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- Meeting: North Northamptonshire Schools Forum
- Date: Tuesday 13th June 2023

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via Zoom

| Agenda | | | | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| ltem | Subject | Presenting Officer | Page no. | | | |
| 01 | Apologies for non-attendance, Forum membership changes and declarations of interest | Raj Sohal | | | | |
| 02 | Election of Chair | Chair | | | | |
| 03 | Election of Vice Chair | Chair | | | | |
| 04 | Minutes from meeting held on 19 January 2023 and points arising/officer feedback | Chair | 3 – 8 | | | |
| 05 | High Needs Block Funding | Nichola Jones | 9 – 16 | | | |
| 06 | Permanent Exclusion Clawback 2022/23 | Neil Goddard | 17 – 20 | | | |
| 07 | Pupil Growth Fund | Neil Goddard | 21 – 26 | | | |
| 08 | DSG Outturn 2022/23 | Sariya Bi | 27 – 36 | | | |
| 09 | Maintained School Balances 2022/23 | Yoke O'Brien | 37 – 42 | | | |
| 010 | Urgent Business | All | | | | |

Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council

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Proper Officer 5th June 2023

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services. Page 1

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Future Meeting Dates:

- 19th October 2023
- 14th December 2023
- 18th January 2024

Information on voting

Every item which requires a decision to be made at a meeting of the Forum will be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting on the issue. In the case of an equality of votes the Chair will have a second or casting vote.

School and non-school members are eligible to vote on all matters requiring authorisation or approval except:

- a) de-delegation is limited to the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members;
- b) amendments to the school funding formula, for which the voting is restricted by the exclusion of non-schools members,
- c) amendments to the early years funding formula, for which the voting is restricted by the exclusion of non-schools members, except for PVI representatives
- d) retaining funding for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only is limited to maintained primary, secondary, special and PRU members.
- e) amendments to Scheme for Financing Schools maintained school members

It is the responsibility of the forum member to declare their 'disclosable pecuniary interest'. The forum member can make a short presentation at the start of the agenda item and then not participate in the discussions or vote on the item to which their interest is relevant.

Agenda Item 4



Minutes of a meeting of the North Northamptonshire Schools Forum Held at 1.00 pm on Thursday 19th January, 2023 as a Remote Meeting via Zoom

Present:-

Members

James Birkett (Chair) Lynne Bolland Victoria Bull Rob Hardcastle Marie Lally Annabel Moore Paul Wheeler (Vice Chair) Lisa Bowyer Peter Cantley Rob Hardcastle Nikki Lamond Angela Prodger

Officers

Sariya Bi Neil Goddard Salik Khan Yoke O'Brien Robert Tite Ann Marie Dodds Nichola Jones Judy Matthews Raj Sohal

Also in attendance – Councillor Scott Edwards

89 Apologies for non-attendance, Forum membership changes and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from the following members: Sandra Appleby and Siobhan Hearne.

Two new members had also joined the Forum: Lynne Bolland and Lisa Bowyer, as representatives from the Early Years sector.

Annabel Moore had replaced Lee Hughes, as the Academy Mainstream Representative.

90 Minutes of meeting held on 14 December 2022 and points arising/officer feedback

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December were agreed as an accurate record.

91 2022-23 DSG Budget Update - January 2023

The Forum considered a report by The Senior Finance Business Partner, which outlines the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) against the budget for 2022-23.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- One member explained that it had been difficult for the Early Years sector to apply for SENIF funding.
- Members queried which funding model would be used for Glenvale Park School, as the next academy to be launched by the Local Authority, and what the financial implications of this could be.
- Members expressed concern regarding the £1.5M movement of the High Needs Block of the DSG and questioned why the change in this forecast had been so significant.
- Members acknowledged that North Northamptonshire had experienced budgeting problems concerning out-of-county special top-ups and non-maintained/independent top-ups and queried why the 2022/23 forecast had been so inaccurate.

In response, The Senior Finance Business Partner clarified that:

- Glenvale Park was not expected to open in 2023/24 therefore, there was no provision in the budget for this new school. Nevertheless, Weldon Village Academy would open, with full form entry, and would not be funded by the DfE; since growth funding was based upon historical pupil numbers. As a consequence, the budget share available to all schools in Northamptonshire would reduce. The maximum possible funding from the Pupil Growth Fund had been distributed. The Local Authority would essentially have to "foot the bill" until DfE funding could be made available.
- A significant factor causing the shift in the High Needs Block forecast was the identification of historical liabilities, which had not previously been accounted for. Going forward, there would be increased strategic oversight of expenditure within the High Needs Block, which would allow the Local Authority to take action to address the its pressures.

RESOLVED that: The report be noted.

92 2023-24 Proposed Scheme for Financing Schools

The Forum considered a report by The Finance Business Partner, which outlined the proposed changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

RESOLVED that: The proposed changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools be approved.

93 2023-24 Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement and Other Grants

The Forum considered a report by The Strategic Finance Business Partner, which outlined details of the 2023-24 DSG settlement and other grant funding.

RESOLVED that: The report be noted.

94 2023-24 Schools Block Budgets

The Forum considered a report by The Strategic Finance Business Partner, which outlined the 2023-24 Schools Block DSG allocation and proposed Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools Budgets and the Growth Fund Budget, for the Forum's approval.

RESOLVED that: The Forum:

a) approves the Minimum Funding Guarantee to be set at 0.5% for 2023-24.

b) indicates it's support for the funding formula for 2023-24.

c) approves the transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the Growth Fund for 2023-24.

d) approves the de-delegation of £3.56 per pupil for Trade Union Facilities Time and £12 per pupil for School Effectiveness for Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

95 2023-24 Central School Services Block Budgets

The Forum considered a report by The Strategic Finance Business Partner, which outlined the Local Authority's proposals for central expenditure on education functions for 2023-24.

RESOLVED that: The proposals for central expenditure be approved.

96 2023-24 Early Years Block Budgets

The Forum considered a report by The Early Years Strategic Advisor, which outlined the 2023-24 Early Years Budgets, announced in 2022 by the DfE, and the methodology for allocating funding to providers.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried what methodology had been used as a basis for reducing the notional SEND rate from 8p to 3p.
- One member expressed concern that the pay increase proposed through the new rate was not viable to support early years workers, the majority of which were on the living wage.
- Members queried how much contingency funding had been held back and how it differed from the contingency budget from the previous year.

In response, The Early Years Strategic Advisor clarified that:

• When SENIF funding was introduced in September 2022, £160k funding was available, through the budget. The number of children presenting emerging needs had increased, possibly as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result, settings requested additional funding to support individual funding. In order to support this, the Local Authority needed to top-up the SENIF funding, which was taken from the notional SEND pot. SENIF was a more precise way to ensure that SEND funding supported children with additional needs.

- The DfE had released guidance concerning Teachers' pensions and pay, which the Local Authority had to adhere to.
- There was no contingency budget for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that: The Forum:

a) approves the budget set aside for SENIF and acknowledges the reduction of notional SEND by 5p.

b) approves the change in NNC's EYNFF to include the Quality Supplement for Schools and Academies Teachers Pay and Pension Grant.

c) approves the funding rates and levels of funding for 2023-24.

97 2023-24 High Needs Block Budgets

The Forum considered a report by The Head of SEND, which outlined the High Needs Block allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried whether the High Needs budget for 2023/24 should remain at the same level as 2022/23, since there had been an underspend for the previous year.
- One member expressed concern that the early years budget for 2023/24 was half of the amount budgeted for 2022/23.

In response, The Head of SEND clarified that:

- The Local Authority endeavoured to 'plan ahead' in funding the cost of high needs placements long-term and anticipated this cost to be around £13K per placement. The previous year's budget had been overly ambitious, whereas the programme of delivery for 2023/24 was considered to be more realistic. It was likely that the budget for the next year would again increase, as part of a 'phased approach'.
- Although the early years budget had been reduced, SEN would be met in provision and SENIF funding would also be made available. The budget was an estimate, within the wider context of the graduated response. If additional pressures were to arise, this could be revisited in-year.

RESOLVED that: The report be noted.

98 Homes for Ukraine Funding Proposal

The Forum considered a verbal update by The Assistant Director for Education, regarding the Homes for Ukraine funding scheme.

The Assistant Director clarified that funding would be fully distributed by the end of January 2023.

RESOLVED that: The verbal update be noted.

99 Schools Forum Plan

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the item and highlighted the following:

• The next meeting of the North Northamptonshire Schools Forum would be held on the 13th June 2023.

RESOLVED that: The report be noted.

100 Urgent Business

There was none.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

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Agenda Item 5

North

Northamptonshire Council

Key Message

The Forum is asked to:

- note the SEND delivery programme update
- note High Needs Block outturn
- note High Need Block predicted spend for 2023/24
- agree the areas of work taking place for the coming period

1. SEND delivery programme update

Significant progress has been made over the last financial year to put in place basic systems to ensure financial decision making is sound and transactions are accurate and reflect the specialist provision commissioned. Provision leads now have oversight for independent, special, unit and mainstream provision and for children who are electively home educated, without a school placement and/or receiving home tuition, in receipt of a personal budget. Alongside these roles, placement and monitoring processes are now established to ensure tighter control of the financial budget, value for money and appropriateness of the provision for meeting need. Accurate and up to date records are now established for attendance, off-site provision, placement costs, EHCP annual reviews and phase Monitoring visits have been introduced where issues have been transfers. identified in relation to attendance and funding. In the spring term 4 visits were carried out in the independent sector and 3 planned with the special school sector for the summer term. A school-to-school model for supporting and challenging specialist unit provision is under development. The first review is taking place later in the summer term.

