

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 **4:00pm** on Wednesday 30 September 2020 via teams.

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](mailto:Vicky.Gibbons@oldham.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Andy Cooper**

Senior Finance Manager

# Agenda

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## SCHOOLS FORUM

Wednesday 30th September 2020 4.00pm  
 Teams Meeting

	<u>Approx duration</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Papers</u>
1 <b>Welcome and Apologies</b> Apologies/Declarations of Interest		Chair	-
2 <b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b> Minutes of meeting held on 1st July 2020	5 mins	Chair	Attached
3 <b>Budget update 2020-21 and 2021-22</b>	30 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
4 <b>High Needs Strategy Update</b>	15 mins	David Shaw	Attached
5 <b>Consultation outcome financial transparency of LA maintained schools and academy trusts</b>	15 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
6 <b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>	10 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
7 <b>School SLA'S</b>	10 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached
8 <b>Forward Plan</b>	5 mins	Liz Caygill	Attached

**Any other business – Must be notified to**  
[Liz.Caygill@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Caygill@oldham.gov.uk) or by telephone  
 0161 770 1012 24 hours before the meeting

**Dates of next meeting: 25th November 2020**

# Minutes

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## Meeting of Schools Forum

**Wednesday 1 July 2020**  
**via Microsoft Teams**  
at 4.00pm

<b>Present:</b>	Mr Mike Aston Mr Nigel Woodworth Ms Bev Harper Mr Brian Hurst Ms Suzanne Thompson Mr Iain Windeatt Mr Rob Higgins Ms Tracy Wood Mr Joe Brownridge	St Mary's RC Primary School (Chair) Special Schools The Blue Coat School Bare Trees Primary School Governor Harmony Trust – Finance Director Trade Union Representative The Blue Coat School Royton Hall Primary School Oldham Academy North
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<b>Also Present:</b>	Mr Tony Shepherd  Mr Matthew Bulmer  Mr David Shaw Ms Anne Ryans Ms Liz Caygill Mrs Vicky Gibbons Mr Andy Cooper Mrs Jean Coombs	Interim Director of Education and Early Years Interim Director of Education and Early Years Assistant Director of SEND Director of Finance Finance Manager Senior Accountant Senior Finance Manager Clerk
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### 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Mr Mike Aston welcomed everyone.
- 1.2 There were no apologies for absence received. Brian Lord and Jeremy Sutcliffe were unable to log into the meeting.
- 1.3 Members were requested to declare any business, pecuniary and personal interests. No declarations were made.

## 2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Arising from minute 2.2 (High Needs Places 2020/21), Mr Tony Shepherd reported he has had initial meetings about the Alliance. He hopes to develop more clarity about the contributors to the alliance and to have a framework for its remit in the near future.

2.2.2 Arising from minute 3.4 (2019/20 DSG Budget Update and 2020/21), Ms Liz Caygill reported that there was no separate funding for children educated at home.

2.2.3 Arising from minute 3.14 (2019/20 DSG Budget Update and 2020/21), Ms Caygill reported that the transforming learning elements are funded from the central school services budget, from dedicated buy-back and with some Council funding. The details of the school licences will be sent out to schools in the next week.

**ACTION:** Ms Caygill

## 3 BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2019-20 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2020-21

Ms Liz Caygill presented an overview of the 2019-20 budget position and an update on the forecast for the 2020-21 budget.

Main points referred to:

3.1 There has been a reduction in the deficit of £132,000 for 2019-20 due to the additional pressures of high needs funding being less than anticipated. The resulting in-year deficit for 2019-20 is £2.18m, with a cumulative deficit of £4.916m. The draft accounts for Oldham have been submitted for audit.

3.2 The expected spending on out of borough placements and Post-16 for 2020-21 is now greater than in the previous forecast.

**Challenge:** A member asked why there would be more spending on out of borough placements when the focus has been to reduce these. Mr Tony Shepherd responded by saying that there is now more demand for EHCPs and more pupils who would have been placed out of borough are now in the borough, but in some cases tribunal rulings dictate that pupils are placed out of borough. Social Finance worked with the SEND departments and changes have been made, but the impact has not been seen yet.

**Challenge:** A member asked why EHCPs are still funded with 25 hours of teaching assistant time. Mr David Shaw responded by saying that the recommendations of the Social Finance report are being

worked on. The number of EHCPs has increased as they have in all other Local Authority areas. The thresholds have become more challenging and they are exploring different ways of delivering services. He added that the national review has been paused due to Covid-19 and it will be picked again in the next few months.

- 3.3 The 2020-21 budget forecast was for an in-year surplus of £144,000. But the revised DSG shows an in-year deficit of £719,000 due to more than an additional £1,000,000 needed for high needs pupils. This is broken down into out of borough placements, funding for high needs in schools and for special schools.

**Challenge:** A member asked if the out of borough placements were predominantly any particular phase. Mr Shaw replied that there was a mixture with 45 in secondary, 70 in primary and 21 post-16.

**Challenge:** A member asked how these additional pressures would impact on the recovery plan. Ms Caygill responded by saying that they would increase the deficit and it would be more difficult to get back on track in the three-year plan.

- 3.4 The high needs block allocation for 2020-21 is £40.19m and the expected spending is £40.201m, resulting in a shortfall of just £2,000, but this includes the £1m transfer from the schools' block to the high needs block.

**Challenge:** A member asked if any additional pressures had been included in the expected spending for 2020-21. Ms Caygill responded that the budget takes account of EHCPs and out of borough placements, but that there are likely to be additional costs at the PRU.

**Challenge:** A member asked if there is to be an increase for inflation as there wasn't an increase last year and there are increased pay awards to fund next year. Ms Caygill said that these have not been included in the additional funding and any additional money would need to come from the DSG and therefore corresponding savings would need to be made elsewhere.

