



Agenda

Meeting: North Tyneside Schools Forum

Date: Wednesday 09 July 2024
12:30 – 14:30

Location: The meeting will be held virtually and will be live streamed at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbM6ZICzqU0>

Agenda

Ref.	Item	Lead
1	Welcome and Apologies	Chair
2	Attendance Register / Membership <i>Verbal Update</i>	CP
3	Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising <i>Circulated</i>	Chair
4	Declarations of Interest	Chair
5a	Schools Finance Update <i>Circulated</i>	JC/AB
5b	Falling Rolls and Growth <i>Circulated</i>	JC/AB
6	Safety Valve Update <i>Presentation</i>	MM
7	Proposed Meeting Arrangements – 2025/2026	Chair
8	Responsibilities for Redundancy & Early Retirement Costs – Annual Update <i>Verbal Update</i>	CP
9	Any Other Business	All
	Date and Time of Next Meeting: <i>TBC</i>	

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

Timetable & Forward Plan 2025/26

Date	Activity	Responsible
24 September 2025 (proposed)	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. To include appointment of Chair and Vice Chair 2. Annual Review of Schools Forum Constitution 3. Schools Finance Update 4. Reports from Services for 26/27 Financial Year Proposal (if required) 5. Safety Valve Update	Schools Forum
2 October 2025	School Census Day	DFE/ESFA
29 October 2025	Schools Census database closed. Checks and Validation commences.	
12 November 2025 (proposed)	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Annual Review of Schools Forum Constitution 2. Schools Finance Update 3. National Funding Formula and Outcome of Consultation 4. Consideration of Special Leave for 25/26 Financial Year	Schools Forum
21 January 2026 (proposed)	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Local Authority Finance Update 2. Schools Finance Update 3. Consideration of Special Leave for 25/26 Financial Year 4. Scheme for Financing Schools Update (if applicable) 5. Safety Valve Update	Schools Forum
January 2026	Deadline for submissions of final 2026 to 2027 APT to ESFA	Local Authority
2 February 2026	Cabinet Meeting for approval of 26/27 Schools Funding	Local Authority
16 February 2026	Cabinet Meeting	Local Authority
28 February 2026	Deadline for confirmation of Schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.	DFE/ESFA
18 March 2026 (proposed)	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Schools Finance Update 2. Schools In Financial Difficulty	Schools Forum
16 March 2026	Cabinet Meeting	Local Authority
8 July 2026 (proposed)	<u>Schools Forum Meeting</u> 1. Schools Finance Update 2. Reports from Services for 26/27 Financial Year Proposal 3. Safety Valve Update 4. Responsibilities for Redundancy & Early Retirement Costs – Annual Update (CONFIDENTIAL)	Schools Forum

This page is intentionally left blank



North Tyneside Council

Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY
Tel: 0345 2000 101

Item 3 Minutes

Meeting Schools Forum **Date** 30TH April 2025

Location Via Microsoft Teams

✓ Present
D Deputy
A Apologies
O Absent

Present

Name	Organisation	Representing	30.04.2025
Angi Gibson	Hadrian Park Primary School	Academy	A
Anthony Gollings	St Thomas More	RC Diocese	✓
Claire Withers	Fordley Primary School	Primary	✓
Colette Bland	St Mary's RC Primary School (NS)	Academy	✓
Colleen Ward	Coquet Park First School	First (*)	✓
Daniel Jamieson	Burnside Community College	Secondary	✓
David Watson	St Thomas More	Academy (*)	✓
Diane Turner	Tyne Coast	16-19 Provider	O
Finn Wilcock	Southridge First School	First	✓
Gavin Storey	Cullercoats Primary School	Primary (*)	✓
Gillian Tawes	Shiremoor Primary School	Governor - Primary	✓
Jane Lowe	Monkseaton Middle School	Governor - Secondary	D (Duncan Phin)
Joanne Thompson	Holystone Out of School	Early Years PVI	O
Jonathan Heath	John Spence High School	Academy	✓
John Croft	Sir James Knott	Nursery	✓
John Newport	Marden Bridge Middle School	Middle (*)	✓
John Ord	Greenfields Primary School	Governor - Primary (*)	✓
Justina Terretta	Beaconhill Special School	Special	✓
Karen Croskery	North Tyneside Student Support Service	Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	✓
Kelly Holbrook	Longbenton High School	Secondary (*)	✓
Laura Baggett	Monkhouse Primary School	Primary (*)	✓
Lesley Griffin	Wellfield Middle School	Governor - Secondary	A
Louise Bradford	C of E Diocese	C of E Diocese	✓
Matt Snape	Marden High School	Secondary (*)	✓
Phil Kemp	Trade Unions	Trade Unions	D (Claire MacLeod)
Philip Sanderson	Kings Priory	Academy (*)	✓
Stephen Baines	Holystone Primary	Primary (*)	✓
Steve Wilson	Whitley Bay High School	High (*)	✓
Tim Jones	Spring Gardens	Primary	✓
Wayne Myers	Richardson Dees Primary	Primary	✓