The local authority recognises the lack of investment in earlier, preventative support and provision in its mainstream schools. To this end the team have made progress in establishing SENDCO networks – with the fifth roll out and feedback from 75% of those attending valuing the half termly meetings grading them as very good/excellent. The locality networks for families were introduced this year, with an uptake of 74 families who rated the events as excellent/very good, valuing the opportunity to meet their local team.

The investment in the development of special outreach services for cognition and learning, communication and interaction, social and emotional, mental health difficulties is beginning to embed and once fully established will form a significant part of the graduated approach, supporting children to access their local school whilst identifying children with more complex needs. This quarter, the requests for assessment have stabilised and were slightly down from the quarter last year. Of the 282 requests for assessment, 165 were agreed and 99 refused. Overtime,

the number of requests and actual assessments undertaken are expected to reduce, enabling the much-needed EPS and advisory teams to support local schools in meeting the needs of the children and young people.

This term, work is taking place to develop secondary special school outreach support for cognition and learning and communication and interaction. Discussions are also in progress with Rowan Gate to extend the teacher-led advisory support for the early years sector. The special educational needs IF plus guidance and information for the new funding has been distributed to the early years sector and the information shared through early years forums during May.

A small-scale pilot project to repurpose funding for individual school commissioned OT/SALT support to a locality and SENCO led model is taking place and the findings reported at the end of the summer term to consider wider development.

Mainstream top up funding for children with an EHCP/Send support plan has increased, with 1.5 million investment. Whilst the approach has been welcomed by schools, the time taken to apply and for the specialist team to undertake visits for the allocation and monitoring of resources is onerous both on school and officer time. Work has been taking place to develop and pilot formula funding for a small group of trusts/schools.

Work has continued to develop 95 mainstream unit placements as part of a phased programme to provide additional specialist provision across the four localities. Three primary and one secondary school units are due to open in 2023, providing 40 additional places from September 2023. Service Level Agreements for commissioned services for units are being finalized between schools and service.

Planning for the opening of four satellite classes for Rowen gate is underway for September at Stanton Cross providing 50 additional placements and work underway for the longer-term placement of additional satellite provision.

£500,000k of funding recouped following the introduction of new processes independent special school placements.

Significant work has taken place to finalise the permanent structure and job descriptions for the EHCP team. A planned programme is now in place to phase out the interim team by October. Consultation and ongoing recruitment is taking place as part of the planned programme, which is expected to be completed in October 2023.

2. HNB out turn 2022/23

| | Budget 2022/23 | Outturn Postion 2022/23 | Variance |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| SENDIF Plus (Transfer to Early Years Block) | 500,000 | 500,000.00 | 0.00 |
| NNC Special School Place Funding | 10,995,833 | 11,231,998.00 | 236,164.67 |
| NNC Special School Top Ups | 12,680,225 | 13,934,639.00 | 1,254,414.00 |
| NNC Special School Top Up Protection | 719,403 | 719,403.00 | 0.00 |
| NNC Special School TPG&TPECG | 725,659 | 725,659.00 | -0.27 |
| NNC SEN Units Occupied Place Funding | 1,308,000 | 1,169,000.00 | -139,000.00 |
| NNC SEN Units Vacant place Funding | 170,000 | 181,666.67 | 11,666.67 |
| NNC SEN Units TopUps | 3,025,939 | 1,280,346.00 | -1,745,592.86 |
| AP Free Schools Place Funding | 190,000 | 210,833.00 | 20,833.00 |
| AP Free Schools TPG&TPECG | 12,539 | - | -12,538.86 |
| Post 16 Top Ups in FE Colleges | 2,810,380 | 1,757,970.26 | -1,052,409.27 |
| Hospital Education Services | 200,000 | | -200,000.00 |
| Non Maintained & Independent SEN Unit Top Up & other funding | 150,000 | 140,645.74 | -9,354.26 |
| Out of County Special Topups | 725,000 | 2,200,160.34 | 1,475,160.34 |
| Non Maintained & Independent Special Top Up & Other Funding | 7,315,359 | 9,753,303.85 | 2,437,945.19 |
| Non Maintained & Independent Mainstream Top Up & Other Funding | 300,000 | 397,514.35 | 97,514.35 |
| Out of County Mainstream Top Ups | 545,500 | 144,695.88 | -400,804.12 |
| Out of County AP Top Ups | £181,546 | - | -181,546.00 |
| Primary and secondary Panel | 1,000,000 | 190,489.00 | -809,511.00 |
| Mainstream Top Ups | 4,597,869 | 7,059,661.91 | 2,461,792.46 |
| Alternative Provision | 3,757,171 | 2,345,683.07 | -1,411,487.86 |
| Educational Entitlement Team | 268,416 | 268,416.00 | 0.00 |
| Specialist Support Service | 374,979 | 374,979.24 | 0.00 |
| MASH | 14,415 | 14,415.00 | 0.00 |
| NPPS (Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service) | 9,791 | 9,790.58 | 0.00 |
| Sensory Impairment Provision | 970,685 | 915,071.64 | -55,613.15 |
| Block Transfer From Schools Block | - 1,274,381 | - 1,274,380.81 | 0.00 |
| Block Transfer From CSSB | - 268,573 | - 268,573.00 | 0.00 |
| Import Export adjustment | 364,967 | 364,967.00 | 0.00 |
| Total High Needs Block | 52,370,722 | 54,348,354.72 | 1,977,633.03 |

The final outturn position for 2022-23 is a overspend of £1.978 million. This overspend is a result of the identification of increased budget pressures around High Needs Block. As previously reported, work has been ongoing to clarify historic and existing commitments and ensure resources are being used as effectively as possible. This has produced a level of savings, through greater clarity around commissioning of places for example, but also pressures, om areas such a jointly funded places with Heath and NCT. In addition, significant work has been undertaken to address a backlog of work and agree payment schedules with schools. This has increased pressure on the Top Ups budget as funding to schools has increased to reflect needs. There is now a fuller understanding of the pressures that are acting on the HNB which will inform future budget monitoring and setting processes.

3. HNB projected spending 2023/24

3.1 Independent

| | Pupils In Initial Budget | New Placements | Current Placement No | 23/24 Budget | Projected Expenditure | Variance | Notes |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| Day | 155 | 25 | 170 | £9,368,853.00 | £10,315,306.89 | -£946,453.89 | 20 of new placements are pre Sept 23 start / previously unknown placements. £110k additional expenditure relates to 21/22 & 22/23 not accrued for as unknown. Some saving due to 3 children being identified as LAC to another LA. |
| Residential | 0 | 13 | 13 | £0 | £786,604.52 | -£786,604.52 | Education share of residential placements not included in original budget figures |
| TOTAL | 157 | 38 | 183 | £9,368,853.00 | £11,101,911.41 | £1,733,058.41 | |

Independent Special

Independent Mainstream

| Pupils In Initial Budget | New Placements | Current Placement No | 23/24 Budget | Projected Expenditure | Variance | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|--|
| 21 | 0 | 19 | £440,707.00 | £353,265.99 | £87,441.01 | 2 leavers since budget + 1 Summer leaver |

Non-Maintained Special

| Pupils In Initial Budget | New Placements | Current Placement No | 23/24 Budget | Projected Expenditure | Variance | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|--|
| 4 | 0 | 3 | £190,430.00 | £103,634.96 | £86,795.04 | 1 leaver since budget + 1 Summer leaver |

3.2 Special

| School | 22/23 Place No's | 23/24 Place No's | 23/24 Place Funding | 23/24 Top Up Funding (Inc TPG &TPEG) | Total 23/24 Draft Budget (inc 3%) | Out of Area Children |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Chelveston Road | 29 | 91 | £764,167 | £754,738 | £1,518,905 | 8 |
| Friars | 141 | 154 | £1,525,000 | £1,684,068 | £3,209,068 | 5 |
| lsebrook | 254 | 254 | £2,510,833 | £2,629,095 | £5,139,928 | 6 |
| Kingsley | 162 | 156 | £1,560,000 | £1,841,484 | £3,401,484 | 2 |
| Maplefields | 114 | 114 | £1,152,500 | £1,476,585 | £2,629,085 | 25 |
| Red Kite | 141 | 144 | £1,355,833 | £2,038,534 | £3,394,367 | 2 |
| Rowan Gate | 232 | 264 | £2,456,667 | £3,067,077 | £5,523,744 | 5 |
| Wren Spinney | 79 | 88 | £845,833 | £1,578,917 | £2,424,750 | 9 |
| 3.4% Additional Grant | | | | | £852,804 | |
| TOTAL | 1,152 | 1,265 | £12,170,833 | £15,070,497 | £28,094,135 | 62 |

