



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** will be held in virtually
ON WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2023 AT 10.00 AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 3 January 2023

Note: This meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services if you wish to participate virtually. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/7pmoCwosSUY>

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recording is not under the Council's control.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Schools Representatives | |
| Maintained Schools | |
| Carol Simpson | School Business Manager - Colleton Primary |
| Corrina Gillard | Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant |
| Brian Prebble | Primary Head - Rivermead Primary - Vice Chairman |
| Liz Woodards | School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary |
| Amanda Woodfin | Headteacher - Bulmershe School |
| Vacancy | Primary School Representative |
| Special Schools | |
| Sara Attra | Special School Head - Addington School |
| PRU | |
| Iain Thomas | Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher - Foundry College |
| Academies | |
| Ali Brown | Primary Head – Nine Miler Ride |
| Julia Mead | Schol Business Manager – St Sebastian’s CE Primary |
| Phil Sherwood | Primary Head – Sonning C of E Primary |
| Ben Godber | Academy Head – Bohunt School |
| Derren Gray | Academy Head – Piggott School |
| Andy Hinchliff | Academy Head – St Crispin’s School |
| Paul Miller | Trustee – The Circle Trust - Chairman |
| Shirley Austin | Academy Head – The Forest School |
| Debra Briault | Academy Representative – The Circle Trust |
| Vacancy | Secondary Representative |
| Non-School Representatives | |
| Early Years | |
| Kerrie Clifford | Maintained Nursery Head – Ambleside Centre |
| Ian Morgan | Early Years Representative |
| Wokingham Borough Council | |
| Morag Malvern | Wokingham Borough Council |
| Sal Thirlway | Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships |
| Post 16 Education | |
| Paul Gibson | Headteacher - Maiden Erlegh School |

Schools Forum Task and Finish Groups Membership

Schools Block

Derren Gray - Head Piggott School (Chair)

Brian Prebble - Head Rivermead Primary

Corrina Gillard - Head Emmbrook Infant

Chris Coniam – School Business Manager Bulmershe School

Carol Simpson - School Business Manager Colleton Primary

Julia Mead – Chief Finance Officer Keys Academy Trust

Margaret Lucey – School Business Manager All Saints Primary

High Needs Block

Corrina Gillard - Head Emmbrook Infant

Sara Attra - Head Addington Special School

Raj Arava - School Business Manager Foundry College

Debra Briault – Chief Operating Officer Circle Trust

Early Years

Ian Morgan - Director Little Ducklings Day Nursery

Kerrie Clifford - Head Ambleside Nursery

Karen Edwards - Manager Acorns Day Nursery

| ITEM NO. | WARD | SUBJECT | PAGE NO. |
|----------|---------------|---|---------------|
| 24 | | APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 25 | | MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2022. | 7 - 16 |
| 25.1 | None Specific | Matters Arising | 17 - 18 |
| 26 | | DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest. | |
| 27 | None Specific | 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT To receive and consider a report giving details of the schools' current financial position. | 19 - 30 |
| 28 | None Specific | HNB / DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN & SAFETY VALVE UPDATE To receive and consider the HNB / DSG Management Plan and Safety Valve Update report. | 31 - 34 |
| 29 | None Specific | 2023/24 DRAFT EARLY YEARS BUDGET To receive and consider the 2023/24 Draft Early Years Budget report. | 35 - 38 |
| 30 | None Specific | 2023/24 FINAL CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET To receive and consider the 2023/24 Final Central School Services Block Budget. | 39 - 44 |
| 31 | None Specific | 2023/24 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET UPDATE To receive and consider the 2023/24 High Needs Block Budget Update. | 45 - 48 |
| 32 | None Specific | 2023/24 PROPOSED SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET SUBMISSION To receive and consider the 2023/24 Proposed Schools Block Budget Submission. | 49 - 54 |
| 33 | None Specific | F40 UPDATE To receive a verbal update from Councillor Malvern on the work of the F40 lobbying group. | Verbal Report |
| 34 | None Specific | FORWARD PLAN To receive and consider the Forum's Forward Plan of work. | 55 - 56 |

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other

items to consider under this heading.

Luciane Bowker,
Email
Postal Address

CONTACT OFFICER
Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist
luciane.bowker@wokingham.gov.uk
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOLS FORUM
HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2022 FROM 10.00 AM TO 11.34 AM**

Schools Representatives

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Carol Simpson | School Business Manager - Colleton Primary |
| Corrina Gillard | Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant |
| Brian Prebble | Primary Head - Rivermead Primary - Vice Chairman |
| Liz Woodards | School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary |
| Ali Brown | Primary Head - Nine Mile Ride Primary |
| Julia Mead | School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary |
| Derren Gray | Academy Head - The Piggott School |
| Andy Hinchcliff | Academy Head - St Crispin's School |
| Paul Miller | Trustee - The Circle Trust - Chairman |
| Shirley Austin | Academy Head - The Forest School |
| Debra Briault | Secondary Academy School Representative |
| Sara Attra | Special School Head - Addington School |
| Phil Sherwood | Primary Head - Sonning C of E Primary |
| Chris Connian | School Business Manager – Bulmershe School |

Non School Representatives

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Morag Malvern | Wokingham Borough Council |
| Sal Thirlway | Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships |

Also Present

Luciane Bowker, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist
Lynne Samuel, Finance Business Partner - Children's Services
Carole Vernon, Acting Principal Education Welfare Officer
Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager
Jonathan Wilding, Programme Manager SEND

13 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted from Paul Gibson and Amanda Woodfin. Amanda Woodfin was substituted by Chris Connian.

14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair at a later date, subject to the amendment below.

Amendment: That Chris Connian be added to the list of attendees.

Matters arising

Consultation with schools – Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager informed that a consultation with schools took place in November. Meetings with the Schools Block Task and Finish Group had taken place to agree the wording of the consultation.

There had been a glitch with the consultation, which schools were made aware of, 14 schools had already responded by the time the glitch was identified and seven responded again after the correction was made.

There had been a greater rate of response this year at 58%, compared to last year with a 43% rate of response.

The Chairman urged Officers to be prepared for the consultation and ready with the results in time for the July meeting next year, so to avoid the situation that happened this year.

The Chairman asked that an effort be made to improve schools participation in the consultation next year.

Early Years Clawback – the Early Years Task and Finish Group was still to meet and discuss the potential establishment of a Hardship Fund. Lynne Samuel, Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services confirmed that the allocation for Early Years for the next year was not yet known, but this would be considered as part of the Budget setting process.

The Chairman expressed frustration that the Early Years Task and Finish Group had not met yet, and urged Officers to organise a meeting as soon as possible, ahead of the January meeting when the Budget was going to be approved. He added that although the allocation was unknown, the Hardship Fund could be discussed. Lynne Samuel agreed to prioritise this work.

Ian Morgan informed that providers were indeed asking for information about the Hardship Fund. He asked that the information about the Early Years allocation be passed on as soon as this was available. Officers agreed that they would contact Early Years colleagues with information as soon as they could.

Oaktree School – Sal Thirlway, Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships informed that the school would not open for all year groups in September 2023. The school would initially open for KS1 (Early Years) and KS3, then incrementally year on year until full.

15 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16 HNB / DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN & SAFETY VALVE UPDATE

Sal Thirlway explained that the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan and the Safety Valve were essentially the same plan. However, the continuation of the Safety Valve was dependent on the Council being able to reach an agreement with the Department for Education (DfE).

Jonathan Wilding, Programme Manager SEND presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- Wokingham was one of a number of local authorities with a significant deficit in the High Needs Block (HNB);
- The first meeting of the Safety Valve took place in October, when an initial management plan was presented to the DfE;
- There had been differing opinions between Wokingham and the DfE with regards to the growth in demand projections. The DfE believed that Wokingham’s projections were overly pessimistic. Consequently, the projections were readjusted, but even with the more optimistic projection (lower rate of growth in demand), a still significant growth was anticipated;
- Mitigation focussed on:
 - Demand reduction – support for SENCOs, early intervention

- Demand management
- Cost management
- SEND sufficiency
- Cessation of plans and planning for adulthood
- There were currently 17 different work streams being developed;
- There had been a meeting with the DfE in early December, where progress had been made and a proposal was presented. However, there was still some work to be undertaken to address an in-year deficit of between £2.6 million - £3.8 million by the end of the five year period (2027-28);
- Discussions were underway with WBC Health team to support the mitigation arrangements, especially in relation to early intervention;
- A Vulnerable Learners Panel was being piloted – this was to address short term financial support needs at an early stage (potentially reducing the need for escalation to an application for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP));
- Review of banding framework – currently there was no clear and consistent methodology in the levels of plans. The plan was to work with schools to agree the levels of plans to avoid the need for top-ups.

Jonathan Wilding informed that the Council was asking the DfE to agree to a five or six year plan, as it was unachievable to reach a balanced Budget in three years as they had proposed.

The Chairman asked what were the direct implications for the 2023/24 Budget and what was the trajectory of the Budget before 2027/28. Jonathan Wilding explained that most of the more immediate impact was in relation to early intervention, improved and enhanced outreach offer. Creating more capacity within the borough would take more time to achieve. The opening of Oaktree School would start to have an impact from September 2023.

