

# Public Document Pack



**Meeting:** North Northamptonshire Schools Forum

**Date:** Thursday 14th December 2023

**Time:** 1.00 pm

**Venue:** Remote Meeting via Zoom

**\*Vote required**

<b>Agenda</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
<b>01</b>	Apologies for non-attendance, Forum membership changes and declarations of interest	Raj Sohal	
<b>02</b>	Minutes of meeting held on 2nd November 2023 and points arising/officer feedback	Chair	5 – 10
<b>03</b>	Schools Quarter 2 Monitoring 2023/24 Update on Consultation	Salik Khan	11 – 14
<b>04 *</b>	Scheme for Financing Schools 2023/24 & 2024/25 Update on Consultation	Salik Khan	15 – 20
<b>05 *</b>	Deficit Budget Policy 2024/25 Update on Consultation	Salik Khan	21 – 24
<b>06 *</b>	Schools Balances Control Policy 2024/25 Update on Consultation	Salik Khan	25 – 32
<b>07</b>	DSG Update 2023/24 & High Needs Verbal Update	Sariya Bi/Neil Goddard	33 – 70
<b>08</b>	Mainstream Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2024/25 Update on Consultation (verbal update)	Sariya Bi	
<b>09 *</b>	Proposed CSSB 2024/25 Update on Consultation	Sariya Bi	71 – 76
<b>010 *</b>	2024/25 De-delegation: Trade Union Facilities Time Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	77 – 84
<b>011</b>	2024/25 De-delegation: School Effectiveness Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	85 – 90

012	2024/25 De-delegation: Schools Insurance Services Update on Consultation	Yoke O'Brien	91 – 96
013	Growth Fund Proposals 2024/25 Consultation Paper Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	97 – 98
014	Falling Pupil Roll Fund Proposal 2024/25 Consultation Paper Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	
015	Permanent Exclusions Policy 2024/25 Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	99 – 102
016	Early Years Budget 2024/25	Kelly Mills	103 – 110
017	Notional SEND Update on Consultation	Neil Goddard	111 – 112
018	SALT EHCP	Neil Goddard	113 – 118
019	Urgent Business	All	119 – 120

Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer  
North Northamptonshire Council



**Proper Officer**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Committee Administrator: Raj Sohal

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Items 4,5,6,9 & 10 will require a decision vote at this December 2023 meeting.

### 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.

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## Minutes of a meeting of the North Northamptonshire Schools Forum

Held at 1.00 pm on Thursday 2nd November 2023 as a remote meeting, via Zoom

### Present:-

#### Members

James Birkett (Chair)  
Victoria Bull  
Laura Clarke  
Annabel Moore  
Angela Prodger

Paul Wheeler (Vice Chair)  
Peter Cantley  
Marie Lally  
Kathryn Murphy  
James Sherlock

#### Officers

Sariya Bi  
Charlotte Franks  
Neil Goddard  
Salik Khan  
Sarah McAnulty  
Kelly Mills

Senior Finance Business Partner  
Head of SEND and Vulnerable Groups  
Assistant Director for Education  
Finance Business Partner  
Underwriting Manager – WNC  
Early Years Business Compliance and  
Funding Support Service Manager  
Strategic Finance Business Partner  
Democratic Services Manager

Also in attendance – Councillor Scott Edwards

### 111 **Apologies for non-attendance, Forum membership changes and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from the following members: Sandra Appleby, Rob Hardcastle and Nikki Lamond.

### 112 **Minutes of meeting held on 13th June 2023 and points arising/officer feedback**

**RESOLVED that:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June be agreed as an accurate record.

### 113 **Scheme for Financing Schools 2023/24 & 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Finance Business Partner, which outlined the Scheme for Financing Schools for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum approves the changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools 2023/24 and 2024/25.

### 114 **Schools Monitoring 2023-24 QTR 1**

The Forum considered a report by the Finance Business Partner, which outlined the budget position based on the first quarter, representing April 2023 to June 2023, and the anticipated year end balances forecast.

**RESOLVED that:** The report be noted.

**115 Deficit Budget Policy 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Finance Business Partner, which outlined North Northamptonshire Schools' Deficit Budget Policy 2024/25.

**RESOLVED that:** Maintained schools' members agree to continue to adopt the Deficit Budget Policy 2024/25.

**116 Schools Balances Control Policy 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Finance Business Partner, which outlined North Northamptonshire's policy on the control of surplus balances in schools and schools' final balance positions for 2022/23.

**RESOLVED that:** Maintained schools' members:

a) Approve the policy.

b) Agree to implement the policy for the 2023/24 financial year and apply it to balances held at 31st March 2024.

**117 DSG Update 2023/24**

The Forum considered a report by the Senior Finance Business Partner, which outlined the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) against the budget for 2023/24.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members expressed concern regarding budgetary pressures against the High Needs block of the DSG, since the need for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) had not reduced.

In response, the Senior Finance Business Partner clarified that:

- At the time of the meeting, 3,770 EHCPs had been created in North Northampton, which was an increase of 440 from the previous year (on average, 70/80 applications were received per month). This was a nationwide issue, seen also by other local authorities. North Northamptonshire Council would develop a long-term management plan to bring the budget within available resources.

**RESOLVED that:** The report be noted.

**118 Provisional National Funding Formula 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Senior Finance Business Partner, which outlined details of the National Funding Formula (NFF) 2024/25 Policy and North Northamptonshire Council's local formulae for school budgets and high needs.

**RESOLVED that:** The report be noted.

**119 Mainstream Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Senior Finance Business Partner, which outlined the 2024/25 Mainstream Schools Funding Formula consultation proposals.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried what additional financial support existed to support growth (such as new schools).
- Regarding the proposed 0.5% transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block of the DSG, one member queried whether it would be financially viable to not enact this transfer.

In response, the Senior Finance Business Partner clarified that:

- Additional financial support to support growth in the form of schools moving sites would go to North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Committee for approval however, no growth was intended for the next financial year.
- The financial figures provided in the report considered the 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. Nevertheless, the local authority would consult all schools regarding the proposed transfer and would not be empowered to enact any transfer of funding within the DSG without the Schools Forum's approval.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum approves the proposed 2024/25 North Northamptonshire Mainstream Schools Funding Formula to go to consultation.

**120 Proposed CSSB 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Senior Finance Business Partner, which presented the local authority's proposals for central expenditure on education functions for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum:

- a) Notes the ongoing reduction of 20% to historical commitments of the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) year on year.
- b) Considers further de-delegation for education functions from maintained primary, secondary and special school budgets to meet the shortfall in CSSB funding.
- c) Approves the use of the historical commitment budget.
- d) Approves the use of the available ongoing responsibilities budgets.
- e) Approves the use of contribution to the combined services budget.

**121 De-Delegation - Trade Union Facilities Time 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Assistant Director for Education, which outlined the de-delegation of North Northamptonshire schools' pooled facility time arrangements for the 2023/24 financial year.

**RESOLVED that:** Maintained schools' members approve the proposed facilities time arrangements to go out to consultation.

**122 De-Delegation - School Effectiveness 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Assistant Director for Education, which outlined 'school effectiveness' for maintained schools, which was funded from the CSSB of the DSG.

**RESOLVED that:** The forum approves the consultation proposals and questions.

**123 De-Delegation - Schools Insurance Service 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report the Underwriting Manager from West Northamptonshire Council, which outlined the de-delegation of the schools insurance service for 2024/25.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- One member queried how the de-delegation of the schools insurance service would affect special schools.

In response, the Strategic Finance Business Partner clarified that:

- Special schools and nursery schools would not be affected as de-delegation would only operate for mainstream primary and secondary schools.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum notes the available purchasing options for insurance.

**124 Growth Fund and Falling Pupil Roll Fund 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Assistant Director for Education, which outlined the 2024/25 Growth Fund and Falling Pupil Roll Fund.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum confirms the establishment of a Falling Pupil Roll Fund subject to the funding allocations set by the DfE and the agreed criteria established via the consultation process.

**125 Permanent Exclusions Policy 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Assistant Director for Education, which outlined the local authority's Permanent Exclusions Clawback Policy for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum approves the consultation on the policy as set out in the report.

**126 Early Years Update 2023/24**



The Forum considered a report by the Early Years Business Compliance and Funding Support Service Manager, which provided an update regarding Early Years funding, new proposals and transformative reforms.

**RESOLVED that:** The report be noted.

**127 Notional SEND**

The Forum considered a report by the Assistant Director for Education, which outlined the notional SEN allocation (for the reasonable costs that may be incurred by schools in supporting pupils with special educational needs).

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum approves the proposal regarding notional SEND to go to consultation for potential future implementation.

**128 High Needs Update 2023/24 & Proposed High Needs Place Changes for 2024/25**

The Forum considered a report by the Head of SEND and Vulnerable Groups, which provided an update regarding High Needs funding.

**RESOLVED that:** The report be noted.

**129 Urgent Business**

There was none.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

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Chair

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Date

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified

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# Agenda Item 3



## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Item 3

#### School's Quarter 2 Monitoring 2023-24

## 1 Background

- 1.1 To inform schools forum of the current year's budget position based on the second quarter representing April 2023 to September 2023 and consequently the anticipated year end balances forecast.

## 2 Main report section or sections

- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, which follows national guidelines, requires that schools submit regular budget monitoring returns. This was agreed in January 2023 school forum, in order to report on the Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools on a monthly basis to the Executive, North Northamptonshire Council requires timely receipt of school financial information on a monthly basis. This will enable the council to accurately capture the financial information of schools on its ledger and maintain an up-to-date financial position of each school.
- 2.2 In late May 2023, NNC received budget plans from all 39 maintained establishments, except for Pen Green Nursery.
- 2.3 Table 1 outlines the Income & Expenditure up to Q2; however, schools forum needs to take note that the Q2 forecast has limitations due to an impending pay award for support staff and teachers.

**Table 2 – School Quarter 2 Monitoring**

DFE Number	School Name	School Type	Opening Revenue Balance 2023/24	Quarter 2 Income	Pay	Premises	Supplies and Services	Quarter 2 Expenditure	In year Variance based on Q2	Forecast In Year variance including balances brought forward	23/24 Year end forecast as of September submitted by School
1000	Ronald Tree Nursery School	Nursery	-£60,802	-£283,496	£289,254	£19,283	£24,898	£333,434	£49,939	-£10,863	-£111,711
1001	Croyland Early Years Centre	Nursery	£75,357	-£364,962	£450,599	£99,728	£40,669	£590,997	£226,035	£301,392	£76,143
1003	Highfield Nursery School	Nursery	£3,432	-£176,260	£201,902	£31,416	£47,031	£280,348	£104,088	£107,520	£40,040
1011	Pen Green Centre	Nursery	-£206,039	-£59,534	£1,181,486	£8,415	£4,766	£1,194,667	£1,135,133	£929,094	No Submission
	<b>Total Maintained Nursery Schools</b>		<b>-£188,052</b>	<b>-£884,252</b>	<b>£2,123,241</b>	<b>£158,842</b>	<b>£117,363</b>	<b>£2,399,447</b>	<b>£1,515,195</b>	<b>£1,327,143</b>	<b>£4,472</b>
2007	Broughton Primary	Primary	-£144,534	-£629,481	£413,580	£24,214	£78,407	£516,201	-£113,279	-£257,814	-£54,703
2019	Corby Old Village Primary School	Primary	-£148,987	-£658,144	£489,885	£14,551	£100,495	£604,931	-£53,212	-£202,199	-£80,003
2029	Mawsley Community Primary School	Primary	-£89,722	-£1,053,008	£670,195	£85,520	£228,472	£984,187	-£68,821	-£158,543	-£83,466
2041	Great Doddington Primary	Primary	-£148,516	-£459,400	£297,285	£52,000	£111,676	£460,961	£1,562	-£146,955	-£7,870
2048	HIGHAM FERRERS JUNIOR SCHOOL	Primary	-£240,862	-£901,812	£714,407	£49,512	£163,401	£927,320	£25,509	-£215,353	-£184,021
2072	Nassington School	Primary	-£164,528	-£314,012	£197,507	£37,357	£65,398	£300,263	-£13,749	-£178,277	-£120,797
2082	NCC Alfred Street Junior School	Primary	£101,611	-£335,487	£280,136	£85,674	£71,348	£437,158	£101,671	£203,281	£135,683
2086	South End Infant School	Primary	-£54,944	-£825,779	£557,707	£31,397	£126,203	£715,308	-£110,470	-£165,415	-£121,460
2091	Warmington School	Primary	-£127,800	-£330,604	£204,106	£28,233	£67,429	£299,768	-£30,836	-£158,636	-£128,037
2100	The Avenue Infant School	Primary	-£144,706	-£626,396	£375,608	£31,757	£61,592	£468,957	-£157,438	-£302,144	IT ISSUES
2130	South End Junior School	Primary	-£244,642	-£940,555	£743,717	£48,345	£115,309	£907,370	-£33,184	-£277,826	-£123,994

2140	HIGHAM FERRERS INFANT SCHOOL	Primary	-£223,220	-£725,419	£606,834	£32,016	£79,209	£718,059	-£7,360	-£230,580	-£117,529
2144	Meadowside Primary School	Primary	£99,489	-£1,123,126	£928,353	£57,144	£142,315	£1,127,812	£4,686	£104,175	£62,233
2145	EARLS BARTON PRIMARY SCH	Primary	£9,360	-£1,354,548	£1,016,975	£102,534	£166,533	£1,286,041	-£68,507	-£59,146	-£45,803
2155	Whitefriars Primary School	Primary	-£436,937	-£1,191,389	£832,154	£33,505	£113,454	£979,114	-£212,275	-£649,212	-£238,752
2180	Hayfield Cross School	Primary	-£228,623	-£1,125,914	£777,006	£43,175	£120,328	£940,510	-£185,404	-£414,027	-£306,672
2206	NCC Denfield Park Primary	Primary	-£39,945	-£1,257,693	£1,012,318	£117,734	£137,289	£1,267,340	£9,647	-£30,298	-£36,966
2217	Barton Seagrave County Primary	Primary	-£363,670	-£1,744,342	£1,296,732	£80,074	£228,302	£1,605,108	-£139,234	-£502,904	-£352,729
2230	Henry Chichele Primary	Primary	-£135,237	-£1,175,913	£840,552	£95,155	£143,640	£1,079,347	-£96,566	-£231,803	IT ISSUES
2231	Croyland Primary School	Primary	£15,621	-£1,545,790	£1,181,008	£71,435	£138,196	£1,390,638	-£155,152	-£139,531	-£29,724
3030	Geddington C of E Primary	Primary	-£103,661	-£562,456	£405,024	£29,557	£71,411	£505,992	-£56,464	-£160,125	-£66,741
3033	Grendon CE Primary	Primary	-£66,501	-£365,244	£264,278	£19,790	£46,024	£330,092	-£35,152	-£101,653	-£80,810
3066	TITCHMARSH C of E PRIMARY	Primary	-£145,100	-£386,605	£266,212	£45,713	£58,453	£370,377	-£16,228	-£161,328	-£110,427
3070	All Saints CE Primary School	Primary	-£78,292	-£635,742	£403,237	£47,813	£99,470	£550,520	-£85,222	-£163,513	-£106,688
3200	Brigstock Lathams CE Primary School	Primary	-£20,663	-£340,522	£249,230	£28,011	£63,058	£340,299	-£222	-£20,886	£55,355
3201	KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL	Primary	-£147,772	-£600,624	£411,771	£49,183	£92,694	£553,648	-£46,975	-£194,747	-£118,000
3345	Wilby CE (VA) Primary	Primary	-£7,468	-£318,139	£240,165	£10,872	£38,224	£289,261	-£28,878	-£36,346	-£36,704
3406	St Patricks RC Primary	Primary	-£39,064	-£642,510	£491,023	£46,508	£74,291	£611,822	-£30,687	-£69,752	-£58,201
3514	Little Stanion Primary School	Primary	-£62,355	-£683,296	£529,220	£50,144	£94,232	£673,596	-£9,701	-£72,056	-£41,438
5206	Millbrook Infant School	Primary	-£199,379	-£820,038	£605,109	£34,903	£64,486	£704,498	-£115,540	-£314,919	-£151,907
5207	Millbrook Junior School	Primary	-£157,899	-£1,147,663	£966,610	£67,460	£167,665	£1,201,735	£54,072	-£103,827	-£179,400
5210	Stanion CE Primary School	Primary	-£83,675	-£324,267	£231,569	£17,078	£37,237	£285,883	-£38,384	-£122,059	-£28,426
	<b>Total Maintained Primary Schools</b>		<b>-£3,822,622</b>	<b>-£25,145,915</b>	<b>£18,499,515</b>	<b>£1,568,364</b>	<b>£3,366,240</b>	<b>£23,434,120</b>	<b>-£1,711,795</b>	<b>-£5,534,418</b>	<b>-£2,757,997</b>
4055	The Latimer Arts College	Secondary	-£1,083,818	-£3,696,136	£2,847,389	£280,877	£373,362	£3,501,627	-£194,509	-£1,278,327	-£968,114
	<b>Total Maintained Secondary School</b>		<b>-£1,083,818</b>	<b>-£3,696,136</b>	<b>£2,847,389</b>	<b>£280,877</b>	<b>£373,362</b>	<b>£3,501,627</b>	<b>-£194,509</b>	<b>-£1,278,327</b>	<b>-£968,114</b>
7031	Rowan Gate Primary School	Special	-£432,906	-£3,517,008	£2,657,185	£199,170	£259,107	£3,115,462	-£401,547	-£834,453	-£259,553
	<b>Total Maintained Special School</b>		<b>-£432,906</b>	<b>-£3,517,008</b>	<b>£2,657,185</b>	<b>£199,170</b>	<b>£259,107</b>	<b>£3,115,462</b>	<b>-£401,547</b>	<b>-£834,453</b>	<b>-£259,553</b>
	<b>Total Maintained Schools</b>		<b>-£5,527,399</b>	<b>-£33,243,312</b>	<b>£26,127,330</b>	<b>£2,207,254</b>	<b>£4,116,072</b>	<b>£32,450,656</b>	<b>-£792,656</b>	<b>-£6,320,055</b>	<b>-£3,981,192</b>

\* Note: -ve is income or surplus +ve is expenditure or deficit

\* The green cells are derived from the data within NNC's ERP system, while the yellow cells reflect the forecasts provided by the schools to NNC.

2.4 Alfred Lord Tennyson currently faces a financial deficit, a challenge that stems from the previous Governing body's strategy to tackle the declining enrolment issue. In its ongoing commitment to address this matter, the school expanded its age range in order to resolve the issue. The new Governing body has opted to organise single year groups across two sites, resulting in a current enrolment of only 128 pupils. A request has been made by the LA for the school to submit a licensed deficit application.