3.3 Unit

| School Name | 2023/24 Commisioned Place No's - April | 2023/24 £6k Place Funding (Element 2) | 2023/24 £10k Place Funding (Element 2) | Total Top Up Funding | 2023/24 Total Place + Top Up |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Beanfield Primary | 54 | £327,500 | £0 | £278,040 | £605,540 |
| Corby Business Academy | 77 | £449,500 | £20,833 | £468,680 | £939,013 |
| Croyland Primary | 8 | £0 | £0 | £80,000 | £80,000 |
| Denfield Park Primary | 14 | £84,000 | £0 | £44,075 | £128,075 |
| Kingswood Secondary | 13 | £78,000 | £5,833 | £39,000 | £122,833 |
| Mawsley Primary | 0 | £42,000 | £0 | £77,000 | £119,000 |

| Park Junior | 7 | 0 | £0 | £135,000 | £135,000 |
|--------------------------|-----|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| Stanton Cross Primary | 0 | £28,000 | £0 | £25,333 | £53,333 |
| Studfall Infant | 12 | £93,000 | £0 | £111,515 | £204,515 |
| Studfall Junior | 24 | £130,500 | £22,500 | £88,836 | £241,836 |
| Thrapston Primary | 0 | £42,000 | £0 | £60,000 | £102,000 |
| Wollaston Secondary | 0 | £42,000 | £35,000 | £46,667 | £123,667 |
| Woodnewton | 10 | £35,000 | £41,667 | £23,333 | £100,000 |
| Total | 219 | £1,351,500 | £125,833 | £1,477,479 | £2,954,812 |

3.4 Out of Area

| | Pupils from Initial Budget | New Placements | Current Pupil No | 23/24 Budget | Projected Expenditure | Variance | Notes |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| Mainstream | 34 | 18 | 42 | £313,062.00 | £449,202.30 | £136,140.30 | Initial budget included 10 leavers - actual new placements at additional cost = 8 |
| Special | 101 | 25 | 111 | £1,620,986.00 | £1,474,904.07 | £146,081.93 | Initial budget included 15 leavers - actual new placements at additional cost = 10. 21 Summer Leavers |
| TOTAL | 135 | 43 | 153 | £1,934,048.00 | £1,924,106.37 | £9,941.63 | |

3.5 mainstream top up

| Primary Need Allocations | Cognition & Learning | Communication & Interaction | SEMH | Sensory & Medical | Without PN Code | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| % Allocation | 22.43% | 48.26% | 20.51% | 8.80% | | 100.00% |
| Budget: | £1,637,653 | £3,523,547 | £1,497,471 | £642,503 | | £7,301,174 |
| Current Allocations: | | | | | | |
| Primary Academy | £625,004 | £1,764,917 | £465,026 | £139,680 | £7,337 | £3,001,965 |
| Primary Maintained | £201,607 | £581,451 | £166,986 | £80,926 | £0 | £1,030,971 |
| Secondary Academy | £555,692 | £553,696 | £602,438 | £323,251 | £9,139 | £2,044,216 |
| Secondary Maintained | £39,530 | £16,913 | £17,485 | £1,258 | £0 | £75,186 |
| Total Allocated to Date: | £1,421,833 | £2,916,978 | £1,251,935 | £545,115 | £16,476 | £6,152,337 |
| Date: | £1,421,833 | £2,916,978 | £1,251,935 | £545,115 | £16,476 | £6,152,337 |

| Infant / Primary Phase Transfers to be Allocated: | £53,145 | £89,737 | £42,981 | £14,230 | £6,970 | £207,063 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| Budget To Be Allocated: | £162,675 | £516,832 | £202,555 | £83,158 | | £941,774 |

3.6 Current overall position statement for projected spend for the HNB 2023/24

| Budget | 23/24 Budget | 23/24 Forecast | Variance |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Early Years | £250,000 | £250,000 | £0 |
| Mainstream Top Up's | £7,301,174 | £7,801,174 | £500,000 |
| Mainstream SEN Units | £2,809,355 | £2,954,812 | £145,457 |
| Special Schools | £28,469,277 | £28,094,135 | (£375,142) |
| Out of Area | £1,934,048 | £1,924,106 | (£9,942) |
| Independent | £9,999,990 | £10,772,208 | £772,218 |
| Alternative Provision (inc out of | £2,650,000 | £2,650,000 | £0 |
| county) | | | |
| Post 16 Top Up's in FE Colleges | £1,953,207 | £1,953,207 | £0 |
| Hospital Education Services | £100,000 | £100,000 | £0 |
| Education Entitlement Team | £543,416 | £543,416 | £0 |
| Specialist Support Services | £649,979 | £649,979 | £0 |
| AP Free Schools | £190,000 | £190,000 | £0 |
| Northamptonshire Parent | £30,000 | £30,000 | £0 |
| Partnership Service | | | |
| Sensory Impairment Provision | £970,685 | £970,685 | £0 |
| Tri-part Residential Placements | £0 | £731,994 | £731,994 |
| Transfer from DSG Reserve | £0 | (£1,764,585) | (£1,764,585) |
| TOTAL | £57,851,131 | £57,851,131 | £0 |

4. Key areas of work for the coming period

- To further embed the SEND whole school support and provision set out in the SEND delivery programme
- To continue the planned programme of satellite and unit provision set out in the SEND delivery programme

Key areas of work for consideration for the coming period

- To with the special school sector to undertake a review of the special school funding model and descriptors for the allocation of placement funding
- To pilot mainstream funding formula for mainstream top up funding



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: June 2023

Permanent Exclusion Clawback 22-23

1. Background

NNC in accordance with DFE guidance " *Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil* referral units in England Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion, DFE, 2017" consulted with schools through NNC schools forum in December 2022 to continue the clawback agreed with schools in 2021-22 for pupils permanently excluded. The level of funding would be in line with government guidance namely "The school and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2022". This was agreed and the following paper shows breakdown of the clawback for 2022-23. Clawback funding is returned to the DSG and used to support pupils and schools.

Table 1. Summary Breakdown of Clawback 2022-23

| Number of Primary Pupils Permanently Excluded | 9 | |
|---|-------------|----|
| Number of Secondary Pupils Permanently Excluded | 82 | |
| Schools | Primary | 6 |
| | Secondary | 20 |
| | All Through | 1 |

Table 1 shows the breakdown of permanent for the financial year 22-23. The total number of permanent exclusions were 91. The table shows 9.9% of the pupils that were excluded were primary age pupils.

Table 2. Summary of Clawback by phase based on agreed formula

| Primary Clawback | £32,062 |
|--------------------|----------|
| Secondary Clawback | £387,187 |
| Total Clawback | £419,250 |

Table 2 shows the total clawback for pupils as \pounds 419,250. The primary share of the clawback is 7.6% of the overall clawback.

Table 3. Breakdown of permanent exclusions by year group

| Year | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Pupils | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 23 | 28 | 6 |

Shown in Table 3 is the year group that pupils were permanently excluded. This shows a gradual increase in permanent exclusions in primary schools and greater increase up to year 10 in secondary schools. One implication is the need to continue to invest in early support for pupils in both phases so that behaviours do not develop in later years.

Table 4 Breakdown by Localities

| Area | Primary | Secondary | Although | Total | Total | Clawback |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| | Schools | Schools | Schools | Schools | Pupils | |
| Corby | | 5 | | 5 | 10 | £62,424 |
| Kettering | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 19 | £88,860 |
| Wellingborough | 3 | 4 | | 7 | 42 | £173,395 |
| East. Northants | | 5 | | 5 | 17 | £84,271 |
| Out of County | | 2 | | | 3 | £10,303 |

Table 4 shows the breakdown by localities. Wellingborough has the highest number of permanent exclusions. In Wellingborough 2 schools account for 27 permanent exclusions in 2022-23.

Table 5 Expenditure on provision for pupils permanently excluded in NNC 2022-23.

| Expenditure | |
|--|----------|
| Bespoke Packages /Teaching Personal Home Tuition | £575,566 |
| Alternative Provision -CE Academy | £553,232 |
| Alternative Provision - Progress Schools | £225,419 |
| Alternative Provision -Re-Focus School | £124,169 |
| Alternative Provision -Catch 22 Spires Academy | £195,118 |

Table 5. The LA spent \pounds 1,673,504 for pupils enrolled in the different provisions related to excluded pupil. The AP costs will increase in 2023-24 some in line with inflation and some at a higher rate.

Conclusion.

There is a need to continue this clawback in the short term. The LA is continuing to develop its strategy to reduce permanent exclusions. The outreach provisions and secondary pilots have been positively received by schools The LA will continue to develop these whilst also engaging with our current alternative providers and as well as new ones to deliver provision for pupils at risk of exclusions in line with the DFE green paper on the future of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system, **SEND Review: right support, right place, right time, DFE,2022**

On this basis there is no proposal to change the Clawback Policy as agreed by schools forum 2021-22.

