 10% NFF values. This option includes the movement of 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

It is important to note that where the Department for Education (DfE) has previously approved a request to move more than 0.5% between blocks, and where there is continuing Schools Forum agreement to the transfer, the Local Authority is not required to seek further approval from the Secretary of State for Education for the movement, as was required in 2018/19.

As highlighted in the report, the agreement of Schools Forum is considered essential given the current financial position of the DSG, which is forecast to be at a significant deficit position at the end of 2018/19. This is largely due to pressures on the High Needs Block. Without the movement of the 1% funding between DSG blocks, the DSG deficit will inevitably rise.

Recommendation

It is recommended that option 4 outlined in the report is approved, which provides a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil, £4,800 per secondary pupil and for secondary schools IDACI (Income deprivation affecting children index) has been included at

10% NFF values together with a 1% transfer of funding between the Schools and the High Needs Blocks.

Schools National Funding Formula

1 Background

- 1.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ringfenced grant payable to Local Authorities by Government for the funding of schools in the Borough. Over a number of years, the Government is changing the way it funds schools via the DSG from locally agreed arrangements towards a standard means of allocating resources. This is known as the National Funding Formula (NFF).
- 1.2 There has been little change in arrangements between funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and therefore as will be explained later, there is no requirement for Authorities to move further to the funding allocation methodology introduced by the NFF in 2018/19. However there is a requirement for the Local Authority to consult with schools on the DSG allocation methodology that will be applied. Consultation on the 2019/20 Oldham DSG funding methodology has taken place with the consultation period running from 26th October to 23rd November 2018.
- 1.2 The DSG is made up of 4 blocks of funding
 - Schools
 - High Needs
 - Early Years
 - Central Schools Services (new block).
- 1.3 Each of the 4 blocks is determined by a separate National Funding Formula which calculates the funding due to Local Authorities. The Department for Education (DfE) has calculated the funding the Local Authority (LA) will receive for the Schools Block as if the National Funding Formula had been applied to schools. However, for 2019/20 and 2020/21 it will remain the role of the LA to determine the funding for schools and academies via their Local Funding Formula for the Schools Block. The National Funding Formula for schools will be introduced no earlier than 2021/22 which is a year later than originally announced. The continuation of a soft formula for 2020/21 allowing movement between funding blocks was announced by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in July 2018.
- 1.4 The 2019/20 indicative amount for Oldham which is available for Schools and High Needs is £223.874m (excluding the Early Years Block of 19.51m based on the 2018/19 allocation). This is £2.177m more than 2018/19. Final allocations for 2019/20 will be calculated using the October 2018 census which will be announced in December 2018. It will include LA allocations through the new growth factor. Schools Forum will recall that when the 2018/19 DSG allocation was announced it was considerably higher than the indicative figures and therefore enabled a more generous funding allocation than had been modelled at the consultation stage.
- 1.5 There can be significant changes between years in some of the additional needs data (such as pupils entitled to free school meals). If there is a significant change in funding from the indicative allocations, there will be an adjustment to the local funding formula to enable schools to see an increase in their budget compared to the allocations at Appendices A or C.
- 1.6 At this stage, there is no indication how fully implementing the NFF from 2021/22 will be funded, as it is subject to the next Government Spending Review.

- 1.7 The DfE has issued financial information on the funding schools would receive if the LA moved to a National Funding Formula for 2019/20 compared to their 2018/19 budget. These illustrative allocations are based on 2017 pupil data and characteristics. It should be noted that the NFF illustrative allocations provided to schools include a 0.5% per pupil increase for each school in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19. Each school can view the calculation of its budget.
- 1.8 An important consideration in Oldham is that the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2018/19 is projecting a deficit of £4.710m. This is mainly due to additional costs of funding Special Schools, the Pupil Referral Unit and the additional number of children with statements in mainstream schools from the High Needs Block. This is projected to increase still further for 2019/20.
- 1.9 There is a requirement that the DSG is brought back into balance as soon as possible and council officers are currently working on a DSG financial recovery plan which has been outlined to Schools Forum. Part of the financial strategy to bring the DSG towards a balanced position is the continued movement of funding between the Schools and High Needs DSG Blocks as explained later in the report. This movement of funding has been included within the consultation documents issued to schools on 26th October. The period of consultation and ended on 23rd November and the responses to that consultation are outlined later in this report. Having assumed the movement of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, Oldham is not able to pass on the 0.5% per pupil increase to schools as presented in the DfE schools funding illustrations. As outlined earlier, the position could change when final the final allocation is notified.

2. Current Position

Schools Block

- 2.1 The DSG allocation for 2018/19 received by the Council is £241.089m (including the Early Years Block). This is for all schools in the Borough including academies and therefore the formula about which we have consulted includes academies. The timescale for agreeing a revised local funding formula for schools for 2019/20 is highlighted in the table below. There has been a wide range of views on the proposed funding formula to distribute funding. A key element in the consultation process is the decision of Schools Forum.

Consultation Stage	Date
Fair Funding Group	16 th October 2018
Consult schools	26 th October to 23 rd November 2018
Schools Forum	28 th November 2018
Cabinet Meeting	17 th December 2018
Schools Forum	17 th January 2019
Schools Block Formula to DfE	21 st January 2019

- 2.2 The Schools Block is ringfenced for 2019/20 but recognising that there are pressures on the High Needs Block, the DfE has allowed LAs to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block where:

- the DfE has previously approved a request to move more than 0.5% between blocks, and;
- there is continuing agreement to the transfer from Schools Forum.

Schools Forum agreed to a 1% movement between the Schools and High Needs Blocks for 2018/19. It is therefore proposed to utilise this option for 2019/20 and the amount available to transfer is circa £1.9m. The increasing pressures on High Needs budgets and the increase in the overall DSG deficit justify the proposed transfer. It is essential to have the agreement of the Schools Forum to this movement of funds. The continued movement of funds has been discussed at Schools Forum a number of times and as the principle was accepted it has shaped the presentation of the consultation documentation.