2.5 Croyland Nursery and Highfield Nursery are part of a federation, aligning with two nurseries in the West. These establishments collectively share a Headteacher and a Strategic School Business Manager. While licensed deficit paperwork has been duly issued and monitored, it has now been forwarded to the Strategic School Business Manager for further attention. Highfield Nursery has navigated a deficit over several years, and there are ongoing efforts to mitigate this, with the optimistic expectation of achieving a balanced budget in the coming year, contingent upon budgetary considerations. Conversely, Croyland, which previously maintained a positive carry forward, is currently has an overspend on staffing.

2.6 Meadowside is experiencing a deficit primarily attributable to the £1925 support staff pay award in 22/23, the school is currently addressing this financial challenge. The school has entered a

federation with Great Doddington, and they jointly manage various costs, including the Headteacher's role. According to the latest three-year plan, the collaborative efforts are expected to facilitate the recovery of the deficit within this period. A request for licensed deficit has been submitted by the school.

- 2.7 A further request has been made by AD Education to request formal licensed deficit from the schools mentioned above.

### **3 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 3.1 Schools forum is asked to note the current year's budget position based on the second quarter. Effective budget monitoring is a key tool in financial management and helps ensure strong governance and integrity. It can also help ensure that robust procedures are in place to control finances.

### **4 Next steps**

- 4.1 The Q3 schools monitoring report will be brought to the January 24 schools forum.

### **5 Financial implications**

- 5.1 Paragraph 2.24 Notice of concern in North Northamptonshire's Scheme for Financing Schools states:

The LA may issue a notice of concern to the governing body of any school it maintains where, in the opinion of the NNC Chief Finance Officer and the Director responsible for Children's Services, the school has failed to comply with any provisions of the scheme, or where actions need to be taken to safeguard the financial position of the local authority or the school.

Such a notice will set out the reasons and evidence for it being made and may place on the governing body restrictions, limitations, or prohibitions in relation to the management of funds delegated to it

### **6 Legal implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

### **7. Risks**

- 7.1 If financial difficulties at schools are not identified and addressed in a timely manner, there is a significant risk that an increasing number of schools may not receive the necessary support. Early intervention by the local authority could help to mitigate this risk by allowing for proactive management of these situations. It is important for the local authority to be able to identify and address financial challenges at schools as soon as possible in order to provide the necessary support and prevent the situation from worsening.

#### **Report Author:**

Officer name: Salik Khan  
Officer title: Finance Business Partner  
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# Agenda Item 4



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Agenda Item 4

### Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24 & 2024-25

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 It is a requirement for each local authority to have a Scheme for Financing Schools. The scheme sets out the financial relationship between NNC and the schools.
- 1.2 The Scheme for Financing Schools includes provisions for banking, accounting, and audit arrangements. The Department for Education has provided guidance on what should be included in these schemes, which can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools>
- 1.3 Schools Forum members voted to implement the Scheme for Financing School 2023/24 & 2024/25, This report provides the Schools Forum with an analysis of all the responses received as part of the consultation with maintained schools on the Scheme for Financing Schools.

#### 2 Consultation response

- 2.1 A total of 18 responses were received, only 4 were from maintained schools. 3 were from primary schools, and 1 was from a secondary school. Notably, 34 maintained schools did not respond.

##### Question 1:

Maintained Schools Forum members are recommended to approve the changes outlined in Table A which has been incorporated into the Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24 and 2024-25. Do you agree?

	Count	%
Agree	4	100%
Disagree	0	0%
Grand Total	4	100%

2.2 All maintained schools that participated in the consultation expressed unanimous agreement with the policy set to be implemented for 2023/24 & 2024/25.

### 3 Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools

3.1 The Internal Audit report identified several changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools. The document has been revised to incorporate the recommendations outlined in the report and ensure compliance with the Department for Education (DfE). One of the key issues addressed was the omission of the required list of Maintained Schools in North Northamptonshire, which has now been included in the updated version of the document.

3.2 The proposed amendments are set out Table A and the School Forum is asked to agree the proposed amendments.

<b>Table A – Proposed Changes</b>		
<b>Section</b>	<b>Current Scheme</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment as per Audit Recommendation</b>
Section: 1.3 – Application of the scheme to the local authority and maintained schools “The schools which the local authority will be maintaining should be listed for information in an annex to the scheme.”	Previous scheme did not include an appendix listing maintained schools.	Appendix A incorporates a list of maintained schools.
Section 2.9 – Submission of budget plans. Local authorities may insert in their schemes a requirement that provisional budget plans be submitted by a certain date; but these should be differentiated from the formal budget plan which should not be required before 1 May.	DFE SFFS states, “not be earlier than 1 May” whereas NNC SFFS states, “by 1 <sup>st</sup> May”. Needed clearer interpretation of budget submission date.	Amended to reflect the changes; proposed Scheme now states by 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday in May.
Section 2.13: - Audit: General	“All schools are within the remit of NNC Internal Audit who will periodically review the frequency of audit visits in the light of risk assessment. Currently all maintained primary, nursery and special	The explicit mention of the secondary school was unintentionally omitted. This oversight has since been rectified to ensure precision, with the inclusion of the maintained secondary school for accuracy



	schools form part of a thematic audit process.”	
Section 2.16: - Register of business interests	“This register must be kept up to date through notification of changes and through annual review of entries. The register must be available for inspection by governors, staff, parents and NNC.”	Revised the criterion for posting the register on the school website which wasn't there previously
Section 2.19 – Purchasing, tendering, and contracting arrangements “The scheme should include a provision barring the local authority from making any deduction, in respect of interest costs to the authority, from payments to schools of devolved specific grant.”	Not mentioned in the original scheme	Modified to align with the DfE Scheme, incorporating detailed guidance on the procurement, tendering, and contracting processes. “Schools are required to abide by NNC financial regulations and standing orders in purchasing, tendering, and contracting matters. This includes a requirement to assess in advance, the professional competence of any contractors in areas such as compliance with health and safety regulations, safeguarding practices and so on, taking account NNC’s policies and procedures”
Section 3.6 – Restrictions on accounts “The scheme should allow schools to have accounts for budget share purposes which are in the name of the school rather than the local authority. However, if a school has such an account the scheme should require that the account mandate provides that the local authority is the owner of the funds in the account, that it is entitled to receive statements, and that it can take control of	Missing information about requiring the account mandate to provide the local authority as the owner etc.	Revised the account mandate requirement to specify the local authority as the owner of the bank accounts and authorised signatories should include at least two authorised local authority employees to be authorised signatories also.

the account if the school's right to a delegated budget is suspended by the authority."		
Section 3.6 – Restrictions on accounts "Budget share funds paid by the local authority and held in school accounts remain as authority property until spent."	Incomplete details regarding the management of unspent school budget share funds remaining as authority property until expended.	The Scheme has been amended to explicitly state that it retains the status of authority property until fully expended.  "Budget Share funds paid by the local authority and held in school accounts remain authority property until spent. "
Section 3.6 – Restrictions on accounts "Schemes may contain a provision restricting the signatories for bank accounts, but such provisions should allow at least local authority employees and school employees to be signatories."	The statement lacked clarity and was in contradiction with the DFE's scheme. "A minimum of two cheque signatories are required for the local bank account; however, these do not have to be NNC employees."  Potentially conflicting – gov.uk SFFS suggests provision should allow at least local authority employees to be signatories	Added a provision allowing at least two authorised local authority employees to act as authorised signatories.  "A minimum of two cheque signatories are required for the local bank account; however, provision should allow at least two authorised local authority employees to be authorised signatories also."
Section 3.6 – Restrictions on accounts "The scheme should specify which banks or building societies accounts may be held with for the purpose of receiving budget share payments. The approved list should be consistent with the local authority's treasury management policy."	Missing information on which banks or building societies accounts may be held and about being consistent with NNC's treasury management policy.	Link added to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement
Section 3.6 – Restrictions on accounts	"Schools are encouraged to make use of credit	Updated to encourage schools to use

<p>“Schemes may explicitly bar schools from using interest bearing credit cards and overdrafts, which are regarded as borrowing. However, they should encourage the use of procurement cards by schools, as these cards can be a useful means of facilitating electronic purchase. Schemes may also wish to permit the use of credit or charge cards.”</p>	<p>cards as these provide a useful means of facilitating electronic purchases.”</p>	<p>procurement cards as well as credit cards as a means of facilitating electronic purchases.</p>
<p>Section 4.2: - Controls on surplus balances</p>	<p>“Controls on surplus balances...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”</p>	<p>The explicit mention of the secondary school was unintentionally omitted. This oversight has since been rectified to ensure precision, with the inclusion of the maintained secondary school for accuracy.</p>
<p>Section 4.10 – Asset Purchase (Loan) Scheme)</p> <p>The scheme should explain the basis on which the amount of any balance to be transferred to a school’s bank account would be calculated on a provisional basis for a school having a new bank account, and the date by which the transfer would occur, pending a later reconciliation.</p>	<p>Loan scheme was not mentioned in NNCs SFFS.</p>	<p>Except for Asset Purchase (Loan) Scheme, NNC does not operate a loan scheme in accordance with section 6.10 of the DfE guidance.</p>
<p>Section 11.3 – Governors expenses “Under section 50(5) of the act, only allowances in respect of purposes</p>	<p>“Under schedule 11 of the SSAF Act 1998, only allowances in respect of purposes specified in regulations may be paid</p>	<p>Issue with phrasing and therefore amended the wording to comply with</p>

specified in regulations made under section 19 of the Education Act 2002 may be paid to governors from a school's delegated budget share."	to governors from a school's delegated budget share."	audit requirement and remove ambiguity.
Section 13.16 – Criminal records clearance "The scheme should contain a provision which places on the governing body responsibility for the costs of securing Disclosure and Barring Service clearance, where appropriate for all adults involved in community activities taking place during the school day."	"The governing body is responsible for the costs of securing Criminal Records Bureau clearance for all adults involved in community activities taking place during the school day."	Updated to reflect now this is Disclosure and Barring Service

#### **4 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 4.1 Schools Forum is to note the consultation responses and are recommended to approve the changes outlined in Table A which has been incorporated into the Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24 and 2024-25.

#### **5 Next steps**

- 5.1 The next steps depend on the feedback given by Schools Forum voting members (maintained Schools representatives only) at this meeting, the amended schemes for Financing for Schools will then be published on the NNC website.

#### **6 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising this report.

#### **7 Legal implications**

- 7.1 The Scheme has been written using the Statutory guidance given by the Secretary of State pursuant to s.48 (4) and paragraph 2A (2) of Schedule 4 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

#### **Report Author:**

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# Agenda Item 5



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Agenda Item 5

### North Northamptonshire School's Deficit Budget Policy 2024/25

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 This report provides the Schools Forum with an analysis of all the responses received as part of the consultation with maintained schools on the Deficit budget policy
- 1.2 There are no amendments that have been made to the policy since 2022/23.
- 1.3 Application for a licensed deficit must be submitted prior to the start of the financial year.

#### 2 Consultation response

- 2.1 A total of 18 responses were received, only 4 were from maintained schools. 3 of the responses were from primary schools, and 1 was from a secondary school. Notably, 34 maintained schools did not respond.

##### Question 1:

Maintained Schools Forum members are asked to continue to adopt the Deficit Budget Policy for 2024-25. Do you agree?

	Count	%
Agree	4	100%
Disagree	0	0%
Grand Total	4	100%

- 2.2 All maintained schools that participated in the consultation expressed unanimous agreement with the policy set to be implemented for 2023/24 & 2024/25.

### 3 Overview

- 3.1 At the start of the financial year 2023/24, six schools were operating with a deficit. Subsequently, one school underwent amalgamation, and another successfully achieved a balanced budget during the year, resulting in four schools remaining in deficit. One school has submitted a request for licensed deficit, we are still awaiting the request for the other three schools.
- 3.2 A formal request has been issued to schools currently facing deficits, requesting them to complete the required templates for the licensed deficit application. The Schools Support Team is actively collaborating with these schools, providing assistance and support throughout the application process.

**Table 1 School's in deficit**

DFE Number	School Name	Status	Request for Licensed deficit	Closing Revenue Balance 2022/23	Year end outturn forecast based on P5	Cumulative Revenue Balance Forecast 2023/24
2082	Alfred Street Junior	Deficit	Application sent to school	-£101,611	-£50,000	-£151,611
1001	Croyland Nursery	Deficit	Application sent to school	-£75,357	-£31,000	-£106,357
1003	Highfield Nursery	Deficit	Application sent to school	-£3,432	-£15,000	-£18,432
2144	Meadowside Primary	Deficit	Application received from school	-£99,489	-£82,738	-£182,227
2087	Tennyson Road Infant	Deficit	Amalgamated as of 01/10/23	£29,527	-£80,000	-£50,473
<b>Total</b>				<b>-£250,361</b>	<b>-£258,738</b>	<b>-£509,099</b>

- 3.3 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, for ease of reference, extracts from the Scheme for Financing Schools are as follows:

#### **Paragraph 4.9 Licensed deficits**

- 3.4 Schools must submit a recovery plan to NNC when their revenue deficit rises above 1% at 31 March of any year. A school 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:
- (1) 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.
  - (2) A deficit arrangement will only be allowed where the continuing existence of a school is deemed viable.

- (3) The minimum size of an agreed deficit is 1% of the budget share, and the maximum level is 15% of the budget share.
- (4) The maximum proportion of the collective school balances held by NNC which will be used to back the total of deficit arrangements is 10%.
- (5) 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.

3.5 In 2023/24 we encouraged schools to start the process as soon as a school recognises that its deficit balance will be 1% or higher. During the budget planning phase, the school is expected to submit a business case and recovery plan for a licensed deficit authorisation to NNC Schools Finance. The submission should be made by the Chair of Governors in an agreed-upon format.

3.6 NNC Schools Finance will review the business case and recovery plan, collaborating with the school and the School's Improvement Manager within Children Services as necessary. This process aims to address any queries or concerns regarding the information provided.

3.7 Upon the successful completion of the scrutiny process, the business case and recovery plan will be submitted for consideration to NNC's Assistant Director of Children's Services, the Children's Strategic Finance Business Partner and the Assistant Director of Finance & Strategy. Formal authorisation for the licensed deficit will be granted by these authorities.

3.8 The school will receive written notification of the decision, encompassing any terms and conditions associated with the authorisation.

3.9 All schools operating with a licensed deficit or managed budget are obligated to submit a monthly deficit monitoring report to the School Support team. This report must be submitted by the 15th of the month, covering the period governed by the licensed deficit, and should illustrate both current and projected expenditures.

## **4 Recommendations**

4.1 Schools Forum is to note the consultation responses and Maintained Schools Forum voting members at this meeting are asked to continue to adopt the policy.

## **5 Financial implications**

5.1 Adopting this policy creates financial control in Schools and sets out NNC's requirements for those Schools who are operating in a deficit position.

## **6 Legal implications**

6.1 This policy re-enforces the requirements of NNC's Scheme for Financing Schools 2024/25 which is a statutory requirement for all local authority maintained schools.

## 7.1 Risks

- 7.1 If the policy is not re-iterated at Schools Forum the agenda item and minutes which is accessible to the public, there is the risk that schools are not meeting the minimum requirements of North Northamptonshire Scheme for Financing Schools.

### Report Author:

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# Agenda Item 6



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

## Agenda Item 6

### Schools Balances Control Policy 2024/25

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 In the June 2023 School Forum report on 2022/23 Maintained School Balances and Licensed Deficits, we outlined key next steps. Subsequently, the Schools Forum is invited to endorse North Northamptonshire's policy on the Control of Surplus Balances in Schools and acknowledge schools' final balance positions for 2022/23 in accordance with CFR submission.
- 1.2 Schools Forum members voted to implement School Balance Control Policy 2024/25 in the November 2023 meeting.
- 1.3 This report provides the Schools Forum with an analysis of all the responses received as part of the consultation with maintained schools School Balance Control Policy.

#### 2. Consultation response

- 2.1 A total of 18 responses were received, only 4 were from maintained schools. 3 responses were from primary schools, and 1 was from a secondary school. Notably, 34 maintained schools did not respond.

##### Question 1:

Maintained School Forum members are asked to consider approving the Schools Balances Control Policy 2024-25. Do you agree?

	Count	%
Agree	4	100%
Disagree	0	0%
Grand Total	4	100%

##### Question 2:

Do you agree that the policy is implemented for the current financial year 2023/24 and applied to balances held at 31st March 2024?

	Count	%
Agree	4	100%
Disagree	0	0%
Grand Total	4	100%

2.2 All maintained schools that participated in the consultation expressed unanimous agreement with the policy set to be implemented for 2023/24 & 2024/25.

### 3 Controls on Surplus Balances

3.1 At the close of the 2021/22 fiscal year, only one school showcased its committed revenue balance by disclosing balances under item B01- Committed Revenue Balance in adherence to the Consistent Financial Reporting. Conversely, at the end of 2022/23 financial year, a combined total of 29 schools not only affirmed their committed revenue balances but also provided supporting evidence in accordance with the surplus balance policy guidelines.

3.2 This collective engagement underscores a positive shift towards heightened transparency within our schools. Importantly, it reflects a broader adoption of best practices in financial reporting. It is particularly encouraging to note that, in adherence to the surplus balance policy, none of the schools involved are deemed eligible for clawback considerations.