- 3.5 The Recovery Plan is a challenge as there are more children with SEND, but changes have been implemented to reduce the spending on out of borough placements. Officers are working on the 2020-21 and 2021-22 budgets to monitor and reduce the spending. The projected deficit for the end of 2021-22 is £4,358,000. In the past there has been the transfer of 1% from the schools' block to the high needs block, but the Local Authority will need to apply to the Secretary of State to continue this movement. With a 1% transfer the projected deficit would reduce to £2,464,000 and with 0.5% transfer would be £3,411,000. Ms Caygill informed members that there is more work to be done on the DSG recovery plan.

- 3.6 There has been new guidance published by the Education and Skills Agency for any Local Authority with a deficit in 2019-20 or whose surplus has substantially reduced during the year. These Local Authorities will need to co-operate with the department, and must provide information on the management of the DSG, and must meet

with representatives of the department as and when requested to do so. The Local Authority is also to keep the Schools Forum updated. The Local Authority will need to look at the in-year and cumulative deficits and to bring the in-year budgets into balance.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) that members note the Dedicated Schools Grant outturn for 2019/20;
  - (ii) that members note the disclosure of the Dedicated Schools Grant within the Council's statutory accounts;
  - (iii) that members note the budget update 2020/21; and
  - (iv) that members note the current recovery plan position for the DSG and the newly issued requirements.

#### 4 SCHOOL BALANCES 2019-20

Ms Liz Caygill updated members on the level of maintained schools' balances for 2019-20.

Main points referred to:

- 4.1 There had been a reduction in the total level of schools' surplus balances of £1.480m compared to 2018-19, that is 21.36%.
- 4.2 The surplus balance total is still above £5m.
- 4.3 Two schools converted to academy status, and with the four others pending from 2018-19, this accounted for £308,000 of the difference between 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 4.4 Twelve schools had surplus balances in 2019-20 and of these four had submitted a plan to spend £721,000. This means that there are schools with £539,000 and no plans to spend this surplus.
- 4.5 Ms Caygill explained that she would work closely with the schools with no plans and will report back to Schools Forum in September 2020.

**ACTION:** Ms Caygill

- RESOLVED:** that members note the contents of this report and the Council's previous proposal that surplus balances for 2019/20 are not removed from maintained schools.

#### 6 FORWARD PLAN

Members were informed of the proposed agenda items for future meetings of the Schools Forum.

The proposed dates of future meetings are:

Wednesday 16 September 2020,

Wednesday 25 November 2020, and  
Wednesday 13 January 2021.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

(There being no further business, members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 16.47pm).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Schools Forum – 30 September 2020



## Report of the Director of Finance

### Item 3 – 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant update and 2021/22 Estimate

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#### 1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out the following:

- The 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant updated allocations
- An update for Schools Forum members on the deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21
- Update of High Needs funding
- Estimated deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
- Recovery plan 2020/21 to 2021/22

#### 2 2020/21 Updated Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement and Budget Update

2.1 The updated Dedicated Schools Grant settlement for 2020/21 was received on 2 July 2020 and continues to be based on the four spending blocks: a Schools block, a Central School Services block, a High Needs block and an Early Year's block. These allocations now take account of the January 2020 census data for Early Years and an adjustment for imports and exports. The changes (an increase in resources) are shown in Table 1 below and highlight a net increase in resources of £0.753m and £0.598m for imports/exports, £1.352m in total.



**Table 1 – Updated DSG Settlement 2020**

Block	Adjustment Year	Funding Category	Amount £
Early Years	2019/20	2 year old	39,377
		3 and 4 year olds	76,712
		3 and 4 year olds working parents	151,509
		Early Years Pupil Premium	7,002
		<b>Increase re 2019/20</b>	<b>274,600</b>
Early Years	2020/21	2 year old	68,508
		3 and 4 year olds	133,931
		3 and 4 year olds working parents	264,504
		Early Years Pupil Premium	12,002
		<b>Increase re 2020/21</b>	<b>478,945</b>
High Needs	2020-21	Increased funding for Imports and export	<b>598,499</b>
		<b>NET INCREASE IN RESOURCES</b>	<b>1,352,044</b>

2.2 The table below incorporates the increase to Early Years allocations of £0.753m. The increase of £0.598m to the High Needs Block was included in the Schools Forum papers 1 July 2020. The net position is an increase in resources of £0.753m. The table also shows a net increase in the DSG budget requirement of £0.903m. Taken together the increase in resources and increase in spending results in a small (£0.150m) increase in the estimated DSG deficit for 2020/21.

**Table 2 – Projected DSG Out Turn 2020/21**

	DSG 2020/21 @ June 2020 £000's	DSG 2020/21 @ August 2020 £000's	Change £000's
Schools Block (excludes central services)	200,865	200,865	0
Central Schools Services Block	2,689	2,689	0
Early Years Block	14,718	15,471	753
High Needs Block – pre/post 16	40,199	40,199	0
Two Year Olds' Funding	3,960	3,960	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	203	203	0
Early Years Disability Access Fund	86	86	0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>262,720</b>	<b>263,473</b>	<b>753</b>
<b>Less:</b>			
<b>Budget Requirement</b>			
Individual Schools Budgets	201,529	201,529	0
Early Year Funding Delegated to Schools	6,314	6,322	8
High Needs Funding for Schools (incl Post 16)	29,286	29,435	149
<b>Total Delegated to Schools</b>	<b>237,129</b>	<b>237,286</b>	<b>157</b>
Central Schools Services	2,743	2,743	0
Central Early Years Services	1,313	1,696	383
Central High Needs Services	10,915	10,915	0
Three and Four Year old PVI's	7,283	7,304	21
Two Year Old Funding	3,767	4,090	323
<b>Total Retained Centrally</b>	<b>26,021</b>	<b>26,748</b>	<b>727</b>
Early Years Pupil Premium	203	222	19
Early Years Disability Access Fund	86	86	0
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>263,439</b>	<b>264,342</b>	<b>903</b>
<b>Deficit/Change</b>	<b>(719)</b>	<b>(869)</b>	<b>(150)</b>
Balance brought Forward	(4,916)	(4,916)	0
<b>Revised Deficit/Change</b>	<b>(5,635)</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>	<b>(150)</b>

2.3 At the July 2020 meeting, Schools Forum was advised that it was expected that if there were no other revisions to the financial position there would be an in-year deficit for 2020/21 of £0.719m. Table 2 above shows a revised position with an in-year deficit of £0.869m which is a slight increase of £0.150m. When added to the deficit brought forward of £4.916m this gives a revised projected deficit of £5.785m.