Appendix

Permanent Exclusions 2022-23

| Locality | School | Roll | Status | Phase |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------|-------------|
| Corby | Brooke Weston Academy | 1188 | Academy | Secondary |
| Corby | Corby Business Academy | 1145 | Academy | Secondary |
| Corby | Corby Technical School | 1002 | Academy | Secondary |
| Corby | KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY | 1241 | Academy | Secondary |
| Corby | Lodge Park Academy | 1065 | Academy | Secondary |
| East Northamptonshire | HUXLOW ACADEMY | 879 | Academy | Secondary |
| East Northamptonshire | Manor School | 1027 | Academy | Secondary |
| East Northamptonshire | Prince William School | 1304 | Academy | Secondary |
| East Northamptonshire | The Ferrers School | 918 | Academy | Secondary |
| East Northamptonshire | The Rushden Academy | 854 | Academy | Secondary |
| Kettering | Greenfields Primary School & Nursery | 456 | Academy | Primary |
| Kettering | Hawthorn Community Primary School | 294 | Academy | Primary |
| Kettering | Kettering Buccleuch Academy | 1859 | Academy | All Through |
| Kettering | Kettering Science Academy | 1405 | Academy | Secondary |
| Kettering | Meadowside Primary School | 397 | MN | Primary |
| Kettering | Montsaye Academy | 1086 | Academy | Secondary |
| Kettering | Southfield School for Girls | 1171 | Academy | Secondary |
| Kettering | The Latimer Arts College | 1098 | MN | Secondary |
| Wellingborough | Oakway Academy | 588 | Academy | Primary |
| Wellingborough | Olympic Primary School | 375 | Academy | Primary |
| Wellingborough | Sir Christopher Hatton Academy | 1426 | Academy | Secondary |
| Wellingborough | VICTORIA PRIMARY ACADEMY | 415 | Academy | Primary |
| Wellingborough | Weavers Academy | 1284 | Academy | Secondary |
| Wellingborough | Wollaston School | 1412 | Academy | Secondary |
| Wellingborough | Wrenn School | 1370 | Academy | Secondary |
| 000 | Name | | | |
| 000 | Sharbrook | | | |
| | | | | |

| Number | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| of Pupils | Clawback |
| 1 | £11,472.23 |
| 1 | £1,805.81 |
| 2 | £3,434.59 |
| 3 | £13,313.45 |
| 3 | £32,398.43 |
| 5 | £23,475.58 |
| 3 | £21,634.36 |
| 2 | £16,995.90 |
| 4 | £9,135.30 |
| 3 | £13,030.19 |
| 1 | £3,608.04 |
| 1 | £1,688.87 |
| 2 | £9,873.20 |
| 3 | , £18,801.71 |
| 1 | £7,088.14 |
| 5 | £26,768.54 |
| 2 | £6,373.46 |
| 4 | £14,658.96 |
| 2 | £7,420.80 |
| 2 | £7,169.91 |
| 4 | £28,220.27 |
| 1 | £1,663.28 |
| 13 | £49,040.25 |
| 6 | £29,317.93 |
| 14 | £50,562.80 |
| 1 | £4,213.57 |
| 2 | £6,090.20 |
| 91 | £419,255 |

Agenda Item 7



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: June 2023

Pupil Growth Fund Policy and Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The Pupil Growth Fund (PGF) provides the mechanism by which the Local Authority (LA) provides revenue funding to schools to employ the necessary staff to allow for the provision of new school places. The PGF is a key factor in ensuring that the LA can fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of school places in all areas of North Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 The PGF is funded from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and is top sliced from school budgets before the remainder is distributed via the Schools Funding Formula (for primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies).
- 1.3 Schools Forum is responsible for setting the amount of funding that schools receive when providing new school places at the request of the LA and the total allocated budget of the Pupil Growth Fund.
- 1.4 The PGF rates were last updated for the 2021/22 financial year and are based upon average teacher costs. These rates are identified below:

| Pupil Growth Fund rates £ per 30 additional places added | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Secondary Primary | | | | | |
| Teacher | £52,587 | Teacher | £41,648 | | |
| LSA (per 1 class of 30) | £26,752 | LSA (per 1 class of 30) | £12,115 | | |
| | | Classroom Support (per | r C14 105 | | |
| | | 1 class of 30) £14, | | | |
| Resources | £3,000 | Consumables | £1,000 | | |
| Total | £82,339 | Total | £68,958 | | |

2. Payment Profiles

- 2.2 Due to the fact that the LA operates on the 1st April 31st March financial year and schools operate on an academic year, any school that receives PGF funding will receive the funding in two tranches. One payment of 5/12ths to cover the period 1st April 31st August each year and a second payment of 7/12ths to cover the period 1st September 31st March.
- 2.3 The LA can recoup any PGF funding paid to an academy from the ESFA made in the period 1st April to 31st August annually, due to the way academies are funded.
- 2.4 Funding will be pro-rated for part form or multiples of full form entry, for example:

- a) The total sum above will be multiplied by 0.5 for a part form entry of 15 pupils
- b) For an increase of one and a half form entry (45 pupils) the total sum will be multiplied by 1.5
- 2.5 Entry numbers falling under the half form or full form levels will be rounded to the nearest eligible entry level.
- 1.9 Where form entries are less than 50% of the half form entry numbers these entries will not be eligible for growth funding.
- 2.7 A payment will be made for each year that the school is growing until the earliest of the following:
 - i. The school reaches full capacity attributable to the increase in PAN approved by the Assistant Director of Education
 - ii. The Growth Fund criteria changes due to affordability
 - iii. There is a change in the funding formula as directed from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

2. 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund Outturn

2.1 Pupil Growth Fund in 2021-22 overspent by £0.35m. The table below sets out the final position.

| 2021-22 Pupil Growth fund Outturn | £ |
|---|---------------|
| 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund Budget as per January 2021 Schools Forum decision | 700,000.00 |
| Recoupment from ESFA for 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund paid 1st April to 31st August 2021 | 381,197.08 |
| Adjustments to 2020-21 Pupil Growth Fund by ESFA | -218,014.00 |
| 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund Expenditure | -1,213,612.60 |
| 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund Overspend | -350,429.52 |

3. 2022-23 Pupil Growth Fund Outturn

3.1 The outturn position for Pupil Growth Fund in 2022-23 is as follows:

| 2022-23 Pupil Growth Fund | £ |
|---|-------------|
| 2022-23 Growth Fund Budget as per January 2022 Schools Forum Decision | 750,000 |
| Reqoupment from ESFA for 2022-23 Growth Fund paid 1st April to 31st August 2022 | 470,585 |
| 2022-23 Growth Fund Expenditure | - 1,023,303 |
| Reqoupment for Stanton Cross ESFA | - 134,315 |
| 2022-23 Pupil Growth Fund Underspend | 62,967 |

3.2 The allocation against each area is as follows:

| | Primary £ | Secondary £ |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Corby | 33,602.00 | 340,497.00 |
| Wellingborough | 90,000.00 | 125,620.00 |
| Kettering | 108,739.00 | 112,397.00 |
| East Northants | 168,244.00 | 44,204.00 |
| | | |
| Total | 400,585.00 | 622,718.00 |

The underspend on the Growth Fund relates to a contingency budget set aside for accommodating additional growth such as Ukrainian pupils. Since this budget was not used, it has resulted in an underspend.

8. Legal implications

8.1 The legislation governing the Schools Forum powers and responsibilities is available at the link below. This outlines that deductions that require a vote by all Schools Forum members.

Stat guidance template (publishing.service.gov.uk)

| Function | Local authority | Schools forum | DfE role |
|--|-----------------|---|--|
| De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: contingencies administration of free school meals insurance licences/subscriptions staff costs – supply cover support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups behaviour support services library and museum services School improvement | Proposes | Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status | Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal |
| General Duties for maintained schools Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (please see <u>operational guide</u> for more information) | Proposes | Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU). | Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal |
| Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: • funding for significant pre-16 <u>pupil growth</u> , including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy | Proposes | Decides | Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal |

8.2 For further information on the legislature for deductions please see <u>The School and Early Years</u> <u>Finance (England) Regulations 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>

SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 6 and 8

CLASSES OR DESCRIPTIONS OF PLANNED EXPENDITURE PRESCRIBED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY WHICH MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM IT TO DETERMINE THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

BUDGEI

PART 1

Historic Commitments

- 1. CERA incurred for purposes not falling within any other paragraph of this Schedule or Schedule 1.
- 2. Expenditure in respect of-
 - (a) prudential borrowing;
 - (b) termination of employment costs, where the schools forum has approved the charging of these costs to the schools budget for the funding period in which they were incurred and the revenue savings achieved by the termination of employment to which they relate are equal to or greater than the costs incurred;
 - (c) services (often known as combined budgets) funded partly from central expenditure and partly from other budgets of the local authority or contributions from other bodies, where the expenditure relates to classes or descriptions of expenditure falling outside those in this Schedule;
 - (d) special educational needs transport costs; and
 - (e) purposes not falling within any other paragraph of this Schedule, provided that the expenditure does not amount in total to more than 0.1% of the authority's schools budget,

which was approved by the schools forum or the Secretary of State before 1st April 2013.

 Any deductions under any of paragraphs 1 and 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) must not exceed the amount deducted under each of the corresponding paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 2021 Regulations for the previous funding period.

PART 2 Central Schools Expenditure

4. Expenditure due to a significant growth in pupil numbers as a result of the local authority's duty under section 13(1) of the 1996 Act to secure that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of its area, including expenditure resulting from the additional costs associated with establishing a new school.

5. Expenditure to be incurred due to a decline in pupil numbers in-

- (a) schools maintained by the authority which were awarded either the highest or the second highest grade in their last inspection under section 5 of the 2005 Act, including those inspected during the funding period; and
- (b) Academy schools that have not previously been inspected under section 5 of the 2005 Act and have a predecessor school or schools which were awarded the highest or second highest grade in their last inspection under section 5 of the 2005 Act, including those inspected during the funding period,

where funding is likely to be necessary due to subsequent growth in pupil numbers at such schools before the end of the next three financial years after the funding period.

Expenditure to be incurred before the opening of new schools to fund the appointment of staff and to enable the purchase of any goods
and services necessary in order to admit pupils.

 Expenditure to make provision for extra classes in order to comply with the School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012(66).

9. Risks

- 9.1 If Pupil Growth Fund is not established for 2023-24, NNC will not be able to fund previously agreed growth across the primary and secondary phases of education in North Northamptonshire and 'new and growing' schools will not receive budgeted for growth funding. This is likely to result in severe budget issues at several schools listed above, incur significant reputational damage and possible legal action against NNC by the schools involved.
- 9.2 Should a Pupil Growth Fund for 2023-24 be established but with insufficient budget to fund all required growth in North Northamptonshire, NNC may fail to fulfil its statutory obligations of providing a sufficiency of school places.