3.3 Table 1 outlines the variety of commitments, specifying the number of schools and the total sum of commitments.

**Table 1 – Total commitments by number of schools & total of commitments**

Type of Commitments	Number of Schools	Total of Commitments
Outstanding Orders	15	£312,874
Erasmus Funding	1	£10,000
PE & Sports Premium	20	£157,532
School Led Tutoring	17	£141,731
Homes for Ukraine	3	£30,818
Covid 19 -Catch up	1	£7,892
16/19 Student Support unspent Grant	1	£2,656
UIFSM	2	£49,174

Recovery Premium	14	£43,732
Pupil Premium	19	£252,423
School Improvement Plan	9	£244,556
Phonics Grant	1	£6,000
Pupil Growth	1	£22,401
EHCP	1	£2,200
3 Year Plan	4	£255,185
Maintenance/Building Work at School	3	£599,245
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,138,419</b>

3.4 Table 2 lists the schools balances and if they are subject to clawback.

**Table 2 – Schools with balances in excess of 10% of their School Income**

DFE No	School Name	Opening Revenue Balance 2022/23	2022/23 Total income (CFR I01 - I18D)	Closing Revenue Balance 2022/23	In Year Surplus (+ve) / Deficit (-ve)	Surplu s as a % of income	10% of Income	Committed closing balances as per CFR	Uncommitte d closing balances as per CFR	"Excess" surplus beyond 10% of all School Income
1000	Ronald Tree Nursery School	£17,681	£712,931	£60,802	£43,121	8.5%	£71,293	£0	£60,802	£0
1001	Croyland Early Years Centre	-£51,267	£1,015,303	-£75,357	-£24,090	-7.4%	£101,530	£0	-£75,357	£0
1003	Highfield Nursery School	-£24,487	£584,552	-£3,432	£21,054	-0.6%	£58,455	£0	-£3,432	£0
1011	Pen Green Centre	£331,041	£2,569,069	£206,039	-£125,002	8.0%	£256,907	£0	£206,039	£0
	<b>Total Maintained Nursery Schools</b>	<b>£272,968</b>	<b>£4,881,855</b>	<b>£188,052</b>	<b>-£84,916</b>		<b>£488,186</b>		<b>£188,052</b>	
2007	Broughton Primary	£157,163	£1,099,117	£144,534	-£12,629	13.2%	£109,912	£76,370	£68,164	£0
2019	Corby Old Village Primary School	£156,240	£1,180,204	£148,987	-£7,253	12.6%	£118,020	£30,968	£118,019	£0

2029	Mawsley Community Primary School	£115,592	£1,687,801	£89,722	-£25,869	5.3%	£168,780	£0	£89,722	£0
2041	Great Doddington Primary	£95,721	£834,536	£148,516	£52,796	17.8%	£83,454	£70,627	£77,889	£0
2048	HIGHAM FERRERS JUNIOR SCHOOL	£254,063	£1,793,560	£240,862	-£13,202	13.5%	£179,356	£61,506	£179,356	£0
2072	Nassington School	£152,012	£582,726	£164,528	£12,516	28.2%	£58,273	£106,255	£58,273	£0
2082	NCC Alfred Street Junior School	-£57,632	£772,616	-£101,611	-£43,979	-13.2%	£77,262	£17,755	-£119,365	£0
2086	South End Infant School	£68,935	£1,357,338	£54,944	-£13,990	4.0%	£135,734	£0	£54,944	£0
2087	Tennyson Road Infant School	£53,212	£626,928	£29,527	-£23,684	4.7%	£62,693	£0	£29,527	£0
2091	Warmington School	£116,201	£602,675	£127,800	£11,599	21.2%	£60,267	£67,533	£60,267	£0
2100	The Avenue Infant School	£145,515	£1,123,432	£144,706	-£809	12.9%	£112,343	£68,864	£75,842	£0
2130	South End Junior School	£235,834	£1,811,888	£244,642	£8,808	13.5%	£181,189	£136,614	£108,028	£0
2140	HIGHAM FERRERS INFANT SCHOOL	£138,780	£1,464,973	£223,220	£84,440	15.2%	£146,497	£131,671	£91,549	£0
2144	Meadowside Primary School	£84,275	£1,965,694	-£99,489	-£183,763	-5.1%	£196,569	£25,122	-£124,611	£0
2145	EARLS BARTON PRIMARY SCH	£49,055	£2,480,876	-£9,360	-£58,415	-0.4%	£248,088	£10,462	-£19,822	£0
2155	Whitefriars Primary School	£349,268	£2,165,659	£436,937	£87,669	20.2%	£216,566	£337,982	£98,955	£0
2180	Hayfield Cross School	£254,929	£1,864,684	£228,623	-£26,306	12.3%	£186,468	£42,154	£186,468	£0
2206	NCC Denfield Park Primary	£37,620	£2,436,772	£39,945	£2,326	1.6%	£243,677	£0	£39,945	£0
2217	Barton Seagrave County Primary	£343,914	£3,135,166	£363,670	£19,756	11.6%	£313,517	£77,838	£285,832	£0
2230	Henry Chichele Primary	£165,913	£2,061,718	£135,237	-£30,675	6.6%	£206,172	£35,994	£99,243	£0

2231	Croyland Primary School	£49,115	£2,822,520	-£15,621	-£64,736	-0.6%	£282,252	£17,080	-£32,701	£0
3030	Geddington C of E Primary	£117,377	£996,583	£103,661	-£13,717	10.4%	£99,658	£16,638	£87,023	£0
3033	Grendon CE Primary	£49,648	£669,654	£66,501	£16,853	9.9%	£66,965	£0	£66,501	£0
3066	TITCHMARSH C of E PRIMARY	£127,903	£756,435	£145,100	£17,197	19.2%	£75,644	£69,455	£75,644	£0
3070	All Saints CE Primary School	£218,683	£1,133,764	£78,292	-£140,391	6.9%	£113,376	£8,448	£69,844	£0
3200	Brigstock Lathams CE Primary School	£84,171	£609,342	£20,663	-£63,508	3.4%	£60,934	£0	£20,663	£0
3201	KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL	£223,642	£1,167,498	£147,772	-£75,870	12.7%	£116,750	£31,023	£116,749	£0
3345	Wilby CE (VA) Primary	£25,611	£567,992	£7,468	-£18,143	1.3%	£56,799	£3,000	£4,468	£0
3406	St Patricks RC Primary	£61,089	£1,237,556	£39,064	-£22,024	3.2%	£123,756	£13,712	£25,352	£0
3514	Little Stanion Primary School	£97,133	£1,299,503	£62,355	-£34,778	4.8%	£129,950	£13,613	£48,742	£0
5206	Millbrook Infant School	£250,241	£1,367,811	£199,379	-£50,863	14.6%	£136,781	£62,597	£136,781	£0
5207	Millbrook Junior School	£390,220	£2,237,129	£157,899	-£232,321	7.1%	£223,713	£0	£157,899	£0
5209	THRAPSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	£216,452	£2,570,431	£123,891	-£92,560	4.8%	£257,043	£41,640	£82,251	£0
5210	Stanion CE Primary School	£69,844	£609,499	£83,675	£13,831	13.7%	£60,950	£22,725	£60,950	£0
	<b>Total Maintained Primary Schools</b>	<b>£4,897,735</b>	<b>£49,094,081</b>	<b>£3,976,041</b>	<b>-£921,694</b>		<b>£4,909,408</b>	<b>£1,597,646</b>	<b>£2,378,393</b>	<b>£0</b>
4055	The Latimer Arts College	£905,835	£7,004,052	£1,083,818	£177,983	15.5%	£700,405	£510,447	£573,371	£0
	<b>Total Maintained Secondary School</b>	<b>£905,835</b>	<b>£7,004,052</b>	<b>£1,083,818</b>	<b>£177,983</b>		<b>£700,405</b>	<b>£510,447</b>	<b>£573,371</b>	<b>£0</b>
7031	Rowan Gate Primary School	£158,607	£5,733,653	£432,906	£274,299	7.6%	£573,365	£30,326	£402,580	£0
	<b>Total Maintained</b>	<b>£158,607</b>	<b>£5,733,653</b>	<b>£432,906</b>	<b>£274,299</b>		<b>£573,365</b>	<b>£30,326</b>	<b>£402,580</b>	<b>£0</b>

Special School										
Total Maintained Schools	£6,235,145	£66,713,641	£5,680,817	-£554,328		£6,671,364	£2,138,419	£3,542,396		£0

3.5 Paragraph 4.2 of Scheme for Financing Schools sets out North Northamptonshire’s control of surplus balances mechanism.

#### 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, secondary and special schools, then the Authority shall deduct from the current year’s budget share an amount equal to the excess.

3.6 The proposed Policy on Control of Surplus Balances for NNC’s maintained schools is attached to this report. Key points in the policy are:

- Schools are entitled to retain balances up to 10% of budget for all maintained nursery, primary, secondary schools and special schools in line with Paragraph 4.2 of North Northamptonshire Scheme for Financing Schools.
- For retention of amounts in excess of these percentages, the proposed usage would need to meet certain criteria which are set out in section 2 of the policy. This will need to be evidenced through the completion of a ‘Surplus Balance Analysis Form’.
- There will be a process of validation of the excess surplus balances prior to any clawback.

3.7 In summary the circumstances in which a clawback of balance could happen would be where:

- the reasons for the retention of the surplus balance fail to meet the criteria set out in the policy.
- there is an excess balance if the school fails to submit a Surplus Balance Analysis within the prescribed timescale (end of Summer term).

#### **4 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- a) School forum is to note the consultation responses and School Forum considers approving the policy included with this report.
- b) That the policy is implemented for the current financial year 2023/24 and applies to balances held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### **5 Next steps**

5.1 The next steps depend on the feedback given by Schools Forum voting members at this meeting.

#### **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 If the policy is implemented this would mean a potential clawback in school balances. However, there isn't any school which is subject to clawback in 2022-23 as illustrated in Table 2 above.

#### **7 Legal implications**

7.1 Implementation of this policy would fall within North Northamptonshire Scheme for Financing Schools.

#### **8.1 Risks**

8.1 There is a risk that the decision made by Schools Forum will prove unpopular with maintained schools with substantive balances.

#### **Report Author:**

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# Agenda Item 7



**North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14th December 2023**

**Agenda Item 7**

**DSG Update 2023-24 Period 6**

## List of appendices

### Appendix A – DSG forecasts 2023/24 Period 6

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Schools Forum is informed of the current financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) against the budget for 2023-24.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced specific grant allocated to the Council by the Government to support a range of education related services.
- 2.2 The Department for Education (DfE) currently operate a four-block funding model for funding schools and pre-16 education including early years as set out in the following table:

<b>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)</b>			
<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>	<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>Early Years Block</b>
The School's Block is the largest element of the DSG and is allocated to Schools and Academies for day-to-day spending in their individual budgets.	The Central Schools Block provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies.	The High Needs funding system supports provision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25.	The Early Years Block provides funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

### 3. DSG Funding Update

- 3.1 The original DSG Budget for 2023/24 is £354.963m. In July, the DSG allocation was revised to reflect a reduction of £308k. This was a reduction of £382k in the Early Years Block due to lower participation numbers but was partially offset by a slight increase in the High Needs Block of £74k resulting from additional funding for special free schools. After allowing for academies recoupment of £222.910m, which is where a local authority's DSG allocation is adjusted to reflect the grant that has been paid direct to academies, and high needs place deductions of £11.082m, the DSG Budget that remained in the LA is £120.663m.

Dedicated Schools Grants Budget 2023/24					
Block	Gross Budget	July DSG Allocation Adjustment	Revised Budget	Recoupment	Net Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block	270,284	0	270,284	222,910	47,374
Central Schools Block	3,287	0	3,287	0	3,287
High Needs Block	57,851	74	57,925	11,082	46,843
Early Year Block	23,541	(382)	23,159	0	23,159
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,963</b>	<b>(308)</b>	<b>354,655</b>	<b>233,992</b>	<b>120,663</b>

### 4. DSG Update 2023/24 – Forecast Outturn

- 4.1 The national pressure on services to support the education of children with additional needs is well documented. This has been exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of COVID on children and young people's health and wellbeing. Many Councils are struggling to contain expenditure within the budget available to meet needs. The mitigation actions that are available often have front loaded costs and benefits are felt over the course of many years. Whilst funding has been increased, this has not reflected the full increase in needs that are being identified.
- 4.2 The Council's overall outturn forecast for the DSG as at Period 6, is a forecast pressure of £6.404m the Net Spend is forecast to be £127.067m against the approved budget of £120.663m. This is summarised in the table below and it is important to note that this is subject to continual review and this is summarised in the Table below and further details are set out in Appendix A.

**Dedicated Schools Grants Forecast Outturn 2023/24**

Block	Gross Budget £'000	July DSG Allocation Adjustment £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Recoupment £'000	Forecasted Net Budget £'000	Forecasted Net Spend £'000	Variance £'000
Schools Block	270,284	0	270,284	222,910	47,374	47,374	0
Central Schools Block	3,287	0	3,287	0	3,287	3,287	0
High Needs Block	57,851	74	57,925	11,082	46,843	53,727	6,884
Early Year Block	23,541	(382)	23,159	0	23,159	23,159	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,963</b>	<b>(308)</b>	<b>354,655</b>	<b>233,992</b>	<b>120,663</b>	<b>127,547</b>	<b>6,884</b>
<b>Early Years Adjustment 2022/23</b>							<b>220</b>
<b>DSG Reserves 2023/24</b>							<b>(700)</b>
<b>DSG Forecasted Overspend</b>							<b>6,404</b>

4.3 In the financial year 2022/23 NNC reported an overspend of £1.8m on the HNB. This was offset against the historic surplus of £2.5m that had been brought forward from 2021/22, leaving a reserves balance of £700k, the reserve has been revised to reflect an Early Years clawback for 2022-23 financial year, amounting to £220k. For 2023/24, pressures have continued to increase, and it is now forecast that the HNB overspend will be overspent by £6.884m. The remaining reserves of £480k have been used to mitigate this, leaving a forecast overspend of £6.404m. The composition of these pressures prior to the use of reserves is as follows:

- The ongoing increase in the number of requests for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), at Early Years and statutory school age, has exceeded the rate that was used in setting the budget, this pressure is forecast to be around £1.828m.
- A greater proportion of EHCP identifying high level needs and requiring higher levels of funding to be fully met, this pressure is forecast to be around £487k. (SENDIF)
- Sufficiency issues in local SEND placements meaning greater use of Independent Providers at significantly higher cost, this pressure is forecast to be around £3.404m.
- The identification of historic commitments that remain outstanding and must now be paid is a one-off pressure and amount to around £500k.
- Pressures in Mainstream Top Ups are related to an ongoing increase in the number of requests for statutory assessment over and above the level budgeted for. By supporting mainstream schools to meet higher levels of need, pressure is reduced on the specialist placement budgets, this pressure is forecasted to around £1.153m

- Analysis has been conducted on the Alternative Provision budget, indicating a potential forecasted underspend of £414k. This budget is currently under further review and is subject to change.
- The High Needs budget saw an increase due to an adverse movement in the import-export review and an increase in funding allocated to Special schools the net favourable effect was a £74k increase.

4.4 Significant work has already been undertaken to put in place actions to mitigate pressures, these include:

- Collaborative work with two local special schools to create outreach service to support inclusion in mainstream settings and identify needs, and strategies to meet these, at the earliest opportunity.
- The creation of additional SEND places in Special Schools and Special School satellite provision on mainstream school sites.
- The creation of new SEND units in mainstream schools.
- Development of an early Years SEND provision.
- Partnership working with an outstanding Alternative Provision (AP) Academy Trust to create new capacity in NNC.
- Improved commissioning arrangements with independent providers to control costs and provide greater consistency of delivery.
- Joint commissioning work with health services to improve and widen provision of Speech and Language services.
- Greater focus on the Annual Review process to identify where needs have reduced or an EHCP is no longer required.
- Investment in the EHCP team to ensure needs are assessed in as accurate and timely manner as possible.
- Improved decision-making processes that ensure thresholds and funding decisions are robust and consistent.

4.5 Work is ongoing, and a key focus will be the identification of opportunities to create further capacity. NNC was not successful in a bid to DfE for a new Special Free School in the area, as such other routes to creating this capacity are being investigated. A separate bid for a Free AP provision is with DfE and an outcome is expected shortly.

4.6 Further opportunities to create SEND places are being developed in partnership with local Special and Mainstream schools. The impact of the outreach services

is being assessed with a view to extending these and targeting resources as effectively as possible as part of a wider focus on inclusion. A simplification of EHCP funding through the adoption of a banded system will reduce pressure on the EHCP team and give schools and providers greater clarity and stability. The Education Case Management System will offer significantly improved financial functionality and rigour, improve parental access to information about the progress of an EHCP and create efficiencies in the EHCP process.

- 4.7 Where a local authority has an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the financial year, or where a surplus has substantially reduced during the year, they must provide information to the DFE about pressures and savings on the High Needs Budget as part of a DSG Deficit Management Plan. In addition, where there is a deficit, this will have an adverse impact on the Council's cashflow position and will impact on the resources available for investment – which will result in the investment income being lower.
- 4.8 Looking to 2024/25, it seems unlikely that any increase in government funding will meet the impact of the ongoing pressures identified, however the mitigation actions taken will continue to contribute to minimise these, but further actions will be required. The Council will be looking to work with the Schools Forum to consider a transfer of funding from the Schools Block (SB) of the DSG to HNB. This was not requested this year due to the pressure on schools' budget and the DSG surplus the Council was holding at the time. If agreed, this would generate circa £1.7m additional funding for the HNB. Forum will also be asked to look at measures that will support inclusion in mainstream settings and provide challenge where any school may not be meeting this standard.
- 4.9 Identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND at the earliest opportunity and putting in place appropriate actions to meet these needs, remains the central focus of all this work. Ensuring that the whole system works in an inclusive and joined up way is key to meeting this aspiration and to ensuring the efficient use of available resources to manage costs effectively.
- 4.10 At Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced additional funding for the existing early years entitlements worth £204m in 2023-24 (from September 2023) and £288m in 2024-25. This is for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government's existing entitlement offers.
- 4.11 In July the Government announced that for 2023-24, that this will be distributed to LAs through a new standalone top-up grant called the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) and that the individual authority allocations would be announced in September. Details of the allocations will be provided in a future report.

## **5. Forecast DSG Deficit 2023/24**

- 5.1 The DFE made changes to the regulations, now incorporated into the [School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023](#) in regulation 8, regulation 39 and schedule 2, to give statutory backing to a new process for handling DSG deficits. The Council must now:
-

- carry all the deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year; or
  - carry part of the deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year and carry the rest of it forward to the following financial year; or
  - not set any of the deficit against the schools budget in the next financial year but carry all the deficit forward to the following financial year.
- 5.2 These provisions will be repeated in future regulations so that part or all the deficit can be carried forward further a year at a time, to be dealt with through DSG that will be received in future years.
- 5.3 If the Council sets any part of the deficit against the schools budget for the next financial year, it must plan to eliminate that part of the deficit through funding from the DSG that it will receive during that financial year.
- 5.4 If the Council carries any part of the deficit forward to the following financial year, that means it is not planning to eliminate that part of the deficit from DSG received in the next financial year but will need to eliminate it from DSG received in future years.
- 5.5 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) laid the [Local Authorities \(Capital Finance and Accounting\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) on 6 November 2020, which then came into force on 29 November 2020. The regulations provide that any DSG deficit at the end of 2020 to 2021 must not be charged to a general fund but must be charged to a separate fund established, charged, and used solely for the purpose of recognising deficits in respect of the schools budget. This has the effect of separating any such deficit from a local authority's general fund. DLUHC have now confirmed that these regulations will continue to operate up to the end of financial year 2025 to 2026.
- 5.6 The [DSG conditions of grant](#) set out that any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the department and cooperate in handling that situation by:
- providing information, as and when requested by the DFE about its plans for managing its DSG account in the 2023-24 financial year and subsequently.
  - providing information, as and when requested by the DFE about pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget.
  - meeting with DFE's officials, as and when they request to discuss the local authority's plans and financial situation.
  - keeping the schools forum updated regularly about the local authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings.