In Attendance:			
Julie Firth	Director of Children's Services	NTC	✓
Jon Ritchie	Director of Resources	NTC	A
Andrew Brown	Principle Accountant, Finance	NTC	✓
Christina Ponting	Senior Manager – Schools HR	NTC	✓
David Mason	Head of Finance – Deputy S151 Officer	NTC	A
Diane Thompson	Senior Accountant – Schools Finance	NTC	✓
Jane Cross	Senior Business Partner, Finance	NTC	✓
Ian Wilkinson	Strategic Lead, Education and Inclusion Review	NTC	✓
Lisa Ramshaw	Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion	NTC	✓
Mark Mirfin	Assistant Director, Commissioning, Partnerships and Transformation	NTC	A
April Gibbs-Thorn	Statutory Services Officer – Schools Forum	NTC	✓

(* indicates current member of Finance Sub Group)

Minutes of Meeting

Ref	Item	
1.	Welcome and Apologies	
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and issued a reminder that the meeting is live streamed to the public on the Authority's YouTube Channel.</p> <p>A reminder of roles and responsibilities for Forum Members was provided.</p> <p>See table above for apologies.</p>	
2.	Attendance Register / Membership	Christina Ponting
	<p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See table above. <p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina confirmed there are no updates at this time. 	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Business Services (SBS) Migration Update. A request for possible compensation to be raised again with SBS. Andrew Brown confirmed that in a recent meeting with the Managing Director of SBS there had been an acceptance of some difficulties. A goodwill gesture was offered of 10%. 	

	<p>Andrew confirmed a full paper will be presented at the Schools Forum meeting on 09 July 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Business Services (SBS) Migration Update. A request for an internal conversation regarding any potential future procurement with a new provider to be held with the Local Authority Head of Applications and IT. <p>Andrew noted that there has been some internal conversation regarding procurement. Andrew informed Forum that an alternative provider would cost Schools £840.00 per year and that the G-Cloud platform requires a 3-year contract Commitment.</p> <p>A full paper will be presented at the Schools Forum meeting on 09 July 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration for Special Leave for 25/26 Financial Year. Cost breakdown with actual costs per school requested. <p>Christina Ponting confirmed that cost breakdowns have been circulated to Schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Other Business. Query regarding historic discount on combined Health & Safety and Human Resources SLA with Head of HR. <p>Christina informed Forum that a request has been made to HR for a separate meeting to be facilitated between HR and Schools. Confirmation of a separate meeting going ahead was requested by the Chair for the Schools Forum July meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>CP</p>
4.	Declarations of Interest	
	None.	
5.	Consideration for Special Leave for 25/26 Financial Year Christina Ponting	
	<p>CP talked through a presentation on screen. Main points to note as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the March Schools Forum meeting, further consultation had been agreed on Part 2 only (Trade Union). • Points raised in March included a reminder of individual requirements as employers, a history of reductions, that TU funds pay for all TU's – ASCL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU, Unison and Unite, as well as factors being faced by schools/ changes in school landscape. • In addition, several points were highlighted to Forum on the potential impact on schools if less TU time was available. • Schools Forum had already agreed 6% increase. 	