- 2.3 LAs also have the flexibility to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for schools at a level between 0% and -1.5% per pupil to allow higher levels of protection locally. The MFG is a way of giving schools a guaranteed minimum increase in funding per pupil each year or limiting the amounts that can be deducted from a schools budget. It works by comparing a school's level of funding per pupil from one year to the next on a like for like basis, and in such a way as to exclude funding that could distort the per pupil value that is the basis for the guarantee. The baseline for the calculation is intended to cover as much of a school's budget as possible, current exemptions are Business Rates (because they are funded in the formula on actuals) and lump sum allocations because they do not relate to pupil numbers. The options highlighted in section 3 include an MFG of 0%.
- 2.4 In 2019/20, the DfE will provide a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil. LAs may choose to apply it in their local funding formula at a lower level or not at all. The options highlighted in section 3 include the minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil in line with the NFF values proposed by the DfE.

High Needs Block

- 2.5 The indicative High Needs block allocation of £31.95m has increased by £1.027m between 2018/19 and 2019/20. The actual allocation for High Needs will change further having regard to changes in pupil and student numbers and their movement between Local Authorities through basic entitlement factor and import/export adjustment. The consultation process set out the position regarding the movement of funding between the Schools and High Needs Block. Therefore the LA is seeking Schools Forum confirmation of the transfer of 1% to the High Needs block. In this regard it is important to note that Oldham is currently spending £1.885m above the illustrative allocation for the High Needs block for 2019/20. Even with the approval to the transfer, the deficit on the DSG will still be evident. Therefore to control the deficit, the LA has also set out within the consultation documentation further proposals to alleviate the pressure on High Needs funding and thus to help control the overall DSG deficit, as follows:
- Reducing top up funding given to mainstream schools with pupils with EHCP'S which is estimated to save £300k.
 - Reducing top up funding given to special schools which is estimated to save £200k.
 - Introducing new funding arrangements for over capacity over occupancy (over capacity) funding for Special Schools from the academic year 2019/20.

If each of the proposals above are approved, from April 2019, the saving to the DSG would be approximately £500k per annum.

Notional Allocations 2019/20

- 2.6 The notional allocations for Oldham so far notified to the LA and schools are based on October 2017 pupil numbers and will be confirmed in December 2018, once the October 2018 census information has been analysed. It is expected the final Schools Block settlement for Oldham for 2019/20 will be issued in the week commencing 18th December and will be based on the October 2018 School census numbers. The table below highlights the currently notified additional notional increase of £2.176m by block, based on October 2017 pupil numbers.

Block	Notional Decrease / Increase
Schools and Central Schools Services Block	£1.149m increase
High Needs	£1.027m increase
Total	£2.176m increase

- 2.7 Local Authorities may top slice the Schools Block of the DSG in order to create a Growth Fund to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including pre-opening, diseconomy of scale and reorganisation costs. In this regard the Schools Block predicted in the options tables in section 3 shows the funding available to schools at £188.1m which includes an estimated £1.72m for growth funding.
- 2.8 For 2019/20, there will be a new approach for allocating funding to Local Authorities to support schools with significant in-year growth in pupil numbers. Local Authorities will be funded according to actual levels of pupil number growth, rather than on the basis of historic spend. Growth allocations for 2019/20 will be based on pupil data from the October 2018 census and will be part of the DSG allocation notification issued in December 2018. Appendix 1 details the current growth funding for Oldham schools.

3 Options / Alternatives

- 3.1 The currently available National Funding Formula values has 14 factors which influence funds allocation levels and these have been used to calculate the funding into the LA. However for 2018/19 and 2019/20 the distribution of funding can still have an element of local determination.
- 3.2 In 2018/19 Oldham moved fully to the national funding formula values in all but 4 of 14 factors. These are Basic Entitlement, Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), Lump Sum and Minimum Funding Levels. Until 2020/21 Oldham has the flexibility to set its own funding formula in order to distribute the school block allocation. A full move to the NFF in 2019/20 would mean that Oldham would not be able to address the High Needs pressures which currently exist. In order to move the 1% of the Schools Block (c1.9m) to the High Needs Block, the Schools Block formulae would be required to mirror 2018/19 values. Four options for Oldham's funding formula for 2019/20 have been modelled, two of which (1 and 4) have been issued to schools for consultation and are shown below. The remaining two options (2 and 3) are shown in Appendix 2 and have not been issued as they result in a loss of funding for some schools and therefore do not align to the 3 principles set out below.

- 3.3 All options are presented including a 1% movement between the Schools and High Needs Blocks. As this movement has been consistently discussed at Schools Forum its agreement is assumed. The impact on schools of all 4 options is shown at Appendix 3.
- 3.4 All options are based on current characteristics and are subject to change when the actual numbers of pupils on the October 2018 census is notified to the Council. This data will be released in late December 2018.
- 3.5 The options have all been based on 3 key principles:
- the presentation of what is considered to be the fairest allocation of resources for Oldham Schools and Academies having regard to prevailing pressures and issues (in particular that no school receives less resource than it has received in 2018/19)
 - to ensure that Oldham Schools are best placed for smooth implementation when the National Funding Formula for Schools is fully introduced
 - the positive management of the DSG deficit position (subject to the agreement of Schools Forum).
- 3.6 It is important to note that if Schools Forum approval is not given, then Oldham Council would submit a request to the Secretary of State to override a Schools Forum rejection of their proposed transfer, as a means of addressing the continuing pressure on overall DSG spending and controlling the projected DSG deficit.

Option 1

Continue to use Oldham's formula and move further to the National Funding Formula by providing a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil with an MFG of zero per cent and a cap on gains.

The impact of this proposal to move further to the National Funding Formula within Oldham is:

- a) To set the minimum funding guarantee per pupil to 0% to ensure no school loses funding in 2019/20 as a result of formula changes. It is proposed to set the maximum increase per pupil (capping - increase in school budget year on year) at 1.27%, in order to ensure an equitable allocation basis
- b) No school loses and 31 schools gain funding. The table below demonstrates the allocations in total and that there remains a balance of £49,041 to distribute to schools. As the allocation of the remaining balance per school would be minimal, it is proposed to add the remainder to the Growth Fund. Appendix 4 details the impact per school of this option.