- 5.7 The DFE have developed a [DSG deficit management plan](#) template and accompanying guidance for local authorities to use to develop evidence-based and strategic plans covering the provision available for children and young people with SEND. In all cases, the DFE expect local authorities' management plans to focus on how they will bring in-year spending in line with in-year resources.
- 5.8 The high needs [benchmarking tool](#) helps to facilitate a better understanding of how a local authority's high needs expenditure and use of provision compares with that of other authorities and to prompt local discussion of how current spending patterns might need to change. In addition, the DFE have published [research and guidance](#) on managing special educational needs provision and the high needs budget effectively.
- 5.9 The DFE is now running 3 programmes offering direct support in respect of the effectiveness and sustainability of local authorities' high needs systems, which together will work with all local authorities: the Safety Valve Intervention programme, the Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme and ESFA support programme. The aim of all 3 programmes is to secure sustainable management of local authorities' high needs systems.
- 5.10 The Safety Valve Intervention programme will continue to target the local authorities with the highest DSG deficits. The programme requires the local authorities involved to develop substantial plans for reform to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing. If the local authorities can demonstrate sufficiently that their DSG management plans create lasting sustainability, the department will enter into an agreement with the local authority. Upon the local authority demonstrating progress they will receive incremental funding to eliminate their historic deficits, generally spread over 5 financial years.
- 5.11 The new Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme will target authorities with less severe but either substantial and/or growing deficit issues, helping them reform their high needs systems, to provide effective and sustainable SEND services that will achieve better outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The DBV programme has similar aims to safety valve but maintains a slightly different approach to support local authorities with regards to the provision of SEND services. The programme will not include funding to eliminate historic deficits.
- 5.12 The ESFA will continue its programme of support for all remaining local authorities, supporting them to develop appropriate DSG management plans. The ESFA Local Authority Stakeholder Engagement Team will aim to meet with all local authorities not included in the safety valve and DBV programmes and will provide support and challenge through a detailed review of management plans for the remaining local authorities in deficit, to help them achieve financial sustainability.
- 5.13 Schools Forum is asked to note the DFE's statutory requirements with regards to a DSG High Needs Block deficit. Further urgent work needs to be done by colleagues in the High Needs Team with Finance to complete the DFE's DSG

Management Plan with the possibility of an extraordinary Schools Forum meeting to discuss the DSG Management Plan and the next steps.

## **6. Recommendations**

Schools Forum are asked to note this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

The financial implications are set out in this report. The current forecast position is an overspend of £6.404m.

## **8. Legal implications**

8.1 Schools funding is governed by The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023. It is important to ensure decisions are made within the regulations set.

## **9. Risks**

9.1 The deliverability of the 2023-24 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.

9.2 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 placement numbers and costs within the High Needs Block.

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Appendix A

DSG Summary		Budget 2023/24				Actuals 2023/24				Forecast Outturn 2023/24			Variance			Reason for Variance
Description		To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed														
		Original Budget	P5	P6	Movement	P5 Actuals	P5	P6 Actuals	P5	P5 Forecast Outturn	P6 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P5 Forecast Variance	P6 Forecast Variance	Movement	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Schools Block		270,284	270,284	270,284	0	112,645	41.68	135,451	50.11	270,284	270,284	0	0	0	0	Forecasted to come within Budget
Central Schools Block		3,286	3,286	3,286	0	1,631	49.64	1,916	58.29	3,286	3,286	0	0	0	0	Forecasted to come within Budget
Early Years Block		23,541	23,159	23,159	0	8,884	38.36	10,367	44.76	23,159	23,159	0	0	0	0	Forecasted to come within Budget
High Needs Block		57,851	57,925	57,925	0	24,470	42.24	36,877	63.66	63,620	64,809	1,189	5,695	6,884	1,189	The High Needs Block has faced increased pressure due to a rise in demand for EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) and pupil placements. There has also been use of independent placement which have come at a higher cost - Detailed explanations are attached on the HN appendix
<b>Total</b>		<b>354,962</b>	<b>354,654</b>	<b>354,654</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147,630</b>	<b>41.63</b>	<b>184,610</b>	<b>52.05</b>	<b>360,349</b>	<b>361,538</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>1,189</b>	

Appendix A

School Block	Budget 2023/24				Actuals 2023/24				Forecast Outturn 2023/24			Variance			Reason for Variance
	To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed				P5 Actuals	P5	P6 Actuals	P6	P5 Forecast Outturn	P6 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P5 Forecast Variance	P6 Forecast Variance	Movement	
	Original Budget	P5	P6	Movement											
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Academies Recoupment	221,641	221,641	221,641	0	92,350	41.67	110,821	50.00	221,641	221,641	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Transfer to High Needs Block	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Maintained Primary Schools Budget Share	40,068	40,068	40,068	0	16,695	41.67	20,034	50.00	40,068	40,068	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Maintained Secondary Schools Budget Share	6,048	6,048	6,048	0	2,520	41.67	3,024	50.00	6,048	6,048	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
NNDR	1,742	1,742	1,742	0	726	41.67	871	50.00	1,742	1,742	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
De-delegation Trade Union Facility Time	34	34	34	0	14	41.67	17	50.00	34	34	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
De-delegation - School Effectiveness	116	116	116	0	48	41.67	58	50.00	116	116	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Pupil Growth Fund	635	635	635	0	291	45.83	626	98.58	635	635	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,284</b>	<b>270,284</b>	<b>270,284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112,645</b>	<b>41.68</b>	<b>135,451</b>	<b>50.11</b>	<b>270,284</b>	<b>270,284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

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Appendix A

Central Schools Block		Budget 2023/24				Actuals 2023/24				Forecast Outturn 2023/24			Variance			Reason for Variance
Description		To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed														
		Original Budget	P5	P6	Movement	P5 Actuals	P5	P6 Actuals	P6	P5 Forecast Outturn	P6 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P5 Forecast Variance	P6 Forecast Variance	Movement	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Historical Commitments</b>																
<b>Contribution to Combined Services:</b>																
School Standards & Effectiveness (Combined DSG LA Services)		466	466	466	0	283	60.73	335	71.89	466	466	0	0	0	0	
Moderation (Combined DSG LA Services)		15	15	15	0	10	66.67	4	26.67	15	15	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (Combined DSG LA Services)		33	33	33	0	14	41.67	17	50.00	33	33	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Educational Entitlement		125	125	125	0	52	41.67	63	50.00	125	125	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Redundancy/Premature Retirement Costs		800	800	800	0	333	41.67	400	50.00	800	800	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
<b>Total Historical Commitments</b>		<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>48.10</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>56.85</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>																
School Admissions		499	499	499	0	381	76.35	428	85.77	499	499	0	0	0	0	
Schools Forum		11	11	11	0	1	9.09	1	9.09	11	11	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
National Copyright Licences		321	321	321	0	134	41.67	161	50.00	321	321	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Statutory and Regulatory Duties		1,010	1,010	1,010	0	421	41.67	505	50.00	1,010	1,010	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Teacher's Pay and Pension		6	6	6	0	3	41.67	3	50.00	6	6	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
<b>Total Ongoing Responsibilities</b>		<b>1,847</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>50.84</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>59.42</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>49.64</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>58.29</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Appendix A

Early Years Block		Budget 2023/24				Actuals 2023/24				Forecast Outturn 2023/24			Variance			Reason for Variance
Description		To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed				P5 Actuals	P5	P6 Actuals	P6	P5 Forecast Outturn	P6 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P5 Forecast Variance	P6 Forecast Variance	Movement	
		Original Budget	P5	P6	Movement											
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000											£'000
3 & 4 Year Old Universal Entitlement		12,226	12,226	12,226	0	5,211	42.62	6,017	49.21	12,226	12,226	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
3 & 4 Year Old Additional Entitlement		5,510	5,510	5,510	0	2,476	44.94	2,815	51.09	5,510	5,510	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
3 & 4 Year Old Deprivation		500	500	500	0	30	6.00	53	10.60	500	500	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
3 & 4 Year Old SEN Inclusion		300	300	300	0	538	179.33	638	212.67	300	300	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Early Years Contingency		0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
3 and 4 Year Old Centrally Retained		991	991	991	0	58	5.85	83	8.38	991	991	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
2 Year Old Funding		2,318	1,936	1,936	0	436	22.52	601	31.04	1,936	1,936	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Maintained Nursery School Funding		1,017	1,017	1,017	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,017	1,017	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Early Years Pupil Premium		253	253	253	0	121	47.83	136	53.75	253	253	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Disability Access Fund		126	126	126	0	14	11.11	24	19.05	126	126	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
Quality Supplement (TPPG)		300	300	300	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	300	300	0	0	0	0	The expenditure has remained within the allocated budget.
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,541</b>	<b>23,159</b>	<b>23,159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,884</b>	<b>38.36</b>	<b>10,367</b>	<b>44.76</b>	<b>23,159</b>	<b>23,159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Appendix A

High Needs Block		Budget 2023/24				Actuals 2023/24				Forecast Outturn 2023/24			Variance			Reason for Variance
Description	Original Budget	P5	P6	Movement	P5 Actuals	P5 %	P6 Actuals	P6 %	P5 Forecast Outturn	P6 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P5 Forecast Variance	P6 Forecast Variance	Movement		
															£'000	
SENDIF Plus (Transfer to Early Years Block)	250	250	250	0	0	0.00	47	18.80	750	737	(13)	500	487	(13)	Includes estimate for new EHCP/SENIF Plus for Sept onwards and also expenses relating to the new Croyland Unit.	
NNC Special School Place Funding	12,171	12,171	12,171	0	0	0.00	905	7.44	12,387	12,387	0	216	216	0	This cost centre includes the Place funding for special schools as per budgets there is also costs for additional place funding where the numbers are over commissioned places.	
NNC Special School Top Ups	12,912	12,912	12,912	0	7,687	59.53	12,385	95.92	14,962	15,155	193	2,050	2,243	193	This includes RAS Funding and Special Arrangements. Phase Transfers are also part of this, and the overspend accounts for students who have been reassigned to higher bands, as well as additional special arrangements that have been necessary, expenditure on this line also relates to backdated costs relating back to 2021 and 2022	
NNC Special School Special Arrangements	966	966	966	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	122	122	0	(844)	(844)	0	Expenditure Includes Split Site and Satellite Classes	
NNC Special School Top Up Protection	193	193	193	0	0	0.00	193	100.00	193	194	1	0	1	1	Expenditure to come within Budget	
NNC Special School TPG&TPECG	806	806	806	0	0	0.00	806	100.00	806	806	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
NNC Special School 3.4% Additional Grant	853	853	853	0	0	0.00	853	100.00	854	854	0	1	1	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
NNC SEN Units Occupied Place Funding	1,695	1,695	1,695	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,461	1,375	(86)	(234)	(320)	(86)	SEN Units Place funding is showing as a underspend but further work needs to take place to ascertain if this forecast needs to be adjusted.	
NNC SEN Units Vacant Place Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
NNC SEN Units Top Ups	1,098	1,098	1,098	0	604	55.01	1,136	103.46	1,494	1,615	121	396	517	121	Overspend accounts for additional students require Top Ups plus students being rebanded and higher needs.	
AP Free Schools Place Funding	190	190	190	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	190	190	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
AP Free Schools TPG&TPECG	13	13	13	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	(13)	(13)	0	Budget set aside but this will not be spent.	
Post 16 Top Ups in FE Colleges	1,953	1,953	1,953	0	585	29.95	802	41.07	1,700	1,700	0	(253)	(253)	0	Inline with actual spend in 22/23. Further work is taking place with the service to ascertain final year end forecast	
Hospital Education Services	100	100	100	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	(100)	(100)	0	Budget was allocated for Hospital Education Services forecasted not to use full budget and will result in a 100k underspend	
Non Maintained & Independent SEN Unit Top Up & other funding	190	190	190	0	69	36.32	71	37.37	104	104	0	(86)	(86)	0	Forecasted to come in under budget.	
Out of County Special Top-ups	1,621	1,621	1,621	0	576	35.53	609	37.57	1,531	1,523	(8)	(90)	(98)	(8)	Expenditure relates to top ups paid for students in out of county placements these placements are at a higher cost per pupil for NNC there is a small underspend on this line against the budget for 2023-24	
Non Maintained & Independent Special Top Up & Other Funding	8,914	8,914	8,914	0	8,241	92.45	8,637	96.89	12,127	12,793	666	3,213	3,879	666	Due to NNC Special Schools having reached their maximum capacity, students are being accommodated in Independent Special Schools, which incur a higher cost per pupil for NNC. As a consequence, there is a projected budgetary overspend for 2023-24. This forecast encompasses the Education contribution to residential expenses as well	
Non Maintained & Independent Mainstream Top Up & Other Funding	441	441	441	0	167	37.87	219	49.66	332	370	38	(109)	(71)	38	The budget allocated for Independent Mainstream Schools comes with a higher per-pupil cost for NNC. However, as of the current forecast at period 5, there is a slight underspend compared to the budget	
Out of County Mainstream Top Ups	313	313	313	0	155	49.52	155	49.52	516	524	8	203	211	8	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 this has resulted in a forecasted overspend.	
Mainstream Top Ups	7,538	7,538	7,538	0	3,354	44.49	6,252	82.94	8,000	8,691	691	462	1,153	691	There is further work taking place by the HN Team to work through Phase Transfers and a EHC Team Audit. This forecast includes an estimate for new EHCP/EHLF from Sept onwards this may need to be adjusted going forward.	
Alternative Provision	2,651	2,651	2,651	0	1,791	67.56	2,293	86.50	2,650	2,228	(422)	(1)	(423)	(422)	More work is taking place on the Alternative Provision budget by the HN Team, as at period 5 the forecast is expecting to be a minor underspend.	
Educational Entitlement Team	543	543	543	0	226	41.67	272	50.00	543	543	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
Specialist Support Service	650	650	650	0	271	41.67	325	50.00	650	650	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
NPPS (Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service)	30	30	30	0	13	41.67	15	50.00	30	30	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
Sensory Impairment Provision	971	971	971	0	731	75.28	902	92.89	971	971	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
Direct payments	190	190	190	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	357	357	0	167	167	0	Expenditure relates to Personal Budget payments, there is also backdated costs in this forecast.	
Therapies	40	40	40	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	65	65	0	25	25	0	Expenses associated with therapies for 2023/24 have been segregated to ensure a clear and transparent view of the associated costs. This is showing as overspend for 23/24	
Support For Inclusion	105	105	105	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	105	105	0	0	0	0	Expenditure to come within Budget	
Outreach Services	454	454	454	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	720	720	(720)	266	266	0	Outreach SLA's these are currently being coded to Special Schools they will be moved to this cost centre so they can be clearly identified	
Import Export adjustment	0	(102)	(102)	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	102	102	0	HN decrease as part of the import export Adjustment. More students are exported out of the county	
Additional Funding for special free schools	0	176	176	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	(176)	(176)	0	Additional Funding allocated to HN Block	
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,851</b>	<b>57,925</b>	<b>57,925</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,470</b>	<b>42.24</b>	<b>36,877</b>	<b>63.66</b>	<b>63,620</b>	<b>64,809</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>1,189</b>		

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# High Needs Block Challenges, Pressures, Mitigations and Requirements

14th December 2023





## Context of North Northamptonshire Council

- Predecessor Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) found to be financially unviable and Children's Services Inadequate
- Through LGR in April 2021, NCC abolished and North Northamptonshire (NNC) and West Northamptonshire (WNC) Unitary Councils formed
- Northamptonshire Childrens Trust (NCT) created to provide and improve Children's Social Care, Early Help, Children's Centres, Youth Offending and Youth Services across old county footprint

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New NNC has :

- 4 Nursery Schools
  - 111 Primary Schools
  - 20 Secondary Schools
  - 1 All through School
  - 8 Special Schools
  - 0 PRU's / AP settings
- NNC Dedicated School Grant 2021/22 £315,336,462 of which High Needs block (HNB) £45,504,413
  - Inherited DSG position small surplus of Circa £2.45m





## Challenges Identified

- EHCP 20 week performance circa 7%
- EP service under resources and failing to meet expected timescales
- Significant backlog of EHCP cases not assessed, pupils held in mainstream
- EHCP seen as 'ticket to Special School' number of EHCP in mainstream very low
- No in area PRU / AP schools, and local provision all rated as inadequate
- Early Help services held by NCT and focussed on Social Care issues
- Limited SEND provision (units / special school satellites) outside of Special Schools, all of which full
- No Early Years SEND provision
- No advisory teacher services
- No processes or systems to manage and control HNB expenditure
- No consistency in Early Help Funding
- Lack of support to Early Years SEND



## Challenges Identified and action taken (red)

- EHCP 20 week performance circa 7%  
Investment in team and development of appropriate processes has led to performance now being circa 75%
- EP service under resources and failing to meet expected timescales  
Investment in commissioned resources has strengthened team and led to improved performance
- Significant backlog of EHCP cases not assessed, pupils held in mainstream  
Backlog largely addressed and very few cases over 26 weeks
- EHCP seen as 'ticket to Special School' number of EHCP in mainstream very low  
Numbers of EHCP in mainstream increasing, focus on inclusion with schools
- No in area PRU / AP schools, and local provision all rated as inadequate  
DfE brokered joint working with regional outstanding provider, bid for new AP school outcome awaited
- Early Help services held by NCT and focussed on Social Care issues  
Development of outreach services from three Special Schools to support inclusion and identification of needs, succesful bid for Family Hubs, increased investment in Education Inclusion and Specialist School Support services, system wide review of Early Help, improved Local Offer



## Challenges Identified and action taken (red)

- Limited SEND provision (units / special school satellites) outside of Special Schools, all of which full  
New units and Special School Satellites created, Special Schools expanded, unsuccessful bid for new Special School, refocus of S106 on creating special provision, further new provision planned subject to funding, detailed sufficiency strategy being developed
- No Early Years SEND provision  
New Special Nursery setting opened, further places planned
- No advisory teacher services  
Outreach services provide specialist support, increased use of Sensory Impairment Services to support schools
- No processes or systems to manage and control HNB expenditure  
New processes established to provide required assurance on spend and to forecast future costs
- No consistency in Early Help Funding  
Early Help Locality Funding process developed and implemented, provides consistency and challenge
- Lack of support to Early Years SEND  
Development and implementation of new SENIF and SENIF+ funding and review of Early Years Services