In response to a question, Jonathan Wilding explained that a lot of the short term work was in relation to suppressing demand, any significant decrease in the deficit would be seen at a later stage in the plan. Creating more provision in the borough would require investment – invest to save. He emphasized that it was important not to cut back on essential services as this could backfire.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

17 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

Katherine Vernon presented the 2022/23 Revenue Monitoring report. She informed that there had been an increase in the in-year deficit of £714k since the last meeting of the Forum. There had been a reduction of £210k in the Schools Block and an increase of £925k in the HNB. The overall predicted cumulative deficit was now £16.5 million.

Most of the reduction in the Schools Block was related to the Growth Fund, classes that there were anticipated to open had not opened in this financial year. The classes were expected to open in the next financial year.

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- An increase in the mainstream schools top ups for SEND was expected;
- An increase in the funding for the Impaired Hearing Unit at Emmbrook had been agreed, following a cost review with the school;

- There had been an increase in the number of pupils being placed in specialist out of borough settings;
- There had been a reduction in the number of post-16 places;
- There was further risk in relation to a large number of pupils currently placed in mainstream schools who were waiting for specialist provisions;
- It was possible that there would be an increase of between £200k and £400k in the HNB before the end of the financial year.

The Chairman noted that this represented an in-year activity deficit of around £2 million which had not been possible to be predicted one year ago.

Katherine Vernon added that there was no variance in either the Early Years Block or the Central Block.

Lynne Samuel thanked the Chairman for allowing, on this occasion, for the reports to be circulated after the publication of the agenda. She shared Appendix C, which contained details of the activity, this would be circulated with the minutes.

Lynne Samuel informed that Wokingham had responsibility for funding 1,650 EHCPs, of those, 1,400 attracted top-ups. The breakdown with various graphs was shown in the appendix (attached).

Work was being undertaken with the Business Change Team to use the Power BI tool. This tool would enable better use of the data, and a more dynamic presentation of cost and activity data to Forum. In particular, taking into account the different levels of banding and not just the number of pupils.

The Chairman asked that a Christmas tree chart be included in the next report for the cost elements.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

18 2023/24 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET UPDATE

The 2023/24 HNB Budget update report was presented by Lynne Samuel. She explained that discussions had taken place early in the Budget setting process, in particular with settings that were fully funded by the HNB.

The Safety Valve programme had informed the Council that an additional £1 million would be allocated for the HNB for the next year, as a result of the Autumn Statement, over and above the provisional allocation announced in the summer.

The key Budget setting considerations were as listed in the report. Inflation was one of the very important considerations - creating pressures for settings.

As previously mentioned, a review of the funding for Emmbrook's Hearing Impairment Unit was being undertaken, recognising the additional costs of the unit.

In relation to Addington, it was recognised that the school had not been receiving inflation uplifts. The school was requesting an uplift of 8% to make it financially sustainable.

The Foundry review was continuing, with a particular focus on working out a model of funding primary aged pupils with the changes in the de-delegated Budget.

Further discussions would take place with the HNB Task and Finish Group with more details to be shared from the work of the Safety Valve.

The local authority had submitted a request for disapplication of 0.5% from the Schools Block to transfer to the HNB. The result of this was not yet known, however the plan which was submitted to the Safety Valve assumed that the disapplication was confirmed.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel stated that, based on the current best estimate, the projected deficit for next year would likely not fall below £6 million.

Sara Attra informed that the increase in the cost of support staff pay came as a surprise, and cost Addington an additional £377k for the year. This was on top of the teachers' salary increase which cost the school £176k. This represented additional costs of over half a million pounds which were unexpected.

Sara Attra expressed concern that the HNB Task and Finish Group had not yet met and the Budget setting date was fast approaching. Lynne Samuel ensured that she would be sending a timeline of dates for meetings very shortly.

The Chairman pointed out that the use of the word 'share' did not convey the desire to co-produce and work together. He emphasised that the Task and Finish Group was established to co-operate and use the expertise of the school leaders taking part in it. Lynne Samuel apologised and stated that was not the intention of the language used, and agreed that the intention was very much to work together with school leaders.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

19 2023/24 DRAFT SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET

The 2023/24 Draft Schools Block Budget report was presented by Katherine Vernon. She informed that significant work had been undertaken with the Task and Finish Group to find affordable models. The models had been presented for consultation in November.

Four academies had not shared their data with the local authority, as a result there had been a delay in receiving the final October census data. This data was necessary in order to work out the final allocation. This data had now been received, through the DfE, and the work could be finalised. The Task and Finish Group would meet to discuss the final allocation and the results of the consultation.

Based on the previous data, the assumption had been that Wokingham would be in receipt of £1.5 million of Growth Funding for 2023/24, with £320k held in reserves.

The results of the consultation were as stated in the report. It was recognised that more work was needed in explaining to schools what certain concepts meant, as questions had been submitted asking for further clarifications.

Katherine Vernon explained that there would be fewer choices next year as the local authority moved further towards the National Funding Formula.

In response to a question Katherine Vernon stated that there were four academy schools with whom there was no sharing agreement with the local authority. The Chairman offered to help with this issue outside of the meeting.

Lynne Samuel pointed out that all schools had submitted informal information in September when asked, it was important to note that it was the official October census information that had been lacking from some academies. She thanked all schools for sending the early information in September.

In response to a question Officers informed that as part of the disapplication process, the DfE was informed of Schools Forum's views and the consultation with schools.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

20 2023/24 PROPOSED DE-DELEGATION BUDGET

Katherine Vernon presented the 2023/24 Proposed De-delegation Budget report. She informed that following a review in line with that agreed through the Task and Finish Group last year, the recommendation was to retain the Maternity Cover and the Contingencies fund of the De-delegation Budget.

The same methodology used last year was used for next year. Basing the calculation on a 4-year rolling average for maintained schools, the per pupil rate came out at £26.50 per pupil. It was recommended to hold the rate for 2023/24 at £27.06 which allowed for an element of inflation.

Therefore, the proposed De-delegated Budget for 2023/24, based on £27.06 per pupil, was £218k for Maternity Cover. No further de-delegation was requested for Contingencies, however £55k would remain held in reserves.

In response to a question Katherine Vernon clarified that it was the same cost for primary and secondary pupils.

Maintained primary and secondary schools only were asked to vote on this item, and there was unanimous approval.

RESOLVED That the 2023/24 Proposed De-delegation Budget be approved.

21 DRAFT 2023/24 CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET

Lynne Samuel presented the Draft 2023/24 Central School Services Block Budget report. She stated that she would adjust the report when the final amount was confirmed.

The final amount for licences, which was retained centrally by the ESFA was not yet known, an assumption of an uplift of 3% from the current amount had been made for the calculations. Based on this assumption there would be an additional £15k available from the Central Schools Block towards the cost of statutory duties undertaken.

The allocation received from the DfE was not sufficient to cover all the costs, and the Council used its general funds to cover the difference.

Schools Forum was being asked to note the draft proposed Central Schools Budget which, with the current assumptions, was £1,014,700. This would be distributed in the same way as last year with the balance of £15k applied to Statutory and Regulatory Duties. Should the final allocation and licence figure differ, then the corresponding adjustments would be made from the figure allocated to Statutory and Regulatory Duties.

Upon being put to the vote, members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations.

RESOLVED That Schools Forum:

- 1) Notes the provisional 2023/24 budget allocation for the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of £1,014,700;
- 2) Notes the planning assumption made of a 3% uplift on government arranged licences to £149,600;
- 3) Approves the proposed budget allocation from the remainder of the CSSB as follows:
 - a. Statutory and Regulatory Duties £463,100
 - b. Education Welfare £117,000
 - c. Asset Management £49,000
 - d. Other Ongoing Duties £236,000
- 4) Approves that any further adjustment required following notification of the final CSSB allocation and licences for 2023/24 will be amended from (a) above.

22 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Katherine Vernon presented the Scheme for Financing School report. She explained that the changes were in line with national guidance and not as a result of local discretion, maintained schools only were required to vote to note the content of the report.

The three key sections of the Wokingham Scheme which had been updated were as follows:

- 1) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a 3-year budget forecast to the Local Authority by 31st May each year;
- 2) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a recovery plan to the Local Authority when their deficit rose above 5% at 31st March of any year;
- 3) Instead of taking out insurance, LA maintained schools may join the Secretary of State's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA.

Upon being put to the vote, maintained schools unanimously voted to approve the revised guidelines.

Subsequently it was recognised that the Special Schools, as maintained schools in the borough, were entitled to votes on maintained schools matters. Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist would amend the presentation of the membership list to reflect this and avoid any future confusion.

RESOLVED That Schools Forum approved the amendments in the guidelines as described in the report.

23 EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE

Sal Thirlway apologised for the delay in the delivery of the Education Welfare Service report.

Carole Vernon, Acting Principal Education Welfare Officer presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- The Education Welfare Service (EWS) was no longer a traded service, the EWS now worked with all schools in the borough, including independent schools;
- The EWS was currently holding two vacancies, and this presented challenges, the work had to be re-distributed and staff were holding large workloads;
- Each school had one allocated Education Welfare Officer (EWO), whom they could contact any time;
- This year there was a focus on persistent absenteeism, suspensions and pupils at risk of permanent exclusions, children missing in education and children on part-time timetables;
- The EWS took part in multi-agency work;
- Quick link guides to all the areas of EWS expertise were sent to schools over the summer. There were also webinars and network meetings;
- A new referral process had been put in place;
- The EWS did not have access to schools attendance data and there was no system in place to track attendance, this presented a challenge;
- There had been an increase in the number of Elective Home Education and children missing from education;
- It was difficult to find alternative provision and funding for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion;
- Work was ongoing to address the challenges, in particular the staff shortage.