	£	£
Schools Block		188,743,016
Proposed movement of funding to High Needs Block		(1,899,978)
Estimated additional DSG funding for growth Northmoor and Oasis Leesbrook		1,254,775
Funding Available to allocate to schools		188,097,813
Formula Allocation to Schools	185,631,854	
Business Rates contingency	110,000	
Business Rates adjustment	39,842	
PFI Inflation	94,134	
Northmoor, Oasis and Oasis Leesbrook growth	689,347	
Current funding allocated through schools block		186,565,177
Estimated explicit growth 2019/20 for planned expansions		960,981
Estimated provision for estimated general growth and Northmoor and funding to be allocated		522,614
Balance Remaining		49,041

Option 4

During the consultation with schools a further option was proposed as set out below.

Continue to use Oldham's formula and move further to the National Funding Formula by providing a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil with an MFG of zero per cent and a cap on gains for Primary Schools and move further to the NFF for secondary schools. For secondary schools only bands E and F have been included at 10% NFF values funded by a reduction in basic per pupil entitlement.

The impact of this proposal is:

- a) To set the minimum funding guarantee per pupil to 0% to ensure no school loses funding in 2019/20 as a result of formula changes. It is proposed to set the maximum increase per pupil (capping - increase in school budget year on year) at 1.27%.
- b) No school loses and 32 schools gain. The table below demonstrates the allocations and that there remains £45,488 to distribute to schools. As the allocation of the remaining balance per school would be minimal, it is proposed to add the remainder to the Growth Fund. Appendix 5 details the impact per school of this option.

- c) In this option compared to option 1, three secondary schools gain and 1 secondary school loses.

	£	£
Schools Block		188,743,016
Proposed movement of funding to High Needs Block		(1,899,978)
Estimated additional DSG funding for growth Northmoor and Oasis Leesbrook		1,254,775
Funding Available to allocate to schools		188,097,813
Formula Allocation to Schools	185,638,629	
Business Rates contingency	110,000	
Business Rates adjustment	39,842	
PFI Inflation	94,134	
Northmoor, Oasis and Oasis Leesbrook growth	686,125	
Current funding allocated through schools block		186,568,730
Estimated explicit growth 2019/20 for planned expansions		960,981
Estimated provision for estimated general growth and Northmoor and funding to be allocated		522,614
Balance Remaining		45,488

4 Consultation Responses

- 4.1 The number of responses to the consultation is shown in the table below. As can be seen, the overall response rate was 41%, with responses varying between sectors.

Type	No of Responses	No Consulted	Response Rate
Primary	32	86	37%
Secondary	7	13	54%
Special	4	5	80%
Total	43	104	41%

4.2 The responses to the consultation questions are shown below and individual comments from schools are summarised in themes at Appendix 6.

Responses by Question	YES (Option C for Q8)	NO	UNDECIDED	UNANSWERED	TOTAL
1) Do you agree with continuing with the National Funding Formula values from 2018/19?	47%	42%	0%	12%	100%
2) Do you support a minimum funding guarantee of 0 % per pupil in 2019/20?	56%	33%	0%	12%	100%
3) If there is a significant change between years in the total Oldham characteristics, we are proposing to adjust the unit funding rate, so that the total 2019/20 funding through the factor, for each sector, will equal the 2018/19 funding after adjusting for the percentage change in pupil numbers in the sector between 2018/19 and 2019/20	84%	0%	5%	12%	100%
4) Do you support the Local Authority proposal of a transfer to the high needs block of 1% in 2019/20?	51%	40%	0%	9%	100%
5) Do you support the Local Authority proposal to reduce the top up rate in mainstream schools for 2019/20 to a total cost per hour per year of £608 from £631?	2%	98%	0%	0%	100%
6) Do you support the Local Authority proposal to reduce the top up rates in special schools for 2019/20 financial year?	58%	35%	2%	5%	100%
7) Do you support the Local Authority proposal to introduce over capacity funding for Special Schools for the academic year 2019/20?	77%	12%	0%	12%	100%
8) Which funding model do Secondary Schools prefer for 2019/20, Appendix 4 or 5?	86%	14%	0%	0%	100%

4.3 Council response to the consultation

4.3.1 A review of the consultation responses, discussion with some Secondary Business Managers and attendance at the Primary and Special Heads meetings highlighted a number of themes which have then been demonstrated via the formal consultation responses. These include concerns about the process, lack of knowledge and understanding of the funding of the High Needs block and transparency of the recovery plan strategy.

4.3.2 In response to the consultation, the LA has welcomed the opportunity to discuss with Heads and Business Managers some specific concerns but also the overall position of the DSG. Council officers look forward to future opportunities to attend groups on a

larger scale to engage across sectors, maintained schools and academies to ensure that there is a greater understanding and sharing of knowledge on funding and arising pressures.

- 4.3.3 Going forward, the schools' finance team, central educational services and external consultants, Social Finance, will be developing the emerging recovery plan and inclusion strategy with the assistance of the working groups of Head Teacher representatives. The recovery plan will be completed by the end of the financial year and it is therefore expected to implement any changes to funding including any top up proposals for schools from September 2019.
- 4.3.4 In addition the LA accepts comments about process and will be planning the consultation with all schools and working groups including the Fair Funding Group from May 2019. As part of this the representation on these groups will be revisited to ensure fair representation of all schools.
- 4.3.5 It is important to reiterate the highlight the fundamental principles upon which the consultation proposals were prepared:
- an understanding that the transfer of funding of 1% between the Schools and High Needs block had been accepted given the requirement to address the shortfall in funding for High Needs and the deficit DSG position
 - the presentation of what is considered to be the fairest allocation of resources for Oldham Schools and Academies having regard to prevailing pressures and issues (in particular that no school receives less resource than it has received in 2018/19)
 - to ensure that Oldham Schools are best placed for smooth implementation when the National Funding Formula for Schools is fully introduced
 - the positive management of the DSG deficit position (subject to the agreement of Schools Forum).

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Having regard to the above the recommended approach is that option 4 outlined in the report is approved, which provides a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil, £4,800 per secondary pupil and for secondary schools IDACI (Income deprivation affecting children index) has been included at 10% NFF values together with a 1% transfer of funding between the Schools and the High Needs Blocks.