- In summary, the difference between 6% (£6.91) and 10% (£7.17) was noted as 26p per pupil.

Consultation

Christina outlined several points for Forum to consider with the options and noted:

- Presentations and Head Teacher Briefing – total of three.
- The survey closed at 12 noon on 28 April 2025.
- The survey contained 2 questions: 10% or another amount.
- There was a default 10% increase; if understood/ in agreement further action required from schools.
- Schools Forum Sub-Group meeting held 28 April; Schools Forum 30 April 2025.
- The assumed default was being in agreement to 10% increase (£7.17 per pupil)
- Results of Consultation:
Of 56 Nursery, First and Primary Schools – 49 (87.5%) in agreement. Of 16 Middle, High and Secondary Schools – 16 (100%) in agreement and of 6 Special Schools – 6 (100%) in agreement. Therefore, from all Schools, 91% are in agreement with the recommended 10% increase.
- For transparency, Christina outlined a few reasons that some schools preferred a less than 10% increase. Affordability and/or cost to school, shared cuts/parity with challenges schools are facing and some concerns on disproportionate use. Christina assured Forum that usage is very closely monitored. Also, some schools highlighted being aware of other models; e.g. a pay as you go model.
- Christina raised some additional points including,
 - Existing Arrangements to be in place to 31 August; new arrangements in place from 1 September.
 - Assumption of 2.8% pay award and cash budget allocations.
 - The per pupil value next to be reviewed in January 2026.

Discussion

- Forum expressed thanks to Christina and members of the Finance team for the clear way the consultation was presented and the work carried out.

Recommendations

Schools Forum was asked to:

- Approve an increase the per pupil cost of the SLA from 1 April by 10%.

Approved

9.	Any Other Business	
	None.	
10.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 9 th July 2025 via Microsoft Teams	

This page is intentionally left blank



**North Tyneside
Council**

Item 5a

Briefing Notes

To: Schools Forum
Date: 9th July 2025

Author:
**Purpose of
the Paper:**

Jane Cross	
Information	✓
Consultation	
Decision	

Title of Briefing: Finance Update

1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1. This paper provides an outline of the overall schools provisional outturn position for 2024/25 pending the outcome of the external audit which is due to commence in July 2025. A summary of the High Needs and Early Years outturn position is also included.
- 1.2. This paper also provides an outline of the overall schools budget plan balances for 2025/26, with details of all schools planned balances. An update on schools with budgeted deficits is also included.
- 1.3. The paper will cover initial proposals for refinement of the National Funding Formula for 2025/26.

2. 2024/25 Schools Outturn Balances

- 2.1. Schools have concluded their 2024/25 accounts closure in line with the Local Scheme for Financing Schools and the Authority's revised year-end timetable. Collective school balances in North Tyneside maintained schools, decreased from a deficit of £2.930m at the start of the year to a closing deficit of £4.337m.
- 2.2. This position is significantly better, by £5.370m, than the forecast at the start of the year when the outturn was expected to be an overall deficit of £9.707m. However, it is also a significant shift from the previous deficit position and has highlighted the risk to the Authority relating to the level of

school balances and the ability of those schools with surplus balances to offset the deficit balances of some schools.

- 2.3. The final 2024/25 position for schools is reported in the Authority's statutory accounts and is before any commitments, which are, in a normal year around £4.5m (the full value of commitments for 2024/25 is still to be confirmed and won't be known until the end of July 2025). The reported position across 2024/25 is analysed below in Table 1 by phase:

2.4. **Table 1: Maintained School balance position against budget plan**

Phase	2023/24 Outturn £m	2024/25 Budget £m	2024/25 BM 1 £m	2024/25 BM 2 £m	2024/25 Outturn £m	Movement from 2023/24 £m
Nursery, First & Primary	(4.284)	(2.333)	(1.596)	(2.477)	(4.167)	0.117
Middle	(1.267)	(0.272)	0.405	(0.268)	(0.978)	0.289
Secondary	7.004	9.390	9.247	8.311	7.323	0.319
Special / PRU	1.476	2.922	2.747	2.866	2.159	0.683
Total	2.930	9.707	9.993	8.433	4.337	1.408

- 2.5 2023/24 outturn was improved due to the in-year funding the Authority received, £1.868m, from the Department for Education (DfE) to support maintained schools in financial difficulty. If we hadn't received this DfE funding the actual 2023/24 outturn would have been £4.798m.

