

 North Tyneside Council	North Tyneside Council
	SCHOOLS FORUM
	Wednesday 11 January 2023 - 12:30 – 14:30
	The meeting will be held virtually and will be live streamed at the following link: https://youtu.be/n7s3YPZnChw

AGENDA

1.	Apologies for Absence		Chair
2.	Attendance Register / Membership / Roles & Responsibilities		Chair
3.	Virtual Public Meeting / Observers (*)		Chair
4.	Declaration of Interest		Chair
5.	Minutes of the last meeting	Circulated Pages 5-15	Chair
6.	Matters Arising:	Verbal Update	
	6.1 Council Financial Position – Update	Presentation	CE
	6.2 Schools Finance Update a) National Funding Formula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Funding Formula (Schools Block) High Needs Central Schools Services Block Early Years b) De-Delegation including Centrally Retained	Circulated Pages 17-25	CE
	6.3 Consideration of Special Leave for 2023/24 Financial Year	Circulated Pages 27-28	CP
7.	Any Other Business		
8.	Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 22 March 2023		

North Tyneside Schools Forum Member Roles & Voting								
de-delegation Primary	de-delegation Secondary	scheme for financing schools	consultation on funding formula	General Duties	Retained Duties	all other matters	<i>last updated September 2019</i>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Voting							Phase	Role
School Members								
x		x	x	x	x	x	First	Head
x		x	x	x	x	x	Primary	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	High	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Middle	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Secondary	Head
Other School Members Non Locality Based								
x		x	x	x	x	x	Primary/ First	Governor
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Secondary/Middle	Governor
		x	x	x	x	x	Nursery	Head
		x	x	x	x	x	PRU	Head
		x	x	x	x	x	Special	Head
			x		x	x	Academy	Other
Non Schools Members Non Locality Based								
		x	x			x	16-19 Providers	Other
			x			x	EY PVI	Other
						x	C of E Diocese	Other
						x	RC Diocese	Other
						x	Trades Union	Other

North Tyneside Council Schools Forum,
Financial Services, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY. Tel: (0191) 643 5991

Timetable & Forward Plan 2022/23

Date	Activity	Responsible
21 September 2022	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. To include appointment of Chair and Vice Chair 2. Review of the Constitution and supporting documents 3. Schools Finance Update	Schools Forum
6 October 2022	School Census Day	DFE/ESFA
10 October 2022	Application for submitting disapplication requests	Local Authority
9 November 2022	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Finance Update 2. National Funding Formula and Outcome of Consultation 3. School Forum Constitution and Action Plan Review 4. Consideration of Special Leave for 22/23 Financial Year	Schools Forum
18 November 2022	Deadline for submitting disapplication requests	Local Authority
18 November 2022	Deadline for submitting disapplication requests if wish to move more than 5% of the Schools block	Local Authority
2 November 2022	School census database closed. Checks and validation commences	DFE/ESFA
11 January 2023	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Finance Update 2. Consideration of Special Leave for 22/23 Financial Year	Schools Forum
?????	Submit final proposals re APT	Local Authority
20 January 2023	Deadline for submissions of final 2022 to 2023 APT to ESFA	Local Authority
6 February 2023	Cabinet Meeting for approval of 22/23 Schools Funding	Local Authority
20 February 2023	Cabinet Meeting	Local Authority
27 February 2023	Deadline for confirmation of Schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.	DFE/ESFA
22 March 2023	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Dedicated Schools Grant update 2. Scheme for Financing Schools – Annual Update (and review if required)	Schools Forum
27 March 2023	Cabinet Meeting	Local Authority
12 July 2023	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Reports from Services for 24/25 Financial Year Proposal 2. Schools Finance Update 3. Responsibilities for Redundancy & Early Retirement Costs – Annual Update	Schools Forum

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North Tyneside Council

Minutes

Meeting Schools Forum **Date** Thursday 10 November 2022

Location Via Microsoft Teams

Present

✓ Present
D Deputy
A Apologies
O Absent

Name	Organisation	Representing	21.09.22	10.11.22
Anthony Gollings	St Thomas More	RC Diocese	✓	✓
Andrew James	St Aidan's Primary	Academy	D (Claire Garbutt)	D (Claire Garbutt)
Angi Gibson	Hadrian Park Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Colleen Ward	Coquet Park First School	Primary	✓	✓
David Bavaird	Norham High School	Governor - Secondary	✓	✓
David Watson	St Thomas More	Academy	✓	✓
Diane Turner	Tyne Met	16-19 Provider	O	A
Finn Wilcock	Southridge First School	Primary	✓	✓
Gavin Storey	Cullercoats Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Jill Wraith	Benton Dene Primary	Primary	✓	D (Carmel Parker)
Joanne Thompson	Holystone Out of School	Early Years PVI	✓	✓
John Croft	Sir James Knott	Nursery	✓	✓
John Newport	Marden Bridge Middle School	Middle	✓	✓
Karen Croskery	North Tyneside Student Support Service	PRU	✓	✓
Kelly Holbrook	Longbenton High School	Secondary	✓	✓
Kerry Lillico	Grasmere Academy	Academy	A	✓
Laura Baggett	Monkhouse Primary	Primary	✓	D (Harriet Bland)
Lesley Griffin	Wellfield Middle School	Governor - Secondary	✓	✓
Louise Bradford	Diocese	C of E Diocese	✓	✓
Matt Snape	Marden High School	Secondary	A	✓
Michael Young	Spring Gardens Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Paul Johnson	Churchill Community College	Secondary	✓	✓
Peter Gannon	Silverdale School	Special	✓	✓
Peter Thorp	Redesdale Primary	Governor - Primary	O	✓
Philip Sanderson	Kings Priory	Academy	✓	✓
Rob Harker	Carville Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Phil Kemp	Trade Unions	Trade Unions	✓	D (Clare MacLeod)
Stephen Baines	Holystone Primary	Primary	✓	✓
Steve Wilson	Whitley Bay High School	High	✓	✓
<u>In Attendance:</u>				
Mark Longstaff	Director of Commissioning & Asset Management	NTC	✓	✓
Jon Ritchie	Director of Resources	NTC	✓	A