The Chairman asked for clarification on the mention of 'studios' in the report. Carole Vernon explained that there were around 17 film studios in the area, with new ones opening too. This industry attracted young actors to work who required licences to be issued.

Members asked if the EWS charged for licences and whether this could fund the service. Carole Vernon informed that the EWS was exploring this idea, however this would be a nominal fee and wouldn't cover the service. This was because the majority of licences were for volunteers.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

24 FORWARD PLAN

The Chairman asked that for the 11 January 2023 meeting:

- The word 'final' be changed to 'draft' for the HNB Budget and Early Years Budget;
- The Central School Services Block Budget was for information.

RESOLVED That the Forward Plan be noted and amended as agreed during the meeting.

Councillor Malvern informed that Wokingham had signed up to a lobbying group called F40, which was comprised of the lowest funded local authorities in the country. She agreed to bring an update on this at the next meeting.

The Chairman asked that a page be included in future agendas with the membership list of the various Task and Finish Groups.

Matters arising

- To include a Christmas tree chart for cost in the Revenue Monitoring report
- To move Special Schools in the membership list to make it clear that they are maintained schools
- To receive an update from Councillor Malvern on the work of the F40 lobbying group
- To include Task and Finish Groups membership lists in future agendas.

This page is intentionally left blank

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TITLE | Matters Arising |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the update on matters arising from the December meeting.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Update on matters arising from December meeting:

- 1. To include a Christmas tree chart for cost in the Revenue Monitoring report
Activity reporting will be updated for March meeting of Schools Forum*
- 2. To move Special Schools in the membership list to make it clear that they are maintained schools*
- 3. To receive an update from Councillor Malvern on the work of the F40 lobbying group
See separate agenda item*
- 4. To include Task and Finish Groups membership lists in future agendas
Membership of each Task & Finish Groups included in relevant reports*

This page is intentionally left blank

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TITLE | 2022/23 Revenue Monitoring Report |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report, update on the forecast position for the 2022/23 financial year along with associated risks.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast, as at 31st December 2022.

An in-year deficit of £6.5m is projected, with the budget pressure continuing to be within the High Needs Block. Taken with the brought forward deficit of £10m, a forecast cumulative deficit of £16.5m is now projected to 31st March 2023.

The current in-year forecasts represents an adverse movement of £85k on the previous projection reported to Schools Forum in December. The movement being:

- £85k increase in the Schools Block

Key risks to the HNB forecast:

1. Sufficiency / places awaited – a number of pupils currently supported in mainstream, or in other educational arrangements, are waiting on specialist places.
2. Assessment & Review activity – while not all requests to assess lead to EHCPs and additional cost to the HNB, it is likely that a continued increase will be seen over the remaining months of the financial year. Requests through to SEND Panel for review / change of type of provision also continue to be evident.

The cost and timing of both areas above hold a range of variable assumptions, influenced by individual pupil circumstances however the additional in-year financial risk is estimated between £200k - £400k.

2022/23 Revenue Monitoring Report

01. Purpose of the Report

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) revenue budget forecast for the 2022/23 financial year, as at 31st December 2022.

02. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report, updated on the forecast position for the 2022/23 financial year along with associated risks.

03. Background

This report forms part of the regular updates to Schools Forum on the anticipated outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with explanation for significant variances.

At the December 2022 meeting of Schools Forum a forecast deficit of £6.4m was reported for the 2022/23 financial year, due to continued pressure within the High Needs Block.

04. DSG Forecast as at 31st December 2022

As at 31st December, the DSG forecast for the 2022/23 financial year now reports an in-year deficit of £6.5m. Against the £6.4m previously reported, this represents an adverse movement of £85k.

The movement represents an increase in the growth fund forecast.

05. Key Variances & Risks

The reason for the £85k adverse movement on forecast are set out below, along with further information and key risks within each block of the DSG.

Schools Block

Increase in forecast of £85k.

Growth Fund

Forecast spend against the growth fund continues to be updated in light of ongoing place planning challenges. The current forecast is an increase of that reported previously due to the new primary school opening in January 2023. We have

assumed the maximum pre-opening grant of £120k for the school, but the full amount may not be required. Further detail is provided in Appendix B.

De-delegated Services

£55k brought forward and held on behalf of maintained schools for contingency purposes remains in reserve, with no commitments to date.

High Needs Block

The in-year deficit on the HNB is still forecast at £6.4m. There have been no material changes since the last report brought to Schools Forum in December.

The HNB forecast takes account of current known EHCP top-ups and phased transfer information as it is currently available for December 2022. The key driver remains an increasing number of EHCPs, and specialist placements out of borough as Wokingham schools are at capacity.

Key risks to the HNB forecast:

1. Sufficiency / places awaited – a number of pupils currently supported in mainstream, or in other educational arrangements, are waiting on specialist places.
2. Assessment & Review activity – while not all requests to assess lead to EHCPs and additional cost to the HNB, it is likely that a continued increase will be seen over the remaining months of the financial year. Requests through to SEND Panel for review / change of type of provision also continue to be evident.

The cost and timing of both areas above hold a range of variable assumptions, influenced by individual pupil circumstances however the additional in-year financial risk is estimated between £200k - £400k.

Early Years Block

No in-year variance to budget is forecast on the Early Years Block at this time.

Early Years – Provider Reserve Fund

Contingency of £163k was set aside as part of 2022/23 budget setting, to allow for changes in activity during the year and protect against over allocation on set rates. At this early stage of the year the forecast assumes that this will be fully spent or clawed back by the DfE and therefore no variance is reported.

Central Schools Services Block

No variance or significant risks identified at this time.

06. **Summary**

The attached appendices provide further detail across each of the four DSG blocks.

Appendix A – 2022/23 DSG Revenue Monitoring by Block

Appendix B – Growth Fund

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Contact: | Katherine Vernon Schools Finance Manager |
| Email: | katherine.vernon@wokingham.gov.uk |

Appendix A - DSG Forecast Summary 2022/23

| | | | | A | | B | C | C - B |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Description | | 2022/23 Budget £,000 | Budget Changes £,000 | Revised Budget £,000 | May Forecast £,000 | November Forecast £,000 | December Forecast £,000 | Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000 |
| Schools Block | TOTAL Income | (129,842) | - | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | - |
| | TOTAL Expenditure | 129,842 | - | 129,842 | 129,989 | 129,887 | 129,973 | 85 |
| | TOTAL Schools Block Net Expenditure | - | - | - | 146 | 45 | 130 | 85 |
| High Needs Block | TOTAL Income | (25,779) | - | (25,779) | (25,996) | (25,660) | (25,660) | - |
| | TOTAL Expenditure | 29,642 | - | 29,642 | 30,340 | 32,034 | 32,034 | - |
| | TOTAL High Needs Block Net Expenditure | 3,863 | - | 3,863 | 4,344 | 6,374 | 6,374 | - |
| Early Years Block | TOTAL Income | (11,289) | - | (11,289) | (11,289) | (11,654) | (11,654) | - |
| | TOTAL Expenditure | 11,289 | - | 11,289 | 11,289 | 11,654 | 11,654 | - |
| | TOTAL Early Years Block Net Expenditure | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Central School Services Block | TOTAL Income | (995) | - | (995) | (995) | (995) | (995) | - |
| | TOTAL Expenditure | 995 | - | 995 | 995 | 995 | 995 | - |
| | TOTAL Central School Services Block Net Expenditure | (0) | - | (0) | (0) | (0) | (0) | - |
| Total DSG | TOTAL Income | (167,906) | - | (167,906) | (168,123) | (168,152) | (168,152) | - |
| | TOTAL Expenditure | 171,769 | - | 171,769 | 172,613 | 174,571 | 174,656 | 85 |
| | TOTAL 2022/23 Net Expenditure Deficit | 3,863 | - | 3,863 | 4,490 | 6,419 | 6,505 | 85 |
| Deficit Brought Forward | | | | | 10,041 | 10,041 | 10,041 | |
| Cumulative Net Expenditure Deficit | | | | | 14,531 | 16,460 | 16,546 | |

Schools Block Budget 2022/23

| | | A | May-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | C - B |
|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Category | Description | Budget 2022-23 £,000 | May 2022/23 Forecast £,000 | Nov 2022/23 Forecast £,000 | Dec 2022/23 Forecast £,000 | Variance Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000 |
| Individual Schools Budget | Maintained Schools | 48,908 | 48,908 | 48,230 | 48,230 | - |
| | Academies | 79,064 | 79,064 | 79,742 | 79,742 | - |
| De-Delegation | Contingencies | - | - | | | - |
| | Behaviour support services | - | - | | | - |
| | Support to UPEG and bilingual learners | - | - | | | - |
| | Licences/subscriptions - Capita Contract | - | - | | | - |
| | Staff costs – supply cover (maternity) | 281 | 281 | 240 | 240 | - |
| | Growth Fund | 1,589 | 1,735 | 1,675 | 1,760 | 85 |
| | Transfer to High Needs Block | - | - | | | - |
| TOTAL Expenditure | | 129,842 | 129,989 | 129,887 | 129,973 | 85 |
| DSG Allocation | | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | - |
| TOTAL Income | | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | (129,842) | - |
| 2022/23 Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit | | - | 146 | 45 | 130 | 85 |