3. 2024/25 School Deficits

- 3.1 At the end of 2024/25, 20 of the 57 maintained schools ended the year with a deficit balance (pre-commitments) with the other 37, in surplus.
- 3.2 Two schools academised during 2024/25, one forced academisation following an OFSTED inspection, where the school had a deficit balance of £0.627m on conversion. This was funded by the Authority in 2024/25 from the "Education Change Reserve" which was set up for this purpose. Table 2 below shows all schools which ended 2024/25 in a deficit position, totalling £14.220m.

3.3 Table 2 – Provisional Outturn Schools in Deficit

School	2023/24 Outturn (surplus)/ deficit £m	2024/25 Outturn (surplus)/ deficit £m	Movement £m
Marden High	(0.311)	0.220	0.531
Monkseaton Middle	(0.111)	0.006	0.117
Whitley Lodge	(0.054)	0.009	0.063
Riverside Primary	(0.003)	0.109	0.112
Forest Hall Primary	0.001	0.074	0.073
King Edward Primary	0.002	0.011	0.009
Wallsend Jubilee Primary	0.005	0.137	0.132
St Bartholomews Primary	0.052	0.120	0.068
Waterville Primary	0.070	0.084	0.014
Moorbridge	0.093	0.210	0.117
Holystone Primary	0.098	0.252	0.154
Southlands Special	0.122	0.333	0.211
Silverdale Special	0.126	0.156	0.030
Coquet Park First	0.175	0.325	0.150
Ivy Road Primary	0.176	0.156	(0.020)
Fordley Primary	0.200	0.304	0.104
Longbenton High	1.006	0.561	(0.445)
Beacon Hill Special	1.340	1.704	0.364
Norham High	3.850	3.889	0.039
Monkseaton High	5.285	5.560	0.275
Total	12.122	14.220	2.098

3.4 There are 3 schools in significant deficit position totalling £11.153m these are:

Monkseaton High School	£5.560m
Norham	£3.889m
Beacon Hill	£1.704m
Total	£11.153m

3.5 The balances of these 3 schools account for 78% of the total £14.220m of the 20 schools in deficit. There are 37 offsetting schools in surplus with a combined surplus total of £9.883m. The net outturn position for 2024/25 is £4.337m deficit as per table 1.

4. 2024/25 Outturn Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 4.1 After allowing for school funding allocations, the 2024/25 DSG ring-fenced account is showing a net deficit balance of £8.485m. The 2024/25 position includes £1.950m Safety Valve Funding (£0.710m in 24/25 brought forward and £1.240m in-year). This compares to £8.341m in 2023/24, a movement of £0.144m. The Schools Block (de-delegated) underspend of £0.548m predominantly relates to balances of schools in financial difficulty, growth and falling roles funding

4.2 Table 3: 2024/25 DSG Provisional Outturn

Funding Block	2023/24 Balance Brought Forward (surplus)/ deficit £m	2024/25 In-Year Variance £m	Safety Valve Funding £m	2024/25 Provisional Outturn (surplus)/ deficit £m
Schools Block	(0.397)	(0.151)		(0.548)
High Needs Block	9.784	2.958	(1.240)	11.502
Early Years Block	(1.046)	(1.423)		(2.469)
Total	8.341	1.384	(1.240)	8.485

- 4.3 The DSG is a ringfenced account and therefore any balance is carried forward into the next financial year. The ring-fence which had previously been extended to provide additional time for local authorities to address high needs deficits, was due to end on 31 March 2026. However, the government announced a further extension to the statutory override until the end of 2027-28 to allow for whole system reform.

5. 2024/25 High Needs Block Outturn

- 5.1 The High Needs block ended 2023/24 with a deficit of £9.784m and this pressure has continued in 2024/25 with a provisional in-year deficit of £2.958m, partially off-set by £1.240m Safety Valve funding from the Department for Education (DfE).