Claire Emmerson	Senior Manager - Finance Strategy & Planning	NTC	✓	✓
Andrew Brown	Principle Accountant, Finance	NTC	✓	✓
Jane Cross	Senior Business Partner, Finance	NTC	✓	✓
Diane Thompson	Senior Accountant – Schools Finance	EQUANS	✓	✓
Christina Ponting	Senior Manager - Schools HR	EQUANS/NTC	✓	✓
Mary Nergaard	PA to Director of Commissioning & Asset Management	NTC	✓	✓
Lisa Cook	Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion	NTC	✓	✓
Mark Mirfin	Assistant Director, SEND Transformation	NTC	N/A	✓
Ian Wilkinson	Strategic Lead, Education and Inclusion Review	NTC	✓	✓

Item		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	<p>See table above.</p> <p>CE noted that 2 Schools Forum members were not in the meeting and asked if anyone was carrying any apologies on their behalf. None were noted. CP to pick this up with the relevant members</p>	
2.	Attendance Register / Membership / Roles and Responsibilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair reminded Forum of their roles and responsibilities Some members due for terms of office due to come up in January 2023 CP noted that 2 Governer members (Peter Thorp and David Bavaird) reach the end of their terms of office at the end of the year. Both members are willing to stand again. Historically we would ask for expressions of interest. If any are received there would be an election process. If no one else comes forward, the members will be appointed. <u>ACTION:</u> agreed to progress on this basis 	CP
3.	Virtual Public Meeting / Observers	
	The Chair welcomed the public to the meeting.	
4.	Declaration of Interest	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received 	
5.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
6.	Matters Arising	
	<p>Page 4, Item 6.2a – Finance Update: Falling Rolls and Growth Fund Proposed Allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB raised a query around eligibility and asked for some further information to understand the funding fully. CE was to pick up a conversation with LB outside of the meeting, however, this has not yet happened. <u>ACTION</u> (carried forward): CE to pick up a conversation with LB around eligibility for Falling Rolls and Growth Fund 	CE

	<p>Page 7, Item 6.2b – DSG Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The names of all those who agreed to be part of the sub-group were passed to Susan Young and the first meeting took place on 7 November where the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) were discussed, to be developed further. <p>Page 8, Item 7 – AOB (Ukrainian Students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ML passed the request to Peter Mennell, Director for Housing who contacted SW directly to provide an update. SW has passed this on to other schools. CE noted that the Authority has received the Q1 funding and the team are going through the reconciliation process. Awaiting the next round of funding and the Authority will be making sure that this funding is passported through to schools. <p>All other actions are covered on the agenda</p>	
6.1	Finance Update	
	<p>a) Funding Distribution and Finance Update Claire Emmerson</p> <p>CE talked through the presentation on screen. Main points to note as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key aspect for the formula for 2023/24 were outlined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum per pupil funding levels: Primary £4,405, Key Stage 3 £5,503 and Key Stage 4 £6,033 Funding floor will be set at 0.5% per pupil (based on the individual school's LFF allocation in 2022/23) Rolling the 2022 to 2023 schools supplementary grant into the NFF Increasing NFF factor values (on top of amounts added for the Schools Supplementary Grant) as outlined in the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3% to free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6) and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2.4% to the basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), FSM, English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and sparsity factors, and the lump sum. 0.5% to the floor and the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL) 0% on the premises factors, except for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which has increased by Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) which is 11.2% for the year to April 2022 In addition, two important restrictions will continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAs will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee in the local formula. For 2023/24 this must be between +0.0% and +0.5%. LAs can only transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with their Schools' Forum approval. A summary of the DSG indicative values for 2023/24 was shown on screen as outlined in Table 1 of the report (based on October 2021 Census data). Average increase of 4.41% High Needs Block: The High Needs block outturn in 2021/22 was an overspend of £13.511m. Total cumulative overspend of £18.622m forecast at end of 2022/23 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forecasted in-year outturn pressure of £5.111m at September. Reasons for the pressures were discussed • DB noted that the costs associated with non-maintained and independent special school provision has increased significantly and asked for any explanation for this. • CE noted that this was linked to demand and capacity in the system. The increase in this figure has been noted and this will be looked at as part of the work being carried out with the DSG • The indicative value of the High Needs block in 2023/24 was shown on screen as outlined in Table 3 of the report • Not expecting this to significantly change but this forms part of the assumptions used in the DSG Management Plan • Central Block Funding • The indicative value of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) was shown on screen as outlined in Table 5 of the report • Funding is comprised of a historic commitments' allocation and a formula-based amount for ongoing functions. • The historic commitments element has been reduced by 20% per annum, in line with strategic DfE published plans over the last two years • The reduction in CSSB (£0.105m) will need to be taken from the remaining functions funded by CSSB on behalf of schools. • The remaining CSSB functions were outlined on screen (Table 6 of the report) • The relevant services will be reporting back to Forum in January 2023 to ratify these changes and to agree any services, including additional functions, to be funded by de-delegation. • National copyright licences is expected to go up slightly. Schools admission service hasn't increased in a number of years. Schools Support Services and Education Improvement Partnership have both seen reductions in previous years • Awaiting confirmation on final figures and working with finance sub-group on the proposals which will be brought back to Forum in January • 2022/23 Budget Monitoring for Schools • All schools are required to submit in-year budget monitoring by October. Some schools have struggled to meet this deadline due to the transition to the new financial reporting system (SBS). Work is ongoing to complete this monitoring process and there will be some more monitoring carried out in January. However, as not all the data has been collated as yet, it is not possible to provide accurate data at this time. • DW noted the challenges of not having that data from Budget Monitoring 1 along with the impact of rising cost of energy • CE noted that it is only a small number of schools that have not managed to complete the Budget Monitoring 1 process. There are no additional notifications from schools to suggest that any additional schools are expecting to be in deficit. Schools are autonomous organisations, and they have the responsibility to manage any pressures such as those in the energy sector • Expected Deficit Schools 2022/23 • There are 9 schools with a projected deficit in 2022/23, detail shown on screen as outlined in Table 4 of the report 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESFA have offered support to schools in the form of School Resource Management Advisors (SRMAs). For the Four schools new to deficit, the SRMAs will work to provide a report to these schools and the Authority during the autumn term. Initial deficit review meetings will take place following the outcome of the SRMA deployments <u>ACTION:</u> Sub-group of schools forum to meet to review the SRMA deployments and review the support being offered to schools in deficit. <p>Discussion followed around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teething problems with SBS were discussed. CE noted that any feedback is welcomed by the team and will be fed back to the provider <p>Recommendations Schools Forum is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the update on indicative allocations for each of the four DSG funding blocks; Noted Note the reported positions on High Needs, Early Years Block funding; Noted Continue to review the position of the High Needs block, considering the work to keep children in schools, the SEND Review and DSG Management Plan; Agreed Note the impact on funding the Authority's services via CSSB from the decisions in 2022/23 and the expected additional impact in 2023/24 Noted Note the delay in the budget monitoring position for schools; Noted 	CE
6.1	<p>b) National Funding Formula and Outcome of Consultation</p> <p>CE talked through the presentation on screen. Main points to note as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to the consultation going out, some finance and resources sessions were carried out which was very beneficial. Whilst these are financial decision, the main priority is to ensure the best outcomes for the children of the borough. The finance and resources sessions highlighted the importance of working together to reach an agreed position 2 aspects were put forward for consultation; the local funding formula and the 0.5% transfer Only 11 out of 71 schools responded with a total of 13 surveys completed accounting for less than 16%. CE queried if the subject matter of the consultation may be causing some apathy preventing schools responding. KH noted that it wasn't apathy but more to do with timing of the consultation clashing with half term. A table showing the response rate by phase was shown on screen (Table 1 of the report) CE noted a slight update since the report in relation to the 0.5% transfer. If Schools Forum vote against the 0.5% transfer, the Authority will no longer 	Claire Emmerson