2.4 A breakdown of the changes, both increased pressures of £1.098m and savings of £0.948m., since the July Schools Forum are shown in Table 3 below. The net impact of these changes is £0.150m which, when added to the Forecast Deficit at 1st July of £5.635, highlights the revised forecast deficit of £5.785m.

**Table 3 – Changes since 1 July 2020 Schools Forum**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Pressure Amount (£000's)</b>	<b>Savings Amount (£000's)</b>
Adjustment to DSG income 2 year olds		108
Adjustment to DSG income 3 & 4 year olds		627
Adjustment to DSG income for Early Years Pupil Premium		19
Adjustment to DSG expenditure 2 year olds	(108)	
Adjustment to DSG expenditure 3 & 4 year olds	(627)	
Adjustment to DSG expenditure for Early Years Pupil Premium	(19)	
Kingsland SLC unit increase in funding	(38)	
Savings to EHCP'S due to movement of pupils		194
Additional costs for resourced unit	(39)	
Changes to special schools	(267)	
<b>Total (Pressures) / Savings</b>	<b>(1,098)</b>	<b>948</b>
Savings offset against Pressures	948	
<b>Net Changes</b>	<b>(150)</b>	
Forecast Deficit at June 2020	(5,635)	
<b>Projected Deficit 2020/21</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>	

### 3. 2021/22 Budget Update

- 3.1 The table below shows the estimated budget for 2021/22 and a comparison to the 2020/21 budget. The impact of these revised estimates is a projected decrease in the DSG deficit to £3.999m assuming no other changes..
- 3.2 The actual resources for 2021/22 will be known in late December so the position will be revised at that time.

**Table 4- Estimated Budget 2020/21 and 2020/22**

	DSG 2020/21 @ August 2020 £000's	DSG 2021/22 @ August 2020 £000's	Change £000's
Schools Block	200,865	216,709	15,844
Central Schools Services Block	2,689	2,462	(227)
Early Years Block	15,471	15,243	(228)
High Needs Block – pre/post 16	40,199	44,512	4,313
Two Year Olds' Funding	3,960	3,921	(39)
Early Years Pupil Premium	203	196	(7)
Early Years Disability Access Fund	86	86	0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>263,473</b>	<b>283,129</b>	<b>19,656</b>
<b>Less:</b>			
<b>Budget Requirement</b>			
Individual Schools Budgets	201,529	216,709	15,180
Early Year Funding Delegated to Schools	6,322	6,322	0
High Needs Funding for Schools (incl Post 16)	29,435	31,757	2,322
<b>Total Delegated to Schools</b>	<b>237,286</b>	<b>254,788</b>	<b>17,502</b>
Central Schools Services	2,743	2,516	(227)
Central Early Years Services	1,696	1,696	0
Central High Needs Services	10,915	10,915	0
Three and Four Year old PVI's	7,304	7,076	(228)
Two Year Old Funding	4,090	4,051	(39)
<b>Total Retained Centrally</b>	<b>26,748</b>	<b>26,254</b>	<b>(494)</b>
Early Years Pupil Premium	222	215	(7)
Early Years Disability Access Fund	86	86	0
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>264,342</b>	<b>281,343</b>	<b>17,001</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(869)</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>2,655</b>
Balance brought Forward	(4,916)	(5,785)	(869)
<b>Revised (Deficit)/Change</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>	<b>(3,999)</b>	<b>1,786</b>

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## **Provisional funding allocations for 2021 to 2022 through the Schools, High Needs and Central School Services National Funding Formulae (NFF).**

3.3 On 20 July the DfE published provisional funding allocations for 2021 to 2022 through the schools, high needs and central school services national funding formulae (NFF). The provisional allocations have been included in table 4 above.

The funding factors used in the 2021 to 2022 national formulae remain the same, but there have been two technical changes included in the Schools Block:

- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, including the supplementary fund, has been added to the formulae from 2021 to 2022.
- The 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated through the formulae is based on the latest data.

The allocations also reflect further increases to the funding blocks in 2021 to 2022

3.4 The Schools Block is increasing by 4% overall, compared to 2020-21, with the funding floor allocating at least 2% more in pupil-led funding per pupil, and higher minimum per pupil funding levels directing further increases to the lowest funded schools. The DfE has also increased total funding through the sparsity factor from £26m to £42m, as a first step towards expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools from 2022 to 2023. The sparsity factor does not affect Oldham schools

3.5 High Needs funding is increasing by a further £730m, or 10% in 2021/22. The NFF will ensure that every local authority receives increases of at least 8% per head of population, compared to this year, and up to 12%. Oldham will receive a 12% increase per head of population.

3.6 Central schools services funding in 2021 to 2022 will increase by 4% for the ongoing responsibilities that local authorities continue to have for all schools, while funding for historic commitments within this block will decrease by a further 20% for those local authorities in receipt of this funding. The historic commitments have reduced by £0.265m for Oldham.

3.7 The 2021/22 projections also include the following:

- estimated additional income of £0.461m in the High Needs block for growth in special schools.
- estimated additional income of £1.522m in the Schools Block for growth based on 2020-21 allocation.
- additional estimated costs for an increase of pupils in Special schools from September 2020
- additional estimated costs for a new primary resourced unit from January 2021 and a new secondary resourced unit from September 2021.
- additional estimated costs for additional places at a new Special free school from September 2021.
- the projection for 2021/22 also includes an estimated increase in the cost for EHCP's from 2020-21.