Report Author:

Officer name: Neil Goddard Officer title: Assistant Director of Education Email address: <u>neil.goddard@northnorthants.gov.uk</u> This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 8



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 13th June 2023

Agenda Item 8

DSG Overview - 2022-23 DSG Outturn

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Schools Forum is informed of the Outturn Position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2022-23.

2. DSG Allocation 2022-23

2.1 Table 1 provided below sets out the final DSG allocation for 2022-23 and the income received:

| DSG Block | Allocation Prior to Academy Recoupment and HN Deductions | Less Academy Recoupment and HN Deductions | Final Allocation |
|-----------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Schools Block | 254,876,160 | 207,932,034 | 46,944,126 |
| Central Schools Block | 3,567,298 | | 3,567,298 |
| High Needs | 52,370,722 | 10,461,669 | 41,909,053 |
| Early Years | 22,271,483 | | 22,271,483 |
| Total DSG Allocation | 333,085,663 | 218,393,703 | 114,691,960 |
| | | | |

| Income Received in 2022-23 | (114,802,541) |
|---|---------------|
| Diffrence in Income recieved compared to allocation | (110,581) |
| Diffrence due to : | |
| Early Years Adjustment Relating to 2021-22 | (110,581) |

3. DSG Outturn

3.1 Table 2 provided below presents the overall outturn summary for each of the four DSG blocks for 2022-23. Following the table, an explanation is provided for each block, highlighting the factors that contributed to the final position. Additionally, there are appendices at the end of this report that provide more detailed information about the expenditure within the individual blocks.

The final outturn position for 2022-23 is a overspend of £1.864 million. This has been an adverse movement of £1.560 million from the previous report to school's forum in

January 23. This has mainly been contributed by the increased pressures and demands on the High Needs Block.

| Block | | 2022-23 Budget | 2 | 022- 2023 Outturn | Variance |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Schools Block | £ | 254,876,160 | £ | 254,813,194 | (62,966) |
| Central School Sevices Block | £ | 3,567,298 | £ | 3,533,873 | (33,425) |
| High Needs Block | £ | 52,370,722 | £ | 54,348,356 | 1,977,634 |
| Early Years Block | £ | 22,271,483 | £ | 22,254,302 | (17,181) |
| DSG Outturn 2022-23 | £ | 333,085,663 | £ | 334,949,724 | 1,864,061 |

Table 2: Summary 2022-23 DSG Outturn Expenditure Against Funding by Block

3.2 Schools Block.

3.2.1 The funding for the Schools Block was allocated in accordance with the Authority Proforma Tool exercise on the mainstream schools funding formula in January 2021. The outturn position on the school's block is an underspend of 63k this is a favourable movement of £391k since the last school forum report, this favourable movement is primarily attributed to the remaining contingency budget within the Growth Fund allocation that has not been spent. The underspend in the Growth Fund relates to a contingency budget set aside for accommodating additional growth such as Ukrainian pupils. Since this budget was not used, it has resulted in an underspend.

3.3 Central School Services Block.

3.3.1 Due to the separation of the School Admissions service from the West in August 2022 the service has experienced an underspend of £33k. This is primarily due to the presence of vacancies that service was left with. These vacancies will be filled in the upcoming financial year. This has left the CSSB block with an underspend of £33k. All other budgets within CSSB Block such as School Licences, Schools Forum, Statutory and Regulatory Duties all came within the available funding envelope.

3.4 High Needs Block.

3.4.1 The main pressures throughout the year has been within the High Needs Block, there are increasing pressures nationally and in North Northamptonshire for High Needs Places. The main factors contributing to the considerable increase in the High Needs overspend since the last school forum has been the pressure for additional placements for pupils, as there is no capacity available in North Northamptonshire school's pupils are being placed in alternative settings which come at a higher cost to NNC. Another significant aspect that has impacted the overspend is the timing of invoice payments. Instead of occurring at a steady termly rate as initially anticipated, numerous invoices have been paid at the end of the year which has affected the year end forecast. There have also been historical placements where schools sought unpaid funds from previous years, due to the absence of accurate historical lists of placements it has been difficult to forecast costs relating to these placements. These instances have added to the overspend, as it necessitated addressing past financial obligations alongside current expenditure.

Joint funded residential placements have also contributed to the overspend these were not fully forecasted in the previous report leading to a discrepancy between the estimated and actual expenses incurred. Joint funded residential placements can present unique challenges in terms of forecasting, as they involve collaborative funding arrangements between multiple parties and considering factors such as funding responsibilities for pupils, the process of determining the funding allocation for each joint funded residential placement has taken longer than initially anticipated. As a result, the final figures confirming the specific funding contributions have only recently been confirmed. Mainstream Top Ups has also contributed to the overspend this mainly relates to a steady increase of pupils and an exercise the High Needs Team did in the summer where they caught up with any historic EHCP's.

The outturn for the High Needs block for 2022-23 is £1.978 million overspend. The Appendices attached to this report show a more detailed breakdown of High Needs Block.

3.4.2 There is a separate report to be presented later in the meeting which includes more detail about the pressures in the High Needs Block.

3.5 Early Years Block.

3.5.1 The ESFA confirmed earlier this year that the 2021-22 Year end adjustment for Early Years was £110k Surplus. This has been accounted for within the DSG Early Years Block. The Underspend on the Early Years block relates to a combination of the reduction in funding on the Maintained Nursery School Supplement due to the lack of participation in maintained Nursery Schools of 27k as previously reported to school forum and an underspend of 44k on Disability Access Fund.

4. DSG Reserve

4.1 The overspend against the DSG is to be managed through the DSG reserve which is ringfenced. At the end of the 2021-22 financial year the council had a deficit of £1.288 million against its DSG reserves. It is important to note that the audit and agreement of the legacy accounts for the 2020-21 financial year are still pending. Hence, the report can only provide information on the financial positions of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years. Despite the funding increases over the past two years, the deficit has continued to grow. It is important to highlight that there is an underspend in the Early Years Block, which may potentially be subject to a clawback.

5. Recommendations for Schools Forum

5.1 Schools Forum are asked to note the report.

6. Financial implications

6.1 Financial accounts for are yet to be audited and agreed.

7. Legal implications

7.1 Schools funding is governed by The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021. It is important to ensure decisions are made within the regulations set.

8. Risks

- 8.1 The deliverability of the 2022-23 Budget is monitored by Budget Managers and Assistant Directors. Where any variances or emerging pressures are identified during the year then mitigating actions have been sought and management interventions undertaken.
- 8.2 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented are provided as part of the finance monitoring reports. The main risks identified include an increase in demand on placements costs within the High Needs Block.

Report Author:

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Officer title: Senior Finance Business Partner – DSG & Schools

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| DSG Summary | | Budget : | 2022/23 | | | | | | For | ecast Outturn 202 | 2/23 | | Variance | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---|
| | | Any Budget Mov ernance Process | | | | Actuals 2 | 022/23 | | | | | | | | |
| Description | Original Budget | P11 | P12 | Movement | P11 Actuals | P11 | P12 Actuals | P12 | P11 Forecast Outturn | P12 Forecast Outturn | Movement | P11 Forecast Variance | P12 Forecast Variance | Movement | Reason for Variance |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| Schools Block | 254,876 | 254,876 | 254,876 | 0 | 233,710 | 91.70 | 254,813 | 99.98 | 254,876 | 254,813 | (63) | 0 | (63) | (63) | The underspend on the Growth Fund relates to a contingency budget set aside for accommodating additional growth |
| Central Schools Block | 3,567 | 3,567 | 3,567 | 0 | 3,567 | 100.00 | 3,533 | 99.05 | 3,567 | 3,533 | (34) | 0 | (34) | (34) | Due to the separation of the School Admissions service from the West in August 2022 the service has experienced an underspend of £33k. This is primarily due to the presence of vacancies that service was left with |
| Early Years Block | 22,271 | 22,271 | 22,271 | 0 | 17,647 | 79.24 | 22,254 | 99.92 | 22,298 | 22,254 | (44) | 27 | (17) | (44) | The variance relates to 27k as previously reported for Maintained Nursery School Supplement and a underspend DAF |
| High Needs Block | 52,371 | 52,371 | 52,371 | 0 | 50,466 | 96.36 | 54,348 | 103.77 | 54,294 | 54,348 | 54 | 1,923 | 1,977 | 54 | The High Needs Block has faced increased pressure due to a rise in demand for EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) and pupi placements. There has also been the need to honour numerous historical agreements which have contributed to the overspend. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 333,085 | 333,085 | 333,085 | 0 | 305,390 | 91.69 | 334,948 | 100.56 | 335,035 | 334,948 | (87) | 1,950 | 1,863 | (87) | |

