



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** will be held virtually  
**ON WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024 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 2 January 2024

**Note:** Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services:  
[democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:  
[https://youtube.com/live/reaQz\\_r3V78?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/reaQz_r3V78?feature=share)

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

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| <b>Our Vision</b>   |
| <b><i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i></b>  |
| <b>Enriching Lives</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.</li> <li>• Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone.</li> <li>• Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of.</li> <li>• Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Providing Safe and Strong Communities</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.</li> <li>• Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care.</li> <li>• Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish.</li> <li>• Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future.</li> <li>• Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy.</li> <li>• Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity.</li> <li>• Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.</li> <li>• Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow.</li> <li>• Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.</li> <li>• Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Keeping the Borough Moving</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>• Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions.</li> <li>• Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure.</li> <li>• Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Changing the Way We Work for You</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be relentlessly customer focussed.</li> <li>• Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers.</li> <li>• Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.</li> <li>• Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Be the Best We Can Be</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice.</li> <li>• Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working.</li> <li>• Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business.</li> <li>• Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient.</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough.</li> <li>• Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.</li> </ul> |

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

| <b>Schools Representatives</b>   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Maintained Schools</b>        |  |
| Carol Simpson                    | School Business Manager - Colleton Primary                                   |
| Liz Woodards                     | School Business Manager – Hawkedon Primary                                   |
| Nicky Taylor Dickens             | Headteacher – Willow Bank Infant   |
| Amanda Woodfin                   | Headteacher - Bulmershe School   |
| <b>Academies</b>                 |  |
| Julia Mead                       | School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary (The Keys Academy Trust) |
| Phil Sherwood                    | Primary Academy Head - Sonning Cof E Primary (The Keys Academy Trust)        |
| Brian Prebble - Chairman         | Primary Academy Head – Rivermead Primary (Bellevue Place Education Trust)    |
| Corrina Gillard                  | Primary Academy Head – Emmbrook Infant (The Circle Trust)                    |
| Derren Gray                      | Academy Head - The Piggott School (The Agape Multi-Academy Trust)            |
| Andy Hinchliff                   | Academy Head - St Crispin's School (The Circle Trust)                        |
| Jenny Comber                     | Academy Head - Bohunt School (Bohunt Education Trust)                        |
| Shirley Austin                   | Academy Head - The Forest School (The Forest School Academy Trust)           |
| Debra Briault – Vice-Chairman    | Secondary Academy School Representative (The Circle Trust)                   |
| Vacancy (x3)                     | Academy Primary School   |
| <b>Special Schools</b>           |  |
| Sara Attra                       | Special School Head - Addington School                                       |
| Iain Thomas                      | PRU Head – Foundry College   |
| <b>Early Years</b>               |  |
| Kerrie Clifford                  | Nursery Head - Ambleside Centre (Maintained)                                 |
| Ian Morgan                       | Early Years Representative   |
| <b>Wokingham Borough Council</b> |  |
| Ian Pittock                      | Wokingham Borough Council  |
| Ming Zhang                       | Assistant Director for Education and SEND                                    |
| <b>Post 16 Education</b>         |  |
| 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.      |
|----------|---------------|---|---------------|
| 23       |               | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>To receive any apologies for absence.   |               |
| 24       |               | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b><br>To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2023.  | 7 - 12        |
| 25       |               | <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b><br>To receive any declarations of interest.  |               |
| 26       | None Specific | <b>2023-24 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT</b><br>To receive and consider a report containing details of the schools current financial position.      | 13 - 16       |
| 27       | None Specific | <b>SOLAR ENERGY REPORT</b><br>To discuss the issue of solar energy charges to schools.  | To Follow     |
| 28       | None Specific | <b>INCLUSION FUNDING</b><br>To receive and consider the Inclusion Funding verbal report.  | Verbal Report |
| 29       | None Specific | <b>2023-24 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET UPDATE</b><br>To receive and consider the 2023-24 High Needs Block Budget Update report.                     | 17 - 22       |
| 30       | None Specific | <b>2024-25 PROPOSED SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET SUBMISSION</b><br>To receive and consider the 2024-25 Proposed Schools Block Budget Submission report. | 23 - 28       |
| 31       | None Specific | <b>2024-25 FINAL CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)</b><br>To receive and consider the 2024-25 Final Central School Services Block report.    | 29 - 34       |
| 32       | None Specific | <b>2024-25 DRAFT EARLY YEARS BUDGET</b><br>To receive and consider a report giving details of the Draft Early Years Budget.                     | 35 - 40       |
| 33       | None Specific | <b>FORWARD PROGRAMME</b><br>To consider the Forums work programme for the remainder of the academic year.                                       | 41 - 42       |

**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,**

**Tel**

**Email**

**Postal Address**

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOLS FORUM  
HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2023 FROM 10.00 AM TO 10.45 AM**

**Schools Representatives**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Carol Simpson   | School Business Manager - Colleton Primary (Maintained)                      |
| Corrina Gillard | Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant (The Circle Trust)                            |
| Liz Woodards    | School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary (Maintained)                      |
| Julia Mead      | School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary (The Keys Academy Trust) |
| Phil Sherwood   | Primary Academy Head - Sonning Cof E Primary (The Keys Academy Trust)        |
| Derren Gray     | Academy Head - The Piggott School (The Agape Multi-Academy Trust)            |
| Andy Hinchliff  | Academy Head - St Crispin's School (The Circle Trust)                        |
| Jenny Comber    | Academy Head - Bohunt School (Bohunt Education Trust)                        |
| Shirley Austin  | Academy Head - The Forest School (The Forest School Academy Trust)           |
| Debra Briault   | Secondary Academy School Representative (The Circle Trust)                   |
| Sara Attra      | Special School Head - Addington School                                       |
| Ian Thomas      | Pupil Referral Unit Head – Foundry College                                   |
| Ian Morgan      | Early Years Representative   |

**Non School Representatives**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Ming Zhang | Assistant Director for Education and SEND |
|------------|---|

**Also Present**

Luciane Bowker, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist  
Al Moore, Finance Business Partner  
Emma Shrimpton, Finance Business Partner Children's Services  
Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager  
Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve / SEN Consultant

**16 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted from Brian Prebble.

**17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 October 2023 and of the meeting held on 6 November 2023 were both confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair at another date.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 11 October 2023

Schools Forum members were asked to continue to seek governors with the relevant experience to join Schools Forum.

It was confirmed that there had been no changes to the membership of the Early Years Task and Finish Group. Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager informed that this group would meet in January 2024.

## **18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **19 2023/24 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT**

Katherine Vernon presented the 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report.

The current financial position showed a small adverse movement from what was last reported to Schools Forum. The projected in-year deficit was now £12.5m, with the main pressure continuing to be in the High Needs Block (HNB). Taken with the brought forward deficit of £9.2m, and expected Safety Valve funding received mid-year, a forecast cumulative deficit of £19.9m was now projected to 31 March 2024.

There was a small variance in forecast for the Schools Block due to increase in the Growth Fund of £120k and a reduction in spend on Maternity under de-delegation of £24k.

The De-delegation staff costs was £24k less than budget due to academy conversions.

The Contingency continued with £55k as no-one had withdrawn from this fund this year.