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## 4. High Needs

- 4.1 Table 5 below details the financial position of the High Needs block over the last 5 years before any transfers from the Schools Block and the estimated outturn position for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**Table 5 - DSG High Needs Block Funding Deficit Before any transfer from the Schools Block**

Financial Year	Budget £000's	Spend £000's	Deficit £000's	Cumulative Deficit £000's
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	31,428	34,093	(2,665)	(10,640)
2019/20	33,043	37,282	(4,239)	(14,879)
2020/21 estimate	39,189	40,350	(1,161)	(16,040)
2021/22 estimate	44,512	42,672	1,840	(14,200)

- 4.2 As can be seen from the table above, the cumulative High Needs Block deficit could have been £14.879m at the end of 2019/20 and, based on the most up to date estimates, would have increased to £16.040m by the end of 2020/21 without any transfers from the Schools Block.
- 4.3 Table 6 below details the financial position of the High Needs block over the last 5 years after the agreed transfers from the Schools Block as shown in Table 7 and the estimated outturn position for 2020/21 and 2021/22. As can be seen, the transfers from the Schools Block have resulted in the cumulative deficit on the High Needs Block reducing to £8.642m at the end of 2019/20 and an estimated £8.793m at the end of 2020/21

**Table 6 - DSG High Needs Block Funding Deficit - After transfers from the Schools Block**

Financial Year	Original Budget £000's	Transfer from Schools Block £000's	Spend £000's	Surplus/ -Deficit £000's	Cumulative Deficit £000's
2015/16	25,584	0	26,255	(671)	(671)
2016/17	26,263	385	29,231	(2,583)	(3,254)
2017/18	27,520	2,380	31,856	(1,956)	(5,210)
2018/19	31,428	1,878	34,093	(787)	(5,997)
2019/20	33,043	1,594	37,282	(2,645)	(8,642)
2020/21 estimate	39,189	1,010	40,350	(151)	(8,793)
2021/22 estimate	44,512	0	42,672	1,840	(6,953)

4.4 The tables above illustrate the changes in the allocations for the High Needs Block. It highlights that total spending in 2015/16 was £26.255m. This had risen to £37.282m by the end of 2019/20 and is estimated to increase to £40.350m by the end of 2020/21; a potential increase of £14.095m from 2015/16 to 2020/21. As highlighted in Tables 5 and 6, it is not until 2021/22 that funding is expected to be sufficient to cover estimated spending demands in the High Needs Block.

**Table 7- Approved Movements from the Schools Block to High Needs Block**

Financial Year	£000	% Movement Between Blocks
2016/17	385	0.21
2017/18	2,380	1.29
2018/19	1,878	1.00
2019/20	1,594	0.84
2020/21	1,009	0.50

4.5 Table 7 above shows the approved movements from the school's block by financial year and as a percentage movement. This has been an extremely important, indeed a vital, means of managing the DSG financial position and highlights the collaborative way in which Schools Forum has worked to support the Oldham Schools family.

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## 5. DSG Recovery Plan

- 5.1 It is an important element of the financial management of the Authority that the DSG is not in a deficit position and there has been action to address this. However, the current deficit has resulted from the increase in DSG resources being more than offset by the increasing numbers of children with special needs entering the education system. Action taken so far to try to reduce the deficit include:
- The revision of Council processes to ensure that EHCP's are issued in a more timely manner and reviewed more frequently with regard to the needs of the child
  - Changes to the process for the placement of children out of borough
- 5.2 Work will continue during the remainder of 2020/21 and throughout 2021/22 to address the DSG deficit position building on the work already in train, with the continued monitoring of the detailed DSG recovery plan. Table 8 below takes the 2019/20 outturn as its starting position and extends the workings across the next two financial years in accordance with the three-year timescale of the initial recovery plan. This shows a projected deficit of £3.999m at the end 2021/22, compared to the deficit of £4.358m that was previously reported, a decrease of £0.360m, although this clearly remains a significant deficit that needs to be addressed. If a 0.5% movement from the school's block is agreed for a further year in 2021/22 the deficit would reduce to £2.915m. The table below shows the projected deficit both with and without this transfer.

**Table 8- DSG Recovery Plan Updated**

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
<b>Balance/ Variance Brought Forward</b>	<b>(4,916)</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>
Movements Per Original Plan	1,048	5081
<b>Revised Forecast Variance</b>	<b>(3,868)</b>	<b>(704)</b>
Estimated additional pressures	(1,917)	(7,608)
Additional Funding		4,313
<b>REVISED NET FORECAST VARIANCE</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>	<b>(3,999)</b>
If a 0.5% movement is agreed		1,084
<b>REVISED NET FORECAST VARIANCE</b>	<b>(5,785)</b>	<b>(2,915)</b>

- 5.3 Whilst the forecast for 2021/22 has been reviewed, it is still important to emphasise the requirement to push forward with actions that can address the deficit as a matter of urgency.

### **DSG Deficit – Presentation of a Plan to the Department for Education**

- 5.4 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG): Conditions of Grant 2020 to 2021 paragraph 5.2, requires that any local authority (LA) with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of 2019/20 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend. The plan should be shown to the local schools' forum and should be kept regularly updated throughout the year to reflect the most recent forecast position and be viewed as an on-going live document.
- 5.5 To help LAs meet this requirement, the DfE have devised a management plan template. This is a supportive tool which has been created with an emphasis on enabling LAs to formulate and present their DSG management plans in a format that allows them to focus attention on comparison of high needs provision against spend.



- 5.6 The DfE encourage all LAs to use the template as a planning tool: they expect the plan to be updated and presented at school's forum meetings at least on a termly basis. It is hoped the management plan for Oldham will be available to present at the Schools Forum meeting at the end of November
- 5.7 The DfE will shortly be in touch with LAs to whom they wish to offer DSG deficit discussions during 2020 to 2021. This will include details of the form of the discussions and any additional information they may require from them. As Oldham was one of the small number of authorities required to prepare a recovery plan under previous arrangements, it is likely that the DfE will continue its engagement with Councils officers.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The proposed DSG budget for 2020-21 for each funding block is set out below

**Table 9 – Proposed DSG Budget for 2020/21**

Block	Allocation 2020-21 £000	Proposed Budget 2020-21		
		Retained £000	Delegated £000	Total £000
<b>Schools inc. ESG</b>	<b>200,865</b>	0	201,529	201,529
<b>Central Schools Block</b>	<b>2,689</b>	2,743		2,743
<b>Early Years</b>	<b>19,720</b>	13,398	6,322	19,720
<b>High Needs</b>	<b>40,199</b>	10,915	29,435	40,350
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>263,473</b>	<b>27,056</b>	<b>237,286</b>	<b>264,342</b>

- 6.2 This shows that whilst resources available for 2020/21 are £263.473m, resources to be allocated total £264.342m or £0.869m more than resources available.