5.2 2024/25 was the second year of the Authorities 5-year DSG Management Plan as part of the Safety Valve Programme. A final submission for 2024/25 was made to the DfE which showed that, despite a worsening projection against the plan the Authority is still on-track to reach an in-year balance by 2027/28. External Consultants have been commissioned to work in partnership with Local Authority officers to evaluate the rationale for our current SEND workstreams and to explore any new initiatives that will help in delivering good outcomes for our children and young people whilst managing demand and spend.

5.3 The overall pressure in the High Needs block results from additional places and complexities in special schools, out of borough placements and top up payments as outlined in Table 4 below.

5.4 **Table 4: High Needs Block Provisional Outturn**

	2024/25 Planned Spend	2024/25 Outturn	2024/25 Variance (surplus)/ deficit
	£m	£m	£m
Special Schools	22.963	23.200	0.237
ARPS/Mainstream Top-ups/Alternative Provision/Post 16 FE Colleges	6.183	7.692	1.509
Non-Maintained Special Schools / ISP	4.169	5.569	1.400
Commissioned Services	2.750	2.470	(0.280)
Total	36.065	38.931	2.866
DSG High Needs Funding	(34.615)	(34.778)	(0.163)
Schools Block Funding Transfer	(0.753)	(0.753)	0
Early Years Funding	0.000	(0.442)	(0.442)
In-Year Planned Deficit	0.697	2.958	2.261
2023/24 Balance Brought forward	9.763	9.784	0.021
2024/25 Safety Valve Funding	(1.240)	(1.240)	0.000
2024/25 Balance Carried Forward	9.220	11.502	2.282

6. 2024/25 Early Years Block

6.1. The Early Years block has ended the year with a cumulative surplus of £2.469m. This included a brought forward surplus of £1.046m. An

adjustment to funding takes place in July each year when the DfE reviews initial funding estimates, based on historic census data compared to actual pupil numbers on the latest January pupil census. There is no provision for clawback included in the £2.469m cumulative surplus.

7. 2025/26 School Budget Update

7.1 Schools are required to submit their 3-year rolling budget by 31 May 2025 in line with the Scheme for Financing Schools. All Schools have provided a three-year budget plan, table 5 below shows the current movement in budget from 2024/25 to 2025/26.

7.2 **Table 5: Schools three-year budget plan summary by phase**

Phase	Budget Plan 2024/25 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Outturn * 2024/25 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Budget Plan 2025/26 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Budget Movement £m
Nursery/First/ Primary	(2.333)	(4.167)	(0.379)	1.954
Middle	(0.272)	(0.978)	(0.319)	(0.047)
Secondary	9.390	7.323	11.259	1.869
Special / PRU	2.922	2.159	4.358	1.436
Total	9.707	4.337	14.918	5.212

*Note 24/25 outturn is pre commitments of circa £5.0m

7.3 The initial planned deficit for school balances is forecast to worsen from the £9.707m deficit budget set in 2024/25 by £5.212m to a planned deficit of £14.918m in 2025/26. The schools finance team is continuing to work with schools to refine these budget positions and will also be supporting schools to access de-delegated funding held centrally.

7.4 This is to mitigate the impact where schools are experiencing falling rolls, where a potential application to schools in financial difficulty could be made, or where schools are experiencing growth but there is a lag in funding. Initial assessments for falling rolls and growth funding will be considered by Schools Forum Finance Sub-group at the end of July.

8. 2025/26 Deficit Schools

- 8.1 Many schools continue to face significant financial challenges. There are currently 26 schools that have submitted a deficit budget plan for 2025/26, 10 new schools requiring a licenced deficit agreement in 2025/26 with 2 others below the deminimus threshold. The fourteen schools that continue to require support from the Authority were in deficit at the end of the 2024/25 financial year.
- 8.2 Two schools had a structural deficit in 2024/25 which continues into 2025/26. The Authority have continued to work with the DfE to secure additional support from their School Resources Management Advisors (SRMAs), support was given to five schools that were in deficit in 2024/25 and this work is ongoing. Further SRMA deployments are planned throughout 2025/26.
- 8.3 Initial deficit clinics for 2025/26 will take place during June and July 2025. Before any adjustments identified during the upcoming challenge sessions and the allocation of falling rolls, growth and schools in financial difficulty funding, the balances of the 26 deficit budgets total £19.564m with individual school deficit values shown in Table 6 below.