It was expected that the Growth Fund would be used for schools expansion next year, requiring around £1.6m from the Schools Block. This would be modelled through the work of the Task and Finish Group.

The forecasting of the HNB was stabilising, as a result of the impact of the Safety Valve programme. A Council wide piece of work was being undertaken to unlock Health funding.

A lot of work would be carried out to work out the models for the new rates for Early Years from September 2024. This would be discussed with the Task and Finish Group. The rates for Early Years were received last week and were as follows:

- 3-4 year olds - £6.31
- 2 year olds - £9.05
- 9 months old to 2 year olds - £12.97

A range of rates would be shared with providers at the earliest opportunity to aid with budget planning.

The Hardship Fund contained £50k which was unspent and would be carried forward in case any school needed it.

There was no variance in the Central Schools Services Block.

In response to a comment, Emma Shrimpton, Finance Business Partner for Children's Services explained that it was the *forecast* for the HNB that was stabilising, this did not mean a reduction in the demand or cost of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The intelligence and data analysis were getting better.

Sara Attra was pleased to note that an effort was being made to unlock funding from Health. She was interested to know how the service was gathering evidence for this piece of work. She stated that she had not been asked to provide information, even though she worked with Health within her school.



Emma Shrimpton explained that this was a Council wide initiative, and that Commissioning Services were leading on this piece of work. Conversations were being held at a high level at the moment, but this would filter down in due course. A better process with Health needed to be put in place.

Ming Zhang, Assistant Director for Education and SEND confirmed that Commissioning Services were working with Health to unlock the funding for the Council.

In relation to Appendix B – Growth Fund, Derren Gray clarified that the Piggott School had taken 46 pupils, not 45 pupils as stated in the document (this had already been pointed out at a previous meeting). Officers agreed to amend it.

**RESOLVED** That the 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report be noted.

## **20 DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN / SAFETY VALVE UPDATE**

Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve / SEND Consultant informed that the local authority was in the process of submitting its third report on the Safety Valve to the DfE.

A meeting with the DfE had taken place and there were early signs of a positive impact of the Safety Valve programme. The number of requests for EHCP assessments was stabilising if compared to the same period last year. A higher number of school requests were being approved, with a decline in the number of approvals from requests submitted by parents. As expected, there was some discontent about this within the parents' community. The service was trying to enhance communication with parents to explain the situation.

The feedback received from the DfE was that Wokingham was progressing relatively well compared to other benchmarkable local authorities.

A revised SEND Strategy was being drafted and it was hoped that this would go out for consultation in the new year.

Changes were being made to the Exceptional Needs Funding, this was being rebranded as Inclusion Funding. More information about it would be provided at the next meeting.

A new area SENCO had been appointed and was due to start work in January 2024.

Progress was being made to achieve the target of opening the two new special schools in 2026. It was anticipated that this timescale was achievable.

The service was in the process of contacting schools that had demonstrated an interest in developing resource spaces in the next few years.

Work was ongoing to develop an Early Years Strategy, this was important in order to improve readiness for school and had been requested by schools.

There had been inflationary requests received for places in the private sector, but this was being managed by the Commissioning Team.

Debra Briault asked for more detail on the feedback received from parents. Jonathan Wilding stated that there had been an increase in the number of mitigation meetings and tribunals. This was somewhat inevitable and the result of changes in policies and better

scrutiny. It was important to improve communication with parents and schools. Parental confidence was a national issue.

Debra Briault asked that schools be kept informed in order to help enhance the communication with parents.

Ming Zhang stated that it was important to gain a better understanding of the parents' perspective. The DfE was designing a survey for parents and carers in an effort to acquire the parents' views on a national level. It was hoped that with this information it would be possible to address the issue of low parental confidence.

**RESOLVED** That the verbal update report be noted.

## **21 DRAFT 2024/25 SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET**

Katherine Vernon presented the Draft 2024/25 Schools Block Budget Report.

The pupil census data was still incomplete as some academies provided their numbers directly to the DfE. Therefore, the Budget contained indicative numbers at this stage.

The final figures would be received from the DfE at the end of the week. Officers would work with that information and send indicative Budgets out to schools for comments as soon as possible. The Task and Finish Group will meet in January to discuss the Budget, ahead of the next Schools Forum meeting.

The way in which the Growth Fund was received had changed and a new tool had been provided. At the moment, the provisional census figures had been used and it looked like the local authority would receive £1.1m from the DfE. However, it was anticipated that £1.6m was needed for the Growth Fund. The final figures were still to be confirmed.

The disapplication request for the all-through school had been submitted and accepted. It had not been necessary to submit a disapplication request for the 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the HNB.

In response to a question, Katherine Vernon confirmed that the Budget information would be sent out during the Christmas period via emails to schools' finance business managers and headteachers.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

## **22 2024/25 PROPOSED DE-DELEGATED BUDGET**

Katherine Vernon presented the 2024/25 Proposed De-delegated Budget. She explained that a couple of years ago, a Task and Finish Group had recommended that maternity cover and jury service be kept as de-delegated items.

A new rate of £27.53 per pupil had been calculated, this was the cost to maintained schools.

The contingencies fund contained £55k, Schools Forum could consider using this fund to help schools facing financial difficulties.

Upon being put to the vote, the maintained schools representatives voted in favour of keeping the maternity cover and jury service de-delegated items, at a rate of £27.53 per pupil.

It was agreed that the Contingencies Fund would be discussed at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The maternity cover and jury service elements of the De-delegated Budget be maintained;
- 2) The rate to be charged to maintained school will be £27.53 per pupil; and
- 3) The Contingencies Fund will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **23 2024/25 DRAFT CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET**

Katherine Vernon presented the 2024/25 Draft Central Schools Service Block Budget.

As the final allocation was not yet known, the report contained provisional amounts based on last year's census figures.

The Central School Services Budget represented a contribution towards the cost of services, it did not fully cover the total cost.

The Budget assumed that the cost of licenses would go up by 3%.

Members were in broad agreement with the proposal contained in the report, the final figures would be agreed at the January meeting.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

### **24 INCLUSION FUNDING**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **25 FORWARD PROGRAMME**

The Forum considered and noted the Forward Programme of work and dates of future meetings as set out in the Agenda.

The following items were added to the January meeting:

- Inclusion Funding Report
- Solar Energy Report

Members were asked to consider if they wished to continue with virtual meetings. A face to face meeting in the Council offices in Shute End could be organised if required.

**RESOLVED** That the Forward Programme be noted.

### **26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Debra Briault informed that a meeting with the Energy Team and schools had taken place where there had been discussions about the use of solar energy. There had also been conversations via emails about this issue.

Carol Simpson stated that at the meeting, schools were advised that they would start to be charged 17p per kilowatt hour - currently there was no charge. Schools had been asking for information about what this actually meant, as this was not known. In her school the solar meters were not working so it was impossible to know the cost.

Carol Simpson added that a contract was sent for schools to sign. Her school had a contract from 2012 and she had been told that that contract was no longer valid, she would like to understand why?

Carol Simpson stated that schools wished to ask the following questions:

- Who within the Council had made the decision to charge schools?
- Where would the proceeds of this charge go?
- Why were the current contracts no longer valid?
- Could the Energy Team to provide a forecast of the cost as soon as possible? Before the P9 Budget?