# High Needs Block Summary

Table 3a - Comparison in Spend between Years on the HNB	2022/23			2023/24			2023/24 Variances			
	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Budget @ P7	P7 Forecast Outturn	P7 Forecast Variance	Increase in Budget	Increase in Spend	2022/23 Variances	P7 Forecast Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
High Needs Block	52,370	54,347	1,977	57,925	67,243	9,318	5,555	12,896	1,977	9,318
<b>Comments</b>										
The HNB Budget increased by <b>5,555</b> between 22/23 and 23/24 - spend has increased by <b>12,896</b> and there was an overspend of <b>1,977</b> in 2022/23 which has resulted in a pressure of <b>9,318</b>										



## Pressures

### 2023/24 HNB Outturn

	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Forecast Spend	Variance
TOTAL SENIF PLUS	£250,000	£244,919	£5,081
TOTAL MAINSTREAM TOP UP	£7,301,174	£9,789,937	-£2,488,763
TOTAL MAINSTREAM UNITS	£2,809,355	£3,082,416	-£273,061
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS	£28,469,277	£30,326,819	-£1,857,542
TOTAL OUT OF AREA	£1,934,048	£2,047,733	-£113,685
TOTAL INDEPENDENT	£9,999,990	£13,195,746	-£3,195,756
TOTAL ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	£2,650,000	£4,892,887	-£2,242,887
Post 16 Top up	£1,953,207	£1,700,000	£253,207
AP Free Schools	£190,000	£190,000	£0
Support Services	£2,294,080	£2,194,080	£100,000
<b>TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BLOCK</b>	<b>£57,851,131</b>	<b>£67,664,537</b>	<b>-£9,813,406</b>
HNB Allocation	£57,851,131		
Transfer from SB (0.5%)	£0		
Total HNB Funding	£57,851,131		
<b>Budgeted Deficit</b>	<b>£0</b>		



## Pressures

### Increased number of children with SEND and EHCP

- At the end of November 2023, 3,704 children and young people had EHC plans. The cohort has increased by 8% in twelve months
- The total number of young people with a SEND need has risen from 7,284 in 2018 to 10,109 giving an increase of 38.7%
- The average cost of an EHCP in mainstream this year is £7397 compared to last year which was £6823 (April 2022) and there was approximately £120k of historic invoices
- In April there were 107 benefitting from Early Help Funding and since April there have been 307 children benefitting – predicted full year cost £1.3M
- The identification of historic commitments is a one-off pressure and amount to around £500k
- There is an increased number of 'move in's' to the LA, many of these children have EHCP's and many others have complex unassessed needs
- The LA have improved their processes meaning that access to timely and appropriate SEND funding is easier than before
- Increase early help support provides more visibility and financial support to children with SEND – £458k this year
- NCC made no contribution to SALT services, all funded by health, this now needs to be addressed to ensure statutory compliance – proposed cost is £243k



## Pressures

### **Insufficiency of special school places resulting in costly independent provision**

- Sufficiency issues in local SEND placements meaning greater use of independent providers at significantly higher cost – predicted full year cost £13.2M
- There are 21 more children attending independent special school provision this year. This is despite increasing special school and unit places by 101 from Sept 2022 to Sept 2023. The average cost of independent provision has risen from £61,395 to £78,190.
- The increased rate to independent provision fees is above inflation
- The commissioned number of special school places in April was 1265 and we are now funding 1272 - predicted full year cost £30.3M
- 277 pupils have moved in from outside the UK since the start of the academic year this unprecedented. A large number of these pupil arrive with additional needs or no formal education This again has added pressure on places and provision
- There were unpaid invoices from previous financial years equalling £115k
- The development of new SEND units and increased capacity come with one off start up costs. - £66k



## Pressures

### Exclusions and alternative provision

- There were 91 permanent exclusion from April 22-March 23, so far this financial year there have been 56.
- The cost of alternative provision last year was £2.3M and this year we are predicting £5M
- Alternative provision pupil base cost increasing by 12%, 23%, 41% and 75% across the local DFE registered APs
- Lack of local, high quality AP has led to significantly higher use of home tuition services, the cost of which continues to rise
- The use of Special Arrangements, to avoid exclusion or placement moves, has increased

### Attendance

- Rates of persistently (21.1% terms 1 to 4 22/2 ) and severely (2% terms 1 to 4 22/23) absent pupils continues to be significantly higher than pre-Covid, in line with national situation
- The number of parents choosing to move their children to EHE (192 since beginning of the term), and then reapplying for school place is high
- Pressure on mainstream secondary school places reduces options to meet needs





# Pressures

2023/24 HNB Outturn and 2024/25 DRAFT High Needs Block Budget

	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Forecast Spend	Variance	Total DRAFT 2024/25 Budget	
TOTAL SENIF PLUS	£250,000	£244,919	£5,081	£246,457	
TOTAL MAINSTREAM TOP UP	£7,301,174	£9,789,937	-£2,488,763	£9,966,345	
TOTAL MAINSTREAM UNITS	£2,809,355	£3,082,416	-£273,061	£3,513,566	
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS	£28,469,277	£30,326,819	-£1,857,542	£31,225,522	
TOTAL OUT OF AREA	£1,934,048	£2,047,733	-£113,685	£1,760,513	
TOTAL INDEPENDENT	£9,999,990	£13,195,746	-£3,195,756	£13,717,536	
TOTAL ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	£2,650,000	£4,892,887	-£2,242,887	£4,849,333	
Post 16 Top up	£1,953,207	£1,700,000	£253,207	£1,700,000	
AP Free Schools	£190,000	£190,000	£0	£190,000	
Support Services	£2,294,080	£2,194,080	£100,000	£2,194,080	
<b>TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BLOCK</b>	<b>£57,851,131</b>	<b>£67,664,537</b>	<b>-£9,813,406</b>	<b>£69,363,352</b>	
HNB Allocation	£57,851,131			£60,564,715	Cumulative Deficit
<b>In Year Deficit</b>				<b>-£8,798,637</b>	<b>-£18,612,043</b>
Transfer from SB (0.5%) *	£0			£1,437,832	
Total HNB Funding	£57,851,131			£62,002,547	
<b>Budgeted Deficit (inc 0.5% transfer)</b>	<b>£0</b>			<b>-£7,360,805</b>	<b>-£17,174,211</b>
Additional Transfer from SB (0.5% - 1.5%) *	£0			£2,875,666	
<b>Potential Reduced Deficit (Maximum transfer)</b>	<b>£0</b>			<b>-£4,485,139</b>	<b>-£14,298,545</b>



# Mitigations

## 2024/25 DRAFT High Needs Block Budget Non Statutory Functions

	Total DRAFT 2024/25 Budget
Early Years - SENIF Plus	£246,457
Mainstream Schools - Early Help Locality Funding	£1,338,329
Mainstream Schools - Special Arrangements	£250,393
Mainstream Units - Special Arrangements	£102,980
Special Schools - Special Arrangements	£1,351,579
Outreach Services	£1,269,130
Inclusion Projects	£182,333
Inclusion Services	£554,416
Specialist Support Services	£649,979
Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service	£30,000
<b>TOTAL NON STATUTORY FUNCTIONS</b>	<b>£5,975,595</b>



## Mitigations

- Implementation of co-produced SEND strategy
- Development and implementation of SEND Improvement Plan
- Implementation of Coproduction Charter
- Development SEND Sufficiency Strategy
- Development of Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Further development of system wide approach through SEND Accountability Board
- Focus on support for inclusion in all schools
- Review and refocus of Early Help services
- Development of joint work with Third Sector organisations
- Development of further capacity to better meet needs
- Move to permanent, sustainable staffing structures
- Develop Family Hubs offer to provide better access to Early Help services



## Mitigations

- Review of EHCP funding bands
- Review of Special School RAS funding
- Implementation of new blended model of EP delivery through retained and commissioned resources
- Review of scope of outreach services
- Development of new approaches to AP in partnership with Secondary Academies
- Development of new local AP provision in partnership with Outstanding provider
- Further development of EOTAS and personal budget offer
- Further definition of Graduated Response with services focussed at early identification and intervention
- Identification and brokerage of best practice in local schools to support others
- Implementation of new ECMS to improve systems, processes and customer experience
- Review of non-statutory services funded through HNB
- Identification of opportunities to attract additional funding and to make efficiencies



## Requirements

### Revenue

- Recognition that post LGR DSG / HNB does not reflect needs in NNC
- Agreement to transfer more than 0.5% of SB to HNB in 2024/25
- Access to additional revenue resources to deliver focussed developments around inclusion and SEND

### Capital

- Successful outcome of bid to DfE for new AP School in NNC
- Opportunity to bid for new Special School provision in NNC – SEMH highest priority
- Additional capital resources to continue creation and expansion of new SEND provision to meet needs

### Schools

- Focus, support and challenge on inclusion in all schools and academies
- School funding reviewed and increased to reflect expectations and demands



## Requirements

### Local Authority

- Sharing of best practice around all aspects of SEND and identification of Peer to Peer support opportunities
- Effective SEND support from DfE advisors focussed on pragmatic solutions to immediate and medium term challenges
- Clarity around expectations in relation to management of budget position
- Confirmation that arrangements for managing DSG deficit within Council accounts will be maintained in the medium term – Statutory Override beyond March 2026
- Medium term funding allocations that allow more accurate forecasting of available resources to support strategic planning

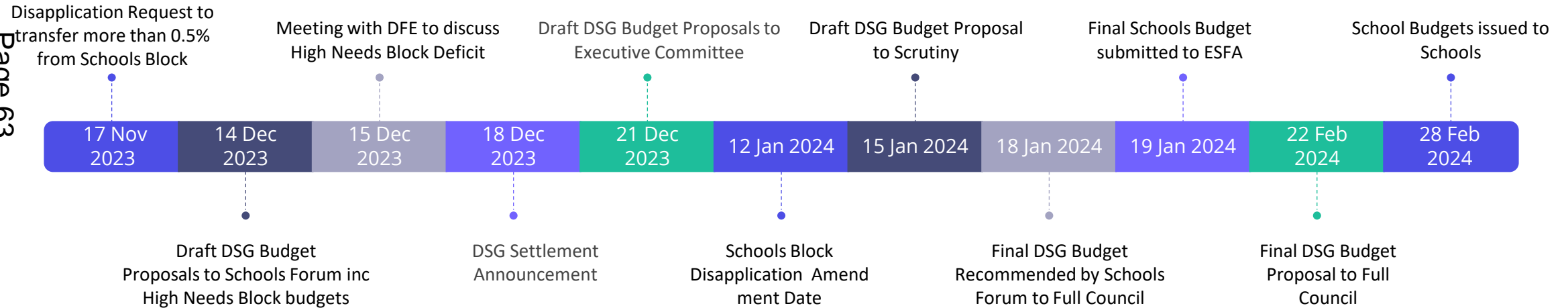
### OfSTED

- Focus on inclusion and identification of poor practice as part of school inspection process
- Targeted inspections where schools are seen not to be acting in an inclusive way
- SEND inspection outcomes that reflect increasing need and pressures



# Timeline

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# Mainstream Schools Funding Formula Outcome of Consultation with Schools and Recommendations

14th December 2023







## COMPARISON OF 2023-24 SCHOOLS BLOCK DSG WITH ESTIMATED 2024-25 SCHOOLS BLOCK DSG

Component	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total 2023/24	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total 2024/25	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total Funding
			£			£			£
Primary NFF	29,554.00	£4,735.55	£139,954,444.70	29,547.00	£5,007.20	£147,947,679.69	-7.00	£271.65	£7,993,234.99
Secondary NFF	20,493.50	£6,190.29	£126,860,708.12	20,897.00	£6,491.89	£135,660,952.34	403.50	£301.60	£8,800,244.23
Premises NFF			£1,822,977.00			£2,105,165.23			£282,188.23
Primary & Secondary MSAG			£9,050,422.00			£0.00			-£9,050,422.00
<b>Total Schools Block NFF Allocation</b>			<b>£277,688,551.82</b>			<b>£285,713,797.27</b>			<b>£8,025,245.45</b>
Growth Factor			£1,645,539.00			£1,712,314.96			£66,775.96
Falling Pupil Roll Factor			£0.00			£140,477.38			£140,477.38
<b>Estimated Schools Block DSG &amp; MSAG Funding</b>			<b>£279,334,090.82</b>			<b>£287,566,589.61</b>			<b>£8,232,498.79</b>

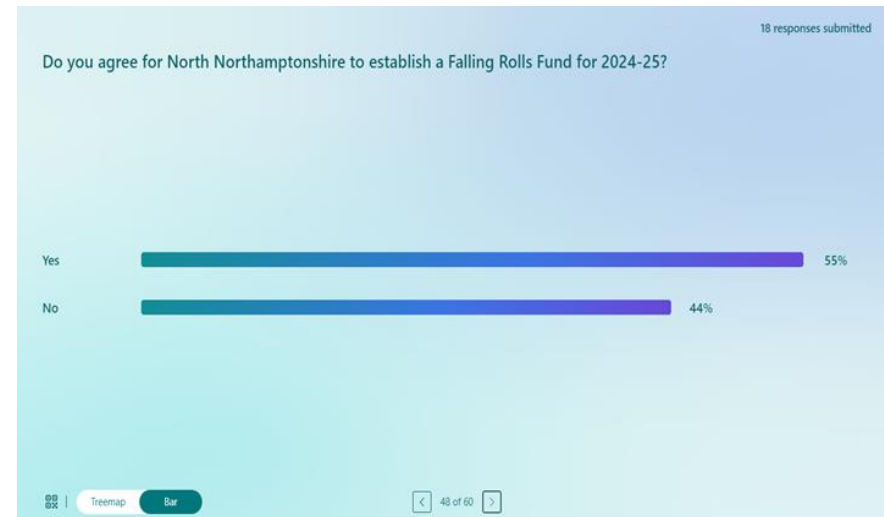
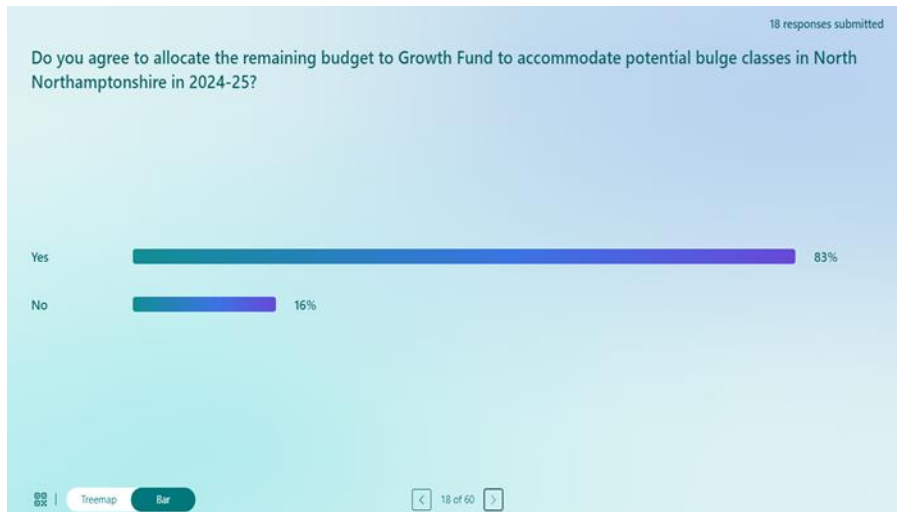
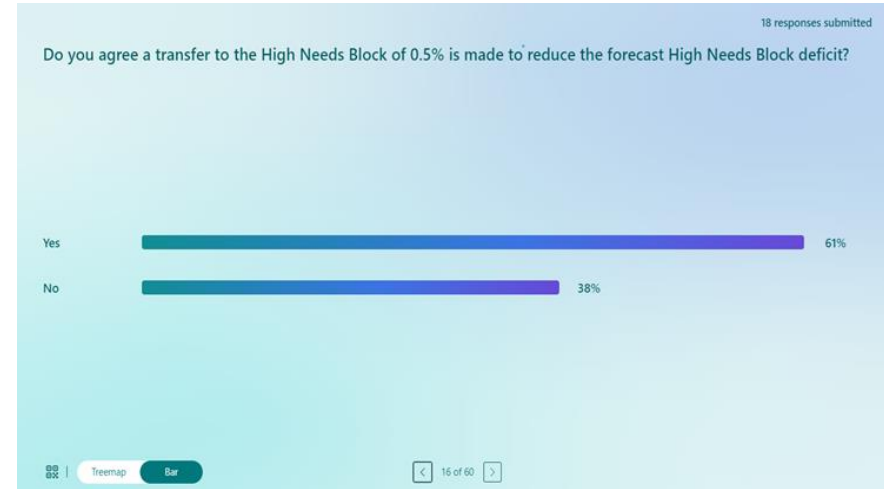
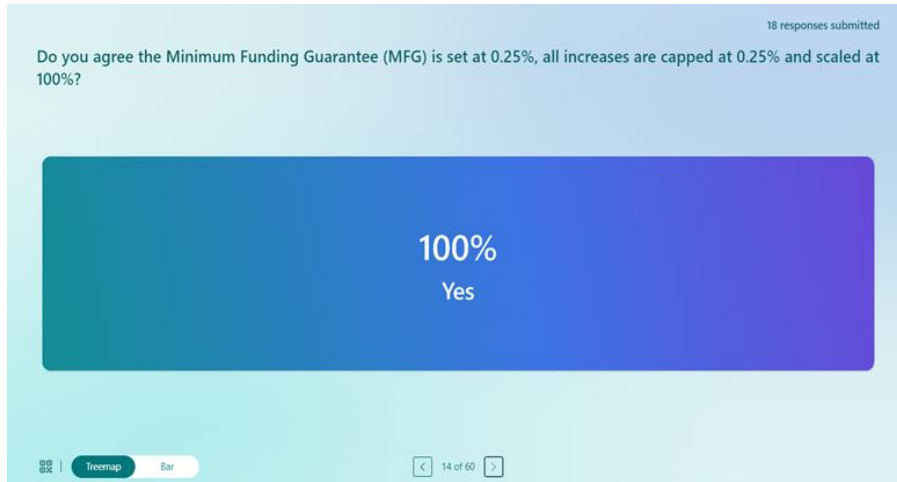


## MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA MODEL TAKEN TO NOVEMBER 2023 SCHOOLS FORUM FOR CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

Model	Basis	Total Number on Roll	MFG set at	Capped at	Scaled at	Schools Allocation	HNB % Transfer	HNB Transfer	Growth Fund	Falling Pupil Roll Fund	Schools Block Total	Total Movement of Funds
Page 66 Consultation Model	Oct 2022 Census and Oct 2022 School Data Characteristics	50,047.50	0.25%	0.25%	100%	£ 281,580,537	0.50%	£ 1,415,647	£ 133,188	£ -	£ 283,129,371	£ 1,548,835



## SCHOOLS CONSULTATION RESPONSES





## WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Increase in pupil numbers in NNC schools by 396.5 pupils (Draft October 2023 Census)
- Estimated Growth Funding (not possible to calculate without October 2023 Census)
- Estimated Falling Pupil Roll Funding (not possible to calculate without October 2023 Census)



# OPTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2023 SCHOOLS FORUM FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

Model's	Basis	Total Number on Roll	MFG set at	Capped at	Scaled at	Schools Allocation	HNB % Transfer	HNB Transfer	Growth Fund	Falling Pupil Roll Fund	Schools Block Total	Total Movement of Funds
Page 69 Consultation Model	Draft Oct 2023 Census and Oct 2022 School Data Characteristics	50,444.00	0.25%	0.25%	100%	£ 282,735,813	0.50%	£ 1,437,833	£ 3,252,467	£ 140,477	£ 287,566,590	£ 4,830,777
Recommended Model	Draft Oct 2023 Census and Oct 2022 School Data Characteristics	50,444.00	0.50%	0.50%	100%	£ 283,284,653	0.50%	£ 1,437,833	£ 2,703,626	£ 140,477	£ 287,566,590	£ 4,281,937



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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Item 9

#### National Funding Formula Central School Services Block 2024-25

#### Consultation Update

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report aims to provide Schools Forum with an update on the consultation responses regarding the Local Authority's proposals for central expenditure on education functions for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- 1.2 There is an overall estimated reduction of £221K in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB). This is due to the 20% reduction in the historical element of the CSSB.