8.4 Table 6: Schools in an expected deficit position 2025/26

Deficit School Positions 2025/26	Outturn 2024/25 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Budget Plan 2025/26 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Movement £m	Comments
Monkseaton middle	0.007	0.001	(0.006)	New
Westmoor	(0.038)	0.002	0.040	New
Carville	(0.067)	0.033	0.100	New
Preston Grange	0.011	0.034	0.023	New
Woodlawn	(0.019)	0.055	0.074	New
Christchurch	(0.033)	0.065	0.098	New
Forest Hall	0.074	0.079	0.005	

Deficit School Positions 2025/26	Outturn 2024/25 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Budget Plan 2025/26 (surplus)/ deficit £m	Movement £m	Comments
Langley	(0.052)	0.100	0.152	New
Riverside	0.109	0.132	0.023	New
Whitley Lodge	0.009	0.135	0.126	
King Edward	0.010	0.136	0.126	New
St Bartholomew's	0.120	0.149	0.029	
Fordley Primary	0.304	0.198	(0.106)	
Balliol	(0.015)	0.208	0.223	New
Wallsend Jubilee	0.138	0.250	0.112	
Ivy Road Primary	0.155	0.262	0.107	
Holystone	0.252	0.455	0.203	
Coquet Park	0.325	0.495	0.170	Structural Deficit
Silverdale	0.156	0.547	0.391	
Moorbridge	0.210	0.563	0.353	
Marden High	0.220	0.601	0.381	New
Longbenton High	0.561	0.611	0.050	
Southlands	0.332	0.741	0.409	New
Beacon Hill	1.704	2.666	0.962	
Norham High	3.889	4.037	0.148	
Monkseaton High	5.560	7.009	1.449	Structural Deficit
Total	13.922	19.564	5.642	

8.5 As in previous years, the details of schools' balances, including commitments, will be reported to the DfE through the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) return. This return is co-ordinated on behalf of all maintained schools by the Authority and will be submitted by the deadline of 17 July 2025.

8.6 The deficit position with schools' budgets remains a major concern for the Authority, which is reflected in its risk register and is referred to in reports such as the Annual Budget report. As such, any significant deficit

balance must be addressed as a matter of urgency, as the cumulative deficit position cannot be allowed to grow. All impacted schools will be required to set a recovery plan for the coming 3 years, with support given to schools, through the Deficit Clinics, from School Improvement, HR and Finance officers

9. National Funding Formula (NFF) Consultation for 2026/27

- 9.1 As in previous years, the Authority will need to determine the local formula to distribute funding to mainstream schools and academies for the financial year 2026/27. The formula will apply directly to maintained schools for the financial year, and for academies it will form the basis for their funding, distributed by the DfE, for the year starting 1 September 2026. The local formula must comply with statutory guidance, but within these confines the final decision on the formula rests with the Authority after consultation with schools and Schools Forum.
- 9.2 Previously, in consultation with Schools Forum and all mainstream schools, the Authority made the decision to leave the Local Funding Formula (LFF) 100% in line with the NFF.
- 9.3 No modelling has been under-taken for 2026/27 at this stage, but the Authority are expecting an indicative funding allocation towards the end of July. Once this allocation has been received the Authority will begin modelling potential options for capping and maximising Minimum Funding Guarantees.
- 9.4 Recommended modelling scenarios will be presented to Schools Forum in September, in advance of the formal consultation with schools during October/November 2025.

10. Schools Business Services (SBS) Migration

- 10.1 Following communication to all schools on the 21 February 2025, and at the Schools Forum meeting on 19 March 2025, Local Authority officers met with the Managing Director of SBS to seek assurances on behalf of North Tyneside Schools. The following documents were discussed with the Managing Director and acknowledgement was made of the difficulties schools and the LA have encountered post migration.