Schools felt unhappy about this proposal and had refused to sign the contract.

Debra Briault added that schools had been advised that the charge would be backdated to April 2023, she worried that schools would not be able to manage that.

Carol Simpson stated that the contract her school had with WBC stated that the school would benefit from the generated electricity for the next 25 years.

Additionally, the new contract that was sent to schools stated that the 17p per kilowatt hour could be reviewed every year. There was also a threat that if schools did not sign the contract they would not be guaranteed 30% lower than standard tariff rate discount.

Liz Woodards expressed frustration that schools had been asking for more detailed financial information and this had not been received.

Ming Zhang asked Carol Simpson to send him the information so that an internal investigation could be carried out. He stated that a response on this issue would be provided at the January meeting.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) A report on the issue of solar energy charge be brought to the January 2024 meeting;  
and
- 2) Information about the financial implication of the charge be circulated to schools as soon as possible.

**TITLE** 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Schools Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**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 that with the exception of the Growth Fund Forecast there is no change to the forecast position for the 2023/24 financial year.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

An in-year deficit of £12.3m is projected, with the budget pressure continuing to be within the High Needs Block. Taken with the brought forward deficit of £9.2m, and expected Safety Valve funding received in-year, a forecast cumulative deficit of £19.7m is now projected to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

## 2023/24 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 2023/24 financial year, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### 02. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note that with the exception of the Growth Fund Forecast there is no change to the forecast position for the 2023/24 financial year.

### 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 2023 meeting of Schools Forum a forecast deficit of £12.5m was reported for the 2023/24 financial year budget, largely due to continued pressure within the High Needs Block.

### 04. DSG Forecast as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December, the DSG forecast for the 2023/24 financial year reports an in-year deficit of £12.3m.

### 05. Key Variances

#### **Schools Block**

##### Growth Fund

Small variance in forecast due to updated Growth Fund to reflect full year expected usage. Expect an opportunity of £150k if this isn't called upon before the end of the financial year. This means that less will need to be drawn down from the Schools Block funding for growth in 2024-25. See Appendix B.

##### De-delegation - Contingency

£55k brought forward and held on behalf of maintained schools for contingency purposes remains in reserve, with no commitments to date. Expect an opportunity of £55k if this isn't called upon before the end of the financial year. This means that this fund will still be available for next financial year. Whilst no additional

provision has been agreed for 2024-25, Schools Forum will be asked to consider a proposal to support schools in deficit in due course.

### **Early Years Block**

No variance or significant risks identified at this time.

#### **Early Years – Provider Reserve Fund**

Contingency of £173k was set aside as part of 2023/24 budget setting, to allow for changes in activity during the year and protect against over allocation on set rates and therefore no variance is reported.

#### **Early Years – Hardship Fund**

£50k has been set aside from 2022/23 to fund any settings that wish to make an application to the Early Years Hardship Fund. To date the Early Years Team have received no applications for this fund.

### **Central Schools Services Block**

No variance or significant risks identified at this time.

## 06. **Key Drivers to Outturn vs Budget**

### **High Needs Block**

The in-year deficit on the HNB is still forecast at £4m higher than budget.

Increased demand in mainstream has led to a £1.6m deficit (£0.3m relating to AP).

We have a higher number of children in special schools which accounts for £1.1m of the deficit.

Higher cost of holding children in Alternative Provision and increased costs of places at Independent and Non-maintained Special schools (INMSS). Demand lead cost price increases continue to dominate the INMSS sector. INMSS makes up 28% of our cost base and accounts for £2.1m of the overspend vs budget of which £0.8m of Health income not yet received is expected to offset this (INMSS £1.3m overspend).

## 07. **Summary**

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

**Appendix A** – 2023/24 DSG Revenue Monitoring by Block

**Appendix B** – Growth Fund Forecast 2023-24 and 2024-25 projection

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Contact:</b> | Katherine Vernon<br>Schools Finance Manager |
| <b>Email:</b>   | katherine.vernon@wokingham.gov.uk           |

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>TITLE</b>                | <b>2024/25 High Needs Block Budget</b>         |
| <b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b> | Schools Forum on 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 |
| <b>WARD</b>                 | (None Specific);                               |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER</b>         | Director of 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 2024/25 High Needs Block budget setting process.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2024/25 High Needs Block Budget setting prior to consultation on final budget proposals.

The approach to budget setting is set in the context of the Safety Valve Programme, and informed by the significant work being progressed.

Key factors influencing the budget setting approach:

- Continued increase in the number of children and young people with an EHCP
- Review of inflationary increases on top-up bandings across 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
  
- Ming Zhang – Assistant Director, SEND and Education
- Jamie Conran – Head of SEND

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

The increase in number of EHCPs remains a widespread system challenge to Local Authorities.

The average cost of provisions is a key challenge for the system, as we hold children in expensive provision whilst new LA provision is brought on-line.

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

### 2024/25 High Needs Block Budget January 2024

#### .01 **Purpose of the Report**

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2024/25 High Needs Block Budget setting prior to consultation on final budget proposals.

#### .02 **Recommendation**

Schools Forum is asked to note the progress on the 2024/25 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 stood at £9.2m, and is projected to increase to £15.3m by the end of the current financial year.

Wokingham continues to work with the DfE, as part of the Safety Valve Programme, on delivery of a management plan which seeks to deliver an in-year balance by 2028/29. Detailed budget setting decisions for the 2024/25 HNB will require to be set in the context of that longer term financial plan.

Currently the cumulative system deficit is protected the statutory override, introduced by the government in 2020, until 2025/26. This means that local authorities' DSG deficits could be separated from their wider accounts.

#### .04 **2024/25 High Needs Block Funding**

Nationally, High Needs Block funding is increasing by £440m, or 4.3%, in 2024/25.

The National Funding Formula ensures that every local authority receives an increase of at least 3% per head of population compared to the current financial year.

The budget allocation notified to Wokingham in December is £29.5m, an increase of £1.1m on 2023/24 levels.

#### **.05 Approach to Budget Setting**

Budget allocations for the coming financial year are being informed by funding arrangements and commitments associated with the current profile of EHCPs, along with estimations of changes in activity over the coming 12 months. This includes the projections of the number of children and young people with an EHCP as reported through the Safety Valve Update, as well as analysis on current run rates of new and ceased plans, and amendments to plans.

Forum agreed to continue with the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group set up for 2023/24 budget setting for 2024/25. Discussions through this group will take forward the overarching modelling undertaken through Safety Valve, alongside detailed discussions with local settings on the financial challenges of the coming 12 months.

#### **.06 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
  
- Ming Zhang – Assistant Director, Education and SEND
- Jamie Conran – Head of SEND

The group will meet in January 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.

#### **.07 Transfer from the Schools Block**

As agreed at the extraordinary Schools Forum in November, the LA will transfer 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the 2024/25 financial year. This is 0.5% less than in our original Safety Valve agreement with the DfE. The impact of this will be need to be over delivered in other aspects of the Safety Valve Programme.

#### **.08 Financial Summary**

While High Needs Block for 2024/25 is expected to be £1.1m higher than in the current year, significant challenge remains to delivering a balanced budget.

Significant increases in the number of children and young people with an EHCP in Wokingham means that expenditure continues to outstrip available resources, and investment in increasing local provision has struggled to keep up with demand.