## 2. Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 2.1 CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central education functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England.
- 2.2 The CSSB is split into two elements:
  - a) funding for ongoing responsibilities is a formula based calculation (nationally distributed via a per pupil rate currently multiplied by October 2022 pupil census data but will be revised to October 2023 numbers in the December 2023 announcement).
  - b) funding for historic commitments allocated at levels carried forward from previous years. The DfE have been reducing the historic commitments funding since 2020-21 by 20% per annum. This reduction has been applied to the provisional 2024-25 CSSB funding.
- 2.3 NNC have received a provisional allocation of £3,066,026 in 2024-25 compared to £3,286,931 in 2023-24 which is a reduction of £221k. The following Table is an extract from the National Funding Formula (NFF) which summarises the CSSB provisional calculation for 2024-25.

## Central school services block: local authority (LA) summary

On this page you can see the estimated impact on an LA's funding. To view an LA's data, please select the relevant LA from the blue box in row 10.

- Below, you will see the LA's 2023-24 CSSB funding baseline and the change in funding under the NFF.

- At the top of the page are the baseline and 2024-25 allocation for historic commitments.

- LA's historic commitments funding will be reduced by 20%.

- At the bottom of the page, you will see the provisional change to the LA's funding for ongoing responsibilities in 2024-25 as a result of the national funding formula.

- Funding for ongoing responsibilities will be allocated on a per-pupil basis. No LA's per-pupil funding for 2024-25 will fall more than 2.5% compared to its 2023-24 per-pupil funding.

Cell colour guide	Calculation	Explanation
Please select your local authority from the drop down menu:	North Northamptonshire	

Table 1: 2024-25 funding for historic commitments

2023-24 baseline for historic commitments	£1,439,677	This shows the 2023-24 LA allocation for historic commitments.
NFF funding for historic commitments	£1,151,742	This shows what the LA will receive for historic commitments in 2024-25 (prior to any protection applied in the DSG).

Table 2: Provisional 2023-24 funding for ongoing responsibilities, under the NFF

2023-24 baseline for ongoing responsibilities	£1,847,253	This shows the LA's allocation for ongoing responsibilities in the 2023-24 DSG allocations.
2024-25 total funding for ongoing responsibilities	£1,914,284	This shows what the LA will provisionally receive for ongoing responsibilities in 2024-25.
Percentage change in per pupil funding in 2024-25	3.63%	This shows the percentage change the LA will receive per pupil in 2024-25 compared with the 2023-24 baseline for ongoing responsibilities.

2.4 Table 1 shows the change in CSSB funding between 2024-25 and 2023-24

### Table 1 – CSSB Funding

Central School Services Block Funding	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Final CSSB unit of funding	£36.91	£38.25	£1.34
2021 to 2022 CSSB pupil count	50,047.50	50,047.50	0.00
Funding for On-going Duties	£1,847,254.00	£1,914,284.00	£67,030.00
Funding for Historic Commitments	£1,439,677.00	£1,151,742.00	£(287,935)
<b>Total Central School Services Block Funding</b>	<b>£3,286,931.00</b>	<b>£3,066,026.00</b>	<b>£(220,905)</b>

Note: +ve increase in income -ve reduction in income

2.5 The change between unprotected NFF per-pupil funding and per-pupil baseline for ongoing responsibilities for North Northamptonshire Council is 3.63%. As a result, North Northamptonshire received a 3.63% increase for ongoing responsibilities – which amounts to £67k.

2.6 The CSSB NFF allocates funding to LAs for ongoing responsibilities using a pupil-led formula. The formula uses three factors:

- a basic per-pupil factor, through which LAs receive most of the funding.
- a deprivation per-pupil factor; and
- for the 2024-25 CSSB NFF, a copyright licences per pupil factor to fund the additional costs of copyright licences that LAs faced in 2023-24.



- 2.7 The increase of 3.63% in total ongoing responsibilities funding that each LA attracts includes the total additional cost for their copyright licences from 2023-24. The DFE made an adjustment to Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) costs that were charged for the 2022-23 financial year due to an administrative error that meant LAs were charged incorrectly for this licence.
- 2.8 Table 2 summarised NNC's current use of the CSSB funding in 2023-24, together with proposals for its use in 2024-25 and show the changes between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

**Table 2 – NNC Proposed CSSB Expenditure for 2024-25**

Central School Services Block	2023-24	2024-25	Change
<b>Historical Commitments</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contribution to Combined Services (see Table 3)	639,677	244,742	(394,935)
Contribution to DSG High Needs Deficit	0	0	0
Pre-2013 Premature Retirement / Redundancy Costs	800,000	907,000	107,000
<b>Total Historical Commitments</b>	<b>1,439,677</b>	<b>1,151,742</b>	<b>(287,935)</b>
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Admissions	499,208	507,517	8,309
Schools Forum	11,300	11,300	0
National Copyright Licences	321,279	380,000	58,721
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	1,010,000	1,010,000	0
Teacher's Pay and Pension Grant	5,467	5,467	0
<b>Total Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	<b>1,847,254</b>	<b>1,914,284</b>	<b>67,030</b>
<b>Total CSSB</b>	<b>3,286,931</b>	<b>3,066,026</b>	<b>(220,905)</b>

Note: +ve increase in expenditure -ve reduction in expenditure

- 2.9 Table 3 provides a breakdown of NNC's proposals for the use of the CSSB on Combined Services in 2024-25 and changes from 2023-24.

**Table 3 - NNC Proposed Combined Services Expenditure Budget**

CSSB DSG Contribution to Combined Service	2023-24	2024-25	Change
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
School Standards & Effectiveness	466,150	71,215	(394,935)
Moderation	15,000	15,000	0
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board	33,247	33,247	0
Educational Entitlement	125,280	125,280	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>639,677</b>	<b>244,742</b>	<b>(394,935)</b>

Note: +ve increase in expenditure -ve reduction in expenditure

### 3. Consultation Update

3.1 Following the School Forum meeting in October 2023, a consultation was initiated to gather feedback from schools regarding the proposed central expenditure on education functions for the fiscal year 2024-25.

### 3.2 Consultation Outcomes:

The table provided below displays the responses gathered during the consultation.

	Consultation Question	Yes	No	N/A
1	Do you agree to further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary and Special School Budgets to meet this shortfall in CSSB funding? (Maintained Schools only)	2	2	14
2	Do you agree the use of Historical Commitment budget as set out in Table 2 above?	17	1	-
3	Do you agree the use of the available Ongoing Responsibilities budgets as set out in Table 2 above?	18	0	-
4	Do you agree the Use of Contribution to Combined Services Budget (as per Table 3 above)	17	1	-

3.3 Following the consultation responses to the question whether there should be a further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary, and Special School Budgets to address the shortfall in CSSB funding resulting in a tie, Schools Forum maintained schools members will need to decide and vote to determine whether this proposal will be accepted or not.

3.4 The majority of participants of the Schools Consultation agreed to Questions 2, 3 & 4 in their responses submitted.

### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 The figures in this report are estimated and will change following the release of the 2024-25 Authority Proforma Tool with the October 2023 census and the 2024-25 Funding Settlement by the DFE.

### 5. Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### 6. Risks

6.1 The main risks arising should Schools Forum not agree with the recommendations are to find alternative sources of funding to support the existing commitments. Should this not be possible DSG CSSB Contribution to Combined Functions may have to cease. The criteria of what DSG CSSB can be spent on is set out in [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023](#)

### 7. Recommendations for Schools Forum

7.1 School Forum are to note the outcomes of the consultation.

7.2 Maintained school forum members will need to vote on the option for further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary, and Special School Budgets to address the shortfall in CSSB funding.

## 8. Next Steps

8.1 The outcome of the consultation will guide the determination of the final Central Schools Budget for the 2024-25, following the Department for Education's Finance Settlement in January 2024, announced in December 2023.

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14th December 2023

### Agenda Item 10

#### De-delegation : Trade Union Facilities Time for Maintained Schools - 2024-25

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) has a Recognition Agreement with trade unions and this recognition agreement automatically covers schools within the North Northamptonshire area where the local authority is the employer (31<sup>1</sup> community, community special, voluntary controlled and local authority nursery schools).
- 1.2 For trade unions recognised to represent employee groups based within local authority-maintained schools (the 31 schools above, plus 9 voluntary aided and foundation schools), time off for trade union duties and activities is determined on an annual basis. In December 2022, Schools Forum members representing maintained schools voted to de-delegate a sum of their Post MFG Budget into a pooled trade union facility time arrangement for financial year 2023/24.
- 1.3 NNC schools pooled facility time arrangements for the current financial year (Apr'23 – Mar'24) at a rate of £3.56 per pupil, in line with the regional average for such deductions.

#### **2 Facility time – legal context**

- 2.1 Employees who are union representatives of an independent trade union recognised by their employer will be permitted reasonable time off during working hours to carry out certain trade union duties. Although there is no absolute right to take time off work, an employer should not refuse a reasonable request to do so.
- 2.2 Union representatives are entitled to request time off where the duties are concerned with:
  - negotiations with the employer about matters which fall within section 178(2) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (TULR(C)A) and for which the union is recognised for the purposes of collective bargaining by the employer.
  - any other functions on behalf of employees of the employer which are related to matters falling within section 178(2) TULR(C)A and which the employer has agreed the union may perform.
  - the receipt of information from the employer and consultation by the employer under section 188 TULR(C)A, related to redundancy or under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 that applies to employees of the employer.
  - negotiations with a view to entering into an agreement under regulation 9 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 that applies to employees of the employer;

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<sup>1</sup> [Search results for " - GOV.UK \(get-information-schools.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-information-schools.service.gov.uk)

- the performance on behalf of employees of the employer of functions related to or connected with the making of an agreement under regulation 9 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection or Employment) Regulations 2006.

### **3 Department for Education non-statutory guidance**

The DfE [published guidance](#) on facility time for schools and stresses the importance of ensuring spending on facility time is as efficient as possible as well as transparent and accountable.

### **4 Benefits of de-delegation of budget into a pooled arrangement**

4.1 It ensures maintained schools & the Council meet their legal obligations:

- NNC will undertake the management and operation of the statutory consultation framework on behalf of maintained schools via the Children’s Services Directorate Consultative Forum (DCF) and Health, Safety & Wellbeing Forum (HSWF).
- Consultation on school transfer to Academy status.

4.2 Representation on employee relation issues (e.g., disciplinary, grievance):

- TU members are employees and value local representation.
- Local knowledge and understanding of local context to support local members.
- Cost effective TU representation.
- Enables consistency of local practice.
- Supports fast, efficient and informal resolution.

4.3 Least disruptive to education and cost-effective means of organising facilities time; ensures no single maintained school faces a disproportionate cost.

4.4 The majority of maintained schools do not employ staff elected as TU representatives.

### **5 Impact on schools of no de-delegation for a pooled arrangement**

5.1 Each individual school would be required to:

- Consult with all recognised trade unions on all employment and health and safety matters.
- Develop their own recognition agreement with trade unions and any collective approach to reaching agreements.
- Make their own arrangements for access to trade union representatives to represent employees and to manage facility time within the school.
- Experience potentially longer timeframes for resolution of employment relation issues

5.2 Benefits to schools provided from a trade union perspective are contained in [Appendix 1](#).

### **6 Consultation Outcome**

6.1 The de-delegation of Trade Union Facilities Time relates only to Maintained Schools and so only this group so of schools were asked to repond to the consultation. In total five schools responded, one secondary and four primary.

6.2 Of the five responses received, four indoctated support for the de-delagtion of Facilities Time. One school commenetd tah this was more appripruate for primary schools than secondary and so did not support de-delagation.

6.3 In relation to the level of the de-delegation, again four out of five schools agreed with the increased rate of £3.79 per pupil, with one school expressing a view that the current level of £3.56 should be retained.

## **7 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

7.1 Having considered the outcome of the consultation set out above, Maintained School Forum members are asked to vote on whether to de-delegate budgets to fund a pooled facility time arrangement between maintained schools within North Northamptonshire.

7.3 Maintained School Forum members are also asked to vote on a per pupil rate.

7.4 For the financial year 2023/24 the per pupil rate was set at £3.56, in line with the regional average for deductions. This equated to 4 full days facilities time, 2.5 teacher rep days and 1.5 non teacher rep. If the Forum decides to support a continued de-delegation, it can choose an appropriate rate for this. Two proposals for consideration are:

- 1 To retain the current level of per pupil funding at £3.56. This will reduce the level of facilities time due to inflationary pressures on staffing costs.
- 2 To increase the current rate of £3.56 in line with the teacher's pay settlement of 6.5%, to give a new rate of £3.79 per pupil.

## **8 Next steps**

If Schools Forum vote to de-delegate budget to fund shared arrangements for facility time, then time off will be allocated based on the funds made available from schools delegating budget for facility time. This will be managed by NNC in consultation with the relevant recognised trade unions.

## **9 Financial implications**

Without the Trade Union de-delegation, maintained schools will have to provide paid facility time within their school to release elected employee representatives from each of the recognised trade unions. It is likely to be more expensive and potentially disruptive to manage facility time directly than through a pooled arrangement funded through de-delegation.

## **10 Legal implications**

10.1 The legal basis of facility time as set out in section 2 of the report applies to all employers, including those responsible for maintained schools, academies and free schools. The continuation of de-delegation enables maintained schools to meet these requirements and in particular for those maintained schools where the NNC Recognition Agreement applies because NNC is the employer.

10.2 The regulations on decision making by Schools Forum are contained within the [Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities Guide](#).

## **11 Risks**

If facility time is not organised centrally, each trade union can press for the release of a union representative at each individual school. The training requirement for these representatives could be significant, given the new role they would be expected to fulfil (e.g., employee, Health and Safety and Learning representative duties; attend training or

learning activities; consultation and negotiation on employment related matters and the school's own HR policies).

- 11.2 There would be a risk of increased disruption in the school, for example, releasing a teacher from the classroom to accompany a member in a formal disciplinary/grievance/performance/individual consultation meeting.



## Appendix 1

### Extract from NNC's Trade Union Recognition Agreement (Section 7)

#### Trade Union Representatives - Schools

- 1.1. For trade unions recognised to represent employee groups based within local authority maintained schools, time off for trade union duties and activities is determined on an annual basis at Schools Forum, in accordance with school budget arrangements.
- 1.2. If schools vote to de-delegate budget to fund shared arrangements for facility time, then time off (in addition to core time for senior trade union representatives set out in 7.8) will be allocated based on the funds made available from schools delegating budget for facility time and relative proportion of trade union membership in the NNC schools participating in the shared arrangements:

<b>Trade union membership</b>	<b>Time-off allocation</b>
1 – 99	0.25 days per week
100 – 499	0.5 days per week
500 – 999	1 day per week
1000 – 1499	2 days per week
1500 – 1999	2.5 days per week
2000 – 2499	3 days per week
2500 – 2999	3.5 days per week
3000 – 3499	4 days per week
3500+	4.5 days per week

## Appendix 2

### Joint statement from the recognised trade unions (2023/24)

The Table below illustrates the value of de-delegated facilities' time and the impact if this was not in place. The consequence of not agreeing on facility time is that issues may escalate quickly and be resolved more slowly costing time and money.

With maintained schools having to outsource HR providers and Wages clerk duties, the local authority cannot monitor HR issues and may only get notified of serious cases. The facility time helps us to work more closely with HR providers and Head Teachers to resolve issues quickly and fairly.