24

High Needs Block Budget 2022/23

| | | | A | | B | C | C - B |
|---|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Category | | Description | 2022/23 Final Budget £,000 | 2022/23 May Forecast £,000 | 2022/23 November Forecast £,000 | 2022/23 December Forecast £,000 | Variance Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000 |
| Mainstream | Wokingham | Place Funding - Post-16 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | - |
| | | Top-up Funding | 3,439 | 3,405 | 4,333 | 4,333 | - |
| | Out of Borough | Top-up Funding | 224 | 220 | 267 | 267 | - |
| Resource Bases | Wokingham | Place Funding | 618 | 621 | 621 | 621 | - |
| | | Empty Place Funding | 121 | 167 | 169 | 169 | - |
| | | Top-up Funding | 919 | 1,011 | 1,073 | 1,073 | - |
| | Out of Borough | Top-up Funding | 423 | 224 | 224 | 224 | - |
| Special Schools 25 | Wokingham - Addington | Place Funding | 2,550 | 2,550 | 2,634 | 2,634 | - |
| | | Top-up funding | 4,161 | 4,497 | 4,545 | 4,545 | - |
| | Wokingham - Chiltern Way | Place Funding | 690 | 690 | 690 | 690 | - |
| | | Top-up funding | 754 | 637 | 586 | 586 | - |
| | Oak Tree | Place Funding | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Top-up funding | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Out of Borough | Top-up Funding | 1,260 | 1,374 | 1,698 | 1,698 | - |
| | Independent & Non-Maintained | Placements | 9,600 | 9,600 | 9,900 | 9,900 | - |
| | Pupil Referral Units | Wokingham | Foundry College | 1,763 | 1,763 | 1,763 | 1,763 |
| | | Foundry College New Operating Model | - | - | - | - | - |
| Out of Borough | | Top-up Funding | - | - | 36 | 36 | - |
| Post-16: FE & Colleges | Out of Borough | Top-up Funding | 1,014 | 1,237 | 1,153 | 1,153 | - |
| Hospital Education | | Willow House Hospital Education | 244 | 244 | 231 | 231 | - |
| | | Independent Hospital Education | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | - |
| Other | | CYPIT | 401 | 401 | 401 | 401 | - |
| | | Sensory Consortium | 275 | 274 | 279 | 279 | - |
| | | Applied Behavioural Analysis Programme | | 150 | 156 | 156 | - |
| | | Support for Inclusion | 354 | 354 | 354 | 354 | - |
| | | Targeted Education (eg tutors, personal budgets) | 500 | 588 | 588 | 588 | - |
| | | Inclusion Group Funding | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | - |
| | | SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL Expenditure | | | 29,642 | 30,340 | 32,034 | 32,034 | - |
| DSG Allocation (including Academy Place Funding Recoup) | | | (24,814) | (25,031) | (24,695) | (24,695) | - |
| Transfer from Schools Block | | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Supplementary Grant Funding | | | (965) | (965) | (965) | (965) | - |
| TOTAL Income | | | (25,779) | (25,996) | (25,660) | (25,660) | - |
| 2022/23 Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit | | | 3,863 | 4,344 | 6,374 | 6,374 | - |

Early Years Block Budget 2022/23

| | | | May-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | A | | B | C | C - B |
| Category | Description | Initial 2022/23 Forecast £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast May £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast Nov £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast Dec £,000 | Variance Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000 |
| Early Years Funding Formula | 2 year olds | 410 | 410 | 410 | 410 | - |
| | 3-4 year olds including Provider reserve fund | 9,600 | 9,600 | 9,961 | 9,961 | - |
| | Maintained Nursery School | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | - |
| Grants | EYPP | 42 | 42 | 60 | 60 | - |
| | Disability Access Fund | 56 | 56 | 42 | 42 | - |
| Centrally retained | Centrally retained (2 yr olds) | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | - |
| | Centrally retained (3 & 4 yr olds incl EY Inclusion Service contribution) | 533 | 533 | 533 | 533 | - |
| | Centrally retained (Early Years Inclusion Funding) for individual pupils | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | - |
| TOTAL Expenditure | | 11,289 | 11,289 | 11,654 | 11,654 | - |
| DSG Allocation | | (11,289) | (11,289) | (11,654) | (11,654) | - |
| TOTAL Income | | (11,289) | (11,289) | (11,654) | (11,654) | - |
| 2022/23 Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit | | - | - | - | - | - |

Central School Services Block Budget 2022/23

| | | A | May-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | C - B |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Category | Description | Initial 2022/23 Forecast £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast May £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast Nov £,000 | 2022/23 Forecast Dec £,000 | Variance Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000 |
| Strategic and Regulation function | Inspection Workshop Equipment Secondary - Health & safty school trips | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | - |
| | Finance | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | - |
| | Contribution to the Children Director Services | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | - |
| Other | Capita Contracts | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | - |
| | SACRE | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | - |
| | Servicing of schools forums | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | - |
| | Schools Admissions services | 232 | 232 | 232 | 232 | - |
| | School Asset Management | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | - |
| | Education welfare service | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | - |
| | Licences for Maintained and academies | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | - |
| TOTAL Expenditure | | 995 | 995 | 995 | 995 | - |
| DSG Allocation | | (995) | (995) | (995) | (995) | - |
| TOTAL Income | | (995) | (995) | (995) | (995) | - |
| 2022/23 Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit | | (0) | (0) | (0) | (0) | - |

27

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix B
2022/23 Growth Fund Forecast
Forecast for December 2022

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| | 2022/23 |
| Primary MPPL | 4,265 |
| Secondary MPPL | 5,525 |

| Schools - New classes | MPPL 2022/23 | Funded Number of Places | 2022/23 Forecast £ |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pre-existing secondary commitments from 2021/22 | | | |
| Emmbrook Secondary | 5,525 | 45 | 98,414 |
| Piggott School | 5,525 | 25 | 54,674 |
| Waingels | 5,525 | 21 | 45,927 |
| | | <u>91</u> | |
| Secondary Contingency 2022/23 | | | |
| Additional secondary places (Y7) for 2022/23 - contingency | 5,525 | 30 | 0 |
| Additional secondary places (Y8) for 2022/23 - contingency | 5,525 | 30 | 0 |
| Additional secondary places (Y9) for 2022/23 - contingency | 5,525 | 30 | 0 |
| Secondary sector places for 2022/23 | | | |
| Additional secondary places (Y7) for 2022/23 - Piggott | 5,525 | 46 | 140,841 |
| Additional secondary places (Y7) for 2022/23 - St Crispins | 5,525 | 100 | 306,177 |
| Additional secondary places (Y8) for 2022/23 - Emmbrook | 5,525 | 30 | 91,853 |
| Additional secondary places (Y9) for 2022/23 - Bulmershe | 5,525 | 15 | 45,927 |
| Secondary sector places for 2023/24 | | | |
| Additional secondary places (Y7) for 2023/24 - Piggott | | 45 | |
| Additional secondary places (Y7) for 2023/24 - St Crispins | | 60 | |
| Additional secondary places (Y8) for 2023/24 - Emmbrook | | 30 | |
| Additional secondary places (Y9) for 2023/24 - Bulmershe | | 15 | |
| Secondary Contingency 2023/24 | | | |
| Additional secondary places (KS3) for 2023/24 - contingency | | 90 | |
| Additional secondary places (KS4) for 2023/24 - contingency | | 30 | |
| Secondary TOTAL | | | 783,813 |
| Pre-existing Primary commitments 2021/22 | | | |
| Montague Park (From 01/06/2021 - Year 4 now Year 5) | 4,265 | 30 | 50,647 |
| Montague Park (from 01/09/2021 - Y6) | 4,265 | 30 | 50,647 |
| Keep Hatch Y6 (from October 2021) | 4,265 | 30 | 50,647 |
| Primary sector places for 2022/23 | | | |
| Highwood - reception class 2022/23 | 4,265 | 30 | 70,906 |
| Primary sector places for 2022/23 | | | |
| Keep Hatch additional primary places Year 5 (from Sep 2022) | 4,265 | 30 | 70,906 |
| Keep Hatch additional primary places Year 6 (from Sep 2022) | 4,265 | 30 | 70,906 |
| All Saints additional Primary Places Y5 and Y6 (from June 2022) | 4,265 | 30 | 101,294 |
| Alder Grove additional Y6 (1 term only) | 4,265 | 30 | 30,388 |
| Farley Hill additional Y5 (from Jan 2023) (tbc) | 4,265 | 30 | 30,388 |
| Additional primary places contingency Y6 (from Jan 2023) | 4,265 | 30 | 0 |
| Farley Hill Expansion (Reception) | 4,265 | 30 | 70,906 |
| Primary additional (Y5) class from January 2023 | 4,265 | 30 | 0 |
| Primary sector places for 2023/24 | | | |
| Additional primary places contingency Y6 (from Sep 2023) | | 30 | |
| Primary TOTAL | | | 597,633 |
| Primary plus Secondary Growth TOTAL | | | 1,381,446 |
| Basic Need: New and recently new (growing schools) | | | |
| Montague Park Primary | | | 46,000 |
| Alder Grove Primary | | | 69,000 |
| St Cecilia's Primary (Y3, Y4, Y5/Y6 classes) | | | 25,750 |
| St Cecilia's Primary (January - March) | | | 118,287 |
| St Cecilia's Primary Pre Opening Grant (maximum payable) | | | 120,000 |
| | | | 379,037 |
| Total Expenditure | | | 1,760,483 |
| In year Growth Funding from Schools Block | | | 1,589,000 |
| In year Overspend | | | 171,483 |
| Reserves b/f | | | 405,546 |
| Reserves c/f | | | 234,063 |
| | | | 178,873 |

Contingency removed 178,873

Basic Need and growing schools methodology
Dis-economy of scale (new classes funded from APT)

| | Per pupil funding | Lump Sum | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Primary | 250 | | 80,500 | 67,500 | 54,000 | 40,500 | 27,000 | 31,000 |
| Secondary | 500 | | 125,000 | 93,000 | 62,000 | 31,000 | | |

This page is intentionally left blank

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TITLE | HNB / DSG Management Plan & Safety Valve Update |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This report forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum regarding areas of statutory decision making and provides transparency regarding High Needs Block and wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters including an update on the current status of the bid to be included within the DfE's Safety Valve programme.