Budgets will be set taking account of the current profile of EHCPs and a level of assumed increase in activity as the financial year progresses. Improved data quality and information available through the Safety Valve work provide for further improvements in the robustness of the financial model.

More detailed information will be shared with the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group to progress discussions and bring the draft budget back to Forum for consultation.

#### Appendix A - High Needs Block Key Activity Update

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Contact:</b> | Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services |
| <b>Email:</b>   | @wokingham.gov.uk                              |

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# Agenda Item 30

**TITLE** 2024/25 Proposed Schools Block Budget Submission

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** School Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**WARD** (Non-specific);

**DIRECTOR** Director of 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 2024/25 Schools Block Budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This is the Final 2024/25 Schools Block Budget for discussion and agreement.

We were informed by the ESFA of our final DSG allocation for 2024/25 on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## 2024/25 Final School Block Budget January 2024

### .01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides a final School Block Budget for 2024/25 for consideration by the Schools Forum following the announcement of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations in December 2023. Pupil data has now been updated to reflect the October 2023 census together with the updated data sets for determining additional educational needs.

### .02 Recommendations

Schools Forum are asked to approve the Final 2024/25 Schools Block budget prior to submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

### .03 Background

Final funding allocations for the 2024/25 financial year were received from the ESFA on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The final budget reflects the October 2023 pupil numbers and updated data.

### .04 Changes from Estimated Budget

Table A shows that the final allocation was £146,763,431, a difference of (£77,078) from the estimated budget. The difference is due to 7 less pupils compared to the figures received from schools and the draft census. 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.

57 schools will see an increase in budget from 2023/24 with 8 seeing a reduction. All 8 of these schools have seen reduction in pupil numbers since the October 2022 census, of between 6 and 15%.

As agreed at the extraordinary Schools Forum in November, 0.5% will be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25, equating to approx. £734k. The DSG Management Plan retains a 1% block transfer assumption from 2025/26 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 2024/25 with the Final Budget for 2024/25**

|                                  | 2024-25<br>ESTIMATED | 2024-25<br>FINAL   | Variance between<br>Estimated and<br>Final |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Number on Roll                   | 26,559               | 26,552             | (7)  |
| Primary PUF                      | 74,810,480           | 74,841,765         | 31,285                                     |
| Secondary SUF                    | 69,092,022           | 69,007,350         | (84,672)                                   |
| Premises factor                  | 1,790,045            | 1,790,045          | 0  |
| Growth                           | 1,147,963            | 1,124,271          | (23,692)                                   |
| <b>TOTAL Schools Block</b>       | <b>146,840,509</b>   | <b>146,763,431</b> | <b>(77,078)</b>                            |
| Growth Fund Estimate             | 1,500,000            | 1,400,000          | (100,000)                                  |
| 0.5% Transfer to HNB             | 734,203              | 733,817            | (385)                                      |
| <b>Amount to put through APT</b> | <b>144,606,307</b>   | <b>144,629,614</b> | <b>23,307</b>                              |

### The Model

The model considers the results of the consultation with schools in September/October.

- 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 2023/24
- The minimum NFF rates have been used against each factor.
- Our disapplication request for our all-through school has been approved by the ESFA and has been incorporated into the model.

### Growth Fund

The DSG finance settlement confirmed Growth Funding of £1.12m for 2024/25, a slight decrease on that assumed in planning figures previously discussed. And no amount for Falling Rolls Funding.

In order to meet mainstream place planning challenges, the full allocation is proposed to be retained for Growth. As shown in Table A, we will require £1.4m from the Schools Block funding for growth, which taken with the anticipated £270k remaining in reserves at the end of this financial year, gives £1.67m total resources for 2024/25.

There is little evidence to support the creation of a Falling Rolls Fund, as where pupils numbers have fallen, the SCAP return doesn't show that school places will be required in the next 3 to 5 years, which is a mandatory requirement. It is more likely that funding will be required for growth. Where rolls are falling, schools should look into reducing their PAN.

## Additional Funding

In addition to Schools Block funding, in 2024-25 schools will also continue to receive Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) and also an additional grant for Teachers Pensions to reflect the additional costs of the increase to the employer contribution rates to the Teachers Pensions Scheme from April 2024. Further details will be announced by the DfE in due course.

Pupil premium rates are increasing for 2024-25:

- primary FSM6 pupils: £1,480
- secondary FSM6 pupils: £1,050
- looked-after children: £2,570
- children who have ceased to be looked-after: £2,570
- service children: £340

## .05 **Summary**

The Final Schools Block budget for 2024/25, subject to Schools Forum approval, will be submitted to the ESFA by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January deadline.

Appendix A – Comparison of individual schools 2023-24 allocations compared to the provisional 2024-25 allocations