## 7. Recommendations

Schools Forum is requested to:

- 1) Note the latest settlement of Dedicated Schools Grant for 2020/21 of £263.473m. (See table 2)
- 2) Approve the latest deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21 or £264.342m. (See table 2)
- 3) Note the changes to the DSG allocation for 2019/20 and 2020/21. (See table 1)
- 4) Note there is currently an estimated cumulative overspend of £5.785m on the DSG for 2020/21. (See table 2)
- 5) Note the 2021/22 budget update. (See table 4)
- 6) Note the financial position of the High Needs Block and movements from the Schools Block (see tables 5, 6 & 7)
- 7) Note the recovery plan shown in table 8
- 8) Note the proposed DSG budget for 2020/21 for each funding block (See table 9)

# High Needs Funding Strategic Review

Implementation Update

September 2020

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## Key reform principles agreed with Schools Forum and other partners Part of the Social Finance review...

Due to the project's focus on the High Needs Budget deficit, we agreed principles with the Schools Forum to ensure that any final recommendations support the Local Partnership's mission to improve the educational and life outcomes of pupils with SEND, and help meet the financial challenge sustainably.

- i. **Avoid “salami-slicing” of budgets to close financial deficit where possible**
- ii. **Protect resources for the most disadvantaged and high needs pupils**
- iii. **Strive to improve outcomes for pupils, and at very least protect current performance**
- iv. **Responsibility for making changes should be shared equally by partners**



# The analysis and interviews identified three priority issues that are driving pressure on the HNB

ISSUE	DETAIL
<b>1. Rapid growth in <u>EHCPs for ASD, SEMH, and SLCN</u></b>	Since 2012 the number of pupils with an EHCP for ASD as a primary need more than doubled, and for SLCN rose by more than three quarters. Over the same period the number of EHC Plans for SEMH rose by 55% <sup>1</sup> . Top-up funding for EHCPs comes from the HNB. While EHCPs for these needs types have increased nationally over the same period, the trend is much more distinct in Oldham.
<b>2. Increasing numbers of <u>special school and OOB places</u> funded from the High Needs Block</b>	The proportion of children in special schools is higher in Oldham than the national average (3% vs 2.5% <sup>2</sup> ). As the total number of EHCPs has increased so has the number of special school places, and 97 additional special schools places have been commissioned for the 2019/20 academic year.
<b>3. Lack of <u>flexibility within the graduated response</u></b>	Element 3 funding for pupils with EHCPs is currently allocated on a per-pupil basis using a formula based on Teaching Assistant (TA) hours. This system creates staffing challenges for schools and unrealistic parent expectations of 1:1 support. Landmark research also suggests an over-reliance on TAs is detrimental for pupils' learning outcomes, and most LAs have now moved away from this approach

Notes: (1) data from Oldham's internal School Census files. (2) data from Special Educational Needs in England, January 2018

# These recommendations comprise targeted initiatives at specific points in the education journey, and longer-term system changes



i. Council services – reconfigure existing services to do more targeted early intervention



Targeted Council early intervention at points in the education journey and in specific wards where there is greatest need (Issue 1)



ii. Early Support Fund – targeted funding at the transition to secondary school



Flexible funding for SEN pupils before and after the transition to mainstream secondary school (Issue 2)



iii. Partnerships – a) Greater parent voice within schools



Give parents more voice in the Local Partnership, and enable better communication and stronger partnership working between parents, schools and Council (Issues 1, 2 and 3)



iii. Partnerships – b) Free up SENCOs from classroom teaching responsibilities



iv. High needs funding – shared funding and resources within school clusters



Make better use of high needs funding by delegating control to and sharing resources between clusters of schools, aligned to Oldham Family Connect (Issue 3)

# Schools, the Council and parents must take joint leadership and commit to new ways of working to meet the current financial challenge

## Schools can...



**Prioritise prevention and early intervention:** the onus is on mainstream schools to support specific cohorts of pupils earlier to reduce the need for more intensive support in the future (primary schools), and to create more inclusive environments that provide pupils with ECHPs with personalised support (secondary schools).

**Commit to new ways of working:** mainstream schools need to use Element 3 top-up funding more flexibly to achieve a personalised, graduated response. This involves stopping a reliance on TA hours and potentially pooling high needs funding to co-commission and share more specialist services and staff; in turn special schools can support mainstream colleagues through peer workforce development and sharing specialist staff and services, potentially as part of new Oldham Family Connect clusters.

## Council and CCG can...



**Kick-start the design and implementation process:** officers can lead the consultation on these recommendations and co-design of pilots. While schools must lead changes, the Council must continue to facilitate partnership working and ensure consistency.

**Provide funding and leverage additional resources:** some recommendations present invest-to-save opportunities (e.g. Early Support Fund), where the Council can show leadership there are also significant opportunities to hold partners to account.

**Joint commissioning:** examples of good practice are emerging around joint commissioning between Councils and CCGs (e.g. St. Helen's neurodevelopmental pathway). Short-term the Council and CCG can create joint decision-making forums and improve the alignment of early intervention services, and in the long-term develop an ambitious integrated commissioning strategy for SEND

## Parents and carers can...



**Partner with school and the Council:** the Council and POINT are becoming leaders nationally in co-production for SEND and there are now more opportunities for parents to get involved in the Local Partnership's work (e.g. strategy development, running research with other parents, facilitating working sessions).