	<p>be required to submit a disapplication request to the DfE as this would form part of the DSG Management Plan process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS noted that he and his governing body responded but this is not showing on the chart. PS also noted that Table 1 potentially identifies individual schools due to the low numbers in that phase and therefore the consultation process is not anonymous for those schools • CE noted that the response from PS and his governing body may be included in one of the other categories and that she would check that this is the case • The Chair asked that the way the data is presented in future be explored to ensure anonymity for all schools • It was noted that ensuring anonymity may elicit a wider response • SW also noted that the timing of the survey was during the half term break, and we shouldn't have a consultation as important as this taking part during the half term holidays • GS asked if this could be brought to a HT briefing in future • SB also noted the timing of the consultation not being ideal but noted that people are talking about the aspects being consulted on. • KH asked for clarity around what a disapplication request is and what this means • CE provided an overview of the conditions usually attached to a 0.5% transfer had we not been part of the Safety Valve process. However, as we are looking at entering into a DSG Management Plan agreement, the usual guidance will not apply • PJ noted that they did respond but had to do so without sufficient consultation with the governing body due to the timing • <u>ACTION:</u> CE acknowledged the comments relating to timing and anonymity and will take this on board in future • MY noted that Schools Forum have turned down the 0.5% transfer in previous years and asked why we have to be asked the question again, particularly if the DfE are going to mandate a transfer anyway. MY asked if there was any right to appeal or option for a High Court Injunction • CE provided a reminder of the operational guidance for Schools Forum and noted that as this is an annual decision that only affects that year's budget, therefore, there is a duty to consult Schools Forum every year and ask the question again regardless of the outcome in the previous year. • CE also noted that whilst the 0.5% transfer has not been approved in the previous 2 years, this has not always been the case as it has been supported in prior years. CE also noted that the vote was close in the consultation last year with a varying amount of support from schools. • CE noted that she is not aware of an appeal process or any information about the option for a High Court Injunction, all that can be confirmed at this stage is that it would form part of the DSG Management Plan • MY asked for clarification on what the 0.5% is for • CE noted that what the 0.5% transfer is used for can vary depending on what is agreed that year. A reminder was provided of the proposals put forward last year. However, this year, the transfer would not be for a specific aspect or any particular service but instead form part of the DSG Management Plan, and the initiatives within, as a whole • PJ asked how long the plan goes on for and would this mean a 0.5% transfer next year as well 	CE
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE noted that it is a 5-year plan, and the plan includes an assumption for a 0.5% transfer. However, this is what the Authority have been advised by the ESFA to put into the plan. • It was reiterated that the vote today is solely for the 2023/24 financial year only and not for the other 4 years of the plan. There will still be a requirement to vote on the transfer next year and each year of the plan if it is felt that it is required. Depending on the detail in the plan, the transfer may not be needed for the other years. • PG asked for clarification on whether or not the ESFA can overrule the decision of Schools Forum if they don't approve the transfer. CE confirmed that this could be the case. • DW noted that the draft DSG Management Plan has already been submitted to the ESFA and asked if any school leaders been involved in that process or seen the draft plan. • CE provided some clarification on the content of the plan which outlines the quantum of funding and the expenditure from the High Needs Block • MM noted that the formal request received from the DfE came in July 2022 and in order to meet the initial deadline for submission of the draft DSG management plan in September 2022, significant work was undertaken during the summer break. • MM noted that LC provided an overview of the plan at the last Schools Forum meeting and that officers have also attended a number of briefings, including Head Teachers Briefing and SENCO Network Meeting; there has also been a survey sent to Head Teachers and SENCOs, the deadline for which has ended. There is also a plan to invite Head Teachers and SENCOs to some workshops over the course of December 2022 and into January 2023 to further develop the DSG Management Plan together • MM reiterated that the main priority and focus of the DSG Management Plan is to further improve outcomes for children and young people in North Tyneside, with strong value for money. • The first Schools Forum High Needs sub-group met this week and formulated the terms of reference. It was very clear that this was not a one-off discussion ahead of submitting the plan in February 2023. It is important that we continue to have a strong dialogue. The purpose of the sub-group is to collaborate, helping to shape the plan and carry forward the themes throughout the duration of the plan • DW raised concern that the disapplication request isn't needed and noted the conditions attached to such a request such as evidencing contributions from health or the impact on individual schools' budgets along with a condition for sharing that information with Schools Forum. DW asked if this would form part of the DSG Management Plan. • CE noted that they don't usually bring detailed individual schools' budget information to Schools Forum as this is usually looked at by the Finance sub-group. However, as part of the consultation schools were informed that we would be happy to provide data on the individual impact on schools. That analysis has already been carried out and there were some schools that had no impact at all due to the minimum funding guarantee. • CE noted the points being raised and reiterated that these points can't be answered without going back to the ESFA 	
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- MY voiced his disappointment at the position Schools Forum is being put in by the Local Authority and also that a disapplication request has very strict and legal guidance that he doesn't believe is being met
- CE issued a reminder that the meeting is being live streamed and noted disappointment at the tone of some of the discussion.
- To be clear, it was reiterated that the Local Authority is not putting Schools Forum in this position. They are being directed by the ESFA and following ESFA guidance as part of the Safety Valve process.
- CP provided an overview of the questions received via the Teams chat feature as follows:
 - Would there also be no need to make a 'disapplication request' for the whole 5-year period of the safety valve plan?
 - Can we be assured that the DSG management plan capture and consider pressures in the other DSG blocks (Mainstream and Early years) and not just those in the High Needs block?
- The Chair reiterated that the most important goal is to achieve the best outcomes for the children of North Tyneside and stressed the importance of all school leaders working together with the Local Authority. It was noted that there are pressures on both sides that will only be resolved if we work together.
- The Chair thanked Forum for the extensive discussion that had been carried out during the meeting, asked that Forum note the discussion and move on with the rest of the agenda
- An overview of the questions asked during the consultation was provided along with a summary of the responses as follows:
 - 91% (10 schools) agreed to keep the NFF factors and rate increases as supplied by the DfE with only 9% (1 school) disagreeing
 - 82% (9 schools) agreed that the Authority should continue to set the MFG subject to affordability, based on the final funding allocation with 18% (2 schools) disagreeing
 - Schools were asked which factors should be used to distribute any surplus after delivering the chosen MFG protection level. The preference has changed to being based on Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)
 - 82% (9 schools) said no to the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools block to High Needs block, with 18% (2 schools) saying yes (compared to 8% last year).