Appendix B – Contribution of individual schools to the 0.5% block transfer

**Katherine Vernon**  
**Schools Finance Manager**  
**January 2024**

| APPENDIX A   |         |   | WITH 0.5% TRANSFER |                          |               |                          |                 |                |                                 |               |
|--------------|---------|---|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| URN          | LAESTAB | School Name   | Oct 2022<br>NOR    | 23-24 Post<br>MFG Budget | Oct 2023 NOR  | 24-25 Post<br>MFG Budget | NOR<br>Variance | % of<br>pupils | Budget<br>Variance              | %<br>Variance |
| <b>Total</b> |         |   | <b>26,598</b>      | <b>£137,113,913</b>      | <b>26,647</b> | <b>£144,630,013</b>      | <b>48.5</b>     | <b>0.18%</b>   | <b>£7,516,100</b>               | <b>5.48%</b>  |
| 147862       | 8722009 | Alder Grove Church of England Primary School              | 185                | £1,063,239               | 267           | £1,529,322               | 82              | 44.32%         | £466,084                        | 43.84%        |
| 109850       | 8722116 | Aldryngton Primary School                                 | 316                | £1,418,092               | 312           | £1,466,480               | -4              | -1.27%         | £48,388                         | 3.41%         |
| 149352       | 8723372 | All Saints Church of England Primary School               | 260                | £1,305,635               | 222           | £1,178,109               | -38             | -14.62%        | -£127,526                       | -9.77%        |
| 109836       | 8722100 | Bearwood Primary School                                   | 273                | £1,299,588               | 265           | £1,317,583               | -8              | -2.93%         | £17,995                         | 1.38%         |
| 147023       | 8722008 | Beechwood Primary School                                  | 346                | £1,618,079               | 326           | £1,655,475               | -20             | -5.78%         | £37,396                         | 2.31%         |
| 142181       | 8724001 | Bohunt School Wokingham                                   | 1229               | £7,145,824               | 1239          | £7,603,215               | 10              | 0.81%          | £457,390                        | 6.40%         |
| 147378       | 8723048 | Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School             | 88                 | £486,939                 | 85            | £492,180                 | -3              | -3.41%         | £5,241                          | 1.08%         |
| 144571       | 8723312 | Earley St Peter's Church of England Primary School        | 467                | £2,089,071               | 454           | £2,107,232               | -13             | -2.78%         | £18,161                         | 0.87%         |
| 149722       | 8722121 | Emmbrook Infant School                                    | 183                | £875,054                 | 182           | £930,570                 | -1              | -0.55%         | £55,516                         | 6.34%         |
| 149723       | 8722130 | Emmbrook Junior School                                    | 257                | £1,154,665               | 258           | £1,220,285               | 1               | 0.39%          | £65,621                         | 5.68%         |
| 140953       | 8722002 | Evendons Primary School                                   | 389                | £1,724,195               | 400           | £1,855,776               | 11              | 2.83%          | £131,581                        | 7.63%         |
| 109829       | 8722088 | Farley Hill Primary School                                | 269                | £1,200,569               | 270           | £1,311,772               | 1               | 0.37%          | £111,203                        | 9.26%         |
| 110012       | 8723315 | Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School                      | 104                | £547,563                 | 105           | £571,810                 | 1               | 0.96%          | £24,248                         | 4.43%         |
| 142182       | 8722003 | Floreat Montague Park Primary School                      | 416                | £2,036,671               | 402           | £2,044,257               | -14             | -3.37%         | £7,586                          | 0.37%         |
| 109924       | 8722232 | Gorse Ride Infants' School                                | 93                 | £530,271                 | 82            | £498,995                 | -11             | -11.83%        | -£31,276                        | -5.90%        |
| 109877       | 8722148 | Gorse Ride Junior School                                  | 213                | £1,062,370               | 198           | £1,025,107               | -15             | -7.04%         | -£37,263                        | -3.51%        |
| 110015       | 8723319 | Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School | 210                | £983,734                 | 206           | £1,004,610               | -4              | -1.90%         | £20,876                         | 2.12%         |
| 145284       | 8722163 | Hatch Ride Primary School                                 | 201                | £917,920                 | 208           | £980,464                 | 7               | 3.48%          | £62,545                         | 6.81%         |
| 109929       | 8722237 | Hawkedon Primary School                                   | 632                | £2,852,568               | 629           | £2,979,050               | -3              | -0.47%         | £126,482                        | 4.43%         |
| 131689       | 8722246 | Highwood Primary School                                   | 428                | £1,974,172               | 423           | £2,029,795               | -5              | -1.17%         | £55,623                         | 2.82%         |
| 109930       | 8722238 | Hillside Primary School                                   | 424                | £1,930,696               | 410           | £1,961,268               | -14             | -3.30%         | £30,572                         | 1.58%         |
| 147805       | 8722106 | Keep Hatch Primary School                                 | 449                | £1,994,731               | 432           | £2,002,477               | -17             | -3.79%         | £7,746                          | 0.39%         |
| 109830       | 8722089 | Lambs Lane Primary School                                 | 209                | £1,005,603               | 208           | £1,058,845               | -1              | -0.48%         | £53,242                         | 5.29%         |
| 131192       | 8723371 | Loddon Primary School                                     | 557                | £2,504,590               | 508           | £2,397,176               | -49             | -8.80%         | -£107,414                       | -4.29%        |
| 136637       | 8724053 | Maiden Erleigh School                                     | 1409               | £8,216,763               | 1408          | £8,659,713               | -1              | -0.07%         | £442,950                        | 5.39%         |
| 145281       | 8722067 | Nine Mile Ride Primary School                             | 365                | £1,612,663               | 372           | £1,719,810               | 7               | 1.92%          | £107,146                        | 6.64%         |
| 138367       | 8724000 | Oakbank   | 547                | £3,498,239               | 523           | £3,520,424               | -24             | -4.39%         | £22,185                         | 0.63%         |
| 145283       | 8722132 | Oaklands Infant School                                    | 160                | £760,222                 | 160           | £805,019                 | 0               | 0.00%          | £44,797                         | 5.89%         |
| 145282       | 8722062 | Oaklands Junior School                                    | 250                | £1,109,379               | 243           | £1,125,452               | -7              | -2.80%         | £16,074                         | 1.45%         |
| 147556       | 8723046 | Polehampton Church of England Infant School               | 177                | £828,533                 | 178           | £878,697                 | 1               | 0.56%          | £50,164                         | 6.05%         |
| 147580       | 8723370 | Polehampton Church of England Junior School               | 235                | £1,069,267               | 233           | £1,112,633               | -2              | -0.85%         | £43,366                         | 4.06%         |
| 109927       | 8722235 | Radstock Primary School                                   | 369                | £1,673,573               | 362           | £1,719,764               | -7              | -1.90%         | £46,191                         | 2.76%         |