**Lever for accountability:** recommendation 3 presents options for parents to play an enhanced role in the Local Partnership, for instance drafting a school Charter and getting schools to sign up, or participating or chairing parent and carer forums at a school cluster level. Any initiatives need to be led by parents themselves if they are to work, but they also need to be constructive, appreciate the pressures that schools and the Council are under, and work with them towards shared goals.

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## Implementation update September 2020 and next steps

Enhance the breadth of provision available in mainstream and special schools to meet need



- Exploring creative solutions with existing providers in Oldham around new curriculum/provision pathways.
- Exploring new provision requirements to meet increasing need at primary and secondary level (particularly SEMH and ASD).
- Considering future planning for SEND places using similar approaches to non-SEND place planning.
- **Next steps** – finalise arrangements to transition identified children and young people to provision in Oldham.

Increase the variety of preventative interventions and targeted use of finance to build capacity within the early years, schools and 16-25 sector.



- Very limited ability to engage in this work this financial year but appears to be scope from April 21 onwards.
- **Next steps** – consider how to build upon the existing networks of good practice within the sector and Council services to build capacity. This work must connect to enhancing provision.

Increase the transparency of SEND data available to the sector and flexibility in element 3 top-up funding



- Share data on EHCP numbers, attendance, exclusions and outcomes for children and young people with SEND with OAHF and OASHP.
- **Next steps** - Review and realign element 3 top-up funding away from hours to increase flexibility to deliver provision that delivers outcomes.



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# Schools Forum – 30 September 2020

## Report of the Director of Finance

### Item 5 – Financial Transparency of Local Authority-Maintained Schools and Academies

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#### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Since the start of the academies programme there has been significant focus on the financial transparency of the academy sector and the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced a number of measures that have improved the financial transparency and accountability of trusts. It has been reported by a number of trusts that they feel more accountable for their academies' financial position, now that they are in the academy sector, than they did previously as a local authority (LA) maintained school.
- 1.2 Transparency measures such as the requirement to publish independently audited accounts each year, with particular scrutiny on any related party transactions, provide public assurance of their financial health and probity. Maintained schools, like academies, are funded by grant from the DfE (the Dedicated Schools Grant). Local Authorities (LA) are the accountable body for maintained schools and, in line with national frameworks and guidance set by the Department, monitor and intervene in the operation of these schools to reduce the risk of financial failure or misuse of funds.
- 1.3 Each LA has a scheme for financing schools which sets out the financial relationship between it and its maintained schools, and the Department publishes guidance setting out what is required or permitted in these schemes. Current financial transparency arrangements for academies are generally stronger than those in place for maintained schools. The DfE considers that there is a strong case, where appropriate, for the current academy transparency measures to be adapted and implemented across the maintained school sector, in order to strengthen the arrangements for maintained schools.

#### 2 Detail of the consultation

- 2.1 The consultation on Financial Transparency of Local Authority-Maintained Schools and Academy Trusts ran from 17 July to 30 September 2019. It sought the views of LAs, maintained schools and other interested organisations or individuals. The consultation outlined the current financial transparency arrangements for maintained schools and academy trusts and put forward a number of proposed changes. As the current transparency measures used in academies are generally stronger than those in the maintained school sector, the consultation focused on using or adapting existing academy measures to help change and improve maintained schools' financial transparency and financial health.



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- 2.2 The consultation recognised that new measures could create additional burdens on LAs and schools. It sought to ensure that the benefits of any new measures introduced would outweigh potential burdens on LAs and schools and that any new burdens are not more onerous than those placed upon academies. The consultation also encouraged LAs to outline whether the new measures would constitute a New Burden under the government's new burdens doctrine, and if so, what the cost would be.
- 2.3 Oldham responded to the consultation. We agreed with the majority of the proposals. The main exception was the proposal that schools should be subject to an audit at least every 3 years. It was felt The LA currently carry out risk based audits and are best placed to know which schools are at risk, having to audit a low risk school is not the approach taken in other areas of the Council and as such would be a drain on resources without any value being added. 65 Maintained Schools.  
We also felt several of the proposals do place an additional financial burden on the LA but it was difficult to quantify the additional cost

### 3 Outcome

- 3.1 Further to the consultation the DfE will implement the following proposals:

#### **Proposal 1:**

LAs and maintained schools, are currently obliged to complete the following assurance returns and financial collections:

- Schools Financial Value Standard
- Dedicated Schools Grant

They are also obliged to submit statutory funding returns:

- Section 251 Budget
- Section 251 Outturn
- Consistent Financial Reporting

The proposal to publish the names of LA's who fail to comply with 3 or more deadlines from these collections closely mirrors the approach adopted by ESFA in publishing (on gov.uk) the names of trusts who are late in submitting more than 2 out of 4 annual returns.

The DfE will publish names of LAs on gov.uk if they fail to comply with deadlines for returns to the Department. The Department will publish names of LA's who have not complied, starting from when they have missed 3 deadlines from the start of 2020/21 (taking account of any postponement or relaxation of deadlines in 2020/21 on account of Covid-19).

#### **Proposal 2a:**

LA's can withdraw delegation from schools for financial reasons or issue a notice of financial concern, but the DfE do not currently collect this information. The consultation proposed that the DfE will start collecting information on suspended budgets and notices of financial concern. Doing so will enable the Department to devote further support to authorities that report a high number of suspended delegations or notices of financial concern.

The DfE will collect the number of schools with suspended budgets and notices of financial concern through the existing DSG assurance statement signed by the LA Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the end of the financial year.

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Changes to the DSG assurance statement return will apply for the return for the financial year 2020/21, which is due in September 2021.

**Proposal 2b:**

The DfE will add a new section to the DSG assurance statement that captures the amounts that LA's have recovered from investigating fraud.

Currently, LAs recover funds from fraud investigations but only publish the number and value of reported cases, not the value of money recovered. As part of the consultation proposal the Department will analyse responses and request further details from LAs that reported the highest incidence/value of fraud. Further details would include the nature of the case, including the steps the LA has put in place to prevent further misuse of the DSG. The DfE will also challenge any LA that they think had not made sufficient efforts to recover the money. Monies recovered from fraud reported in different financial years would be reflected in the statement.