RECOMMENDATION

- Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.
- Schools Forum is asked to note the work that has been undertaken in the development of the Safety Valve proposals.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides Schools Forum with an update on actions and proposals to reduce the High Needs Block overspend and the overall DSG deficit via participation in the DfE/ESFA Safety Valve programme; these actions are being developed to achieve a balanced High Needs Block budget by 2028/29.

The report summarises the workstreams and the strategic themes being proposed as part of the Safety Valve programme; some of these will be familiar as they are developments of work that was already underway under the SEND Innovation and Improvement Partnership; others are new initiatives that have been urgently developed or designed in direct response to the deteriorating financial position of the local SEND System.

Background

Wokingham Borough Council have been invited by the DfE to join the Safety Valve programme, which is offered to Local Authorities with significant High Needs Block deficits. WBC needs to develop and submit a transformation plan, detailing investment costs and a narrative as to how the proposed measures will deliver this balanced budget by 2028/29.

Full reports were presented to Schools Forum in October and December 2022, which this report provides a further update to.

Wokingham's Safety Valve programme proposal is made up of 21 strands of work organised under 4 strategic themes (detail set out below). This is a substantial programme of work involving significant investment in capacity, provision, systems and operating models to deliver a balanced budget in 5 years.

Analysis of Issues/Context

The Safety Valve programme builds on and develops the work of the SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme (IIP). Many of the key priorities and workstreams have previously been co-produced with partners and are known to School's Forum already.

The development of Wokingham's Safety Valve application is under development and work continues apace to finalise the detail around the wide-ranging workstream activity required to deliver a balanced high needs block budget by 2028/29

Projections Regarding Demand for EHC Plans

Detailed projections regarding projected future demand were set out in the October report to Schools Forum but following sceptical feedback from the DfE concerning this predicted pace of growth during the meeting in October, an external specialist consultancy (PeopleToo), were commissioned to revisit these projections. These revised projections were presented to Schools Forum in December 2022. The projections put forward at that point (fig1) are unchanged as we submit our proposition.

Fig1

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Previous Submission (12/10/22) | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,043 | 2,330 | 2,667 |
| WBC Trend – Moving Ave | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,119 | 2,517 | 3,014 |
| Stat Neighbour Trend – Moving Ave | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,043 | 2,330 | 2,667 |
| | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,173 | 2,412 | 2,642 |
| Regional Trend – Moving Ave | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,011 | 2,256 | 2,536 |
| National Trend – Moving Ave | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 1,996 | 2,222 | 2,478 |
| ETS Statistical Forecast – Mid | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 1,971 | 2,167 | 2,362 |
| Agreed Projected Figures | 867 | 934 | 1,078 | 1,270 | 1,488 | 1,796 | 2,018 | 2,213 | 2,409 |

Financial Position

Financial modelling is being finalised in advance of the submission, however fig2 below shows the detail regarding the spend, development of a WBC funded Equalisation Reserve and the balanced budget position achieved at the end of the programme. Should we achieve agreement with the DfE/ESFA on this, the Equalisation Reserve will part fund additional cost/activity of the programme, but also contribute significantly to the reduction in the cumulative deficit amount alongside DfE contribution.

Fig2

| | 2021-22 | Year 0 2022-23 | Year 1 2023-24 | Year 2 2024-25 | Year 3 2025-26 | Year 4 2026-27 | Year 5 2027-28 | Year 6 2028-29 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL Mitigated HNB Projected Spend | | 32,034,000 | 36,246,016 | 37,376,053 | 36,110,973 | 35,380,694 | 34,070,540 | 34,121,571 |
| Projected HNB income | | -25,660,000 | -28,112,400 | -28,955,800 | -29,824,500 | -30,719,200 | -31,640,800 | -32,590,000 |
| 0.5% Block Transfer | | 0 | -675,000 | -695,300 | -716,200 | -737,700 | -760,000 | -782,000 |
| Additional 0.5% from 2024/25 | | 0 | 0 | -695,300 | -716,200 | -737,700 | -760,000 | -782,000 |
| HNB In-Year Deficit | | 6,374,000 | 7,458,616 | 7,029,653 | 4,854,073 | 3,186,094 | 909,740 | -32,429 |
| Spend of DSG Growth Fund Reserves | | 86,000 | 375,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative DSG Deficit | 10,041,000 | 16,501,000 | 24,334,616 | 31,364,269 | 36,218,342 | 39,404,435 | 40,314,175 | 40,281,746 |
| Cumulative Deficit met from WBC Equalisation Fund | | | | | | | | 20,100,000 |
| DfE Contribution to cumulative deficit | | | | | | | | 20,181,746 |
| SEND Equalisation Reserve | | 0 | -1,300,000 | -2,600,000 | -3,900,000 | -5,200,000 | -6,500,000 | -7,800,000 |
| Cumulative Reserve Funding | | 0 | -1,300,000 | -3,900,000 | -7,800,000 | -13,000,000 | -19,500,000 | -27,300,000 |
| Charges against the fund: | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Deficit met from WBC Equalisation Fund | | | | | | | | 20,100,000 |
| Costs of Mitigations - recurring general fund | | 250,000 | 1,128,000 | 1,140,560 | 1,153,371 | 1,166,439 | 1,179,767 | 1,193,363 |
| Annual charge against the reserve | | 250,000 | 1,128,000 | 1,140,560 | 1,153,371 | 1,166,439 | 1,179,767 | 21,293,363 |
| Cumulative Reserve Balance | | 250,000 | 78,000 | -1,381,440 | -4,128,069 | -8,161,630 | -13,481,863 | 11,500 |

Next Steps

On the 13th January 2023 we shall be submitting the final Deficit Management Plan 'proposition' detailing the workstreams leading to the delivery of the balanced budget (as referenced in the paper to Schools Forum on 7th December 2022). This submission will also include a request for High Needs Capital Funding for the development of additional SEND provision.

A feedback meeting to discuss the Deficit Management Plan 'proposition' with the DfE/ESFA Safety Valve Team has been scheduled for the 24th January 2023, following which there may be opportunity to further tweak the 'proposition' in advance of final formal submission by 3rd February 2023.

In January 2023 we are also expecting to hear the outcome of the two bids for Special Free Schools, which form a key component of the Deficit Management Plan 'proposition'.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

| | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1) | | | |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2) | | | |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) | | | |

| |
|--|
| Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision |
| |

| |
|---|
| Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?) |
| |

| |
|--|
| Public Sector Equality Duty |
| Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required. |

| |
|---|
| Climate Emergency – <i>This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</i> |
| Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council's carbon neutral objective. |

| |
|---|
| Reasons for considering the report in Part 2 |
| |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| List of Background Papers |
| |

| | |
|--|--|
| Contact Sal Thirlway | Service Learning Achievement and Partnerships |
| Telephone No Tel: 0118 908 8238 | Email sal.thirlway@wokingham.gov.uk |

Agenda Item 29

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TITLE | 2023/24 Early Years Budget Update |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides an analysis of the provisional 2023/24 budget allocation for Early Years announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 16th December 2022. The block allocations are based upon the Early Years census from January 2022 and will in due course be updated to reflect the January 2023 census data.

From the census data and budget information currently available, we are still working through the modelling and have arranged a meeting with the Early Years Task and Finish Group in early January.

Confirmation of the rates for schools with Early Years provision will be notified as soon as possible and for other Early Years providers no later than 31st March 2023.

2023/24 Early Years Budget Update January 2023

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides the Schools Forum with details of the 2023/24 Early Years' Budget.

.02 Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

.03 Background

Since its introduction in April 2017, the Early Years' National Funding Formula (EYNFF) has set the hourly funding rates that each local authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional free entitlements for three- and four-year-olds.

Local authorities are required **to pass 95%** of their three- and four-year-old funding from Central Government onto Early Years' providers. This pass-through requirement ensures that the vast majority of Government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the free entitlements.