Report of the Director of Finance

Item 6– Forward Plan

28th November 2018

Proposed agenda items for the next meeting are set out below:

17th January 2019

Item	Purpose	Officer Responsible
Pupil Premium 2019/20	To update members	Finance Team
High Needs Funding update	To update members	Finance Team
School Funding Update	To discuss any proposed formula changes and update members	Finance Team
DSG Final Settlement 2019/20	To update members	Finance Team
Deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2019/20	To approve the deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant 2019/20	Finance Team
De – delegated Funding	To agree for each phase what services to de delegate the funding back to the LA	Finance Team
Central Schools Services Block	To confirm the amounts on each line for activities within the Central Schools Services Block	Finance Team
Contribution to funding of the Early Help service	To seek support for a continued contribution of £350k in 2019/20	Communities and Early Intervention Team

Proposed

17th January 2019

There will be other items presented as appropriate

Action

Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of this report

Appendix 1

Growth Funding

The total amount allocated to the Growth Fund within the Schools Block is £1.72m. Of this amount, £0.961m is explicit growth for schools where it has been already been agreed with the LA that there will be an increase in the planned admission numbers (PAN) by means of the provision of a school extension. The remaining Growth Fund is available within the Schools Block for allocation to schools.

The table below details how the explicit growth will be allocated to schools from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

School	Additional Places	Cost 2019/20 (£)	Cost 2020/21 (£)	Cost 2021/22 (£)	Cost 2022/23 (£)
East Crompton St Georges	30	48,778	48,778	0	0
Mills Hill	30	48,778	48,778	0	0
Propps Hall	10	16,259	16,259	0	0
Watersheddings	15	24,389	24,389	0	0
Oasis Academy Limeside	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	0
St Herberts	5	8,130	8,130	8,130	8,130
Holy Trinity Dob Cross	5	8,130	0	0	0
Blue Coat	47	107,738	0	0	0
Saddleworth School	10	22,923	22,923	22,923	0
Greenfield School	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	48,778
Crompton House	112	323,215	323,215	323,215	323,215
Oldham Academy North	60	137,538	137,538	137,538	137,538
North Chadderton	30	68,769	68,769	68,769	68,769
Clarksfield	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	48,778
TOTAL Estimated Additional Place/Cost Already Allocated	587	960,981	845,113	706,909	635,208

Appendix 2 – NFF Modelling Options 2 and 3 (Not included in schools consultation)

Option 2

Continue to use Oldham's formula and move further to the National Funding Formula by providing a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil with Prior attainment, Lump Sum and Basic per Pupil at NFF values and Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) bands E and F included at 20% NFF values. This option also includes an MFG of zero per cent and a cap on gains.

- a) The proposal is to set the minimum funding guarantee per pupil to 0% to ensure no school loses funding in 2019/20 as a result of formula changes. It is proposed to set the maximum increase per pupil (capping - increase in school budget year on year) at 1.27%.
- b) In this option no school loses and 30 schools gain. The table below demonstrates the allocations and that there remains £64,120 to distribute to schools. Appendix 1 details the impact per school of this option.
- c) When this option is compared to option 1, 3 schools gain but 10 schools lose

On the basis that no school should lose, this option is not progressed.

	£
Schools Block Available Funding	188,743,016
Proposed movement of funding to High Needs Block	(1,899,978)
Estimated additional DSG funding for growth Northmoor and Oasis Leesbrook	1,254,775
Funding Available to allocate to schools	188,097,813
Current funding allocated through schools block	185,624,912
Business Rates contingency	110,000
Business Rates adjustment	39,842
PFI Inflation	94,134
Northmoor, Oasis and Oasis Leesbrook growth	684,195
Estimated explicit growth 2019/20 for planned expansions	960,981
Estimated growth Northmoor and funding to be allocated	519,629
Balance Remaining	64,120

Option 3

Continue to use Oldham's formula and move further to the National Funding Formula by providing a minimum per pupil funding level of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil, basic per Pupil at NFF values and Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) bands E and F included at 50% NFF values. This option also includes an MFG of zero per cent and a cap on gains.

- a) The proposal is to set the minimum funding guarantee per pupil to 0% to ensure no school loses funding in 2019/20 as a result of formula changes. It is proposed to set the maximum increase per pupil (capping - increase in school budget year on year) at 1.27%.
- b) In this option no school loses and 31 schools gain. The table below demonstrates the allocations and that there remains £70,705 to distribute to schools. Appendix 1 details the impact per school of this option.
- c) In this option compared to option 1, 6 schools gain and 12 schools lose

On the basis that no school should lose, this option is not progressed.

	£
Schools Block	188,743,016
Proposed movement of funding to High Needs Block	(1,899,978)
Estimated additional DSG funding for growth Northmoor and Oasis Leesbrook	1,254,775
Funding Available to allocate to schools	188,097,813
Current funding allocated through schools block	185,618,079
Business Rates contingency	110,000
Business Rates adjustment	39,843
PFI Inflation	94,134
Northmoor, Oasis and Oasis Leesbrook growth	681,478
Estimated explicit growth 2019/20 for planned expansions	960,981
Estimated growth Northmoor and funding to be allocated	522,593
Balance Remaining	70,705

Appendix 3 - Impact of Schools Funding Formula Options

A summary of the impact of the options is shown below.

These options show the impact of each option compared to the 2018/19 funding allocation. It also shows the change compared to the preferred option (option 1).