Changes to the DSG assurance statement return will apply for the return for the financial year 2020/21, which is due in September 2021.

**Proposal 3:**

The DfE will make a directed revision to LAs' schemes for financing schools to make it a requirement for maintained schools to provide LAs with three-year budget forecasts.

The consultation proposed to extend the existing requirement for academy trusts to send the ESFA three-year budget plans to maintained schools. For maintained schools, it will take the form of sending a three-year budget plan to their maintaining authority. The consultation recognised that it might take maintained schools slightly longer to complete a three-year forecast than a single year forecast. However, this was expected to be outweighed by enabling LAs to have early sight of emerging financial issues, enabling preventive action. In regard to uncertainties around future levels of funding, the consultation proposed that schools might wish to plan on a range of scenarios.

Schools will be required to submit their forecasts between 1 May and 30 June of each year, starting in 2021/22

**Proposal 4a:**

The DfE will make schools append a list of Related Party Transactions (RPTs) to their response to the question in the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) about their arrangements for managing RPTs. In addition, the DfE will insert additional columns into the CFO Assurance Statement, so that the number of RPTs and value for each can be disclosed.

Out of the 3 options put forward in the consultation on RPTs, this is the least resource intensive for both schools and authorities. As the SFVS must be discussed and agreed by the Governing Body, there should be little additional burden if a list of RPTs was attached to the completed SFVS. The LA will then be in a position to analyse the RPTs submitted across all maintained schools, using this information to determine audit requirements.

Changes to the Schools Financial Value Standard will be made for the 2021/22 return, which schools will submit to LAs by the end of the financial year 2021/22

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### **Proposal 5:**

In light of issues raised by a number of respondents the DfE will **not** implement proposal 5, imposing minimum requirements of a three-year audit cycle. Instead, they will continue to work with LAs to identify how audits can best be made both regular and targeted in the most effective way

### **Proposal 6a:**

The DfE will make a directed revision to LAs' schemes for financing schools, requiring schools to submit a recovery plan to their maintaining authority when their deficit rises above 5%.

The statutory guidance on LAs' schemes for financing schools includes a requirement for schools to manage their resources effectively to maximise pupil outcomes. LAs are also required to have a deficit and a surplus policy within their scheme for financing schools and monitor their schools' compliance with these. Across LA's schemes, there is a variance in the levels of deficit that trigger the submission of a recovery plan to LA's. There is currently no requirement for LAs to report to the Department their actions to address financial difficulty and effective resource management in specific schools.

The Department's monitoring of schools' financial health to date has included approaching LAs directly to find out more about their approach to managing schools' financial health. Since the end of 2018 the DfE have also offered LAs the support of a school resource management adviser where they agree that this would help them to support or challenge schools. They have not specified thresholds of deficit that would lead to contact with the Department. To strengthen the arrangements to help schools in financial difficulty, and ensure they work consistently with LAs, the consultation proposed 3 separate measures (6a,b,c) to be introduced either separately or in combination.

The 5% deficit threshold will apply when deficits are measured as at 31 March 2021.

### **Proposal 6b:**

The DfE will collect information on the number of recovery plans in each LA through the DSG annual assurance return from the CFO.

The DfE will implement this proposal as it will help them to increase visibility of best practice across the whole school's sector, highlight any inconsistencies in LAs' approach and target additional support from the Department. LAs will not be penalised in any way for having requested recovery plans. The DfE encourages LAs to have robust procedures in play for dealing with deficits, and for requesting recovery plans for deficit levels below 5%. They would be much more concerned about LAs that had schools in deficit but did not request recovery plans from schools.

This will apply for the DSG assurance statement return for the financial year 2021/22, which is due in September 2022.

### **Proposal 6c:**

The DfE will formalise the approach to working with LAs and include a request for high level action plans from some LAs. This will be achieved by:

- Sharing published data on the school balances in each LA.
- Using this data and evidence-based requests from LAs to ensure support is focused where it is needed.

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- Requesting high level action plans from LAs in which the number or proportion of school revenue deficits over 5% is above a certain level.

LAs could be requested to submit high level action plans at any time during the year, as and when requested by the Department.

### **Proposal 7:**

The DfE require all LA maintained schools to publish annually on their websites the number of individuals (if any) earning over £100K in £10K bandings.

The consultation put forward this proposal in order to decrease the disparity in public access to information on high salaries between maintained schools and academy trusts. Academy trusts disclose in their account returns information about each individual earning over £100k - specifically

- their total FTE salary in £10k bandings, e.g. £100k - £110k,
- their job role and description, and
- whether they are predominantly focused on curriculum and education leadership or school business management leadership. Additionally, academies must publish on their websites staff salaries over £60k in £10k bandings.

Requirements related to information schools publish on their website will come into force from 1 January 2021, when the amended regulations come into force.

### **Proposal 8:**

The DfE will require LA maintained schools to publish a link to the schools financial benchmarking website, where the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) statement of income, expenditure and balances is already published, instead of requiring them to publish the CFR statement annually on their own website.

LA school accounts are part of the LA statements of accounts that are published at a gross level for income and expenditure. While details of individual schools' income and expenditure are not published in the LA's accounts, individual maintained schools are required to produce annual income and expenditure statements, known as Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR), or else LAs produce them on the schools' behalf. The Department publishes all the information from CFR in a spreadsheet, but they believe it would add significantly to transparency if there were a requirement for individual schools to publish annually on their websites their latest CFR statements.

Consistent with the majority of respondents, they believe that the publication of financial information on schools' own websites would improve financial transparency, as many parents and other stakeholders are not aware that the benchmarking website exists. However, they also recognise the points raised around the difficulty some stakeholders would have in accessing and interpreting the CFR statements without any additional information to explain and contextualise the data.