| 149521       | 8722167 | Rivermead Primary School                                  | 424                | £1,900,232               | 419           | £1,939,520               | -5              | -1.18%         | £39,288                         | 2.07%         |
| 109989       | 8723057 | Robert Piggott CofE Infant School                         | 117                | £601,630                 | 119           | £641,815                 | 2               | 1.71%          | £40,186                         | 6.68%         |
| 109993       | 8723061 | Robert Piggott CofE Junior School                         | 170                | £823,307                 | 164           | £844,885                 | -6              | -3.53%         | £21,578                         | 2.62%         |
| 145285       | 8723330 | Saint Sebastians Church of England Primary School         | 132                | £698,392                 | 120           | £671,618                 | -12             | -9.09%         | -£26,774                        | -3.83%        |
| 147249       | 8722157 | Shinfield Infant and Nursery School                       | 270                | £1,215,364               | 267           | £1,263,599               | -3              | -1.11%         | £48,235                         | 3.97%         |
| 109976       | 8723041 | Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School                    | 361                | £1,599,046               | 355           | £1,647,097               | -6              | -1.66%         | £48,052                         | 3.01%         |
| 147379       | 8723320 | Sonning Church of England Primary School                  | 207                | £918,147                 | 210           | £986,123                 | 3               | 1.45%          | £67,975                         | 7.40%         |
| 133383       | 8722247 | South Lake Primary School                                 | 417                | £1,884,820               | 419           | £1,968,710               | 2               | 0.48%          | £83,890                         | 4.45%         |
| 149555       | 8722010 | St Cecilia's CofE Primary School                          | 90                 | £481,514                 | 98.5          | £595,247                 | 8.5             | 9.44%          | £113,732                        | 23.62%        |
| 145286       | 8724048 | St Crispin's School                                       | 1128               | £6,719,988               | 1191          | £7,505,090               | 63              | 5.59%          | £785,102                        | 11.68%        |
| 110041       | 8723368 | St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School                  | 421                | £1,862,008               | 420           | £1,944,034               | -1              | -0.24%         | £82,025                         | 4.41%         |
| 147377       | 8723037 | St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst              | 136                | £683,246                 | 140           | £725,912                 | 4               | 2.94%          | £42,666                         | 6.24%         |
| 109987       | 8723055 | St Paul's CofE Junior School                              | 384                | £1,720,347               | 381           | £1,785,082               | -3              | -0.78%         | £64,735                         | 3.76%         |
| 144455       | 8723341 | St Teresa's Catholic Academy                              | 298                | £1,318,915               | 309           | £1,431,154               | 11              | 3.69%          | £112,239                        | 8.51%         |
| 110062       | 8724051 | The Bulmershe School                                      | 1214               | £7,511,923               | 1233          | £7,989,416               | 19              | 1.57%          | £477,494                        | 6.36%         |
| 109878       | 8722149 | The Colleton Primary School                               | 318                | £1,446,102               | 286           | £1,374,724               | -32             | -10.06%        | -£71,378                        | -4.94%        |
| 144637       | 8722006 | The Coombes Church of England Primary School              | 387                | £1,755,902               | 355           | £1,676,485               | -32             | -8.27%         | -£79,417                        | -4.52%        |
| 148453       | 8724049 | The Emmbrook School                                       | 1072               | £6,498,732               | 1155          | £7,265,823               | 83              | 7.74%          | £767,092                        | 11.80%        |
| 139853       | 8724050 | The Forest School   | 596                | £3,687,058               | 666           | £4,332,009               | 70              | 11.74%         | £644,952                        | 17.49%        |
| 109921       | 8722227 | The Hawthorns Primary School                              | 432                | £1,946,736               | 433           | £2,039,394               | 1               | 0.23%          | £92,658                         | 4.76%         |
| 136880       | 8724047 | The Holt School   | 1195               | £6,873,946               | 1200          | £7,310,677               | 5               | 0.42%          | £436,731                        | 6.35%         |
| 136891       | 8724505 | The Piggott School  | 1320               | £7,414,043               | 1373          | £8,023,898               | 53              | 4.02%          | £609,854                        | 8.23%         |
| 142166       | 8724060 | Waingels  | 1195               | £7,113,770               | 1227          | £7,652,276               | 32              | 2.68%          | £538,506                        | 7.57%         |
| 109869       | 8722137 | Walter Infant School                                      | 268                | £1,235,561               | 263           | £1,282,216               | -5              | -1.87%         | £46,655                         | 3.78%         |
| 147926       | 8722101 | Wescott Infant School                                     | 153                | £747,387                 | 147           | £757,160                 | -6              | -3.92%         | £9,773                          | 1.31%         |
| 148014       | 8722184 | Westende Junior School                                    | 240                | £1,104,114               | 234           | £1,125,429               | -6              | -2.50%         | £21,315                         | 1.93%         |
| 139900       | 8722001 | Wheatfield Primary School                                 | 212                | £954,312                 | 206           | £985,629                 | -6              | -2.83%         | £31,316                         | 3.28%         |
| 148800       | 8722105 | Whiteknights Primary School                               | 419                | £1,854,442               | 415           | £1,949,535               | -4              | -0.95%         | £95,093                         | 5.13%         |
| 109889       | 8722160 | Willow Bank Infant School                                 | 167                | £805,195                 | 158           | £818,257                 | -9              | -5.39%         | £13,061                         | 1.62%         |
| 109890       | 8722161 | Willow Bank Junior School                                 | 240                | £1,085,685               | 238           | £1,122,380               | -2              | -0.83%         | £36,695                         | 3.38%         |
| 139899       | 8722000 | Windmill Primary School                                   | 192                | £938,965                 | 180           | £922,763                 | -12             | -6.25%         | -£16,202                        | -1.73%        |
| 109876       | 8722146 | Winnersh Primary School                                   | 405                | £1,815,513               | 389           | £1,824,010               | -16             | -3.95%         | £8,497                          | 0.47%         |
| 109988       | 8723056 | Woodley CofE Primary School                               | 308                | £1,407,094               | 306           | £1,464,683               | -2              | -0.65%         | £57,589                         | 4.09%         |
|              |         |   |                    |                          |               |                          |                 |                |                                 |               |
|              |         |   |                    |                          |               |                          |                 |                | Lower allocation than 2023-24   | 8             |
|              |         |   |                    |                          |               |                          |                 |                | Greater allocation than 2023-24 | 57            |