Recommendations:

A reminder of those eligible to vote was provided.

Schools Forum is asked to consider the results of the consultation with schools; and vote on the following options.

- Agree to continue to use factors in line with NFF, funding permitting.
Agreed
- Agree to allow the Authority to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and capping based on affordability.
Agreed
- Consider the response to the request to transfer 0.5% School block funding to High Needs and either:

	<p>a) Support a 0.5% transfer from Schools block to High Needs block to support the draft DSG Management plan; or</p> <p>b) Not support any transfer of funds from Schools block to High Needs block.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Agreed with the following votes noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For = 3 ○ Against = 20 ○ Abstain = 2 <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE provided an overview of the next steps. The wishes of Schools Forum will be presented to the ESFA and will feedback on the outcome. SF members to feed this back to all schools when received. MM will continue with the work of the sub-group and the workshops as outlined earlier in the meeting • ACTION: PS requested that the list of de-delegated items be circulated. 	CE
6.2	<p>Schools Forum Constitution and Action Plan Christina Ponting</p> <p>CP talked through the review of the Constitution and the Self-Assessment. Main points to note as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Tyneside Schools Forum Constitution and Self-Assessment has been reviewed in line with updated ESFA advice and guidance and circulated to Schools Forum • There are no material changes needed to either document. • Changes that are needed are noted via tracked changes in the documents circulated for ease of reference for members. • CP noted Governor briefings and HT briefings will be scheduled to encourage support for Schools Forum Members <p>Discussion followed around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW noted an error on the table at page 10. CP noted that this has already been identified and corrected <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Schools Forum having read the revised documents and clearly understanding the information provided consider this report and note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to consider the changes to the document and to confirm if they are clear on the changes and if they are happy for the document to be updated a noted. • If Schools Forum members are in agreement the updated document would replace the current document provided to members and noted on the Schools Forum website. • The North Tyneside Schools Forum Constitution will be reviewed again in 2023 as soon as the ESFA guidance is updated/provided. <p>Forum agreed</p>	
6.3	<p>Consideration of Special Leave for 22/23 Financial Year Christina Ponting</p> <p>CP provided a verbal update. Main points to note as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current value is £27 per pupil with a split of £21.97 for Part 1 (Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Shared Parental Leave, Jury Service) and £5.03 for Part 2 (Trade Union Facility Time) • Part 2 has always been paid first as agreed with Schools Forum • It was noted that some schools have converted to academies, so the income levels have not been as high as previous years • In terms of an inflationary increase this year, this has been significantly higher than previous years and there has also been an increase in employers NI contributions • Forum will need to make some decisions in January on whether the costs of the SLA remain in line with inflation or if the contribution needs to increase further • Part 2 is on par with where we expect it to be based on predictions. However, Part 1 is more unpredictable. The Maternity aspect usually follows a pattern of 1 peak year in every 3 years and this year is predicted to be a peak year. • There was small surplus last year that was carried forward. • It was noted that the pay award has not yet been included nor has pay progression • If Part 1 comes in at the current predictions this will pay for itself, however Part 2 is currently underfunded as the per pupil rate does not cover the full costs • Government gave a commitment that NQTs would come in at starting salary of £30,000 within the duration of this Parliament. • National Living Wage has been confirmed as £10.42 for April 2023. • Average pay awards for teaching was 5% (ranging from 8.89 to 5%) and for support staff the average is 4.04% (flat rate award of £1,925). • Pay for April 2023 to September 2023 is therefore likely to be significantly higher. Add to that pay progression/increments and the potential for increased employer's costs, the SLA's ability to provide for refunds to schools (including Part 2) at a value that schools found of benefit/at the same levels as March 22, was unrealistic. • Schools Forum has previously agreed that it would review the SLA each year to take into account changes to employer costs and would determine if the rates needed to be raised and if so by what value/% • Impact of possible industrial action discussed. It was noted that it is unlikely that the SLA will cover the predicted costs. • It was noted that whilst the number of claims for Part 1 is lower than at this point in previous years, the average claim value is higher • <u>ACTION:</u> CP to send an email to confirm the detail provided at this meeting • <u>ACTION:</u> CP to work with the Finance team to model some figures before the January meeting 	<p>CP</p> <p>CP</p>