They will therefore implement an amended proposal 8, as suggested by a number of respondents, whereby schools will be required to publish a link from their own websites to the benchmarking website, where the CFR is already published. The benchmarking website already has explanatory information surrounding the accounts, and it also makes comparisons across schools easier. A link to the benchmarking website will therefore both minimise the burdens for schools, and also make the information more accessible and useful to parents and other stakeholders looking at it. Equivalent data for academies is published on the same website. While academy accounts are at trust level, trusts have to make annual returns of the

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income and expenditure for each academy in a form very close to the CFR. Adding a link to the benchmarking website will not raise any concerns around data protection. The information is already in the public domain. Furthermore, the reported figures in the CFR relate to financial years which span 2 academic years. This makes the figures less likely to reveal actual staff salaries.

Requirements related to information schools publish on their website will come into force from 1 January 2021, when the amended regulations come into force.

### **New Burdens**

Under the New Burdens policy, the Department will compensate LAs for the additional burden that these changes will impose. For 2021-22, this will be done through a direct grant to each LA, in proportion to the number of maintained schools in each authority. The DfE will work with local government colleagues to finalise the overall amount and distribution.

A link to the full consultation is shown below

[consultation outcome financial-transparency-of-la-maintained-schools-and-academy-trusts](#)

## **4. Recommendations/Actions**

Schools Forum to note the changes in reporting requirements for LA's in relation to maintained schools

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# Schools Forum- 30 September 2020

## Report of the Director of Finance

### Item 6 – Scheme for Financing Schools – DfE Directed Revisions and LA Revisions

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#### 1. Purpose of the Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the consultation process re the requirement to update the Oldham Scheme for Financing Schools, effective from April 2020.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. The DfE has issued revised guidance on local authority schemes for financing schools which Local Authorities must take into account when they revise their scheme.

#### 3. Revisions

- 3.1 Changes to some of the wording in the scheme are called ‘directed revisions’. This means that authorities must incorporate within, or remove from, their schemes the specified wording and no other process is needed in order to make the changes. The power of directed revision is used, to remove outdated provisions and to insert new provisions that are required for the implementation of policy.
- 3.2 The summary of scheme changes is as follows and shown on Appendix 1:
- Directed revisions already announced
  - The Local Authority has updated Oldham’s scheme in accordance with the specified instructions

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## 4. Updates

- 4.1 A summary of the changes in accordance with updates to Guidance from the DFE and other Local Authority revisions for 2020 is attached as appendix 1.
- 4.2 A copy of the summary changes and the scheme was sent to schools for consultation on 16<sup>th</sup> September and is due to end for comments on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. Pending consultation, the revised version has been published on the Council's website (also attached).

**[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3144/the\\_scheme\\_for\\_financing\\_schools\\_-\\_fair\\_funding\\_framework](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3144/the_scheme_for_financing_schools_-_fair_funding_framework)**

## 5. Actions/ Recommendations

- 5.1 To update Schools Forum on the consultation process and share the main changes to the document with members of the forum representing maintained schools.

## Appendix 1

### Summary of main changes - Scheme for Financing Schools April 2020

SECTION(S)	DETAILS	REVISION
2.3.1	<b>Submission of Financial Forecasts</b> – wording added “From the 2021 to 2022 funding year each school must submit a 3-year budget forecast each year, at a date determined by the local authority between 1 May and 30 June.”	Directed Revision
4.5	<b>Planning for Deficit Budgets</b> - wording added “Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. The 5% deficit threshold will apply when deficits are measured as at 31 March 2021.”	Directed Revision
10.1 & 13.8	<b>Insurance</b> – wording added “Instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the Secretary of State’s Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA. Schools may join the RPA after 1 April 2020. Schools may do this individually when any insurance contract of which they are part expires. Primary and/or secondary maintained schools also have the option to join the RPA collectively by agreeing through the Schools’ Forum to de-delegate funding.”	Directed Revision
3.5.1	<b>Restrictions on Accounts</b> – Leeds Building Society has been removed from the list of financial institutions approved by the Director of Finance as it is no longer an LA approved building society.	LA Revision



# Schools Forum- 30 September 2020

## Report of the Director of Finance

### Item 7 – School SLA'S

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#### 1. Purpose of the Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of Schools Forum that all schools continue to pay for services provided by the LA through a service level agreement during the COVID-19 outbreak and the remainder of the financial year. This is despite there being some disruption to the services which are normally delivered to schools/academies including the remote provision of some services where appropriate.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Schools/Academies will continue to receive all core funding and grant payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though there are some considerable challenges for schools and academies, the continuation of funding streams has ensured that schools are not financially disadvantaged. As schools/academies are receiving the unreduced income, if schools have signed up to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Local Authority, in the spirit of partnership, the Council is seeking the agreement of schools/academies to honour these commitments to ensure service continuity during and after the pandemic. Schools Forum members will of course be aware that this approach complies with the information contained in the Procurement Policy Notice (PPN) 02/20 issued to schools in May 2020.
- 2.2 The Council is still incurring staffing and other costs but has clearly lost an important income stream and Government funding will not fully recompense the Council for lost income/increased expenditure arising from the pandemic. The Local Authority sector has been encouraged by Government not to furlough staff. Following this guidance has meant that the Council has been limited in its ability to mitigate income losses.

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### **3. Actions/ Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum supports the Local Authority in continuing to charge schools during the financial year 2020-21 in line with the agreed values in their Service Level Agreement even if these services are not provided in full.

# Report of the Director of Finance

## Item 8 – Forward Plan

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>
School Forum Constitution	To agree the School Forum Constitution for 2020/21	Finance Team
School Funding Update	To discuss the National Funding Formula	Finance Team
Estimated DSG Budget 2020/2021	For School Forum members to consider the budget issues from 2020/21 budget	Finance Team
Comprehensive Spending Review	To update members	Finance Team
School and Early Years Financial Regulations	To update members	Finance Team
School Forum operational and good practice	To update members	Finance Team

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13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>
Pupil Premium 2020/21	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
Formula Modelling	To agree formula changes and update members	Liz Caygill
DSG Final Settlement 2020/2021	To update members	Finance Team

**Proposed Meeting Dates 2020/21**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

There will be other items presented as appropriate

**Action**

Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of this report