.04 2023/24 Budget Setting

The EYNFF used for calculating the 3- and 4-year-old hourly rates in 2023/24 remains similar to the formula introduced in 2017. In response to the consultation on the Early Years funding formula, the following changes have been made:

- The starting point hourly rates have been updated for the first time since 2017 based on the increased funding from the Spending Review, additional funding to reflect the National Living Wage increases and the majority of the money that has been previously paid through the early years element of the teachers' pay and pension grant (TPPG)
- The additional needs formula factors have been calculated using more up-to-date part-time equivalent volumes and pupil characteristic data, e.g., the January 2022 census.
- The area cost adjustment (ACA) factors have been updated for new data.
- Year-to-year protections and funding floors have been revised for 2023/24. The loss cap protection has been removed and a new +1% year-to-year protection. For 2023/24, a +4.9% gains cap has been introduced.

Similar changes have been made to the 2-year-old formula:

- The base rate for the formula has been updated for the first time since 2015 based on the increased funding from the Spending Review and additional funding to reflect the National Living Wage increases.
- The base rate calculations are now based on the most up-to-date data available, e.g., the January 2022 census.
- The area cost adjustment (ACA) factors have been updated for new data.
- For 2023/24, a new +1% year-to-year protection and a +10% gains cap has been introduced for 2-year-olds.

The supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools calculations have also changed for 2023/24:

- All local authorities hourly supplementary funding rates have been increased in line with the Spending Review and additional funding to reflect the National Living Wage increases.
- TPPG funding has been rolled in.
- A minimum funding floor and cap have been applied to create a fairer distribution of this funding.

This has been good news for Wokingham, and our rates have been increased to the maximum allowable under the new gains caps.

| | 2022-23 EYNFF rate | 2022-23 TPPG rate | 2022-23 EYNFF rate + TPPG rate | 2023-24 EYNFF rate | Change (£) from 2022-23 rate + TPPG rate | Change (%) from 2022-23 rate + TPPG rate |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 3- and 4-year-old entitlement hourly funding rate (£ / hr) | £5.28 | £0.05 | £5.33 | £5.59 | £0.26 | 4.90% |
| 2-year-old entitlement hourly funding rate | £6.11 | | | £6.72 | £0.61 | 10.00% |
| Maintained Nursery Schools supplementary funding | £2,001 | £21,341 | £23,342 | £253,422 | £230,080 | 985.70% |

For Wokingham, the initial allocation for the Early Years Block in 2023/24 is £12,614,652 which is based on the January 2022 census.

The national funding rate for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will increase by 2 pence, from 60 pence to 62 pence per eligible child per hour.

The national funding rate for Disability Access Funding (DAF) will increase by £28, from £800 to £828 per eligible child per year.

05. Next Steps

Finance staff will model various scenarios to discuss with our Early Years colleagues in early January. A meeting has been arranged with the Early Years Task and Finish Group in January to look through and discuss the modelling for the formula and rates for settings for 2023/24.

Factors we will need to consider with our modelling and discussions when setting our hourly rates are:

- Amount to be kept aside for the Early Years Provider Reserve Fund
- Amount to be kept aside for Early Years Inclusion Funding
- The 5% of the allocation the local authority is permitted to retain to meet its statutory duties
- The maintained nursery lump sum

06. Members of the Task and Finish Group

Ian Morgan
Kerrie Clifford

Early Years Representative - Schools Forum
Early Years Representative - Schools Forum

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Contact: | Katherine Vernon Schools Finance Manager |
| Email: | katherine.vernon@wokingham.gov.uk |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TITLE | 2023/24 Final Central School Services Block Budget |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the final 2023/24 budget allocation for the Central School Services Block (CSSB).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Department of Education (DfE) has set a separate block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support the local authority in delivering educational statutory duties. The grant is a contribution to the total cost of the central statutory services operated by the Council.

At the December 2022 meeting of Schools Forum approval was given on the planned allocation of the block, based on provisional block figures available at that time. Following receipt of the 2023/24 DSG Finance Settlement and updated national licence costs, figures have been revised in line with the approach agreed.

The final Central Support Services Block allocation for 2023/24 is £1.039m – an increase of £44k (4.4%) on the current year's allocation of £995k. Within that, nationally arranged licences, where costs are charged to individual LA's CSSB, have increased from £142k to £164k (15%).

The net impact of the above, is a small increase of £9,800 available funding on the provisional figures discussed at the December meeting of Schools Forum, and in line with approval given this has been adjusted within Statutory & Regulatory Duties.

2023/24 Final Central School Services Block (CSSB)

January 2023

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report is to update Schools Forum on the final allocation of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) as contributory funding for the statutory education functions that must be delivered by the local authority for 2023/24.

.02 Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to note the final 2023/24 budget allocation for the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of £1,039,200.

.03 Background

The Department of Education (DfE) introduced a new block in the DSG allocation known as the Central School Services Block (CSSB) in 2018/19, to fund local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies.

The CSSB brought together funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) and funding for ongoing central functions, such as school admissions, previously top-sliced from the Schools Block.

The provisional CSSB allocation for 2023/24 of £1.015m was discussed at December Schools Forum, with approval given on both planned allocation and approach to take should final figures vary from the planning assumptions made.

The CSSB provides a contribution to the full cost of the statutory services provided by the Council, costing around £2m, and consequently a significant proportion of the cost is funded from general fund budgets raised through local council tax collection.

.04 2023/24 Final Budget Allocation

At the December 2022 meeting of Schools Forum approval was given on the planned allocation of the block, based on provisional block figures available at that time. Following receipt of the 2023/24 DSG Finance Settlement and updated national licence costs, figures have been revised in line with the approach agreed.

The final Central Support Services Block allocation for 2023/24 is £1.039m – an increase of £44k (4.4%) on the current year’s allocation of £995k. Within that, nationally arranged licences, where costs are charged to individual LA’s CSSB, have increased from £142k to £164k (15%).

The net impact of the above, is a small increase of £9,800 available funding on the provisional figures discussed at the December meeting of Schools Forum, and in line with approval given this has been adjusted within Statutory & Regulatory Duties.

The final allocation of the CSSB is included in Appendix A. The figures do not represent the full cost of each service, the table represents an internal allocation of contributions only.

There are many education services offered to schools like educational psychology, various therapies and other services which were previously funded by the Education Support Grant, that the Council continues to provide without any additional funding from the DSG.

.05 **Summary**

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies.

The final Central Support Services Block allocation for 2023/24 is £1.039m, an increase of £44k (4.4%) on the current year’s allocation of £995k.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Contact: | Lynne Samuel Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services |
| Email: | lynne.samuel@wokingham.gov.uk |

| | Description of Service | Budget 2022/23 £'000 | Budget 2023/24 £'000 |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Statutory & regulatory duties | Director of Children's Services, education staff and planning for the education service as a whole. | 162 | 187 |
| | Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education. Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares. Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula. Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's Chief Finance Officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools. | 117 | 117 |
| | Health & Safety | 12 | 12 |
| | Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs). | 7 | 7 |
| | Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools. | 150 | 150 |
| | Education Welfare | Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision for education to excluded pupils. School Attendance Responsibilities regarding the employment of children | 117 |

| | Description of Service | Budget 2022/23 £'000 | Budget 2023/24 £'000 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Asset Management | Management of the Local Authority's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions | 39 | 39 |
| | General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority , including those leased to academies | 10 | 10 |
| Other ongoing | Copyright Licences | 145 | 164 |
| | School Forum servicing | 4 | 4 |
| | School Admission – duties relating to the admissions process | 232 | 232 |
| TOTAL | | 995 | 1,039 |

*** Contribution towards total annual cost of statutory services, circa £2m.*

This page is intentionally left blank

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TITLE | 2023/24 High Needs Block Budget Update |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the progress on the 2023/24 High Needs Block budget setting process.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2023/24 High Needs Block Budget setting prior to consultation on final budget proposals.

The impact of the Autumn Statement had previously been assumed at £1m for Wokingham, following advice received through the Safety Valve Programme. Figures have now been confirmed as £1.18m through the finance settlement received in December, however the additional funding also comes with conditions of grant on how this must be allocated to settings.

Members of the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group are as below, with support provided by relevant Council Officers:

- Corrina Gillard – Head Teacher, Emmbrook Infant School
- Debra Briault – Chief Operating Officer, The Circle Trust
- Raj Arava – School Business Manager, Foundry College
- Sara Attra – Head Teacher, Addington School

- Sal Thirlway – Assistant Director, Learning Achievement & Partnerships
- Dan Robinson / Jamie Conran – SEND Lead

Inflation remains the key challenge as cost pressures seen in settings are likely to outstrip the additional resources available. This will require to be reviewed in conjunction with application of the conditions of grant attached to the additional grant funding received for 2023/24.

The group will bring back final recommended budget assumptions for consultation with Schools Forum at the March meeting.

2023/24 High Needs Block Budget January 2023

.01 Purpose of the Report

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2023/24 High Needs Block Budget setting prior to consultation on final budget proposals.

.02 Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note the progress on the 2023/24 High Needs Block budget setting process and the links to the Safety Valve Programme.

.03 Background

As one of four blocks of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE), the High Needs Block (HNB) is allocated to Local Authorities through a national formula and is intended to fund support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25. High Needs Funding is also intended to support good quality Alternative Provision (AP) for pre-16 pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream or special schools.

While significant increases in HNB funding has been provided nationally in recent years, in Wokingham, as with many other LAs, the cost and demand of support for vulnerable children and young people has outstripped available resources.