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
Number of Schools with no change (compared to 2018/19)	68	69	68	68
Number of schools gaining (compared to 2018/19)	31	30	31	31
Number of Schools with no change (compared to Option1)		86	81	95
Number of schools gaining (compared to option 1)		3	6	3
Number of schools seeing a reduction (compared to option 1)		10	12	1

Appendix 4 option 1

Summary of indicative school block allocations for 2019/20 compared to 2018/19

* Indicative allocations for 2019/20 are based on 2018/19 pupil numbers and characteristics and premise allocations

* Schools receiving the minimum per pupil factor are exempt from capping and scaling

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP) no changes to cash values	Difference to 2018/19	
		£	£	£	%
2000	Alexandra Park Junior	1,532,287	1,549,939	17,652	1.15%
2007	Richmond Primary	1,841,778	1,845,319	3,541	0.19%
2002	Beever Primary	1,009,703	1,020,974	11,271	1.12%
2008	Freehold Community	1,727,231	1,727,231	0	0.00%
2010	Greenacres	959,302	969,906	10,604	1.11%
2018	Lyndhurst Primary	1,629,126	1,629,126	0	0.00%
2017	Limeside Primary	1,327,301	1,327,301	0	0.00%
2022	Roundthorn Primary	961,662	961,662	0	0.00%
2020	Woodlands	1,149,719	1,149,719	0	0.00%
2033	Limehurst Primary	1,414,829	1,414,829	0	0.00%
2034	Mayfield	959,225	959,225	0	0.00%
2044	Littlemoor Primary	1,260,059	1,274,443	14,384	1.14%
2047	Glodwick Infant and Nursery	1,230,142	1,244,264	14,122	1.15%
2052	Mills Hill Primary	1,935,193	1,939,597	4,404	0.23%
2054	Mather Street Primary	906,157	906,157	0	0.00%
2058	Blackshaw Lane Primary	844,542	844,542	0	0.00%
2062	South Failsforth Primary	1,489,812	1,489,812	0	0.00%
2064	Whitegate End Primary	881,034	881,034	0	0.00%
2065	Rushcroft Primary	889,010	889,010	0	0.00%
2069	Fir Bank	872,996	872,996	0	0.00%
2071	Propps Hall	801,786	801,786	0	0.00%
2075	Diggle	734,351	734,351	0	0.00%
2076	Friezland Primary	497,443	497,443	0	0.00%
2077	Greenfield	804,992	804,992	0	0.00%
2078	Springhead Infant	885,825	885,825	0	0.00%
2079	Delph Primary	775,866	775,866	0	0.00%
2080	Knowsley Junior	1,305,769	1,320,704	14,935	1.14%
2085	Buckstones	797,640	797,640	0	0.00%

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP) no changes to cash values	Difference to 2018/19	
		£	£	£	%
2091	Beal Vale Primary	863,338	863,338	0	0.00%
2093	Thorp	806,737	806,737	0	0.00%
2023	Willowpark	976,736	976,736	0	0.00%
2095	Broadfield	1,353,880	1,369,607	15,727	1.16%
2097	Greenhill	1,876,288	1,876,288	0	0.00%
2098	Horton Mill Primary	1,052,728	1,052,728	0	0.00%
2099	Burnley Brow Community	1,814,565	1,835,600	21,035	1.16%
2013	Alt Primary	1,395,048	1,395,048	0	0.00%
2014	Westwood	913,709	922,146	8,437	0.92%
2109	Stanley Road Primary	1,760,707	1,760,707	0	0.00%
2110	Crompton Primary	836,474	836,474	0	0.00%
2111	Medlock Valley Community	1,436,299	1,436,299	0	0.00%
2112	Clarksfield Primary	1,714,757	1,714,757	0	0.00%
2113	Yew Tree Community	2,314,399	2,314,399	0	0.00%
3005	Woodhouses	544,691	545,166	475	0.09%
3007	St Annes CE Lydgate	769,685	769,685	0	0.00%
3008	St Chad's CE Saddleworth	999,039	999,039	0	0.00%
3009	Holy Trinity Dobcross	774,213	774,213	0	0.00%
3010	Thornham St James' CE	775,498	775,498	0	0.00%
3011	Christ Church Denshaw	475,812	475,812	0	0.00%
3012	Hey With Zion	1,088,632	1,088,632	0	0.00%
3303	St. Thomas Moorside CE	1,001,533	1,001,533	0	0.00%
3315	St Thomas CE Werneth	1,846,474	1,846,474	0	0.00%
3325	St Hugh's CE Primary	985,482	996,585	11,103	1.13%
3326	St Agnes CE	474,952	474,952	0	0.00%
3328	Holy Rosary RC Primary	885,747	895,573	9,826	1.11%
3329	St Hilda's CofE Primary	1,677,533	1,697,380	19,847	1.18%
3330	St Martin's CE Primary	1,116,863	1,116,863	0	0.00%
3333	St Margaret's C.E.	1,292,841	1,302,076	9,235	0.71%
3341	Christ Church Primary Chadderton	1,081,935	1,081,935	0	0.00%
3342	St Luke's CE Primary	907,058	907,058	0	0.00%
3344	St Matthew's	1,486,100	1,486,100	0	0.00%
3345	East Crompton St James CE	823,616	823,616	0	0.00%
3346	St Mary's CE High Crompton	785,081	785,081	0	0.00%
3347	St Johns Primary	1,075,513	1,075,513	0	0.00%
3351	St Thomas CE Leesfield	881,110	881,110	0	0.00%
3353	St. Anne's CE Primary	1,069,926	1,069,926	0	0.00%

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP) no changes to cash values	Difference to 2018/19	
		£	£	£	%
3355	East Crompton St Georges CE	938,237	938,237	0	0.00%
3358	Corpus Christi RC Primary	1,222,773	1,236,863	14,090	1.15%
3359	St Joseph's RC Primary	803,896	803,896	0	0.00%
3362	St Edwards RC Primary	985,296	985,296	0	0.00%
3363	SS Aidan & Oswald's RC Primary	1,557,915	1,557,915	0	0.00%
3364	St Herbert's RC	1,119,174	1,119,174	0	0.00%
3366	Greenfield St Mary's CE	762,989	762,989	0	0.00%
3400	Holy Family RC	932,529	932,529	0	0.00%
3401	St Anne's RC	935,624	946,084	10,460	1.12%
3402	St Patrick's RC	944,045	954,619	10,574	1.12%
3403	St Mary's RC Primary	1,527,450	1,527,450	0	0.00%
3503	St Paul's CE Primary	857,790	857,790	0	0.00%
3504	Higher Failsworth Primary	1,579,664	1,588,536	8,872	0.56%
2009	Coppice Primary	1,955,566	1,955,566	0	0.00%
3506	Bare Trees Primary	2,611,924	2,642,987	31,063	1.19%
3507	Royton Hall Primary	1,261,922	1,261,922	0	0.00%
3508	Werneth Primary	1,798,483	1,798,483	0	0.00%
3393	Holy Cross C.E.V.A. Primary	1,889,191	1,911,738	22,547	1.19%
3509	Hodge Clough Primary	1,623,420	1,623,420	0	0.00%
2003	St Theresa's RC Primary	938,025	938,025	0	0.00%
2016	Northmoor Academy	2,251,775	2,278,792	27,017	1.20%
	TOTAL PRIMARY	101,857,467	102,168,688	311,221	0.31%
4011	The Hathershaw College	5,807,873	5,807,873	0	0.00%
4022	Royton & Crompton	5,848,240	5,876,864	28,624	0.49%
4006	Failsworth	8,350,844	8,416,108	65,264	0.78%
4026	Saddleworth	6,465,153	6,585,906	120,753	1.87%
4027	North Chadderton	6,221,053	6,221,053	0	0.00%
4028	The Radclyffe	8,749,986	8,790,467	40,481	0.46%
4600	The Blue Coat	5,908,940	5,987,523	78,583	1.33%
4605	Crompton House	5,053,299	5,165,962	112,663	2.23%
4608	Blessed John Henry Newman College	8,261,709	8,261,709	0	0.00%
4004	Waterhead Academy	6,984,325	7,068,180	83,855	1.20%
6905	Oasis Academy Oldham	8,214,569	8,214,569	0	0.00%
6906	The Oldham Academy North	6,405,329	6,405,329	0	0.00%
9999	Oaslis Leesbrook Free School	658,803	661,623	2,820	0.43%

