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**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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To:- All Committee Members

SCHOOLS FORUM - WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 2023

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 meeting of the Schools Forum, the following reports that were marked as 'to follow' on the agenda sent out recently.

Agenda No	Item
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10	<u>DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update (Pages 3 - 10)</u>
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Report of FIELD_AUTHOR

To receive and consider the DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update.

Yours sincerely

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive

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2023 Survey on School Responses to Proposed Transfer of 1% Schools Block budget to High Needs Block

Summary Analysis



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- Wokingham Council ran a survey for schools between 18th September 2023 - 2nd October 2023
- This was the second stage of a two-step process
 - ✓ Stage 1 consultation in June / July gathered school's views on their priorities for improvement of the local Special Educational Needs and Disability ('SEND') system
 - ✓ Stage 2 gathered school's responses on the proposed transfer of 1% of DSG Schools Block budget to the High Needs Block, which was recommended by Wokingham Borough Council
- The survey was responded to by a total of 37 schools – 53% of all local schools



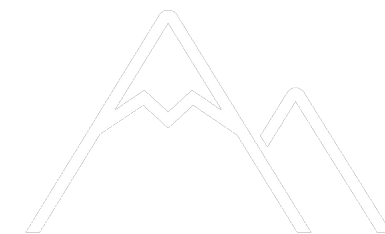
Question 1	Yes	No	Blank	Result
Do you support the proposal to transfer 1% of School Block funding (approx. £1.4m) to the High Needs Block for 2024-25 to support the programme in delivering financial sustainability for SEND in Wokingham Borough?	11	25	1	No - 68%

There was evidence of a significant difference of opinion between primary and secondary phase schools:

- 67% of secondary schools who responded supported the proposed transfer
- 81.5% of primary schools who responded rejected the proposal

Given that the main reason given for rejecting was financial, this may be a reflection of the relative affordability for larger schools

- There were also differences between maintained and academised schools:
 - 56% of academies who responded rejected the proposed transfer
 - 82.45 % of maintained schools who responded rejected the proposal



RATIONALE GIVEN FOR REJECTION	Instances	As a % of all 17 responses
Financial reasons – affordability and impact on school’s own SEND pupils (6 of these respondents confirmed they were in support of the proposals but couldn’t afford to contribute)	13	76.5%
Lack of confidence that schools will benefit quickly enough from the support services being proposed	7	41.2%
Raised concerns about why some schools are asked to contribute more than others	2	11.8%
There are better ways of finding efficiencies or raising the money	1	5.9%

Reasons Given for Rejecting

A significant majority of secondary schools supported the proposed transfer whereas an overwhelming majority of primary schools rejected the proposal:

	Total No. of Settings	No. Responded	Response Rate	Rejection Nos.	Rejection %
PRIMARY	55	27	49.1%	22	81.5%
SECONDARY	10	6	60.0%	2	33.3%
SPECIAL & AP	3	2	66.7%	0	0.0%

A lower proportion of all academies responded compared to maintained schools, but a significantly higher proportion of maintained schools rejected the proposal:

	Total No. of WBC Settings	Responses	Response Rate	Rejection Nos.	Rejection %
Maintained	31	17	55%	14	82.4%
Academies	39	18	46%	10	55.6%
Not stated		2		1	50%
Total	70	37	53%	25	67.6%

Respondents gave their role within the school as follows:

Executive Headteacher	2
Headteacher / Co-Headteacher	26
Head of School	3
Business Manager / Finance Officer	3
Governing Body	1
Role Not Stated	2
TOTAL	37