7.	Any Other Business	
	High Needs Sub-Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG noted that there are only 8 non-Local Authority members in the group and that more representatives from Schools, particularly those with High Needs pupils, was required 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PG noted his belated apologies for the sub-group meeting and reiterated that the discussion today highlights the importance for school leaders and the Local Authority to work together MY also noted his apologies for not attending the High Needs sub-group and issued an apology to Schools Forum for any inappropriate tone of discussion earlier in the meeting <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP noted that AG has offered to continue as a Head teacher Schools Forum Representative and her locality have confirmed their agreement. School Forum extended their thanks to AG for her support to date and ongoing offer of further support as a member of Schools Forum <p>PG issued thanks to SF and wished all those in attendance a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.</p>	
8.	Date of next meeting	
	Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at 12:30pm, via Teams.	

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Item 6.2

Briefing note

To: Schools Forum **Author:** Claire Emmerson

Date: 11 January 2023

Purpose of the Paper:

Information	
Consultation	√
Decision	√

Title of Briefing: Update on 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant Values and Funding Distribution including Proposals re: High Needs and Early Years and request for approval of De-delegated and Centrally Retained items and the proposed growth policy.

Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 This paper provides an outline of the current information available relating to 2023/24 for each funding block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) following the initial allocations announced on 19 December 2022.
- 1.2 It also summarises High Needs and Early Years block funding for 2023/24.
- 1.3 The paper requests approval from Forum for de-delegated and centrally retained items.
- 1.4 The paper requests approval from Forum of the falling rolls and growth funding allocations proposed by the Authority.

Update on 2023/24 Funding Allocations after publication on 19 December 2022

- 2.1 On 19 December, the Department for Education (DfE) published the initial allocations for each block of the DSG. The DSG will continue to be comprised of four blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services. Each of the four blocks has its own funding formula.
- 2.2 The North Tyneside allocation for the DSG in 2023/24 uses the October 2022 census and follows the 2022/23 allocation as it includes funding previously allocated as grants for pay awards and pension increases and the Schools Supplementary Grant is shown in table 1 below with prior year figures for comparison;

Table 1: Schools Block 2023/24 allocation compared with Prior Years

	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	2022/23*	2023/24*	2022/23 to 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	115.395	116.594	120.926	126.794	137.231	140.373	147.586**	7.213
Central School Services	2.500	2.314	2.343	2.051	1.877	1.724	1.621	(0.103)
High Needs	18.680	19.291	19.818	22.319	26.709	29.784	33.265	3.481
Early Years Block	12.064	12.553	12.514	12.771	13.946	14.673	15.291	0.618
TOTAL	148.639	150.752	155.601	163.935	179.763	186.554	197.763	11.209
Move from 17/18 Baseline £m	-	2.113	6.962	15.296	31.124	37.915	49.124	
Move from 17/18 Baseline %	-	1.42%	4.68%	10.29%	20.94%	25.51%	33.05%	
Change per Year £m	-	2.113	4.849	8.334	15.828	6.791	11.209	
Change per Year %	-	1.42%	3.22%	5.36%	9.66%	3.78%	6.01%	

* Includes pay award and pension grants previously separate to DSG, now rolled into funding formula

** Includes 22/23 Schools Supplementary Grant now rolled into funding formula

Schools block

- 2.3 In 2023/24, as in each year since 2018/19, the Authority will receive its DSG funding based on the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF). Following consultation with Schools which took place during October and November 2022 the Authority are proposing to continue to mirror the Local Funding Formulae (LFF) to the National Funding Formula factors, as done in 2022/23. The proposed Schools block rates are shown in Appendix A.
- 2.4 Forum will recall, as discussed at the 10 November 2022 meeting, that the DfE have restricted the range of a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between 0.0% and +0.5%. Calculations through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT), subject to final amendments, are showing MFG affordable at 0.5% with Capping at 4.5%. There would, therefore, be no residual funding to allocate. Schools will all achieve increased rates where their pupil numbers have increased.
- 2.5 Forum should note that as the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) is finalised and will be submitted to the DfE for the 20 January 2023 deadline other values may still be subject to further minor changes. For illustrative purposes Appendix B includes an overview of the changes in pupil numbers and funding by phase from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