| School Block | | Budge | 2022/23 | | | | | | Foreca | ist Outturn 2 | 2022/23 | | Variance | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| | | t Governand | | t and Ensure has been | | Actuals 2022/23 | | | | | | | | | |
| Description | Original Budget | P11 | P12 | Movement | P11 Actuals | P11 | P12 Actuals | P12 | P11 Forecast Outturn | P12 Forecast Outturn | Movement | P11 Forecast Variance | P12 Forecast Variance | Movement | Reason for Variance |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| Academies Recoupment | 205,416 | 206,213 | 206,213 | 0 | 189,029 | 91.67 | 206,213 | 100.00 | 206,213 | 206,213 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Transfer to High Needs Block | 1,274 | 1,274 | 1,274 | 0 | 1,168 | 91.67 | 1,274 | 100.00 | 1,274 | 1,274 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Maintained Primary Schools Budget Share | 39,407 | 38,748 | 38,748 | 0 | 35,519 | 91.67 | 38,748 | 100.00 | 38,748 | 38,748 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Maintained Secondary Schools Budget Share | 5,710 | 5,710 | 5,710 | 0 | 5,280 | 92.47 | 5,710 | 100.00 | 5,710 | 5,710 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| NNDR | 1,720 | 1,720 | 1,720 | 0 | 1,577 | 91.67 | 1,720 | 100.00 | 1,720 | 1,720 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| De-delegation Trade Union Facility Time | 21 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 19 | 95.00 | 20 | 100.00 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| De-delegation - School Effectiveness | 107 | 105 | 105 | 0 | 96 | 91.67 | 105 | 100.00 | 105 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Pupil Growth Fund | 1,221 | 1,086 | 1,086 | 0 | 1,023 | 94.20 | 1,023 | 94.20 | 1,086 | 1,023 | (63) | 0 | (63) | (63) | The underspend in the Growth Fund relates to a contingency budget set aside for accommodating additional growth |
| Total | 254,876 | 254,876 | 254,876 | 0 | 233,710 | 91.70 | 254,813 | 99.98 | 254,876 | 254,813 | (63) | 0 | (63) | (63) | |

| Central Schools Block | | Budget | 2022/23 | | | Forecast Outturn 2022/23 | | | | | 2022/23 | | Variance | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---|
| | | orrect Gov | dget Moven ernance Pro ollowed | | Actuals 2022/23 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Description | Original Budget | P11 | P12 | Moveme nt | P11 Actuals | P11 | P12 Actuals | P12 | P11 Forecast Outturn | P12 Forecast Outturn | Movement | P11 Forecast Variance | P12 Forecast Variance | | Reason for Variance |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| Historical Commitments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contribution to Combined Services: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Standards & Effectiveness (Combined DSG LA Services) | 434 | 434 | 434 | 0 | 434 | 100.00 | 434 | 100.00 | 434 | 434 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Moderation (Combined DSG LA Services) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 100.00 | 15 | 100.00 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (Combined DSG LA Services) | 33 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 33 | 100.00 | 33 | 100.00 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| MASH | 33 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 33 | 100.00 | 33 | 100.00 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Educational Entitlement | 125 | 125 | 125 | 0 | 125 | 100.00 | 125 | 100.00 | 125 | 125 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Redundancy/Premature Retirement Costs | 994 | 994 | 994 | 0 | 994 | 100.00 | 994 | 100.00 | 994 | 994 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Contribution to High Needs Block Deficit | 165 | 165 | 165 | 0 | 165 | 100.00 | 165 | 100.00 | 165 | 165 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Total Historical Commitments | 1,799 | 1,799 | 1,799 | 0 | 1,799 | 100.00 | 1,799 | 100.00 | 1,799 | 1,799 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ongoing Responsibilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Admissions | 485 | 485 | 485 | 0 | 485 | 100.00 | 451 | 92.99 | 485 | 451 | (34) | 0 | (34 |) (34) | Due to the separation of the School Admissions service from the West in August 2022 the service has experienced an underspend of £33k. This is primarily due to the presence of vacancies that service was |
| Schools Forum | 11 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 100.00 | 11 | 100.00 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| National Copyright Licences | 283 | 283 | 283 | 0 | 283 | 100.00 | 283 | 100.00 | 283 | 283 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Statutory and Regulatory Duties | 880 | 880 | 880 | 0 | 880 | 100.00 | 880 | 100.00 | 880 | 880 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Teacher's Pay and Pension | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 100.00 | 5 | 100.00 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Contribution to High Needs Block Deficit | 104 | 104 | 104 | 0 | 104 | 100.00 | 104 | 100.00 | 104 | 104 | 0 | 0 | C | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Total Ongoing Responsibilities | 1,768 | 1,768 | 1,768 | 0 | 1,768 | 100.00 | 1,734 | 98.08 | 1,768 | 1,734 | (34) | 0 | (34 |) (34) | |
| Total | 3,567 | 3,567 | 3,567 | 0 | 3,567 | 100.00 | 3,533 | 99.05 | 3,567 | 3,533 | (34) | 0 | (34 |) (34) | |

| Early Years Block | | Budg | et 2022/23 | | | | | | Fore | cast Outturn 20 | 22/23 | | Variance | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--|
| | | | | nt and Ensure been followed | | Actuals | 2022/23 | | | | | | | | |
| Description | Original Budget | P11 | P12 | Movement | P11 Actuals | P11 | P12 Actuals | P12 | P11 Forecast Outturn | P12 Forecast Outturn | Movement | P11 Forecast Variance | P12 Forecast Variance | Movement | Reason for Variance |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| 3 & 4 Year Old Universal Entitlement | 11,572 | | 11,572 | 0 | 10,297 | 88.98 | 11,572 | 100.00 | 11,572 | 11,572 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| 3 & 4 Year Old Additional Entitlement | 5,051 | 5,051 | 5,051 | 0 | 4,805 | 95.13 | 5,331 | 105.54 | 5,051 | 5,331 | 280 | 0 | 280 | 280 | Sight overspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| 3 & 4 Year Old Deprivation | 400 | 400 | 400 | 0 | 350 | 87.50 | 519 | 129.75 | 400 | 519 | 119 | 0 | 119 | 119 | Sight overspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| 3 & 4 Year Old SEN Inclusion | 483 | 483 | 483 | 0 | 697 | 144.31 | 771 | 159.63 | 483 | 771 | 288 | 0 | 288 | 288 | Sight overspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| Early Years Contingency | 309 | 309 | 309 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 309 | 0 | (309) | 0 | (309) | (309) | Budget was set aside for contingency this has not bee utilised. Actual budget for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed therefore underspend may still be subject to a clawback. |
| 3 and 4 Year Old Centrally Retained | 926 | 926 | 926 | 0 | 356 | 38.44 | 536 | 57.88 | 926 | 536 | (390) | 0 | (390) | (390) | Sight underspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| 2 Year Old Funding | 2,265 | | 2,265 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 2,265 | 100.00 | 2,265 | 2,265 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Maintained Nursery School Funding | 906 | 906 | 906 | 0 | 855 | 94.37 | 933 | 102.98 | 933 | 933 | 0 | 27 | 27 | 0 | The overspend on the Maintained Nursery School Supplement is due to a lack of participation this has been repoted to Schools Foroum previously |
| Early Years Pupil Premium | 245 | 245 | 245 | 0 | 230 | 93.88 | 258 | 105.31 | 245 | 258 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 13 | Sight overspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| Disability Access Fund | 114 | 114 | 114 | 0 | 57 | 50.00 | 69 | 60.53 | 114 | 69 | (45) | 0 | (45) | (45) | Sight underspend on budget that was allocated but actual budget allocation for Early Years for 22/23 is still to be confirmed. |
| Total | 22,271 | 22,271 | 22,271 | 0 | 17,647 | 79.24 | 22,254 | 99.92 | 22,298 | 22,254 | (44) | 27 | (17) | (44) | |