Locally, the cumulative deficit on the HNB as at 31st March 2022 stood at £10.8m, and is projected to increase to £16.5m by the end of the current financial year.

Wokingham is currently working with the DfE, as part of the Safety Valve Programme, on delivery of a management plan seeking to delivering in-year balance by 2028/29. Detailed budget setting decisions for the 2023/24 HNB will require to be set in the context of that longer term financial plan.

.04 2023/24 High Needs Block Funding

Nationally, High Needs Block funding is increasing by £970m, or 10.6%, in 2023/24.

The total High Needs Budget of £9.7 billion announced in July 2022 has been increased by £400m, to £10.1 billion, as a result of additional funding announced through the Autumn Statement.

The impact of the Autumn Statement had previously been assumed at £1m for Wokingham, following advice received through the Safety Valve Programme.

Figures have now been confirmed as £1.18m through the finance settlement received in December, however the additional funding also comes with conditions of grant on how this must be allocated to settings.

.05 High Needs Block Task & Finish Group

Members of the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group are as below, with support provided by relevant Council Officers:

- Corrina Gillard – Head Teacher, Emmbrook Infant School
- Debra Briault – Chief Operating Officer, The Circle Trust
- Raj Arava – School Business Manager, Foundry College
- Sara Attra – Head Teacher, Addington School

- Sal Thirlway – Assistant Director, Learning Achievement & Partnerships
- Jamie Conran – Head of SEND (joining Jan 2023)

The group met prior to the end of the autumn term to discuss in more detail the HNB model and outlook underpinning the DSG Management Plan, and the impact of the Safety Valve Programme.

Inflation remains the key area for further work through the Group, given rising cost pressures on all settings significantly outstrip the resources available in the context of a 6-year balanced budget position.

In addition, the conditions of the additional grant now received will require to be worked through in detail.

.06 Transfer from the Schools Block

As reported in the Schools Block Budget report, the LA is not anticipating a block transfer for the 2023/24 financial year. The impact of that will however be absorbed through the LA's planned equalisation fund, held separately to the DSG and therefore the financial envelope planned for in 2023/24 will not change.

.07 Financial Summary

Discussion continues through the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group to work through the detail of 2023/24 budget setting, set against the context of the DSG Management Plan being discussed through the Safety Valve Programme.

Inflation remains the key challenge as cost pressures seen in settings are likely to outstrip the additional resources available. This will require to be reviewed in conjunction with application of the conditions of grant attached to the additional grant funding received for 2023/24.

The group will bring back final recommended budget assumptions for consultation with Schools Forum at the March meeting.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Contact: | Lynne Samuel Finance Business Partner – Children's Services |
| Email: | lynne.samuel@wokingham.gov.uk |

Agenda Item 32

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TITLE | 2023/24 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Schools Forum on 11 January 2023 |
| WARD | None Specific; |
| LEAD OFFICER | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Final 2023/24 Schools Block Budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This is the Final 2023/24 Schools Block Budget for discussion and agreement.

We were informed by the ESFA of our final DSG allocation for 2023/24 on 16th December.

2023/24 Final School Block Budget January 2023

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides a final School Block Budget for 2023/24 for consideration by the Schools Forum following the announcement of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations in December 2022. Pupil data has now been updated to reflect the October 2022 census together with the updated data sets for determining additional educational needs.

.02 Recommendations

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Final 2023/24 Schools Block budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 20th January 2023.

.03 Background

Final funding allocations for the 2023/24 financial year were received from the ESFA on 16th December 2022. The final budget reflects the October 2022 pupil numbers and updated data.

.04 Changes from Estimated Budget

Table A shows that the final allocation was £138,779,889, a difference of £341,599 from the estimated budget. The difference is due to an additional 36 pupils compared to the figures received from schools in September, which shows how pupil numbers keep changing throughout the year. This also affected the growth fund income we had estimated. The impact on individual schools will vary depending on the pupil characteristics in each school, see Appendix A.

54 schools will see an increase in budget from 2022/23 with 11 seeing a reduction. All 11 of these schools have seen reduction in pupil numbers from October 2021.

As discussed at the December meeting of Schools Forum, a disapplication request has been made by the LA to the Secretary of State in respect of a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2023/24, equating to approx. £694k. While formal outcome of that process is not known at the time of writing, the LA has been advised that it is extremely unlikely that approval will be granted, given that Schools Forum did not support the block transfer. Figures provided in Appendix A therefore assume no block transfer for the 2023/24 financial year. The DSG Management Plan retains a block transfer assumption from 2024/25 onwards however, and therefore work will continue through the relevant task & finish groups

and the Borough Education Partnership to secure system wide support for the approach in future financial years.

Table A
Compares the Draft Budget for 2023/24 with the Final Budget for 2023/24

| | 2023/24 FINAL with no transfer | 2023/24 ESTIMATED | Variance between Estimated and Final |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Number on Roll | 26,415 | 26,379 | 36 |
| Primary PUF | 71,983,274 | 71,873,369 | 109,905 |
| Secondary SUF | 63,495,841 | 63,424,604 | 71,237 |
| Premises | 1,634,878 | 1,634,877 | 1 |
| Growth | 1,665,896 | 1,505,440 | 160,456 |
| | 138,779,889 | 138,438,290 | 341,599 |
| Growth Fund Estimate | 1,665,896 | 1,700,000 | - 34,104 |
| 0.5% Transfer to HNB | - | - | - |
| Amount to put through APT | 137,113,993 | 136,738,290 | 375,703 |

The Model

The model takes into account the results of the consultation with schools in November.

- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) has been set at 0.5%. Therefore, every school will see a 0.5% increase on the pupil led factors compared to 2022/23
- The minimum NFF rates have been used against each factor.
- Notional SEN has been increased in line with the national average, with total of £14.9m allocated through the model.
- More factors are used in the notional SEN calculation, which are Option 1 from the consultation, i.e.:

| Factor | Option 1 |
|----------------------|----------|
| AWPU | 4% |
| Deprivation | 30% |
| Low Prior Attainment | 100% |
| Lump Sum | 30% |

- The minimum per pupil level factor (MPPL) will continued to be used as the basis for the calculations for expansion classes
- We have added an inflationary uplift for 2023/24 for the new and growing school rates that haven't changed since 2018/19. We have based the increase on the average cumulative MPPL increase since 2020-21, which is 15%.

- We haven't yet received a response with regards to our disapplication request for our all-through school, but the model has assumed that this will be approved as Schools Forum supported that approach.

Growth Fund

The DSG finance settlement confirmed Growth Funding of £1.66m for 2023/24, a slight increase on that assumed in planning figures previously discussed.

In order to meet mainstream place planning challenges, the full allocation is proposed to be retained for Growth, which taken with the anticipated £234k remaining in reserves at the end of this financial year, gives £1.894m total resources for 2023/24.

In line with the all schools consultation, pupil led funding for new classes remains based on MPPL, and an inflationary uplift has been applied to both lump sum and pupil diseconomies funding. The inflationary factor used is 15%, which equates to the average cumulative uplift in MPPL since 2020/21.

Mainstream Schools Additional Grant

In 2023/24 schools will also be receiving additional funding, called the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG). This is in addition to the core DSG budget allocation, and schools will have the flexibility to prioritise their spending of the MSAG to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures.

Wokingham has been advised of a provisional amount of £4.5m for our schools. School level allocations will be published by the ESFA in Spring 2023 and paid to schools in two tranches, 5/12ths during the summer term and 7/12ths during the autumn term.

Similar to the Supplementary Grant received in 2022/23, the MSAG will be incorporated into schools core budgets in 2024/25.

The basic rates will have the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA)

Please see table C below for the rates applicable to each age range. When the school level allocations are published, the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) will be applied to the funding rates to take into account geographical variation in labour costs. For Wokingham the ACA is 1.0348.

Table C

| | Primary | KS3 | KS4 |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-----|
| Basic per pupil rate | 119 | 168 | 190 |
| Lump sum | 4510 | | |
| FSM6 per pupil rate | 104 | 152 | 152 |