| APPENDIX B   |         |   | WITHOUT 0.5% TRANSFER |                       | WITH 0.5% TRANSFER |                       |                                 |                 |
|--------------|---------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| URN          | LAESTAB | School Name   | Oct 2023 NOR          | 24-25 Post MFG Budget | Oct 2023 NOR       | 24-25 Post MFG Budget | £ Contribution to 0.5% Transfer | % of allocation |
| <b>Total</b> |         |   | <b>26,647</b>         | <b>£145,363,620</b>   | <b>26,647</b>      | <b>£144,630,013</b>   | <b>£733,607</b>                 | <b>0.50%</b>    |
| 147862       | 8722009 | Alder Grove Church of England Primary School              | 267                   | £1,529,322            | 267                | £1,529,322            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109850       | 8722116 | Aldryngton Primary School                                 | 312                   | £1,466,480            | 312                | £1,466,480            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109836       | 8722100 | Bearwood Primary School                                   | 265                   | £1,317,583            | 265                | £1,317,583            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 144571       | 8723312 | Earley St Peter's Church of England Primary School        | 454                   | £2,107,232            | 454                | £2,107,232            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 140953       | 8722002 | Evendons Primary School                                   | 400                   | £1,855,776            | 400                | £1,855,776            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 110012       | 8723315 | Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School                      | 105                   | £571,810              | 105                | £571,810              | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 142182       | 8722003 | Floreat Montague Park Primary School                      | 402                   | £2,044,257            | 402                | £2,044,257            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109877       | 8722148 | Gorse Ride Junior School                                  | 198                   | £1,025,107            | 198                | £1,025,107            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109929       | 8722237 | Hawkedon Primary School                                   | 629                   | £2,979,050            | 629                | £2,979,050            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 131689       | 8722246 | Highwood Primary School                                   | 423                   | £2,029,795            | 423                | £2,029,795            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109930       | 8722238 | Hillside Primary School                                   | 410                   | £1,961,268            | 410                | £1,961,268            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 131192       | 8723371 | Loddon Primary School                                     | 508                   | £2,397,176            | 508                | £2,397,176            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 145281       | 8722067 | Nine Mile Ride Primary School                             | 372                   | £1,719,810            | 372                | £1,719,810            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109927       | 8722235 | Radstock Primary School                                   | 362                   | £1,719,764            | 362                | £1,719,764            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 149521       | 8722167 | Rivermead Primary School                                  | 419                   | £1,939,520            | 419                | £1,939,520            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 145285       | 8723330 | Saint Sebastians Church of England Primary School         | 120                   | £671,618              | 120                | £671,618              | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109976       | 8723041 | Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School                    | 355                   | £1,647,097            | 355                | £1,647,097            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 133383       | 8722247 | South Lake Primary School                                 | 419                   | £1,968,710            | 419                | £1,968,710            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 110041       | 8723368 | St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School                  | 420                   | £1,944,034            | 420                | £1,944,034            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109987       | 8723055 | St Paul's CofE Junior School                              | 381                   | £1,785,082            | 381                | £1,785,082            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109921       | 8722227 | The Hawthorns Primary School                              | 433                   | £2,039,394            | 433                | £2,039,394            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 139899       | 8722000 | Windmill Primary School                                   | 180                   | £922,763              | 180                | £922,763              | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 109876       | 8722146 | Winnersh Primary School                                   | 389                   | £1,824,010            | 389                | £1,824,010            | £0                              | 0.00%           |
| 110015       | 8723319 | Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School | 206                   | £1,004,782            | 206                | £1,004,610            | £172                            | 0.02%           |
| 144637       | 8722006 | The Coombes Church of England Primary School              | 355                   | £1,678,309            | 355                | £1,676,485            | £1,824                          | 0.11%           |
| 147377       | 8723037 | St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst              | 140                   | £727,052              | 140                | £725,912              | £1,139                          | 0.16%           |
| 145284       | 8722163 | Hatch Ride Primary School                                 | 208                   | £982,130              | 208                | £980,464              | £1,666                          | 0.17%           |
| 144455       | 8723341 | St Teresa's Catholic Academy                              | 309                   | £1,433,593            | 309                | £1,431,154            | £2,439                          | 0.17%           |
| 145282       | 8722062 | Oaklands Junior School                                    | 243                   | £1,127,434            | 243                | £1,125,452            | £1,981                          | 0.18%           |
| 109890       | 8722161 | Willow Bank Junior School                                 | 238                   | £1,125,147            | 238                | £1,122,380            | £2,767                          | 0.25%           |
| 147805       | 8722106 | Keep Hatch Primary School                                 | 432                   | £2,008,380            | 432                | £2,002,477            | £5,904                          | 0.29%           |
| 109924       | 8722232 | Gorse Ride Infants' School                                | 82                    | £500,492              | 82                 | £498,995              | £1,496                          | 0.30%           |
| 147378       | 8723048 | Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School             | 85                    | £493,731              | 85                 | £492,180              | £1,551                          | 0.31%           |
| 109829       | 8722088 | Farley Hill Primary School                                | 270                   | £1,316,065            | 270                | £1,311,772            | £4,293                          | 0.33%           |
| 136891       | 8724505 | The Piggott School  | 1373                  | £8,050,344            | 1373               | £8,023,898            | £26,447                         | 0.33%           |
| 109989       | 8723057 | Robert Piggott CofE Infant School                         | 119                   | £643,987              | 119                | £641,815              | £2,172                          | 0.34%           |
| 149352       | 8723372 | All Saints Church of England Primary School               | 222                   | £1,182,160            | 222                | £1,178,109            | £4,051                          | 0.34%           |
| 109889       | 8722160 | Willow Bank Infant School                                 | 158                   | £821,140              | 158                | £818,257              | £2,884                          | 0.35%           |
| 109993       | 8723061 | Robert Piggott CofE Junior School                         | 164                   | £847,878              | 164                | £844,885              | £2,993                          | 0.35%           |
| 147926       | 8722101 | Wescott Infant School                                     | 147                   | £759,843              | 147                | £757,160              | £2,683                          | 0.35%           |
| 149722       | 8722121 | Emmbrook Infant School                                    | 182                   | £933,891              | 182                | £930,570              | £3,321                          | 0.36%           |
| 109830       | 8722089 | Lambs Lane Primary School                                 | 208                   | £1,062,641            | 208                | £1,058,845            | £3,796                          | 0.36%           |
| 147023       | 8722008 | Beechwood Primary School                                  | 326                   | £1,661,424            | 326                | £1,655,475            | £5,950                          | 0.36%           |
| 145283       | 8722132 | Oaklands Infant School                                    | 160                   | £807,939              | 160                | £805,019              | £2,920                          | 0.36%           |
| 147556       | 8723046 | Polehampton Church of England Infant School               | 178                   | £881,946              | 178                | £878,697              | £3,249                          | 0.37%           |
| 109869       | 8722137 | Walter Infant School                                      | 263                   | £1,287,016            | 263                | £1,282,216            | £4,800                          | 0.37%           |
| 148014       | 8722184 | Westende Junior School                                    | 234                   | £1,129,699            | 234                | £1,125,429            | £4,271                          | 0.38%           |
| 109878       | 8722149 | The Colleton Primary School                               | 286                   | £1,379,944            | 286                | £1,374,724            | £5,219                          | 0.38%           |
| 109988       | 8723056 | Woodley CofE Primary School                               | 306                   | £1,470,267            | 306                | £1,464,683            | £5,584                          | 0.38%           |
| 139900       | 8722001 | Wheatfield Primary School                                 | 206                   | £989,388              | 206                | £985,629              | £3,759                          | 0.38%           |
| 147580       | 8723370 | Polehampton Church of England Junior School               | 233                   | £1,116,885            | 233                | £1,112,633            | £4,252                          | 0.38%           |
| 147249       | 8722157 | Shinfield Infant and Nursery School                       | 267                   | £1,268,472            | 267                | £1,263,599            | £4,873                          | 0.38%           |
| 149723       | 8722130 | Emmbrook Junior School                                    | 258                   | £1,224,994            | 258                | £1,220,285            | £4,708                          | 0.38%           |
| 148800       | 8722105 | Whiteknights Primary School                               | 415                   | £1,957,109            | 415                | £1,949,535            | £7,574                          | 0.39%           |
| 147379       | 8723320 | Sonning Church of England Primary School                  | 210                   | £989,955              | 210                | £986,123              | £3,832                          | 0.39%           |
| 149555       | 8722010 | St Cecilia's CofE Primary School                          | 98.75                 | £598,164              | 98.5               | £595,247              | £2,917                          | 0.49%           |
| 138367       | 8724000 | Oakbank   | 523                   | £3,552,103            | 523                | £3,520,424            | £31,680                         | 0.89%           |
| 139853       | 8724050 | The Forest School   | 666                   | £4,372,306            | 666                | £4,332,009            | £40,297                         | 0.92%           |
| 110062       | 8724051 | The Bulmershe School                                      | 1233                  | £8,064,117            | 1233               | £7,989,416            | £74,700                         | 0.93%           |
| 145286       | 8724048 | St Crispin's School                                       | 1191                  | £7,577,030            | 1191               | £7,505,090            | £71,940                         | 0.95%           |
| 148453       | 8724049 | The Emmbrook School                                       | 1155                  | £7,335,652            | 1155               | £7,265,823            | £69,829                         | 0.95%           |
| 142166       | 8724060 | Waingels  | 1227                  | £7,726,653            | 1227               | £7,652,276            | £74,377                         | 0.96%           |
| 136637       | 8724053 | Maiden Erleigh School                                     | 1408                  | £8,745,101            | 1408               | £8,659,713            | £85,388                         | 0.98%           |
| 142181       | 8724001 | Bohunt School Wokingham                                   | 1239                  | £7,678,340            | 1239               | £7,603,215            | £75,125                         | 0.98%           |
| 136880       | 8724047 | The Holt School   | 1200                  | £7,383,459            | 1200               | £7,310,677            | £72,782                         | 0.99%           |