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP) no changes to cash values	Difference to 2018/19	
		£	£	£	%
	TOTAL SECONDARY	82,930,123	83,463,166	533,043	0.64%
	TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS	184,787,590	185,631,854	844,264	0.46%
	Rates Contingency		110,000		
	RATES Adjustment		39,842		
	PFI Inflation		94,134		
	Northmoor, Oasis & Oasis Leesbrook Growth		689,346		
	TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS	184,787,590	186,565,177		

Appendix 5 Option 4

Summary of indicative school block allocations for 2019/20 compared to 2018/19

* Indicative allocations for 2019/20 are based on 2018/19 pupil numbers and characteristics

* Schools receiving the minimum per pupil factor are exempt from capping and scaling

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP & Revised IDACI SECS BASED ON 2018/19 PUPIL NUMBERS & CHARACTERISTICS & PREMISE ALLOCATIONS)	Difference	
				£	%
2000	Alexandra Park Junior	£1,532,287	£1,549,934	£17,647	1.15%
2007	Richmond Primary	£1,841,778	£1,845,319	£3,541	0.19%
2002	Beever Primary	£1,009,703	£1,020,974	£11,271	1.12%
2008	Freehold Community	£1,727,231	£1,727,231	£0	0.00%
2010	Greenacres	£959,302	£969,906	£10,604	1.11%
2018	Lyndhurst Primary	£1,629,126	£1,629,126	£0	0.00%
2017	Limeside Primary	£1,327,301	£1,327,301	£0	0.00%
2022	Roundthorn Primary	£961,662	£961,662	£0	0.00%
2020	Woodlands	£1,149,719	£1,149,719	£0	0.00%
2033	Limehurst Primary	£1,414,829	£1,414,829	£0	0.00%
2034	Mayfield	£959,225	£959,225	£0	0.00%
2044	Littlemoor Primary	£1,260,059	£1,274,443	£14,384	1.14%
2047	Glodwick Infant and Nursery	£1,230,142	£1,244,264	£14,122	1.15%
2052	Mills Hill Primary	£1,935,193	£1,939,597	£4,404	0.23%
2054	Mather Street Primary	£906,157	£906,157	£0	0.00%
2058	Blackshaw Lane Primary	£844,542	£844,542	£0	0.00%
2062	South Failsworth Primary	£1,489,812	£1,489,812	£0	0.00%
2064	Whitegate End Primary	£881,034	£881,034	£0	0.00%
2065	Rushcroft Primary	£889,010	£889,010	£0	0.00%
2069	Fir Bank	£872,996	£872,996	£0	0.00%
2071	Propps Hall	£801,786	£801,786	£0	0.00%
2075	Diggle	£734,351	£734,351	£0	0.00%
2076	Friezland Primary	£497,443	£497,443	£0	0.00%
2077	Greenfield	£804,992	£804,992	£0	0.00%
2078	Springhead Infant	£885,825	£885,825	£0	0.00%
2079	Delph Primary	£775,866	£775,866	£0	0.00%
2080	Knowsley Junior	£1,305,769	£1,320,704	£14,935	1.14%
2085	Buckstones	£797,640	£797,640	£0	0.00%
2091	Beal Vale Primary	£863,338	£863,338	£0	0.00%
2093	Thorp	£806,737	£806,737	£0	0.00%
2023	Willowpark	£976,736	£976,736	£0	0.00%
2095	Broadfield	£1,353,880	£1,369,607	£15,727	1.16%
2097	Greenhill	£1,876,288	£1,876,288	£0	0.00%
2098	Horton Mill Primary	£1,052,728	£1,052,728	£0	0.00%
2099	Burnley Brow Community	£1,814,565	£1,835,600	£21,035	1.16%
2013	Alt Primary	£1,395,048	£1,395,048	£0	0.00%
2014	Westwood	£913,709	£922,146	£8,437	0.92%
2109	Stanley Road Primary	£1,760,707	£1,760,707	£0	0.00%