.05 **Summary**

The Final Schools Block budget for 2023/24, subject to Schools Forum approval, will be submitted to the ESFA by the 20th January deadline.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Contact: | Katherine Vernon Schools Finance Manager |
| Email: | katherine.vernon@wokingham.gov.uk |

| Appendix A | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| URN | LAESTAB | School Name | NOR Oct 2021 | 2022/23 Post MFG Budget | FINAL NOR Oct 2022 | NOR movement from Oct 2021 | 2023/24 Post MFG Budget | Variance between 2022/23 and Final |
| | | | | | | | FINAL MODEL (excl 0.5% transfer) | |
| Total | | | 25,849 | 128,253,240 | 26,598 | 749 | 137,113,913 | 8,860,673 |
| 147862 | 8722009 | Alder Grove CofE Primary School | 125 | 738,611 | 185 | 60 | 1,063,239 | 324,628 |
| 109850 | 8722116 | Aldryington Primary School | 315 | 1,369,587 | 316 | 1 | 1,418,092 | 48,505 |
| 149352 | 8723372 | All Saints CofE (Aided) Primary School | 239 | 1,173,099 | 260 | 21 | 1,305,635 | 132,536 |
| 109836 | 8722100 | Bearwood Primary School | 268 | 1,238,437 | 273 | 5 | 1,299,588 | 61,152 |
| 147023 | 8722008 | Beechwood Primary School | 344 | 1,562,223 | 346 | 2 | 1,618,079 | 55,856 |
| 142181 | 8724001 | Bohunt School Wokingham | 1225 | 6,822,397 | 1229 | 4 | 7,145,824 | 323,427 |
| 147378 | 8723048 | Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School | 99 | 531,171 | 88 | -11 | 486,939 | -44,232 |
| 144571 | 8723312 | Earley St Peter's CofE Primary School | 490 | 2,096,711 | 467 | -23 | 2,089,071 | -7,640 |
| 109855 | 8722121 | Emmbrook Infant School | 184 | 850,332 | 183 | -1 | 875,054 | 24,722 |
| 109863 | 8722130 | Emmbrook Junior School | 252 | 1,097,360 | 257 | 5 | 1,154,665 | 57,305 |
| 140953 | 8722002 | Evendons Primary School | 387 | 1,661,205 | 389 | 2 | 1,724,195 | 62,990 |
| 109829 | 8722088 | Farley Hill Primary School | 208 | 917,481 | 269 | 61 | 1,200,569 | 283,088 |
| 110012 | 8723315 | Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School | 112 | 563,787 | 104 | -8 | 547,563 | -16,225 |
| 142182 | 8722003 | Floreat Montague Park Primary School | 371 | 1,779,927 | 416 | 45 | 2,036,671 | 256,744 |
| 109924 | 8722232 | Gorse Ride Infants' School | 110 | 591,010 | 93 | -17 | 530,271 | -60,739 |
| 109877 | 8722148 | Gorse Ride Junior School | 219 | 1,052,950 | 213 | -6 | 1,062,370 | 9,420 |
| 110015 | 8723319 | Grazeley Parochial CofE Aided Primary School | 212 | 956,779 | 210 | -2 | 983,734 | 26,955 |
| 145284 | 8722163 | Hatch Ride Primary School | 204 | 900,575 | 201 | -3 | 917,920 | 17,345 |
| 109929 | 8722237 | Hawkedon Primary School | 630 | 2,755,558 | 632 | 2 | 2,852,568 | 97,010 |
| 131689 | 8722246 | Highwood Primary School | 418 | 1,893,355 | 428 | 10 | 1,974,172 | 80,817 |
| 109930 | 8722238 | Hillside Primary School | 415 | 1,832,951 | 424 | 9 | 1,930,696 | 97,745 |
| 147805 | 8722106 | Keep Hatch Primary School | 421 | 1,807,341 | 449 | 28 | 1,994,731 | 187,390 |
| 109830 | 8722089 | Lambs Lane Primary School | 210 | 976,225 | 209 | -1 | 1,005,603 | 29,378 |
| 131192 | 8723371 | Loddon Primary School | 573 | 2,490,937 | 557 | -16 | 2,504,590 | 13,653 |
| 136637 | 8724053 | Maiden Erlegh School | 1389 | 7,746,700 | 1409 | 20 | 8,216,763 | 470,063 |
| 145281 | 8722067 | Nine Mile Ride Primary School | 364 | 1,557,298 | 365 | 1 | 1,612,663 | 55,365 |
| 138367 | 8724000 | Oakbank | 513 | 3,126,229 | 547 | 34 | 3,498,239 | 372,010 |
| 145283 | 8722132 | Oaklands Infant School | 171 | 778,699 | 160 | -11 | 760,222 | -18,477 |
| 145282 | 8722062 | Oaklands Junior School | 246 | 1,059,617 | 250 | 4 | 1,109,379 | 49,761 |
| 147556 | 8723046 | Polehampton Church of England Infant School | 178 | 831,895 | 177 | -1 | 828,533 | -3,362 |
| 147580 | 8723370 | Polehampton Church of England Junior School | 229 | 1,061,374 | 235 | 6 | 1,069,267 | 7,893 |
| 109927 | 8722235 | Radstock Primary School | 356 | 1,566,468 | 369 | 13 | 1,673,573 | 107,105 |
| 109894 | 8722167 | Rivermead Primary School | 420 | 1,823,812 | 424 | 4 | 1,900,232 | 76,420 |
| 109989 | 8723057 | Robert Piggott CofE Infant School | 125 | 609,756 | 117 | -8 | 601,630 | -8,126 |
| 109993 | 8723061 | Robert Piggott CofE Junior School | 172 | 803,185 | 170 | -2 | 823,307 | 20,122 |
| 145285 | 8723330 | Saint Sebastians CofE Primary School | 138 | 701,677 | 132 | -6 | 698,392 | -3,284 |
| 147249 | 8722157 | Shinfield Infant and Nursery School | 268 | 1,169,226 | 270 | 2 | 1,215,364 | 46,139 |
| 109976 | 8723041 | Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School | 361 | 1,548,215 | 361 | 0 | 1,599,046 | 50,830 |
| 147379 | 8723320 | Sonning Church of England Primary School | 205 | 885,967 | 207 | 2 | 918,147 | 32,181 |
| 133383 | 8722247 | South Lake Primary School | 423 | 1,846,079 | 417 | -6 | 1,884,820 | 38,741 |
| 872124 | 8720124 | St Cecilia's CofE Primary School | 0 | - | 90 | 90 | 481,514 | 481,514 |
| 145286 | 8724048 | St Crispin's School | 1029 | 5,843,273 | 1128 | 99 | 6,719,988 | 876,715 |
| 110041 | 8723368 | St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School | 420 | 1,798,803 | 421 | 1 | 1,862,008 | 63,205 |
| 147377 | 8723037 | St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst | 139 | 670,205 | 136 | -3 | 683,246 | 13,042 |
| 109987 | 8723055 | St Paul's CofE Junior School | 384 | 1,666,176 | 384 | 0 | 1,720,347 | 54,171 |
| 144455 | 8723341 | St Teresa's Catholic Academy | 300 | 1,285,286 | 298 | -2 | 1,318,915 | 33,629 |
| 110062 | 8724051 | The Bulmershe School | 1187 | 7,103,275 | 1214 | 27 | 7,511,923 | 408,648 |
| 109878 | 8722149 | The Colleton Primary School | 329 | 1,448,497 | 318 | -11 | 1,446,102 | -2,395 |
| 144637 | 8722006 | The Coombes CofE Primary School | 441 | 1,905,215 | 387 | -54 | 1,755,902 | -149,313 |
| 148453 | 8724049 | The Emmbrook School | 932 | 5,434,820 | 1072 | 140 | 6,498,732 | 1,063,911 |
| 139853 | 8724050 | The Forest School | 469 | 2,804,330 | 596 | 127 | 3,687,058 | 882,728 |
| 109921 | 8722227 | The Hawthorns Primary School | 428 | 1,869,196 | 432 | 4 | 1,946,736 | 77,540 |
| 136880 | 8724047 | The Holt School | 1156 | 6,428,372 | 1195 | 39 | 6,873,946 | 445,574 |
| 136891 | 8724505 | The Piggott School | 1275 | 6,929,021 | 1320 | 45 | 7,414,043 | 485,022 |
| 142166 | 8724060 | Waingels | 1160 | 6,628,373 | 1195 | 35 | 7,113,770 | 485,398 |
| 109869 | 8722137 | Walter Infant School | 268 | 1,186,265 | 268 | 0 | 1,235,561 | 49,297 |
| 147926 | 8722101 | Wescott Infant School | 141 | 684,815 | 153 | 12 | 747,387 | 62,572 |
| 148014 | 8722184 | Westende Junior School | 231 | 1,059,971 | 240 | 9 | 1,104,114 | 44,143 |
| 139900 | 8722001 | Wheatfield Primary School | 205 | 904,317 | 212 | 7 | 954,312 | 49,995 |
| 148800 | 8722105 | Whiteknights Primary School | 421 | 1,826,029 | 419 | -2 | 1,854,442 | 28,413 |
| 109889 | 8722160 | Willow Bank Infant School | 178 | 821,836 | 167 | -11 | 805,195 | -16,640 |
| 109890 | 8722161 | Willow Bank Junior School | 243 | 1,063,019 | 240 | -3 | 1,085,685 | 22,666 |
| 139899 | 8722000 | Windmill Primary School | 193 | 922,285 | 192 | -1 | 938,965 | 16,680 |
| 109876 | 8722146 | Winnersh Primary School | 413 | 1,792,933 | 405 | -8 | 1,815,513 | 22,580 |
| 109988 | 8723056 | Woodley CofE Primary School | 318 | 1,400,725 | 308 | -10 | 1,407,094 | 6,369 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| AWPU Primary (Years R-6) | | | | 3,476.50 | | | 3,532.14 | |
| AWPU Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) | | | | 4,762.81 | | | 4,979.75 | |
| AWPU Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) | | | | 5,492.87 | | | 5,612.50 | |
| MPPL | | | | 1,239,915 | | | 1,565,395 | |
| MFG | | | | 552,564 | | | 994,757 | |
| CAP | | | | - | | | - | |
| Ratio | | | | 1 : 1.29 | | | 1 : 1.31 | |

Schools Forum Forward Plan 2022/23

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 15th March 2023 | I | 2022/23 Revenue Monitoring Report |
| | I | DSG Management Plan Update |
| | C | 2023/24 Final High Needs Block Budget |
| | D | 2023/24 Final Early Years Budget |

This page is intentionally left blank