| High Needs Block | Г | | Budge | et 2022/23 | | | | | | For | ecast Outturn 2022 | 2/23 | | Variance | | |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| , | | | | | t and Ensure | | Actuals | 2022/23 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | emance ri | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Description | | Original Budget | P11 | P12 | Movement | P11 Actuals | P11 | P12 Actuals | P12 | P11 Forecast Outturn | P12 Forecast Outturn | Movement | P11 Forecast Variance | P12 Forecast Variance | Movement | Reason for Variance |
| SENDIF Plus (Transfer to Early Years Block) | | £'000 500 | £'000 500 | £'000 500 | £'000 | £'000 | % 0.00 | £'000 500 | % 100.00 | £'000 364 | £'000 500 | £'000 136 | £'000 (136) | £'000 | £'000 136 | Original forecast expenditure was 364k but due to ledger mis postings this has now resulted in full |
| NNC Special School Place Funding | | 10,996 | 10,996 | 10,996 | 0 | 10,302 | 93.69 | 11,232 | 102.15 | 11,232 | 11,232 | 0 | 236 | 236 | 0 | spend Special School Place Funding this has resulted in a slight overspend due to a additional payment to |
| NNC Special School Top Ups | | 12,680 | 12,680 | 12,680 | 0 | 12,203 | 96.24 | 13,935 | 109.90 | 13,807 | 13,935 | 128 | 1,127 | 1,255 | 128 | Rowan Gate . There has been an increase in Special School Tops due to historical agrrements being upheld. |
| NNC Special School Top Up Protection | | 719 | 719 | 719 | 0 | 719 | 100.00 | 719 | 100.00 | 719 | 719 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| NNC Special School TPG&TPECG | | 726 | 726 | 726 | 0 | 726 | 100.00 | 726 | 100.00 | 726 | 726 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| NNC SEN Units Occupied Place Funding | | 1,308 | 1,308 | 1,308 | 0 | 1,072 | 81.93 | 1,169 | 89.37 | 1,169 | 1,169 | 0 | (139) | (139) | 0 | The 2022-23 budget allocated more funds for SEN units, resolving prior commitments and clearing backlogs. Additional Funding was also set aside for new SEN Units to be opened in 2022-23 but unfortunately this has not happened as quickly as possible. |
| NNC SEN Units Vacant Place Funding | | 170 | 170 | 170 | 0 | 182 | 107.06 | 182 | 107.06 | 182 | 182 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | Due to updated ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) deductions since the budget was initially set, a slight overspend has occurred |
| NNC SEN Units Top Ups | | 3,026 | 3,026 | 3,026 | 0 | 1,280 | 42.30 | 1,280 | 42.30 | 1,280 | 1,280 | 0 | (1,746) | (1,746) | 0 | The 2022-23 budget allocated more funds for SEN units, resolving prior commitments and clearing backlogs. Additional Funding was also set as allocated for new SEN Units to be opened in 2022-23 but unfortunately this has not happened as quickly as possible. |
| AP Free Schools Place Funding | | 190 | 190 | 190 | 0 | 211 | 111.05 | 211 | 111.05 | 211 | 211 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 0 | Due to updated ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) deductions since the budget was initially set, a slight overspend has occurred This related to Spires Academy and Place numbers being Updated |
| AP Free Schools TPG&TPECG | | 13 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 13 | 0 | (13) | 0 | (13) | (13) | Budget was built in for TPG&TPECG for spires but this has not materialised. |
| Post 16 Top Ups in FE Colleges | | 2,810 | 2,810 | 2,810 | 0 | 1,628 | 57.94 | 1,758 | 62.56 | 1,800 | 1,758 | (42) | (1,010) | (1,052) | (42) | During the budget process the service identified a budget of 2.8m to be set for Post 16 Top Ups discussions have taken place with the service to ascertain all expenditure has been accounted for in 22/23 |
| Hospital Education Services | | 200 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (200) | (200) | 0 | Budget was built in as a contingency this has not utilised |
| Non Maintained & Independent SEN Unit Top Up & other funding | | 150 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 118 | 78.67 | 141 | 94.00 | 141 | 141 | 0 | (9) | (9) | 0 | Due to NNC Special Schools at capacity level pupils are being placed in Independent Special Schools these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC this has resulted in a forecasted overspend on the budget for 2022-23. |
| Out of County Special Top-ups | | 725 | 725 | 725 | 0 | 1,945 | 268.28 | 2,200 | 303.45 | 2,349 | 2,200 | (149) | 1,624 | 1,475 | (149) | Due to NNC Special Schools at capacity level pupils are being placed in Out of County Special Schools these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC this has resulted in a overspend on the budget for 2022-23. |
| Non Maintained & Independent Special Top Up & Other Funding | | 7,315 | 7,315 | 7,315 | 0 | 10,906 | 149.09 | 9,753 | 133.33 | 10,320 | 9,753 | (567) | 3,005 | 2,438 | (567) | Due to NNC Special Schools at capacity level pupils are being placed in Independent Special Schools these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC this has resulted in a overspend on the budget for 2022-23. |
| Non Maintained & Independent Mainstream Top Up & Other Funding | 9 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 391 | 130.33 | 398 | 132.67 | 393 | 398 | 5 | 93 | 98 | 5 | Budget for Independent Mainstream Schools these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC this has resulted in an overspend on the budget for 2022-23. |
| Out of County Mainstream Top Ups | | 500 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 22 | 4.40 | 145 | 29.00 | 135 | 145 | 10 | (365) | (355) | 10 | This budget is for NNC pupils that are placed in Out of County Mainstream Schools these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC, Out of county Mainstreams have not been used as much and this |
| Out of County SEN Unit Top Ups | | 46 | 46 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (46) | (46) | 0 | Budget set aside but has not been utilised |
| Out of County AP Top Ups | | 182 | 182 | 182 | | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (182) | (182) | 0 | Due to the shortage of Alternative Provision available by NNC a Budget was set aside but this has not been utilised |
| Primary and secondary Panel | | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 190 | 19.00 | 190 | 19.00 | 190 | 190 | 0 | (810) | (810) | 0 | The Primary and secondary panel ceased in July and was replaced with the Early Help and Locality Funding, this new panel has been coded to Mainstream Top Ups. |
| Mainstream Top Ups | | 4,598 | 4,598 | 4,598 | 0 | 6,815 | 148.22 | 7,060 | 153.55 | 7,059 | 7,060 | 1 | 2,461 | 2,462 | 1 | A mixture of payments are coded to this budget such as EHC, Sensory Service, Hearing and Visual Impairments, the miscoded Early Help and Locality Funding is coded here. The service have had to make addition payments to Mainsteram Schools for historical agreements that have been identified this has been a added pressure on the HN block and has resulted in overspend on this line. |
| Alternative Provision | | 3,757 | 3,757 | 3,757 | 0 | 1,662 | 44.24 | 2,346 | 62.44 | 2,109 | 2,346 | 237 | (1,648) | (1,411) | 237 | Alternative Provision relates to education arranged for pupils who are unable to attend mainstream or special school and who are not educated at home, whether for behavioural, health, or other reasons. AP includes Pupil Referral Units (PKUs), AP academies and free schools, |
| Educational Entitlement Team | | 268 | 268 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 100.00 | 268 | 100.00 | 268 | 268 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Specialist Support Service | | 375 | 375 | 375 | 0 | 375 | 100.00 | 375 | 100.00 | 375 | 375 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| MASH | | 14 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 100.00 | 14 | 100.00 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| NPPS (Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service) | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 90.00 | 9 | 90.00 | 10 | 9 | (1) | 0 | (1) | (1) | The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget. |
| Sensory Impairment Provision | | 971 | 971 | 971 | 0 | 971 | 100.00 | 915 | 94.23 | 971 | 915 | (56) | 0 | (56) | (56) | The Sensory Impairment Service is a jointly funded service with the west and the expenditure has been split as per the agreement with the West. This has resulted in a slight underspend. |
| Block Transfer From Schools Block | | (1,274) | (1,274) | (1,274) | 0 | (1,274) | 0.00 | (1,274) | 0.00 | (1,274) | (1,274) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Transfer From Schools Block as agreed by Schools Forum |
| Block Transfer From CSSB | | (269) | (269) | (269) | 0 | (269) | 0.00 | (269) | 0.00 | (269) | (269) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Transfer from CSSB as agreed by Schools Forum |
| Import Export adjustment | | 365 | 365 | 365 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 365 | 100.00 | 0 | 365 | 365 | (365) | 0 | 365 | HN import/Export Adjustment Additional Budget allocated in 22/23 |
| Total | | 52,371 | 52,371 | 52,371 | 0 | 50,466 | 96.36 | 54,348 | 103.77 | 54,294 | 54,348 | 54 | 1,923 | 1,977 | 54 | |

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North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 13th June 2023

Agenda Item 9

2022/23 Maintained School Balances and Licensed Deficits

1. Background

1.1 This report seeks to inform Schools Forum of the 2022/23 maintained school balances as at 31st March 2023.

2. Maintained school balances as at 1st April 2023

2.1 The net total balances at the start of April 2022 for the 41 maintained schools were £6.42m, which includes Park Junior Primary, during the year, converted to academy status. By the end of March 2023, of the 40 maintained schools that remained, net balances totalled £5.73m. At the start of the financial year 2022/23 three schools were in deficit, at the end of the 2022/23 financial year there are six schools in deficit. Table 1 summarises the 2022/23 position.

| School | Number | Schools | Number | Schools | Total | Total |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Phase | of | surplus | of | deficit | schools | outturn |
| | schools | balances | schools | balances | | balances |
| | in | in | with | in | | |
| | surplus | 2022/23 | deficits | 2022/23 | | |
| | | £'000 | | £'000 | | £'000 |
| Nursery | 2 | 250 | 2 | -83 | 4 | 167 |
| Primary | 30 | 4,278 | 4 | -226 | 34 | 4,052 |
| Secondary | 1 | 1,084 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1,084 |
| Special | 1 | 433 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 433 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 6,045 | 6 | -309 | 40 | 5,736 |

Table 1: Summary of maintained school balances at 1st April 2023

2.2 Historically the DFE has indicated that nursery, primary and special schools should be aiming to hold a balance around 8% of their income, with a lower figure of 5% for secondary schools. However, North Northamptonshire Scheme for Financing Schools has that figure set at 10% under paragraph 4: The treatment of surplus and deficit balances arising in relation to budget shares.

4.1 The right to carry forward surplus balances

Schools may carry forward from one financial year to the next any shortfall in expenditure relative to the school's budget share for the year plus/minus any balance brought forward from the previous year.

4.2 Controls on surplus balances

Surplus balances held by schools as permitted under this scheme are subject to the following restrictions:

- 1. the Authority shall calculate by 31 May each year the surplus balance, if any, held by each school as at the preceding 31 March. For this purpose, the balance will be the recurrent balance as defined in the Consistent Financial Reporting Framework
- 2. the Authority shall deduct from the calculated balance any amounts for which the school has a prior year commitment to pay from the surplus balance
- 3. the Authority shall then deduct from the resulting sum any amounts which the governing body of the school has declared to be assigned for specific purposes permitted by the authority, and which the authority is satisfied are properly assigned. To count as properly assigned, amounts must not be retained beyond the period stipulated for the purpose in question, without the consent of the Authority. In considering whether any sums are properly assigned the Authority may also consider any previously declared assignment of such sums but may not take any change in planned assignments to be the sole reason for considering that a sum is not properly assigned
- 4. if the result of steps (1) (3) is a sum greater than 10% of the current year's budget share for primary, nursery and special schools, then the Authority shall deduct from the current year's budget share an amount equal to the excess

Funds deriving from sources other than the Authority will be considered in this calculation if paid into the budget share account of the school, whether under provisions in this scheme or otherwise.

