

October 2023 Survey on School Responses to Revised Proposal to Transfer 0.5% Schools Block budget to High Needs Block in 2024/25

Summary Analysis



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

- At their meeting on 11 October 2023, Wokingham Schools Forum considered the requested transfer of 1% of the DSG Schools Block to High Needs Block for 2024/25
- A school survey in September rejected the request for 1% transfer (68% against vs 32% for) – affordability was the main reason given for the rejection particularly for primary phase schools
- As an alternative Schools Forum proposed a reduction in the amount of transfer requested to 0.5% of the DSG Schools Block and asked WBC to devise a funding model that will alleviate the pressure on primary schools.
- Forum asked WBC to consult with schools again on the amended proposals to establish whether this would be more widely supported.
- Wokingham Council ran this survey for schools between Friday 16th - Monday 30th October 2023 accompanied by a series of meetings with headteachers, governors and school business managers
- The survey was responded to by a total of 40 schools – 58% of all local schools
- An Extraordinary Meeting of Schools Forum was called for the 6/11/2023 to hear the findings of this survey and reach a decision on the transfer.

ALL SCHOOLS =	69	100%	
YES VOTES =	37	92.5%	of votes cast
NO VOTES =	2	5.0%	of votes cast
ABSTENTIONS =	1	2.5%	of votes cast
TOTAL VOTES =	40	58%	of all schools voted
VOTES NOT CAST =	29	42%	

- 80% of all secondary schools cast a vote and 100% of these supported the proposed transfer
- 55% of all primary schools cast a vote and 90% of these supported the proposed transfer
- 50% of all special / AP schools cast a vote and 100% of these supported the proposed transfer

20

This is a marked change from the survey in September; school's feedback was that the revised proposal was more affordable for primary schools and many headteachers said that they appreciated that their concerns had been listened to.



	TOTAL SCHOOLS	TOTAL VOTES	% OF SCHOOLS WHO VOTED	VOTED 'YES'	% OF VOTES CAST	VOTED 'NO'	% OF VOTES CAST	ABSTAINED	% OF VOTES CAST
PRIMARY SCHOOLS	55	30	55%	27	90%	2	7%	1	2%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	10	8	80%	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%
SPECIAL / AP SCHOOLS	4	2	50%	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%
ALL SCHOOLS =	69	40	58%	37	93%	2	3%	1	1%

Detailed breakdown of voting patterns

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