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP & Revised IDACI SECS BASED ON 2018/19 PUPIL NUMBERS & CHARACTERISTICS & PREMISE ALLOCATIONS)	Difference	
				£	%
2110	Crompton Primary	£836,474	£836,474	£0	0.00%
2111	Medlock Valley Community	£1,436,299	£1,436,299	£0	0.00%
2112	Clarksfield Primary	£1,714,757	£1,714,757	£0	0.00%
2113	Yew Tree Community	£2,314,399	£2,314,399	£0	0.00%
3005	Woodhouses	£544,691	£545,166	£475	0.09%
3007	St Annes CE Lydgate	£769,685	£769,685	£0	0.00%
3008	St Chad's CE Saddleworth	£999,039	£999,039	£0	0.00%
3009	Holy Trinity Dobcross	£774,213	£774,213	£0	0.00%
3010	Thornham St James' CE	£775,498	£775,498	£0	0.00%
3011	Christ Church Denshaw	£475,812	£475,812	£0	0.00%
3012	Hey With Zion	£1,088,632	£1,088,632	£0	0.00%
3303	St. Thomas Moorside CE	£1,001,533	£1,001,533	£0	0.00%
3315	St Thomas CE Werneth	£1,846,474	£1,846,474	£0	0.00%
3325	St Hugh's CE Primary	£985,482	£996,585	£11,103	1.13%
3326	St Agnes CE	£474,952	£474,952	£0	0.00%
3328	Holy Rosary RC Primary	£885,747	£895,573	£9,826	1.11%
3329	St Hilda's CofE Primary	£1,677,533	£1,697,380	£19,847	1.18%
3330	St Martin's CE Primary	£1,116,863	£1,116,863	£0	0.00%
3333	St Margaret's C.E.	£1,292,841	£1,302,076	£9,235	0.71%
3341	Christ Church Primary Chadderton	£1,081,935	£1,081,935	£0	0.00%
3342	St Luke's CE Primary	£907,058	£907,058	£0	0.00%
3344	St Matthew's	£1,486,100	£1,486,100	£0	0.00%
3345	East Crompton St James CE	£823,616	£823,616	£0	0.00%
3346	St Mary's CE High Crompton	£785,081	£785,081	£0	0.00%
3347	St Johns Primary	£1,075,513	£1,075,513	£0	0.00%
3351	St Thomas CE Leesfield	£881,110	£881,110	£0	0.00%
3353	St. Anne's CE Primary	£1,069,926	£1,069,926	£0	0.00%
3355	East Crompton St Georges CE	£938,237	£938,237	£0	0.00%
3358	Corpus Christi RC Primary	£1,222,773	£1,236,863	£14,090	1.15%
3359	St Joseph's RC Primary	£803,896	£803,896	£0	0.00%
3362	St Edwards RC Primary	£985,296	£985,296	£0	0.00%
3363	SS Aidan & Oswald's RC Primary	£1,557,915	£1,557,915	£0	0.00%
3364	St Herbert's RC	£1,119,174	£1,119,174	£0	0.00%
3366	Greenfield St Mary's CE	£762,989	£762,989	£0	0.00%
3400	Holy Family RC	£932,529	£932,529	£0	0.00%
3401	St Anne's RC	£935,624	£946,084	£10,460	1.12%
3402	St Patrick's RC	£944,045	£954,619	£10,574	1.12%
3403	St Mary's RC Primary	£1,527,450	£1,527,450	£0	0.00%
3503	St Paul's CE Primary	£857,790	£857,790	£0	0.00%
3504	Higher Failsworth Primary	£1,579,664	£1,588,536	£8,872	0.56%
2009	Coppice Primary	£1,955,566	£1,955,566	£0	0.00%
3506	Bare Trees Primary	£2,611,924	£2,642,987	£31,063	1.19%
3507	Royton Hall Primary	£1,261,922	£1,261,922	£0	0.00%
3508	Werneth Primary	£1,798,483	£1,798,483	£0	0.00%
3393	Holy Cross C.E.V.A. Primary	£1,889,191	£1,911,738	£22,547	1.19%
3509	Hodge Clough Primary	£1,623,420	£1,623,420	£0	0.00%

DFE NO	SCHOOL	2018/19 Actual Schools Block	2019/20 indicative Schools Block (0.00% MFG, 1.27% CAP & Revised IDACI SECS BASED ON 2018/19 PUPIL NUMBERS & CHARACTERISTICS & PREMISE ALLOCATIONS)	Difference	
		£	£	£	%
2003	St Theresa's RC Primary	£938,025	£938,025	£0	0.00%
2016	Northmoor Academy	£2,251,775	£2,278,798	£27,023	1.20%
	TOTAL PRIMARY	£101,857,467	£102,168,689	£311,222	0.31%
4011	The Hathershaw College	£5,807,873	£5,809,672	£1,799	0.03%
4022	Royton & Crompton	£5,848,240	£5,875,176	£26,936	0.46%
4006	Failsworth	£8,350,844	£8,416,113	£65,269	0.78%
4026	Saddleworth	£6,465,153	£6,585,906	£120,753	1.87%
4027	North Chadderton	£6,221,053	£6,221,053	£0	0.00%
4028	The Radclyffe	£8,749,986	£8,799,249	£49,263	0.56%
4600	The Blue Coat	£5,908,940	£5,987,523	£78,583	1.33%
4605	Crompton House	£5,053,299	£5,165,962	£112,663	2.23%
4608	Blessed John Henry Newman College	£8,261,709	£8,262,400	£691	0.01%
4004	Waterhead Academy	£6,984,325	£7,068,185	£83,860	1.20%
6905	Oasis Academy Oldham	£8,214,569	£8,214,569	£0	0.00%
6906	The Oldham Academy North	£6,405,329	£6,405,329	£0	0.00%
9999	Oaslis Leesbrook Free School	£658,803	£658,803	£0	0.00%
	TOTAL SECONDARY	£82,930,123	£83,469,940	£539,817	
	TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS	£184,787,590	£185,638,629	£851,039	
	Business rates Contingency		110,000		
	Business rates Adjustment		39,842		
	PFI Inflation		94,134		
	Northmoor, Oasis & Oasis Leesbrook Growth		686,125		
	TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS	184,787,590	186,568,730		

Appendix 6

Summary of Main Themes from the Schools Block Formula Consultation 2019/20

When reviewing the consultation responses it appeared there were a number of themes that could be determined. These are summarised below.

NFF values from 2018/19 to be replicated in 2019/20

- 55% of primary schools do not agree with continuing with the NFF values from 2018/19 due to the fact that they think there should have been 2 models produced, one with and one without the 1% move.
- All secondary schools who responded prefer Appendix C.

MFG 0%

- Those schools who do not agree to the 1% transfer disagree with an MFG of 0%.
- Two schools consider that 0% should be a minimum level One school would prefer the NFF fully implemented
- One school considered that the consultation was based on the assumption that the response to question 4 will be positive. However, if this had not been the case then a MFG of 0.5% could be applied, therefore passing on to schools the committed increase that the government outlined in September 2017.