Funds held in relation to a school's exercise of powers under s.27 of the Education Act 2002 (community facilities) will not be considered unless added to the budget share surplus by the school as permitted by the Authority.

The total of any amounts deducted from schools' budget shares by the Authority under this provision are to be applied to the Schools Budget of the Authority.

Schools will be required to split these balances for the DfE Section 251 return and for Consistent Financial Reporting both of which are statutory returns.

2.3 The North Northamptonshire Council will be issuing a School Balance Analysis Form, which will facilitate the local authority in differentiating between committed and uncommitted balances. This differentiation will, in turn, enable the NNC to effectively apply the metrics outlined above in the Scheme for Financing Schools.

3 Licensed Deficits

3.1 In order to facilitate strong monitoring and proactive intervention planning, a report was presented to the school forum in October regarding School's deficit budget policy in wake of the current and increasing challenging economic climate schools must operate within. North Northamptonshire Council's Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the terms and conditions that maintained schools are expected to comply and operate within. The scheme prohibits maintained schools from planning for a deficit when preparing their budget plans.

This is authorised by the School's deficit policy, which obtained formal approval in October 2022.

"Where a deficit of 1% or more is identified by the school as part of the budget planning process, a business case and recovery plan for a licensed deficit to be authorised is to be submitted to NNC Schools Finance by the Chair of Governors in an agreed format at the same time or before the Budget Proposal Form."

- 3.2 Schools must submit a deficit recovery plan to NNC when their revenue deficit rises above 1% on 31 March of any year.
- 3.3 Schools applying for a licensed deficit may be allowed to plan for a deficit budget in exceptional circumstances with the agreement of the NNC Chief Finance Officer and subject to the following restrictions:
 - a) The maximum length over which a school may repay the deficit is normally three years from the beginning of the next financial year in which the deficit arises, and the financial position will be subject to ongoing monitoring and annual review
 - b) A deficit arrangement will only be allowed where the continuing existence of a school is deemed viable
 - c) The minimum size of an agreed deficit is 1% of the budget share, and the maximum level is 15% of the budget share
 - d) The maximum proportion of the collective school balances held by NNC which will be used to back the total of deficit arrangements is 10%.
 - e) Arrangements for individual schools will be determined by the NNC Chief Finance Officer or their nominated officers, in agreement with the school Governing Body. The Governing Body must formally agree to abide by any requirements laid down as a pre-condition to accepting the deficit arrangement.
- 3.4 During the challenging climate, the School's Finance Team at North Northamptonshire Council will play a crucial role in assisting schools with deficits. They will actively support schools in developing recovery plans, providing tailored guidance to address financial challenges. Through monthly monitoring reports, the finance team will closely track the financial progress of schools, promptly identifying any concerns and offering necessary support. This will be then reported back to School Forum.
- 3.5 Additionally, they will engage in early intervention and prevention planning, working closely with schools that are heading towards deficit, to implement proactive measures and prevent financial hardships. By offering comprehensive assistance, the school's responsibility is to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of schools while upholding the quality of education for children.

4 Recommendations for Schools Forum

4.1 This is an information paper which Schools Forum is invited to note school position.

5 Next steps

5.1 The Schools Forum is to take note that the breakdown of School balances will follow in next scheduled meeting. School balance analysis forms will be duly circulated among schools for their attention. Upon submission of the data, the school's team will review and analyse the submissions. This comprehensive overview will enable the Schools Forum to make informed decisions and cast their votes on the appropriate school balance mechanism

6 Financial implications

6.1 Appendix 1 highlights the outturn for 40 maintained schools. School governing bodies, Schools Forum and the LA need to work together to prepare for the difficult years ahead more so in the current difficult and challenging economic climate that schools have to operate within.

7 Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8 Risks

8.1 There's the risk that Schools do not comply with the Scheme For Financing School.

Report Author:

| Officer name: | Salik Khan |
|----------------|--|
| Officer title: | Finance Business Partner – Children Services |
| Email address: | salik.khan@northnorthants.gov.uk |

Appendix 1

| Maintaine | d schoo | balances | at 31st | March 2023 |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|------------|
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|------------|

| DfE No | School Phase | School Name | Opening Revenue Balance as at 1 st April 2022 | In Year Revenue Surplus (+ve) / Deficit (-ve) | Closing Revenue Balance as at 31 st March 2023 | Cumulative Revenue Surplus / Deficit |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 20EA1000 | Nursery | Ronald Tree Nursery | £17,680 | £43,122 | £60,802 | Surplus |
| 20EA1001 | Nursery | Croyland Nursery | -£51,266 | -£24,090 | -£75,356 | Deficit |
| 20EA1003 | Nursery | Highfield Nursery | -£24,487 | £16,400 | -£8,087 | Deficit |
| 20EA1011 | Nursery | Pen Green Children's Centre | £331,041 | -£141,863 | £189,178 | Surplus |
| | Total Main | tained Nursery Schools | £272,968.00 | -£106,430.94 | £166,537.06 | |
| 20EB2007 | Primary | Broughton Primary | £157,164 | -£12,630 | £144,534 | Surplus |
| 20EB2019 | Primary | Corby Old Village Primary | £156,241 | -£947 | £155,294 | Surplus |
| 20EB2029 | Primary | Mawsley Primary | £115,591 | -£25,867 | £89,724 | Surplus |
| 20EB2041 | Primary | Great Doddington | £95,721 | £58,359 | £154,080 | Surplus |
| 20EB2048 | Primary | Higham Ferrers Junior | £254,063 | -£13,202 | £240,861 | Surplus |
| 20EB2072 | Primary | Nassington Primary | £152,012 | £61,204 | £213,216 | Surplus |
| 20EB2082 | Primary | Alfred Street Junior | -£57,632 | -£43,979 | -£101,611 | Deficit |
| 20EB2086 | Primary | South End Infant | £68,935 | -£13,991 | £54,944 | Surplus |
| 20EB2087 | Primary | Tennyson Road Infant | £53,212 | -£23,684 | £29,528 | Surplus |
| 20EB2091 | Primary | Warmington Primary | £116,202 | £11,598 | £127,800 | Surplus |
| 20EB2100 | Primary | The Avenue Infant | £145,515 | -£809 | £144,706 | Surplus |
| 20EB2130 | Primary | South End Junior | £235,834 | £8,808 | £244,642 | Surplus |
| 20EB2140 | Primary | Higham Ferrers Infant | £138,780 | £99,610 | £238,390 | Surplus |
| 20EB2144 | Primary | Meadowside Primary | £84,275 | -£183,764 | -£99,489 | Deficit |
| 20EB2145 | Primary | Earls Barton Primary | £49,055 | -£58,415 | -£9,360 | Deficit |
| 20EB2155 | Primary | Whitefriars Primary | £349,267 | £87,670 | £436,937 | Surplus |
| 20EB2180 | Primary | Hayfield Cross Primary | £254,927 | -£26,304 | £228,623 | Surplus |

| 20EB2206 | Primary | Denfield Park Primary | £37,621 | £2,325 | £39,946 | Surplus |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 20EB2217 | Primary | Barton Seagrave Primary | £343,913 | £19,755 | £363,668 | Surplus |
| 20EB2230 | Primary | Henry Chichele Primary | £165,914 | -£30,677 | £135,237 | Surplus |
| 20EB2231 | Primary | Croyland Primary | £49,114 | -£64,735 | -£15,621 | Deficit |
| 20EB3030 | Primary | Geddington Primary | £117,378 | -£13,718 | £103,660 | Surplus |
| 20EB3033 | Primary | Grendon Primary | £49,648 | £16,854 | £66,502 | Surplus |
| 20EB3066 | Primary | Titchmarsh Primary | £127,903 | £17,196 | £145,099 | Surplus |
| 20EB3070 | Primary | All Saints Primary | £181,270 | -£102,979 | £78,291 | Surplus |
| 20EB3200 | Primary | Brigstock Lathams Primary | £84,171 | -£63,508 | £20,663 | Surplus |
| 20EB3201 | Primary | Kings Cliffe Endowed | £223,642 | -£75,870 | £147,772 | Surplus |
| 20EB3345 | Primary | Wilby Primary | £25,611 | -£18,145 | £7,466 | Surplus |
| 20EB3406 | Primary | St Patrick's Catholic Primary | £61,089 | -£22,025 | £39,064 | Surplus |
| 20EB3514 | Primary | Little Stanion Primary | £97,133 | -£34,778 | £62,355 | Surplus |
| 20EB5206 | Primary | Millbrook Infant | £250,241 | -£50,862 | £199,379 | Surplus |
| 20EB5207 | Primary | Millbrook Junior | £390,221 | -£232,322 | £157,899 | Surplus |
| 20EB5209 | Primary | Thrapston Primary | £216,452 | -£92,560 | £123,892 | Surplus |
| 20EB5210 | Primary | Stanion Primary | £69,844 | £13,831 | £83,675 | Surplus |
| | | Total Maintained Primary Schools | £4,860,327.00 | -£808,558.40 | £4,051,768.60 | |
| 20ED4055 | Secondary | Latimer Arts College (The) | £905,835 | £177,983 | £1,083,818 | Surplus |
| | | Total Maintained Secondary School | £905,835.00 | £177,982.75 | £1,083,817.75 | |
| 20EF7031 | Special | Rowan Gate Primary | £158,607 | £274,298 | £432,905 | Surplus |
| | | Total Maintained Special School | £158,607.00 | £274,298.46 | £432,905.46 | |
| | | Total Maintained Schools | £6,197,737.00 | -£462,708.13 | £5,735,028.87 | |