- 2.6 As in previous years the Authority is proposing to deduct £0.250m from the Schools block to fund falling rolls. In addition, the Authority is proposing to deduct £0.250m to support growth funding. The total funding therefore available to distribute to schools using the Local Funding Formula is £147.086m. Growth funding assessments for 2023/24 will be carried out once the September 2023 admissions data is available.
- 2.7 At its meeting on 10 November 2022 and following a consultation with all schools Forum voted against a 0.5% block transfer from the Schools block to the High Needs block. The Authority have considered this as part of the DSG Management plan for the current pressures on High Needs and have concluded that no block transfer is assumed for 2023/24. The impact of this has been included in the draft DSG Management plan submission which is due to the DfE on 13 January 2023. The Plan submission does include an assumed block transfer for the remaining 4 years of the plan, from 2024/25. The Authority continues to engage and work with the High Needs Sub-Group to finalise the Plan in advance of the final submission date in early February 2023.

High Needs Block

- 3.1 The £33.265m figure outlined above for the 2023/24 High Needs block reflects the increased DSG funding announced by the DfE and includes funding previously included as separate grants for pay award and pension increases, as in 2022/23. The £3.481m year on year increase is therefore covering these costs going forward. It also includes a deduction of £0.341m made by the Education Skills and Funding Agency for direct funding of places.
- 3.2 Following the Autumn 2022 Spending Review, £400m additional High Needs funding has been allocated, of which North Tyneside's allocation is £1.331m (also included in the High Needs block 2023/24 allocation shown in Table 1 above). This extra funding recognises the additional costs that local authorities and schools will face in the coming year, which were not foreseen when the original High Needs block allocations were calculated. This allocation is on top of the DSG High Needs block allocation calculated under the NFF. In 2023 to 2024 local authorities are required to pass on a 3.4% funding increase to maintained special and alternative provision (AP) schools, and special and AP academies (including free schools), based on the number of places being funded in 2022 to 2023. This requirement will be a condition of grant attached to the additional DSG high needs funding allocated to local authorities.
- 3.3 Forum will recall as previously reported at the 10 November 2022 meeting, the High Needs block outturn for 2021/22 was an overspend of £4.792m. Along with the increase in funding of £3.111m in 2022/23, the pressure within High Needs has continued and has a forecast in-year pressure of £4.416m in 2022/23 and therefore an estimated total cumulative overspend of just over £17.927m.
- 3.4 The factors driving the pressures shown above were outlined in the report to Forum on 10 November. The latest position on these pressures is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Forecasted High Needs Overspend as at November 2022

Provision	Budget £m	Forecast Variance £m	Comment
Special schools and PRU	17.788	2.217	Pressure on places for children with profound, Multiple Learning Difficulties, Social Emotional and Mental Health problems and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Includes High Needs Additional Funding.
ARPs/Top ups	4.705	0.859	Pressures in mainstream pre 16 top ups
Out of Borough	3.316	1.285	Increased number of children placed outside North Tyneside Schools
Commissioned services	3.974	0.055	
Sub-total	29.783	4.416	
2021/22 B/Fwd		13.511	
Total		17.927	

Special Schools and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

- 3.5 There is a pressure of £2.617m relating to this area. The Authority has seen increasing numbers of children and young people within the education system with significant needs requiring specialist provision. This is particularly relating to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). The Authority has increased the numbers of places within special schools to cope with this additional demand.
- 3.6 Special schools are funded at £10,660 per place, plus a top-up based on a banding which is reflective of the needs of each individual child. Funding values for each banding is shown in Table 3 below. The majority of pupils attending special schools attract band 4 and band 5 top-up levels. The forecast cost of special school top-ups (excluding Moorbridge) has risen from a planned £5.759m to £7.720m.

Table 3: Special School Top Up Values by Banding

Band	Top up value £
Band 1	0
Band 2	3,341
Band 3	6,682
Band 4	9,507
Band 4	19,221

ARPS and Mainstream Top Ups (Pre 16)

- 3.7 There are pressures of £0.859m within Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) and top-up costs within mainstream schools due to increasing numbers of children and young people with additional needs and the rising average complexity of those needs. Top-up funding is paid to support children with additional needs in mainstream school. This is funded on the basis of an hourly rate reflecting the costs of additional staffing support outlined within the individual child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Levels of top-up

payments to mainstream schools have risen in the last four years with an overall increase in the numbers of children and a rise in larger packages of support reflecting the increasing complexity of needs.

Early Years Funding for 2023/24

- 4.1 On 16 December 2022 the Department for Education released the 2023/24 early years entitlement funding rates for local authorities. Due to the late release of final funding figures and confirmation of changes to the Early Years Funding Formula, the Authority was unable to discuss modelled proposals for North Tyneside's early years funding formula 2023/24 at its meeting with Early Years Sub-Group on 7 December 2022. The group did however discuss and agree the principles for allocation of any funding increases to be fully modelled once funding was confirmed. Once the funding rates were confirmed, the proposed funding formula was shared with members of the subgroup for comment. The Local Authority recommended option based on the Sub-Group's agreed principles is outlined in the table below for Schools Forum consideration.

Table 4: Proposed Early Years Funding Rates

		2022/23	2023/24
2 Year Old Base Rate		£5.54	£5.60
3 & 4 Year Old Hourly Base Rate		£4.60	£4.64
3 & 4 Year Old Hourly Deprivation Supplement	Quartile 1	£0.17	£0.18
	Quartile 2	£0.06	£0.06
3 & 4 Year Old Hourly Quality Supplement - Teachers Pay and Pension Grant Supplement *		n/a	£0.22
Early Years Pupil Premium		£0.60	£0.62
Additional Payment to Maintained Nursery School		100% pass through of Maintained Nursery School rate allocated by DfE.	100% pass through of Maintained Nursery School rate allocated by DfE.
SEN Inclusion Fund		£8.26 per hour	£8.26 per hour
Disability Access Fund		£800	£828

* Available to provision led by a qualified teacher, who is paid according to national teacher pay scales and is a member of the teachers' pension scheme.