#### Impact assessment on Schools facility time

Reason for contacting the Union	Action of the Caseworker with facility time	Potential outcome	IMPACT Without facility time
General Enquiries	Able to advise members of where they stand and what fair, informal actions to take	Able to resolve the matter early before the become an issue for the schools. E.g. This may be as simple as requesting a flexible working policy	Staff anxieties are raised which may impact on performance.  Working relationships and increased absence
Sickness / absence and Ill health retirement	Liaise between the school / HR Provider to get their perspective and enquire if there is any underlying caused i.e. a dispute.	Identify the reason for absence.  Work with the school and HR provides to offer support and a plan for returning to work.  E.g. Occupation Health reports  Mediation if there are working relationship issues  Support a clear action plan to return to work  Retaining good staff and maintaining a low staff turn over	Prolonged cost of sickness absence and cover  Staff being unsupported in being referred to Occupational Health  Potential unresolved work relationship issues  Staff leaving resulting in a higher turnover of staff, increase cost of agency staff and recruitment costs

<b>Reason for contacting the Union</b>	<b>Action of the Caseworker with facility time</b>	<b>Potential outcome</b>	<b>IMPACT Without facility time</b>
Disciplinary's	<p>Support the member through the process of any investigation</p> <p>Clarify the process with the school and HR Provider</p> <p>Advise members to be open and honest and enable them to give their version of events</p> <p>Ensure a fair investigation process</p> <p>Work within the safeguarding procedures.</p> <p>Liaise with HR Provider</p>	<p>Unions are able to support the process and advise the member accordingly.</p> <p>Many schools are grateful that the staff members are supported by an independent person who can remain objective</p> <p>Any potential outcome of the disciplinary is fair and reasonable.</p> <p>Be available, usually at very short notice to pick up these cases and respond accordingly</p>	<p>More staff will go off on sick</p> <p>More staff may leave the employment before any further action is decided on.</p> <p>In cases of false accusations, this may result in good staff leaving under a cloud.</p> <p>Without the union facility time, the disciplinary process will be very much delayed with inevitably increase costs to the school</p>
Capability	<p>Support the member through the process</p> <p>Liaise with the School and HR Provider to get their perspective</p> <p>Ensure they are following the Policy and identifying the skills and behaviours expected and how the school will provide guidance and training for these.</p>	<p>Identify what the issues are and look to resolve them without going into a formal process</p> <p>Support the member through the process with outcomes of the person attaining the standard required and that the employer provides any additional support needed</p>	
Reasonable Adjustments	<p>Work with the school to identify any potential risk factors and hazards</p> <p>Identify individual risk assessments – with or without the support of occupational health</p>	<p>The school retains a valuable member of staff</p>	<p>Increased long-term sick</p> <p>Increase agency cover needed</p> <p>Increase staff turnover</p>

<b>Reason for contacting the Union</b>	<b>Action of the Caseworker with facility time</b>	<b>Potential outcome</b>	<b>IMPACT Without facility time</b>
TUPE Consultation /redundancy	<p>Be able to work with the timelines on consultation which are often very tight</p> <p>Reassure members of a fair process</p> <p>Alleviating member's anxieties and miss trust</p> <p>Look at ways in preventing compulsory redundancies</p>	<p>Ensure staffs questions are answered in both an open forum and in confidential 1:1 Consultations</p> <p>Represent member's personal circumstances in the negotiation particularly in requesting Voluntary redundancy</p>	<p>The delayed process to enable the consultation to be meaningful</p> <p>Without the facility, time union staff will be less available to attend 1:1 meetings.</p> <p>Increased chance of tribunal cases for unfair dismissal</p>

There is a definite impact of financial cost and staffing cost / resource at a time when it is difficult to retain and recruit good staff. Particularly support staff such as TA's.



## North Northants Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Item 11

#### 2024-25 De-delegation : School Effectiveness for Maintained Schools

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The School Effectiveness Team (SET) is funded from the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 The current team has a Head of Service.
- 1.3 There is an Associate Head Teacher (AHT) whose purpose is to:
  - lead and facilitate school improvement in schools causing concern and/or;
  - to provide additional support within individual settings to facilitate rapid improvement, and/or;
  - undertake the duties of the Head Teacher where a school maybe experiencing leadership issues.
- 1.4 The team also consists of School Improvement Partners (SIPs) who work with Primary, Secondary, Governors and Early Years, (including schools with nurseries and also our Maintained Nursery School (MNS) settings).
- 1.5 The SET provide essential services enabling SIPs and the AHT to provide direct support for maintained schools requiring specific targeted improvement including:
  - Provision of an Interim Head Teacher in a school through the AHT;
  - Coaching and mentoring for the Senior Leadership Team and Head Teacher where required by the AHT;
  - Middle leader development;
  - Head Teacher recruitment support for Governors and representation of a SIP on the recruitment panel to ensure that the process is carried out appropriately;
  - Brokerage of school- to-school support for schools needing to improve a specific aspect of their provision;
  - The initiation of a time limited Targeted Improvement Group (TIG) where more intensive 'team around the school' work is required;
  - Specific training and support for Governors; and
  - Working with external partners, such as the English Hub and the University of Northampton (UoN) for example, to further support schools.
- 1.6 This report covers
  - School Effectiveness funding and review of Impact;
  - School Effectiveness priorities for academic year 2023-2024.

## 2 School Effectiveness Funding and Review of Impact

2.1 For 2023-24 School Effectiveness de-delegation was approved by Northamptonshire Schools Forum in October 2022. Forum agreed to continue with School Effectiveness de-delegated funding of £12 per pupil from Maintained Schools to create an estimated budget of £115, 800 for North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools in 2023-24.

2.2 The work of the SET is predominantly focussed upon Maintained Schools. The SET work with all schools regardless of their Ofsted outcome. Naturally, much of the intensive work is with schools that are Requires Improvement (RI) or Inadequate. The SET work with schools who experience any of the following where:

- The outcome of an ungraded inspection suggests, from the evidence gathered, that the inspection grade might not be as high;
- A school's provision for early reading and/or phonics is not sufficiently well developed or securely implemented;
- A school's curriculum provision requires improvement to be good;
- A school's data is below national average in one or more key measures or where data has declined significantly which may put them at risk of an adverse inspection;
- The school is at risk of an inadequate judgement or is given an inadequate judgement by Ofsted;
- The school is at risk of a Requires Improvement (RI) judgement or is given a RI judgement for a first, second or further times by Ofsted;
- Safeguarding is not effective as judged by the Local Authority or by Ofsted;
- Leadership and Management is a cause for concern, (including Governance);
- There are financial concerns
- There are significant concerns with any or all of the following:
  - attendance
  - behaviour
  - exclusions
  - the number and type of complaints received by Ofsted about a school

2.3 In the 2022-2023 academic year the SET were deployed as follows:

- Engaged intensively with 2 schools that escalated to a School Causing Concern (SCC) level of intervention, triggering bespoke significant support packages and regular monitoring and scrutiny of progress towards specific targets;
- Engaged in the TIG process with 2 schools, triggering detailed action plans and school to school support programmes of work. The AHT took the role of Head Teacher in one of these schools for 18 months from April 2021;
- Careful planning and delivery of the amalgamation of two schools, with an unwavering and significant focus on the quality of education prior to, during and after the merger. This work remains ongoing;
- Significant focus on several schools due to be inspected, ensuring that they were 'Ofsted ready';
- Regular monitoring of schools at all levels;
- Leading on the statutory assessment and moderation training, deployment of moderators across the county in June 2023 and conducting unannounced monitoring visits of the Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in May 2023 and the Phonics Screening Checks (PSC) in June 2023.

## 2.4 The **impact** has been:

- Overall the number of Good and Outstanding maintained schools in North Northants at the end of July 2023 was 85%.
- This is partly as a result of the work that the SET have undertaken, collaboratively with Head Teachers, Senior Leaders and staff, converting RI schools to Good, or maintaining the Good rating of schools which have needed higher than average levels of support.
- Of the pupils that attend maintained primary schools in North Northants, 89% of them are now attending Good/Outstanding maintained schools.
- As a consequence of the work that the SET undertook, collaboratively with Head Teachers, Senior Leaders and staff in maintained primary schools last academic year, 2 schools at risk of being inadequate achieved an RI rating, some with good in certain areas.
- Therefore, in summary, the overwhelming majority of inspections have all been favourable in the maintained primary schools supported by the DSG;
- Although many improvements are evident this year, standards overall in North Northants are below national and below that of East Midlands.
- It is important to note that whilst North Northants still sits below national in all areas, there were improvements in the maintained schools unvalidated data at the end of July 2023:
  - Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Good Level of Development (GLD) data increased by 2% bringing it within 1% of the national figure.
  - The percentage of pupils passing the Year 1 PSC in June 2023 rose by 4% reducing the gap to national to 2%.
  - At Key Stage 1 (KS1) the Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) combined percentage was broadly in line with NCER national; and
  - At Key Stage 2 (KS2) the Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) combined percentage was up by 2% from the end of July 2022.

## 2.5 **Review of Last Year's 'Future Priorities':**

1. Plan bespoke school improvement priorities together in collaboration with schools, using locality data:
  - *Work has begun in this aspect. 2 groups have been formed in East Northants and in Wellingborough.*
  - *This is still in its infancy and will remain a priority for this academic year to be rolled out to all 4 locality areas.*
2. Improve outcomes in reading, writing and maths at KS2 across North Northants;
  - Work together with maintained schools and MATS to improve outcomes for all pupils across North Northants, identifying good practice in locality areas;  
*Unvalidated attainment headline data for North Northants as a whole is still below national but does show the following increases:*
    - ❖ *A 4% increase in GLD outcome overall compared to July 2022;*
    - ❖ *A 5% increase in year 1 pupils passing the PSC in June 2023;*
    - ❖ *A 3% increase in KS1 RWM combined attainment;*
    - ❖ *A 1% increase in KS2 writing attainment;*
    - ❖ *A reduction in the gap to national in KS2 reading.*
  - Continue to focus on and improve the 'quality of education' (the curriculum) so that schools maintain an ambitious curriculum that is aspirational for all pupils and groups

of pupils and where pupil knowledge is securely built over time and across phases of education;

*85% of all schools in North Northants are Good and/or Outstanding, the highest percentage to date including data from the legacy council.*

- Reduce the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils.  
*This gap has not yet reduced significantly and work will continue in this aspect.*

2.6 It is currently estimated School Effectiveness resources will be fully utilised in 2023-2024. In the unlikely event that School Effectiveness is not fully utilised at the end of March 2024, the underspend would be rolled forward to be used in future years for School Effectiveness.

### **3 SET Priorities for 2023-2024 Academic Year**

- To develop and implement a new school effectiveness strategy;
- To ensure that all Local Authority Maintained schools are rated at least good;
- To improve educational outcomes for North Northamptonshire so that they are at least in line with the regional average;
- To ensure that appropriate provision is available for all children to support inclusion;
- To facilitate early intervention and high quality curriculum development in the early years so that our youngest children are school ready;
- Work with providers to broaden Post 16 curriculum offer;
- Develop links between education providers and local business to ensure qualifications meet needs.

### **4 Proposed next steps**

4.1 The council intends to consult upon its intention to ask maintained schools' representatives to increase de-delegation for this purpose to £12.78 per pupil. This is a 6.5% rise.

4.2 It should be noted that school improvement contributions from the DSG, known as the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) Grant, ceased in April 2023. This means that there is less resource in this area for the Local Authority.

4.3 The proposed increase in the amount per pupil will continue to help the LA to economically secure the continued provision of the services of the SET enabling the LA to be more agile in responding to the needs of schools as well as build relationships with the sector.

4.4 Further conversion of one primary school into an academy since the 2023-24 de-delegated budget was set meant that there is currently less resource in the pot to deliver the required services going forward. Council officers propose to include School Effectiveness de delegation in the School Budget consultation with the following questions:

- a. Do you agree with the proposal for de-delegation to be made for maintained primary schools to create a maintained school improvement grant?

If yes:

- b. Do you agree with the proposed increased rate of £12.78 per pupil?
- c. If no, what rate would you consider reasonable?

### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 Schools forum members were asked to agree the consultation proposals and questions or propose alternatives.



## 6 Consultation Outcome

- 6.1 The de-delegation for School Effectiveness work relates only to Maintained Schools and so only this group so of schools were asked to respond to the consultation. In total five schools responded, one secondary and four primary.
- 6.2 Of the five responses received, four indicated support for the de-delegation of School Effectiveness work. One school commented that this was more appropriate for primary schools than secondary and so did not support de-delegation.
- 6.3 In relation to the level of the de-delegation, again four out of five schools agreed with the increased rate of £12.78 per pupil, with one school expressing a view that the current level of £12.00 should be retained. Another school said that they would not agree with the £12.78 per pupil rate if Maintained schools are charged for LA training, this would constitute as a 'double charge'.

## 7 Legal implications

- 7.1 Under Schools Forum regulations, the responsible local authority has the power to propose to maintained schools de-delegate funding from maintained schools with agreement of its schools forum or any direction by the Secretary of State for Education.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>contingencies</li><li>administration of free school meals</li><li>insurance</li><li>licences/subscriptions</li><li>staff costs – supply cover</li><li>support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups</li><li>behaviour support services</li><li>library and museum services</li><li>School improvement</li></ul>	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

## 8. Risks

- 8.1 The risk, should schools forum not agree the de-delegation, is that the authority will not have the resources required to support and challenge schools causing concern. This is likely to result, at best, in standards failing to improve or, at worst, poorer pupil progress and achievement.

### Report Author:

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Item 12

#### 2024-25 De-delegation - Schools Insurance Service

## 1 Background

North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) accesses insurance cover via a procurement framework in collaboration with Solihull MBC and others called the Schools and Academies Insurance Framework (SAIF).

Schools insurance arrangements are currently de-delegated for all maintained primary and secondary schools with a traded option for nursery and special school settings. For those schools not de-delegated the insurance team provide insurance quotations for acceptance prior to arranging cover.

Schools currently benefit from an insurance programme that provides comprehensive cover for the risks associated with the services provided. The initial contract with Zurich Municipal commenced in 2021 and was for an initial period of three years, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the agreement carries with it an option to extend for a further two years.

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Schools Forum for the continuation of de-delegated insurance services for schools for 2024-25 and to advise schools forum on the expected level of premium for core insurance covers.

## 2 The Schools Academy Insurance Framework (SAIF) Scheme offered by the Local Authority

### 2.1 Cover

As stated above the existing insurance arrangements have been in place since 2021 and are arranged via the Schools Academy Insurance Framework (SAIF). SAIF is operated by a group of local authorities and managed by Solihull MBC, the framework has been subject to a full procurement process and Zurich Municipal are the insurance provider to the framework.

Zurich Municipal have reviewed the performance of the insurance programme for schools within North Northamptonshire and at this stage can offer an extension for one year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, however due to factors discussed below they require an increased premium rate for the cover although this does remain £0.52 per pupil lower than the RPA alternative.

Within this option cover is as currently provided to NNC schools with the policy continuing to provide a comparable level of core cover as the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

Whilst the RPA offers some unlimited indemnity levels on liability insurances, which we do not consider are necessary, in the main the cover provided by the SAIF scheme is comparable and there are additional benefits these are summarised below.

- Business interruption cover for loss of revenue is not provided by the RPA, cover via the SAIF scheme includes £150k of revenue protection in the event of an insured loss with a 48 month indemnity period
- Business interruption cover for loss of data is not provided by the RPA, cover via the SAIF scheme is provided at a level of £25k
- Theft cover under the SAIF scheme is for all theft whereas the RPA cover is limited to theft incidents involving forceable entry/exit.
- The sum insured for works in progress cover via the SAIF scheme is higher than that provided by the RPA at £500k (RPA is limited to £250k). The cover is also flexible and can be extended as required for an addition premium. The RPA does not allow this, and cover would need to be purchased elsewhere in the event of a contract exceeding £250k in value.
- The sum insured for employee and third party dishonesty (fraud) via the SAIF scheme is higher than that provided by the RPA at £1m (RPA £500k).
- The sum insured for legal expenses via the SAIF scheme is higher than that provided by the RPA at £250k (RPA £100k).
- Additional optional covers not included within the RPA, engineering insurance cover and statutory inspection services, motor and motor occasional business use, are available via the SAIF scheme at an additional premium. Schools do not then need to source their own policies as would be the case if cover is taken via the RPA.

NNC schools are currently receiving all of the above.

## **2.2 Additional services**

In addition to the cover set out in 2.1 the Local Authority is able to provide schools the ability to access added value services provided by Zurich at no additional cost, these include:

Zurich Risk Advisor – a digital risk self-assessment, review and management tool which provides a structured self-assessment for the review and management of risks and allows users to access guides to manage risks.

- Safer Schools App – an online platform that enables schools, pupils and parents to access a wealth of resources to support safeguarding practices.
- Fika Mental Fitness Platform - aimed at school staff. Fika helps to facilitate positive team behaviours by strengthening core mental fitness skills with training that fits into the education working day.
- Webinars specifically for school audiences on topics such as property risk management and understanding liability insurance

Additionally, schools will have access to services provided by the Lead Authority Shared Services agreement between NNC and Cambridgeshire. This enables schools to access a dedicated contact provided by the insurance service that supports the Local Authority who will be able to provide guidance and support in respect of insurance queries and issues with claims.

## 2.3 Overview of the Standard Package and Additional Covers

The main insurance product is provided within a standard package at a per pupil price which is inclusive of insurance premium tax. The price per school will be updated in April 2024 to reflect the actual number of pupils for each school based on the previous October census, i.e., the 2024/25 price will be based on the October 2023 census.

Schools will need to take out additional cover for engineering and motor insurance. Engineering cover is mandatory when insurance cover is taken via the Local Authority due to the link to liability insurance but cannot be included in the de-delegated budget. This charge will therefore be invoiced to schools separately and will need to be funded from school budgets.

Motor insurance is optional and will need to be funded from school budgets.

The premium charge for engineering and motor is assessed based on the extent of equipment inspected and the number of vehicles so the price varies school to school. For the Local Authority policy this will be administered by the insurance team who will advise 2024/25 prices as part of the renewal process in due course.

## 2.4 Market Conditions

Zurich Municipal, like the rest of the insurance market, are seeing challenging market pressures such as building sums insured and claims inflation and the impact of global weather events which have increased loss costs and are placing significant pressure on the cost of reinsurance. This has meant that they are having to increase prices for the SAIF cover, however they have stated that their aim is to remain competitive against the RPA in terms of price whilst continuing to provide an enhanced service in partnership with Local Authority Insurance Teams.

SAIF scheme insurance premiums per pupil are set out in the table below, it is worth noting that the alternative for schools via the RPA has seen increasing costs during the period that NNC schools have been insured via the SAIF scheme whilst Zurich Municipal have worked hard to hold their premium per pupil for the last 2 years despite the market factors mentioned above. Future RPA costs have not yet been published but the increase in cost is a trend which could continue and is likely to see the RPA rate remain higher than the SAIF offering.

<b>Policy Period</b>	<b>SAIF Scheme Per Pupil Price</b>	<b>RPA Scheme Per Pupil Price</b>	<b>Difference Per Pupil</b>
2021/22	£17.75	£19.00	-£1.25
2022/23	£18.00	£21.00	-£3.00
2023/24	£18.00	£23.00	-£5.00

## 2.5 2024-25 Pricing

Zurich have advised that they expect to be offering a per pupil rate of £22.48 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Whilst this is not yet formally set and is subject to approval by the SAIF group and senior underwriters within the insurer. The reason for the increase in price is as stated in 2.4.

As shown in the table below this is less than the price set by the RPA which is currently £23 per pupil for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

<b>Policy Period</b>	<b>SAIF Scheme Per Pupil Price</b>	<b>RPA Scheme Per Pupil Price</b>	<b>Difference Per Pupil</b>
2024/25	£22.48	£23.00*	-£0.52*

\*Note that the RPA price is only confirmed until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at which point it may increase. The Zurich price is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## 3 Options available to schools

Due to the limited market for school insurance schools have two options for insurance cover, either to purchase cover via the Local Authority and the SAIF scheme or join the RPA.