1% Transfer to High Needs Block

- One Academy trust considered that the consultation should have established whether the average per pupil cost of meeting need has risen, which would be a better measure of efficiency and a comparison of costs across the mainstream and specialist sectors for meeting similar needs.
- Six schools commented that earlier in 2018/19 assurances were given at Schools Forum and Fair Funding that this would not become an annual transfer in future years.
- One academy trust school considered that there should be benchmarking with other local authorities in terms of costs per sector in relation to proportions of children with EHCs who are being educated in specialist and mainstream respectively is needed i.e. are we spending more or less on special schools placements, out of borough etc.
- Seven schools stated that the options provided all assume the repeated transfer of the 1% from the schools to high needs block, there is no modelling information provided pre transfer. The transfer has not been agreed yet and is still to be approved. The modelling only provides information on the local authority preferred option.
- One academy trust commented that the DSG deficit recovery plan has yet to be presented and meanwhile the deficit has increased further.
- One academy trust stated that an increase in pupil numbers rather than solely increase in costs should have been provided in terms of the transfer request to provide transparency.
- One school asserted that the local authority shouldn't underestimate the pressure being faced at school and academy level which is further exacerbated by the repeated shifting of 1% from the Schools to High Needs Block.
- One school advised that there is little evidence of work undertaken to address an issue which has been known about for some time. It would have been useful to have

comparisons with other LA positions to identify if this is as grim everywhere or if there are areas which we can learn from other LA to reduce the impact of central fiscal control.

- Two schools advised that they supported a transfer of funds last year on the basis that spending on the High Needs Block in 2018/19 would be brought into line with the budget and a recovery plan agreed, shared and implemented. It is disappointing that the over spend is actually increasing, a comprehensive baseline understanding/review of SEND only due to start this month and no recovery plan has been shared

Reduction in Top up rates in Mainstream Schools

- Two schools considered that this would directly impact on the provision put in place for students with EHCP. This funding has already been reduced in recent years and does not cover the cost of the staffing that is needed to support these students.
- One school considered that there was a need to look at supporting early intervention in schools rather than relying on the high needs block
- This proposal will simply shift pressure, in particular, to those academies with the greatest number of children with high needs.
- One academy trust advised that the proposals risk penalising those mainstream schools that are already working with the average proportion of SEN children. No account is taken for the additional resource implications for leadership time when allocating resources.
- Three schools considered that mainstream schools do not have high numbers of EHC plans so cannot benefit from economies of scale for interventions and current top up funding levels already prevent the recruitment of TAs qualified at a level that can provide greater contribution to improving the outcomes of these pupils.
- One school considered that a reduction of top up funding will have detrimental impact on outcomes for children in primary schools, resulting in lower SEND progress & school performance
- With regard to EHC plans, four schools considered that primary schools still require teaching assistants to cover EHC hours. Current top up funding levels prevent schools from recruiting suitably qualified TAs and this impacts on improving outcomes for SEND pupils.
- One school considered that this constitutes a cut in the very small proportion of the high needs budget directly allocated to mainstream schools
- One school considered that already underfunded as budgets are based on very out of date historical data where notional funding is concerned.

Reduction in top up rates of Special Schools

- Seven schools/trusts considered that as the top up rates appear high, benchmarking data would be helpful. It is also not clear what proportion of spend is on out of borough, high cost placements and whether additional special school capacity would help reduce costs and keep children within borough.
- Two schools considered that they could probably not support this although it is difficult to know how the figures have been calculated and whether they are fair, without further information or comparisons with other LA's

Changes to Over Capacity Funding within Special Schools

- One school considered that it could not agree that Special Schools Top Up rates should be reduced as well as the overcapacity funding. Would suggest one or the other, favouring not reducing top up rates and allocating funding to support over capacity should this arise .
- One school considered that there seems to be some mileage in this as there may be some duplication costs that can be avoided but would like to see some actual figures in terms of the sliding scale. Equally, the school would be wary of this argument being applied to mainstream settings in terms of admitting numbers over PAN
- One school considered that as the LA has identified, economies of scale can be applied to remove overfunding and make savings

Additional Funding model for secondary schools

- Two schools commented that the Fair Funding Group requested the modelling for primary & secondary schools so it is unclear why Appendix C information hasn't been modelled and included for primary schools in this consultation document.
- Secondary schools welcome the re-issuing of the consultation but want to record that Fair Funding Group did ask for different financial modelling for all schools, not just secondary schools;

Process and Future Year Requests

- It was apparent from the meeting with Council officers that it does not matter whether we agree or not during this consultation as it will go ahead anyway.
- The whole process has been dealt with in a chaotic fashion; schools were expected to make decisions with very little information and within a very short time frame (originally).
- Two schools considered that the LA should not automatically make the assumption this has been approved but undertake a timely consultation;
- Three schools considered that the LA better engage with the Fair Funding Group in a timely manner to allow alternative financial modelling to be discussed and reviewed before presentation to all schools or Schools Forum;
- Five schools commented that the LA should not use EGRESS for matters open to a 'public' consultation.
- Four schools considered that Local Authorities should stand together and demonstrate the true deficit position to the government to direct a further High Needs funding review.
- One school advised that the Fair Funding Group did ask for different financial modelling for all schools, not just secondary schools
- One academy trust advised that drop in sessions would be useful for future consultation
- One school requested details of Fair Funding Group membership, meeting schedules and an outline of the work plans to enable schools to establish links with representatives.

Other Comments

- The LA are just passing their debt on to schools which are already at breaking point. Schools simply cannot provide the level of provision they need to. It is fast becoming a safeguarding and Health & Safety issue with the radical depletion of staffing. Children with additional needs are missing out most as they are unlikely to get any support unless they have an EHC plan.
- It is disappointing that/there is disagreement that a nil response to the consultation indicates affirmation of the LAs proposals.
- We cannot agree to a funding model that includes a transfer figure that has yet to be approved.
- What consideration has been given to seek support from schools for an interdependent solution? (E.g. Large amounts of money are used to provide residential care for pupils outside the borough. Could local Trusts be approach to look at the possibility of residential/part-residential care via the Free School route?)