Central Schools Services Block Funding for 2023/24

- 5.1 Funding for the Central Schools Services block has been reduced by DfE in relation to historical funding by £0.103m, which represents a 20% reduction in funding for the historic commitments. Ongoing functions have had an increase of 5.86% as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Allocations for North Tyneside CSSB 2023/24

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Annual Change	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Historical Commitments	1.244	0.995	0.796	0.637	(0.159)	(20.00%)
Ongoing Functions	0.807	0.882	0.928	0.984	0.056	6.03%
Total	2.051	1.877	1.724	1.621	(0.103)	(8.15%)
Change from 2017/18 Baseline £m	(0.292)	(0.466)	(0.619)	(0.879)		
Change from 2017/18 Baseline %	(12.46%)	(19.89%)	(26.42%)	(35.16%)		
Change per Year £m	(0.292)	(0.174)	(0.153)	(0.103)		
Change per Year %	(12.46%)	(8.48%)	(8.15%)	(5.97%)		

- 5.2 The list of services provided via CSSB funding is listed in table 6. The net reduction in funding of £0.103m is identified in this table. Forum will recall that authorities can challenge the reasonableness of the reduction in funding by providing relevant evidence to the DfE.
- 5.3 Following consultation with School Forum in 2023/24, the Authority will set the funding for these services as identified in table 6 below. 2022/23 has seen a reduction in the collective contribution to ongoing pension costs and therefore it is proposed to take the majority of the budget reduction against this element.

Table 6: Illustrative allocations for North Tyneside CSSB for 2023/24

Budgets which now form part of the CSSB	CSSB 2022/23 £m	CSSB 2023/24 £m
Budget to fund the Schools Support Service	0.415	0.415
Budget to support vulnerable schools.	0.052	0.052
Budget to maintain High Borrans Outdoor education facility	0.000	0.000
Budget for the Education Improvement Partnership (secondary schools)	0.060	0.040
Budget to support the informational requests of the Schools Forum and improved budgetary awareness across all schools	0.030	0.030
Collective contribution to ongoing pension costs incurred when allowing teachers to leave schools prematurely	0.625	0.525
Budget for costs associated with de-commissioned school buildings	0.000	0.000
Schools admission service	0.141	0.141
Former Education Services Grant (Retained)	0.244	0.244
National Copyright Licences	0.157	0.174
Total CSSB Funding	1.724	1.621

- 5.4 The Authority will continue to work with Forum to identify any solutions to manage the long-term funding gap for service provision via other means, including but not limited to prioritising key outcomes and reviewing alternative funding such as under a service level agreement or similar.

De-delegated services

- 6.1 De-delegated services are for maintained schools only; funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the mainstream formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.
- 6.2 The list of proposals for de-delegations for 2023/24 is included in table 7 below:

Table 7: De-delegation proposals for 2023/24

Narrative	De-delegated 2022/23 £	De-delegated 2023/24 £	Rate per Pupil £
Budget to support mainstream maintained schools in financial difficulty (used for one year in 2021/22 to meet gap for CSSB)	123,426	121,611	5.62
Support for vulnerable Headteachers for those incidents where independent support and advice is necessary	36,018	35,488	1.64
Support for minority ethnic pupils and under-achieving groups. (EMTAS) NB: rate per pupil only applies to pupils that meet the EAL Threshold	225,210	226,446	290.00
			782.50
Assessment of Free school meals eligibility	34,700	34,190	1.58
The current central scheme to cover staff costs - supply cover. E.g. the maternity/paternity/adoption cover scheme, including Union facility time costs and Jury Service	592,974	584,253	27.00
Additional agreed funding for above staff costs to agreed 2020/21 6% increase			
Totals	1,012,328	1,001,988	

Recommendations

- 7.1 Schools Forum is asked to;
- Note update on the allocations for 2023/24 for each of the four funding blocks and the proposals for the distribution of funding;
 - Note the changes to the Schools block funding and the impact of the changes following 100% movement to the NFF;
 - Approve the services funded under CSSB as outlined in table 6;
 - Acknowledge the pressure in the High Needs block;
 - Acknowledge the changes to Early Years funding allocations proposed for 2023/24 and that the funding formula will be shared with the sector prior to implementation; and
 - Approve the de-delegated items rate per pupil outlined in table 7.

Appendix A

Proposed School Block Rates for 2023/24 (100% National Funding Formula)

FACTOR	22/23 NFF (Incl. TPPG & Supplementary)		23/24 NFF (Incl. TPPG & Supplementary)		Difference 22/23 to 23/24	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Basic entitlement						
Primary (Years R-6)	3,217		3,394		177	
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)		4,536		4,785		249
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)		5,112		5,393		281
Deprivation						
FSM	470	470	480	480	10	10
FSM6	590	865	705	1030	115	165
IDACI Band F	220	320	230	335	10	15
IDACI Band E	270	425	280	445	10	20
IDACI Band D	420	595	440	620	20	25
IDACI Band C	460	650	480	680	20	30
IDACI Band B	490	700	510	730	20	30
IDACI Band A	640	890	670	930	30	40
LAC (No longer used)						
EAL	565	1,530	290	782.5	-275	-738
Mobility	925	1,330	945	1,360	20	30
Prior Attainment	1,130	1,710	1,155	1,750	25	40
Lump Sum	121,300	121,300	128,000	128,000	6,700	6,700
Sparsity (N/A in NT)	55,000	80,000	56,300	81,900	1,300	1,900

Schools Block Allocation – 2023/24 (Subject to Final Amendments)