1. A formal statement of commitment and support to NT Schools
2. Service Level Agreement (SLA) document
3. North Tyneside Issues Log
4. Link to development roadmap

10.2 Previously we have committed to a 3-year contract with SBS but this has now been replaced by a one year commitment in 2025/26 to ensure that full functionality is available to our schools before any longer-term agreement is signed. As a goodwill gesture and in recognition of the problems encountered SBS have offered a discount on the licence renewal. Renewal options are:

- 1-year contract renewal with 10% discount (£756/school)
- 3-year commitment at 50% through G17 procurement platform (£420/school per year)

10.3 Weekly meetings continue between Authority and SBS officers and all issues, both ongoing and new, are documented on the issues log with a definitive resolution date.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

1. acknowledge the provisional 2024/25 outturn position on all DSG balances;
2. acknowledge the school budget plans overall summary position;
3. acknowledge the pressure on schools, the High Needs block and the Authority's progress in the DfE's Safety Valve Intervention Programme;
4. note the plan for funding consultation for 2026/27; and
5. acknowledge the Schools Business Services (SBS) update.



**North Tyneside
Council**

Item 5b

Briefing Notes

To: Schools Forum

Date: 9 July 2025

Author:

Jane Cross

**Purpose of
the Paper:**

Information

Consultation

Decision

✓

Title of Briefing: Falling Rolls and Growth Fund eligibility

1. Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on schools initially identified as eligible for the following funding:-

- Falling Rolls
- Growth Funding
- Extraordinary Growth (linked to closure of Monkseaton High School)

1.2 Schools Forum Finance subgroup will meet to consider the funding allocations and review all evidence received on 17th July 2025. Whilst the subgroup can make recommendations on the allocation and criteria of funding, the final decision rests with Schools Forum.

2. 2025/26 Falling Rolls Funding

2.1 In line with the Falling Rolls Policy, an initial assessment of the change in pupil numbers between October 2023 and October 2024 has resulted in sixteen schools being identified as eligible for funding, with a total potential value of £0.562m. The details of these schools and the funding identified for each is included in Table 1. It is also a condition that local planning data should show that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.

2.2 Table 1: Breakdown of Falling Rolls Eligibility

School	£
Fordley Primary School	30,273
Preston Grange Primary School	19,120
St Marys Roman Catholic Primary	17,526
Star of the Sea RC VA Primary	30,273
Percy Main Primary School	19,120
Hazlewood Community Primary	33,459
Battle Hill Primary School	30,273
Carville Primary School	30,273
Appletree Gardens First School	30,273
Whitley Lodge First School	25,493
Shiremoor Primary School	46,206
Burradon Community Primary	20,713
Balliol Primary School	27,086
Ivy Road Primary School	36,646
St Joseph's RC Primary School	47,799
John Spence High School	118,004
Total	562,537

- 2.3 The total 2025/26 falling roll's funding available for distribution is £0.150m, which comprises of £0.050m carried forward from 2024/25 and £0.100m in year allocation. In the previous two financial years there was a surplus yearend balance on falling rolls, a proportion of which is normally transferred back to academies, and the balance transferred to Schools in Financial Difficulty (SiFD) to support maintained Schools in deficit.
- 2.3 Potential payments of £0.563m are £0.413m more than the funds available, if all allocations are approved this deficit would need to be carried forward and funded from future years schools block funding. Due to a number of in-year academisations, there is a backlog of transferring previous years surplus balances back to Academies and Schools in Financial Difficulty of £0.415m (see Table 2). An alternative option would be to retain this surplus funding to meet the Falling Rolls gap of £0.413 detailed above.

2.4 Table 2 : Falling Rolls prior year Balances

Year	Transfer to SiFD £'m	Academy Refunds £'m	Total £'m
2022/23	0.117	0.027	0.144
2023/24	0.067	0.018	0.085
2024/25	0.135	0.051	0.186
Total	0.319	0.096	0.415

2.5 Both options will be considered by Schools Forum Finance subgroup, with recommendations reported to Forum in September 2025.