**TITLE** 2024/25 Final Central School Services Block (CSSB)

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Schools Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**WARD** (None Specific);

**DIRECTOR** Director of 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 2024/25 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 2023 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 2024/25 DSG Finance Settlement we have been advised that negotiations are still ongoing with some of the copyright management organisations for new agreements and will stretch into the new year.

The final Central Support Services Block allocation for 2024/25 is £1.081m – an increase of £42k (4.0%) on the current year's allocation of £1.039m.

We have estimated the amount for licences as £169k, which is a 3% increase on last year's charge. If the charge varies, we will adjust this within Statutory & Regulatory Duties.

The net impact of the above, is a small increase of £5k 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.

## 2024/25 Final Central School Services Block (CSSB)

### January 2024

#### .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 2024/25.

#### .02 **Recommendations**

Schools Forum is asked to note the final 2024/25 budget allocation for the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of £1,081,198.

#### .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 2024/25 of £1.076m 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 **2024/25 Final Budget Allocation**

At the December 2023 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 2024/25 DSG Finance Settlement we have been advised that negotiations are still ongoing with some of the copyright management organisations for new agreements and will stretch into the new year.

The final Central Support Services Block allocation for 2024/25 is £1.081m – an increase of £42k (4.0%) on the current year’s allocation of £1.039m.

We have estimated the amount for licences as £169k, which is a 3% increase on last year’s charge. If the charge varies, we will adjust this within Statutory & Regulatory Duties.

The net impact of the above, is a small increase of £5k 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 2024/25 is £1.081m, an increase of £42k (4.0%) on the current year’s allocation of £1.039m.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Contact:</b> | Katherine Vernon – Schools Finance Manager |
| <b>Email:</b>   | katherine.vernon@wokingham.gov.uk          |

|  | <b>Description of Service</b>   | <b>Budget<br/>2023/24<br/>£'000</b>  | <b>Budget<br/>2024/25<br/>£'000</b> |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Statutory &amp; regulatory duties</b> | Director of Children's Services, education staff and planning for the education service as a whole.   | 187  | 224                                 |
|  | Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education.<br><br>Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares.<br><br>Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula.<br><br>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                                 |
|  | <b>Education Welfare</b>  | Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision for education to excluded pupils.<br><br>School Attendance<br><br>Responsibilities regarding the employment of children | 117                                 |



|                             | <b>Description of Service</b>  | <b>Budget<br/>2023/24<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Budget<br/>2024/25<br/>£'000</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Asset<br/>Management</b> | 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                                  |
| <b>Other<br/>ongoing</b>    | Copyright Licences   | 164                                 | 169                                 |
|                             | School Forum servicing   | 4                                   | 4                                   |
|                             | School Admission – duties relating to the admissions process   | 232                                 | 232                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                |  | <b>1,039</b>                        | <b>1,081</b>                        |

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

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# Agenda Item 32

**TITLE** 2024/25 Draft Early Years Budget

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Schools Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**WARD** None Specific;

**DIRECTOR** Director of 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 2024/25 budget allocation for Early Years announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 19th December 2023. The block allocations are based upon the Early Years census from January 2023 and will in due course be updated to reflect the January 2024 census data.

From the census data and budget information currently available, we are still working through the modelling and will arrange a meeting with the Early Years Task and Finish Group in 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

## 2024/25 Early Years Budget January 2024

### .01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides the Schools Forum with details of the 2024/25 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 2024/25 Budget Setting

With the introduction of the new working parent entitlements for 2024 to 2025, we have been provided with 3 separate hourly funding rates as follows:

- an hourly funding rate for 9-months-olds up to 2-years for the new working parent entitlement (from 1 September 2024)
- an hourly funding rate for 2-year-olds which will be the same for both the disadvantaged and the working parent entitlements (from 1 April 2024)
- an hourly funding rate for 3 and 4-year-olds for the universal and additional hours entitlements

The hourly funding rate for **3 and 4-year-olds** in 2024 to 2025 includes funding for teachers' pay and pensions. In 2023 to 2024 the funding previously distributed through the teachers' pay grant (TPG) and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) was incorporated into the base rate. In 2024 to 2025, the funding being provided in respect of the September 2023 teachers' pay award, as well as the additional funding to support providers with the costs of

employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme which are due to increase from April 2024 have been rolled into the base rate.

For 2024 to 2025, a new NFF has been introduced for the existing entitlement for disadvantaged **2-year-olds** and for the new working parent entitlements for children aged **9 months up to and including 2 years old**. The funding formula will follow the shape of the existing national funding formula for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements. Like the 3 and 4-year-old formula, the new formula will feature:

- a universal base rate of funding for each child (89.5% of funding)
- an additional needs factor (10.5% of funding)
- an area cost adjustment (ACA) to reflect variations in costs across England

Although the new formula will follow the same structure as the existing 3 and 4-year-old formula, the approach to deprivation in the additional needs factor will be slightly different. The DfE will be taking a 'basket of measures' approach, using a combination of free school meals (FSM) data and a measure based on the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) as proxies for deprivation, rather than FSM only.

The structure of the formula used to calculate rates for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under will be the same, the rates themselves will vary by age, with higher rates for the younger age group to reflect the difference in costs of delivering these entitlements, particularly due to differences in staffing ratio requirements.

The earliest point at which the DfE can collect data via the census for the 2 new working parent entitlements is January 2025. Therefore, to make the allocations for local authorities as accurate as possible, the basis for funding allocations for these new working parent entitlements in 2024 to 2025 will be as follows:

- indicative allocations will be based on DfE's estimated take-up numbers for the new working parent entitlements
- final allocations will be adjusted on the basis of actual take-up for each term, collected through 2 additional headcounts to be undertaken in the 2024 summer and autumn terms and through the January 2025 census.

The same method will also be used for allocating EYPP funding for children accessing the new working parent entitlements in 2024 to 2025.

|   | 2023-24<br><br>Combined rate | <b>2024-25<br/>EYNFF<br/>rate</b> | Change (£)<br>from<br><br>2023-24 | Change (%)<br>from<br><br>2023-24 |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 and 4 year-old entitlement hourly funding rate (£ / hr) | £6.03                        | <b>£6.31</b>                      | £0.28                             | 4.6%                              |
| 2 year-old entitlement hourly funding rate                | £6.72                        | <b>£9.05</b>                      | £2.33                             | 34.7%                             |
| Under 2 year old  | n/a                          | <b>£12.27</b>                     | n/a                               | n/a                               |
| Maintained Nursery Schools supplementary funding          | 253,422                      | <b>318,434</b>                    | 65,012                            | 25.7%                             |

For Wokingham, the initial allocation for the Early Years Block in 2024/25 is £19,342,778 which is based on the January 2023 census.

For 2024 to 2025, the 95% pass-through requirement will apply separately to the entitlements for:

- 9-months-old children up to 2-year-olds of working parents
- 2-year-old children of working parents
- 2-year-old children from disadvantaged families
- 3 and 4-year-olds (universal and additional hours)

The national funding rate for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will increase by 6 pence, from 62 pence to 68 pence per eligible child per hour.

The national funding rate for Disability Access Funding (DAF) will increase by £82, from £828 to £910 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 will be 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 2024/25.

Factors we will need to take into account 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 each entitlement 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      | Early Years Representative - Schools Forum |
| Kerrie Clifford | Early Years Representative - Schools Forum |
| Karen Edwards   |  |

**Katherine Vernon**  
**Schools Finance Manager**  
**January 2024**

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## Schools Forum Forward Plan 2023/24

|                                     |          |   |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> | <b>I</b> | 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report                   |
|                                     | <b>I</b> | DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update           |
|                                     | <b>D</b> | 2024/25 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission    |
|                                     | <b>I</b> | 2024/25 Draft High Needs Block Budget               |
|                                     | <b>D</b> | 2024/25 Draft Early Years Budget                    |
|                                     | <b>D</b> | 2024/25 Final Central Schools Services Block Budget |

|                                   |          |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> | <b>I</b> | 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report         |
|                                   | <b>I</b> | DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update |
|                                   | <b>C</b> | 2024/25 Final High Needs Block Budget     |
|                                   | <b>D</b> | 2024/25 Final Early Years Budget          |

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