PHASE	NOR 22/23	NOR 23/24	Change in NOR	% Change NOR	23/24 Assumes 0.5% MFG, 4.5% Capping, £250k Falling Rolls, £250k Growth Fund					
					22/23 Post MFG Budget (incl. £4.29m SSG)	23/24 Post MFG Budget (Subject to final adjustments)	Movement from 22/23	% Increase from 22/23	23/24 SSG Draft (Additional £5m)	% Increase incl. additional £5m
Primary	12,288	12,300	12	0.10%	58,873,008	60,292,427	1,419,419	2.41%	2,023,902	5.85%
Secondary	9,278	9,339	61	0.66%	56,775,768	57,818,554	1,042,786	1.84%	1,996,404	5.35%
Academies	5,344	5,321	-23	-0.43%	28,354,563	28,984,447	629,884	2.22%	979,694	5.68%
Grand Total	26,910	26,960	50	0.19%	144,003,339	147,095,428	3,092,089	2.15%	5,000,000	5.62%

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Briefing note

To: Schools Forum

Author: Christina Ponting, ENGIE

Date: 11th January 2023

Purpose of the Paper:

Information	√
Consultation	
Decision	√

Title of Briefing: Special Leave - Part 1 & 2 Service Level Agreement (SLA) – Update

Background:

Several reports have been presented to Schools Forum on the above since April 2018 to support Schools Forum members to better understand the cost / number of claims as they progress through the financial year. Schools Forum agreed (in their meeting in January 2022) to continue to provide a provision for the 22/23 Financial Year.

In January 2020 Schools Forum agreed that each year they would review the costs of the SLA to ensure the pupil rate considered inflation/ employment cost pressures including annual salary awards/ review as well as pay awards and other employment costs.

In January 2022 Schools Forum agreed to hold the rate at the existing per pupil rate of £27 combined (£21.97 for Part 1 and £5.03 for Part 2).

As noted previously the SLA provides for:

- Part 1 - the costs associated with the absence for teaching staff on Maternity, Adoption, Paternity, Shared Parental Leave and Jury Service, (MAPS-J) where those employers chose to be part of this SLA, to be reimbursed to employer. Maternity remained by far the bulk of claims and whilst claims were variable in volume, cost and duration (resulting in predictions and budget planning requiring a wider number of assumptions) the vast majority of individuals consistently claimed the entire paid leave element.
- Part 2 – the costs associated with the absence related to reimbursement to the home/ host employer. The SLA applied equally to all schools whose employers chose to be part of the SLA – including teaching, leadership and support staffs and was operated within an annual agreement. The profile of use had always had an element of variance for each year the SLA had been in operation. Recently use profile had further varied due to increased membership levels, changes in the value of unit cost and the national pandemic changing how some areas of support and wider communication were conducted.

The SLA value per pupil was reviewed and it was agreed that it would be held at this value for 22/23 Financial Year was held at £27 overall and pupil reference points remained inclusive of Reception to Year 11. Schools Forum established the SLA to ensure that it operated within budget allocations and therefore claims are paid retrospectively, the value of claims are reviewed on an ongoing basis, options/ further considerations are discussed within Schools Forum meetings including how the SLA operates, if it needs to be in place, the potential reimbursement rates for claim, etc.

Current Position:

- Part 1 – MAPS-J: Maternity leave claims updates have been presented directly to Schools Forum members and as discussed previously the value of claims for this year to date is in excess of claims values at the same point in previous years. The part of the SLA continues to be difficult to predict as Schools are eligible to claim for each application that meets the criteria. Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental leave have also seen an increase.
- Part 2 – TUFT: claims remain line with expectations but again the value per claim has increased.
- Schools Forum have asked for consideration to be provided to what an inflationary increase would mean for the value of the SLA charge per pupil. Information has been provided separately to Schools Forum members on this.

In considering the continuation of the SLA for 23/24 (April 23 to March 24), an inflation increase to ensure the SLA keeps in pace with changes to basis salaries and employer costs – ensuring the value of the refunded claims is beneficial to schools. A % increase ranging from 4-7% could be considered. In considering this Schools Forum are asked to consider the following:

- a. refund values inclusive of claims for April 2022 to March 2023 are to be paid as per the agreement reached within the 2018/19 Financial Year - namely that Part 2 (TUFT) claims are paid at 100% and Part 1 (MAPS-J) claims are reimbursed at a value lesser than 100% but which ensures that the funds within the combined SLA are used/ distributed to Schools who are part of the SLA.
- b. Schools who have made claims will be provided the refund value for their individual School ASAP to the 31st March 2023 as possible.
- c. Schools who are not part of the de-delegation arrangements continue to be offered to join the SLA at the de-delegated value, e.g., Academies, Nursery, Special Schools, PRU.
- d. If Schools Forum wish the SLA to operate as it does currently for 23/24 via an SLA overseen by the Authority or if they wish to look to the market to see if there is an alternative provision in place for Special Leave Part 1 only (MAPS-J). If this was the case a group of Schools Forum members would need to take this action forward as the LA whilst offering support would not enter into any purchase/ contractual arrangements with a third party.
- e. determine if they wish to increase the value of the SLA for 23/24 taking into account the additional information that has been presented.

Recommendations:

Schools Forum having read this report, clearly understanding the information provided and having asked sufficient questions to ensure clarity:

1. note the contents of this report.
2. Confirm that they wish the SLA to operate on the points as noted above item a-c.
3. Decide if they wish the SLA to operate as it does currently with the Authority overseeing the SLA on behalf of Schools Forum or if they wish to look at alternative options – and to identify if this is what they wish to do establish a sub-group of school's forum members (with a chair) to lead on this on behalf of Schools Forum, as noted above item d
4. Decide if they wish to review the per pupil rate for the 23/24 SLA – operating from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 and if they wish to review the rate and if so at what % increase, as noted above item e.