- **Option 1** Carry forward deficit balance of £0.413m and fund from future years schools block funding
- **Option 2** Fund the gap in 2025/26 falling rolls funding from £0.415m unallocated transfers to SiFD and academy refunds

2.6 If Option 2 is agreed and Schools Forum approve the Falling Rolls allocations shown in table 1, this will reduce historic balance for Schools in Financial Difficulty funding to £0.022m. The 2025/26 Schools in Financial Difficulty de-delegation is £0.105m and with the reduced brought forward balance the available funding would be £0.127m. This would be the total available to fund SiFD applications submitted by schools, for consideration by Schools Forum Finance Sub-Group.

2.7 As we continue to address the issue of the declining birth rate across North Tyneside, there has been several briefings to help school leaders understand the current situation and appreciate the scale of the challenge. There was a briefing for all head teachers on 6 March 2025, which was well attended, and the corresponding information was circulated directly afterwards.

3 2025/26 Growth Funding

3.1 When setting the 2025/26 School Block allocation, Schools Forum agreed to set aside £0.200m of the amount identified as growth funding,

however there was a £0.049m deficit carried forward from 2024/25. Therefore, the total Growth Funding available in 2025/26 is £0.151m.

- 3.2 For 2025/26 a disapplication was approved by Schools Forum and the Secretary of State to ringfence a proportion of Monkseaton High School's Funding to reallocate as a separate extraordinary growth allocation for pupils leaving MHS year 9, starting year 10 in September 2025. Additional details of this funding are included in section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 For all other growth, officers from the Authority have reviewed schools' projected pupil numbers for Sept 2025 using the latest information available from the Admissions Team. This was compared to October 2024 census data. Where schools experience high levels of growth outside of normal admissions, there will be the opportunity to request that October 2025 census data can also be considered. 9 schools, with a total funding allocation of £1.003m have been initially identified as being eligible for growth funding.
- 3.4 The eligibility criteria specifies that schools must also provide evidence that additional costs have been incurred to support structural class changes in relation to the additional pupils. The initial list of schools is included in table 3 and the funding allocations and evidence will be considered by Schools Forum Finance Subgroup on 17 July 2025.

3.5 **Table 3: Growth Funding Eligibility 2025/26**

Growth Funding	£m
Redesdale	0.036
John Spence	0.112
Marden	0.152
Norham	0.119
Burnside	0.205
Churchill	0.083
George Stephenson	0.122
North Gosforth	0.106
Whitley Bay	0.068
Total	1.003
Total Funding Available	0.151
2025/26 Deficit	0.852

- 3.6 The Authority has contacted all schools to request supporting evidence and to understand the overall position, this will be provided to subgroup to be reviewed, and the outcome will be reported to Schools Forum at the next meeting in September 2025.

4 2025/26 Extraordinary Growth Funding

- 4.1 The Local Authority created exceptional growth funding via a disapplication which was approved by Schools Forum and the Secretary of State, for the current Year 9 cohort in Monkseaton High School. This funding was retained from the 2025/26 funding allocation to Monkseaton to create the extraordinary growth fund.
- 4.2 This funding will alleviate the usual standard lag in funding when pupils change schools. The funding will be allocated to the admitting school from September 2025 and will include the key elements of the funding formula (AWPU, Deprivation, Free School Meals etc).
- 4.3 There is funding of £0.465m available and initial allocations have been shared with the schools involved, however final amounts are still being agreed. There will be a final check, using October 2025 census to confirm the final pupil numbers across schools and for any changes identified there will be positive and/or negative funding adjustments between schools.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Schools Forum is asked to:
- Note the indicative allocations of funding for based on raw data and the request for further information from individual schools and/or strategic planning.
 - Note the options to be considered by Schools Forum Finance Sub-Group and the plans to return recommendations to Schools Forum.

Appendix A – Voting Table

North Tyneside Schools Forum Member Roles & Voting							<i>last updated September 2019</i>	
de-delegation Primary	de-delegation Secondary	scheme for financing schools	consultation on funding formula	General Duties	Retained Duties	all other matters		
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