In addition, Forum can determine that the schools insurance arrangement are either de-delegated or traded.

A de-delegated arrangement will allow schools to ensure continuity of insurance coverage and price certainty for the 2024-25 period without the need for schools to obtain quotations, complete lengthy proposal forms and provide underwriting information.

A traded option does allow schools the flexibility to join the RPA, if a traded option is selected the insurance service shall provide each school a personalised quotation for consideration. Schools will be required to formally approve the placement of their insurance and schools who select not to join or do not respond will not be insured by the SAIF scheme moving forward, in this case it is incumbent on the school to ensure they have appropriate cover in place that is no less comprehensive than the local authority scheme.

The insurance service is unable to confirm whether the cost of providing insurance cover as a traded service will be maintained at the levels put forward for the de-delegated approach.

As noted above engineering and motor cover is available outside of the de-delegated arrangement as a traded service.

The local authority preference is for schools to continue to participate in the SAIF scheme and it will not allow schools to procure insurance via any other route than either SAIF or RPA schemes.

#### 4 Outcome from Schools Consultation

A total of 4 out of 38 maintained schools responded to the Schools Consultation; three were primary schools and one was a secondary school.

The responses to the questions are as follows:

Question	Yes	No	Total
Do you agree to de-delegate for Schools Insurance Service in 2024-25?	4	0	4
If yes do you agree for the schools insurance service de-delegation charge rate of £22.48 per pupil plus the additional mandatory traded service charge for engineering cover and engineering inspection?	4	0	4
If no do you agree to the service being provided as a traded service for all settings with no guarantee on cost?	1	3	4
If no is your school purchasing via the RPA at a premium of £0.52 per pupil higher than the SAIF scheme offered by the Local Authority?	1	3	4

#### 5 Recommendations for Schools Forum

The Schools Forum are asked to note the available purchasing options for insurance:

Option 1 - The Schools Forum agree the de-delegation of the service to primary and secondary schools at £22.48 per pupil with the provision available to other types of school as a traded service. Schools will also need to buy in the traded elements of the insurance cover, namely Engineering, Motor and Occasional Business use.

Option 2 – The Schools Forum refuse the de-delegation of the service to primary and secondary schools at £22.48 per pupil and the provision of insurance cover through the local authority will become a traded service for all settings with no guarantee on cost.

Option 3 - Schools purchase via the RPA at a premium of £0.52 per pupil higher than the SAIF scheme offered by the Local Authority.

It is the authority's recommendation that the Schools Forum agree the de-delegation of primary and secondary schools with a traded service to nursery and special schools.

#### 6 Next steps

Following the vote by the Schools Forum, whether the service is de-delegated or offered on a traded basis, Insurance Service will contact all schools to collect the information required by underwriters to renew the cover with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

If the service is de-delegated this process will pick up the requirements of schools in terms of the optional motor covers.

Once terms are confirmed by the insurer Insurance Services will contact all schools to advise of the premiums for each area of cover as follows:

- Package (per pupil element)
- Engineering cover (mandatory with package)
- Engineering inspection (mandatory with package)
- Motor (optional)
- Occasional Business Use (optional cover relating to Staff Business Use of personal vehicles)

Schools using the traded service will need to confirm their purchasing decision upon receipt of a quotation.

Assuming de-delegation is agreed primary and secondary schools receiving quotations for motor and occasional business cover will need to confirm their purchasing decision.

## **7 Financial implications**

The Schools Forum is asked to note that the cover provided by the local authority is comparable to the RPA and offered at a lower price saving £0.52 per pupil.

## **8 Risks**

The Schools Forum is asked to note that the market for school insurance cover is very limited.

Should continued use of the SAIF scheme decline insurers may decide to withdraw from the market which is likely to lead to the Local Authority being unable to offer an alternative to the RPA scheme therefore removing choice and competitive pricing.

### **Report Author:**

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Items 13 & 14

#### Growth Fund and Falling Rolls NFF 2024 -25

## 1 Background

Included within the Schools Block allocation is an amount for growth funding, which since 2019-20 has been formula driven. The formula allocates growth funding based on the differences between the primary and secondary numbers on roll in Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) in the local authority between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. This will fluctuate from year to year and is difficult to estimate.

Latest estimates of number on roll indicate the growth funding allocation for 2024-25 will be around £3.3m. The actual allocation will not be announced until December.

This report updates school forum members of the Growth Fund spend to date and the NFF Growth Fund and Falling Roll Pupils formula update for 2024-25.

## 2 Growth Fund Update 2023-24

2.1 The table presented below details the cumulative expenditure for Growth Fund in North Northamptonshire, categorised by region:

	Primary	Secondary
Corby	£ 66,116.00	£ 106,091.00
Kettering	£ 23,268.00	£ 189,625.00
Wellingborough	£ 79,859.00	£ 161,248.00
	<u>£ 169,243.00</u>	<u>£ 456,964.00</u>

### 2.2 Criteria

Growth Funding need to be set in agreement with Schools Forum and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the fund is for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies.

NNC undertook a consultation with members to agree the Growth Funding Criteria. The outcome of this consultation is 83% for the criteria and 16% against. The Grant Determination will be announced at the end of December.

### 2.3 Recommendation

We Recommend that the Criteria is set as part of the working party in January together with the Falling Rolls Criteria.

### 3. Falling Rolls 2024-25 Update

3.1 As outlined previously the DFE have introduced a Falling Roll Fund. The DFE are funding the Falling Rolls Fund based on the forecasted pupil numbers. The Determination for the falling rolls will be made at the end of December. NNC consulted members on this last month and the outcome is supportive of the Falling rolls criteria but by a narrow margin at 44% against and 55% in favour. On this basis we are recommending that a working party is established to determine the criteria in the New Year.

*Please note the full consultation outputs can be found elsewhere in the information pack.*

### 4. Legal implications

4.1 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 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

5 For further information on the legislature for deductions please see [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

### 6. Risks

6.1 If Pupil Growth Fund is not established for 2024-25, 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.

6.2 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:

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Agenda Item 15

#### Outcome of the Schools Forum Consultation Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy 2024-25

## 1 Background

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of the LA to clawback funding from schools and academies that permanently exclude pupils
- 1.2 The permanent exclusion clawback policy was brought to Schools Forum in October 2023 to ask for schools views and to raise awareness of the issue.
- 1.3 This paper shares the outcome of the consultation but ultimately as a LA we are constrained to follow the legislation discussed and agreed to consulted on in October 2023
- 1.4 To agree in line with the outcome of the consultation and the legislation to continue with the permanent exclusion clawback policy as discussed at the NNC Schools Forum on October 23 until such time as the legislation changes.

## 2 Main report section or sections

### 2.1 Legislation

[The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

#### ***Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion, DFE, 2017***

The Government have produced a summary of the legislation for permanent exclusions which is available on gov.uk the following are extracts from that document:

181. The local authority cannot require a maintained school or academy to make any additional payments following a permanent exclusion, other than the budget share deductions set out in regulations, or the payments which an academy has to make under its funding agreement.
183. A local authority may ask an academy trust to enter into an arrangement for the transfer of funding for a pupil who has been permanently excluded, on the same basis as if the academy were a maintained school. The academy trust may be obliged under its funding agreement to comply with such a request.

### **Pupils permanently excluded from, or leaving, maintained schools**

37.—(1) Where a pupil is permanently excluded from a school maintained by a local authority (other than a special school, a pupil referral unit, or a place which the authority has reserved for children with special educational needs) (“the excluding school”) the authority must redetermine the excluding school’s budget share in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) The excluding school’s budget share must be reduced by  $A \times (B / 52) + C$  where—

(a) A is the amount determined by the authority in accordance with this Part that would be attributable to a pupil of the same age and personal circumstances as the pupil in question at primary or secondary schools maintained by the authority for the full funding period;

(b) B is either—

(i) the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date; or  
(ii) where the permanent exclusion takes effect on or after 1st April in a school year at the end of which pupils of the same age, or age group, as the pupil in question normally leave that school before being admitted to another school with a different pupil age range, the number of complete weeks remaining in that school year calculated from the relevant date; and

(c)  $C$  is the amount of the adjustment made to the school's budget share under a financial adjustment order.

(3) Where a pupil has been permanently excluded from the excluding school and is admitted to another school maintained by a local authority (other than a special school, a pupil referral unit, or to a place which the authority has reserved for children with special educational needs) ("the admitting school") in the funding period, the authority must redetermine the admitting school's budget share in accordance with paragraphs (4) and (5).

(4) The admitting school's budget share must be increased by an amount which is not less than  $D \times (E / F)$  where—

(a)  $D$  is the amount by which the authority reduced the budget share of the excluding school, or would have reduced the budget share if that school had been maintained by the authority, except that any reduction in the excluding school's budget share made under a financial adjustment order must not be taken into account for these purposes;

(b)  $E$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is a pupil at the admitting school; and

(c)  $F$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

(5) In redetermining the admitting school's budget share, the authority may increase it by any amount up to the amount of the adjustment made to the excluding school's budget share under a financial adjustment order.

(6) Where a permanently excluded pupil is subsequently reinstated by the governing body of the school, the school's budget share must be increased by an amount which is no less than  $G \times (H / I)$  where—

(a)  $G$  is the amount by which the authority reduced the school's budget share under paragraph (2);

(b)  $H$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is reinstated; and

(c)  $I$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

(7) Paragraphs (1) and (2) also apply where a pupil leaves a maintained school (other than a special school, a pupil referral unit, or a place which the authority has reserved for children with special educational needs) for reasons other than permanent exclusion and is receiving education funded by a local authority other than at a school which is maintained by that authority.

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(a), the amount attributable to a pupil is the sum of the amounts determined in accordance with the authority's formula, by reference to pupil numbers rather than by reference to any other factor or criterion not dependent on pupil numbers except that where a sixth form grant is payable in respect of the pupil in question, the amount attributable to that pupil in the funding period is £4,542 in respect of the period within the funding period up to and including 31st July 2023 or £4,642 in respect of the period within the funding period beginning on 1st August 2023.

(9) Where a pupil in respect of whom a pupil premium is payable has been permanently excluded from a school maintained by a local authority (“the excluding school”), the local authority must redetermine the excluding school’s budget share in accordance with paragraph (10).

(10) The excluding school’s budget share must be reduced by  $J \times (K / 52)$  where—

(a)  $J$  is the amount of the pupil premium allocated to the excluding school for the funding period in respect of that child; and

(b)  $K$  is either—

(i) the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date; or

(ii) where the permanent exclusion takes effect on or after 1st April in a school year at the end of which pupils of the same age, or age group, as the pupil in question normally leave that school before being admitted to another school with a different pupil age range, the number of complete weeks remaining in that school year calculated from the relevant date.

(11) Where a pupil in respect of whom a pupil premium is payable has been permanently excluded from a school maintained by a local authority and admitted to another school maintained by a local authority (“the admitting school”) in the funding period, the authority must redetermine the budget share of the admitting school in accordance with paragraph (12).

(12) The admitting school’s budget share must be increased by an amount which is not less than  $L \times (M / N)$  where—

(a)  $L$  is the amount by which the authority reduced the budget share of the excluding school or would have reduced the budget share had that school been maintained by the authority;

(b)  $M$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is a pupil at the admitting school; and

(c)  $N$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

(13) Where a permanently excluded pupil in respect of whom a pupil premium is payable is subsequently reinstated by the governing body of the school, the school’s budget share must be increased by an amount which is no less than  $O \times (P / Q)$  where—

(a)  $O$  is the amount by which the authority reduced the school’s budget share under paragraph (10);

(b)  $P$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is reinstated; and

(c)  $Q$  is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

(14) Paragraphs (9) and (10) also apply where a pupil in respect of whom a pupil premium is payable leaves a maintained school for reasons other than permanent exclusion and is receiving education funded by a local authority other than at a school which is maintained by that authority.

(15) For the purposes of this regulation—

(a) “the relevant date” is the sixth school day following the date on which the pupil has been permanently excluded; and

(b)“a financial adjustment order” means an order for the adjustment of a school’s budget share made under regulation 25(5)(b) of the School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>(1)</sup> in respect of the exclusion of the pupil from the excluding school.

### **3. Outcome of the Consultation**

- In response to the question of “Do you agree to the permanent exclusion clawback policy 24-25” Schools voted 15 to 3 in favour.

#### **Proposed Policy**

- To continue to align the LA policy with current legislation and government guidance with respect to funding clawback for pupils who are permanently excluded..

### **4. Recommendations for Schools Forum**

For Schools forum to agree to the policy in line with the outcome of the consultation and the requirements of the legislation.

### **5. Next steps**

- To implement the policy.

### **6. Financial implications**

The money the local clawback is used to support pupils in Alternative Provision. The cost of Alternative Provision in 2022-23 was £1,411,487

### **7 Legal implications**

7.1 Legal implications are discussed above as the paper is about aligning practices with the legislation for permanent exclusion budget clawbacks from schools and academies.

### **8 Risks**

8.1 If schools forum not agreed with the proposed changes to the policy LA is not adhering with legislation

### **Report Author:**

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Officer title: Assistant Director



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum 14 December 2023

Agenda Item 16

**2024-25 EARLY YEARS BUDGETS - INDICATIVE ALLOCATION**

This report provides information on initial 2024/25 proposed early years budgets announced in November 2023 by the DFE and the methodology for allocating funding to providers.

**FOR DECISION**

## 1. Introduction

North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is required to consult with Schools Forum on the proposed arrangements for the Early Years Funding Formula for Private, Voluntary, and independent settings (PVI), Childminders and Maintained Nursery Sector (MNS) funded providers.

1.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published initial proposed 2024-25 early years budgets in November 2023. These budgets are currently based on the January 2023 census.

1.2 Budgets for 2024-25 will be further updated during 2024-25 to take account of more recent census data once this is available.

1.3 By April 2024, working parents will be able to claim 15 hours of free childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year, for eligible 2 year old children. This increases to include eligible children from 9 months old from September 2024. From September 2025 this increases to 30 hours of free childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year for eligible children from 9 months old to school age.

1.4 The 2024-2025 proposed budget has been updated by the ESFA to reflect the two additional cohorts of funded children. Detailed in **Table 1**

## 2. 2024-25 Indicative Early Years Block Funding

2.1 The Department for Education (DFE) published the 2024-25 Indicative Early Years Block Funding Allocation in November 2023 and is set out in **Appendix A**.

2.4 **Appendix A** illustrates the change between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

## 3. North Northamptonshire Council's Early Years National Funding Formula Consultation

3.1 In December 2023 North Northamptonshire will be consulting with the Early Years Sector on the proposed changes to the EYNFF funding formula upon which the DfE are consulting nationally.

3.2 The main purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of providers in setting the 2024-25 funding rates as well as determining take up of the new funding offer for children aged 9 months and above and 30 hours extended entitlement funding for eligible 2 year olds.

3.3 The outcome of the consultation with LA comments will be brought to Schools Forum January 2024.

#### 4. North Northamptonshire Proposed 2024-25 Early Years Block Budget

4.1 **Appendix C** sets out the Proposed 2024-25 Early Years Block Budget for North Northamptonshire Council.

4.2 The proposed rates for the different funding streams are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – North Northamptonshire Proposed 2024-25 Early Years Funding Rates**

<b>NNC Budgets - £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Funding</b>	<b>2023/24 Funding</b>	<b>Change</b>
Extended Entitlement (Children from 9 months) Base Rate – 15 hrs <b>From September 2024</b>	<b>£9.62 per hour</b>	NA	<b>£9.62 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (Children from 9 months) <b>Deprivation Supplement – 15 hrs From September 2024</b>	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>	NA	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>
Disadvantaged 2YO Entitlement Base Rate – 15 hrs. <b>Deprivation Supplement not included</b>	<b>£7.62 per hour</b>	£5.75 per hour	<b>£1.87 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (2YO) Base Rate – 15 hrs <b>From April 2024</b>	<b>£6.75 per hour</b>	NA	<b>£6.75 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (2YO) <b>Deprivation Supplement – 15 hrs From April 2024</b>	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>	NA	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>
Universal Entitlement (3/4YO) Base Rate – 15 hrs	<b>£4.85 per hour</b>	£4.22 per hour	<b>£0.63 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (3/4YO) Base Rate – 30 hrs	<b>£4.85 per hour</b>	£4.22 per hour	<b>£0.63 per hour</b>
Notional SEN (Reduction is reflected in increase in SENIF funding)	<b>£0</b>	£0.03 per hour	<b>-£0.03 per hour</b>
EYNFF (3/4YO) Deprivation Supplement	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>	£0.31 per hour	<b>£0 per hour</b>
EYNFF (3/4YO) TPPG for Schools and Academies only – 15 hrs	<b>£0.05 per hour</b>	£0.05 per hour	<b>£0 per hour</b>
Early Years Pupil Premium (3/4YO) Rate – 15 hrs	<b>£0.68 per hour</b>	£0.62 per hour	<b>£0.06 per hour</b>
Disability Access Fund (3/4YO)	<b>£910 per Child per year</b>	£828.00 per Child per year	<b>£82 per Child per year</b>
Maintained Nursery Supplement (3/4YO) including TPPG – 15 hrs	<b>£6.23 per hour</b>	£5.31 per hour	<b>£0.92 per hour</b>



SENIF Funding for Low and Emerging Needs	<b>On Application</b>	On Application	<b>Not change</b>
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### **3 & 4 Year old Funding**

- 4.4 The DFE confirmed that North Northamptonshire Council’s Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 3 & 4 year olds funding rate will increase from £4.93 to £5.47 in 2024-25. The EYNFF rate is multiplied by the total number of children expected to access 15 or 30-hours free childcare across the local authority area to produce the universal and working family entitlement budgets.
- 4.5 Local authorities are required to pass at least 95% of their funding from Government to early years providers to deliver the funding entitlements. This is referred to as the hourly ‘pass-through’ rate.
- 4.6 Local authorities can retain 5% of their funding from the Government to support the provision of central early years related services (£1,766,214.35).
- 4.7 From the remaining 95% funding budgets are then set aside for:
- EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Universal Entitlement Base Rate per hour
  - EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Additional Entitlement Base Rate per hour
  - EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Notional SEN Rate per hour
  - EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Deprivation Supplement Rate per hour
  - EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) TPPG for Schools and Academies only
  - SEN Inclusion Fund - 3 & 4 Year Olds (Mandatory) - Funding allocated from EY Block
  - 2 year old entitlement Disadvantaged Entitlement base rate per hour
  - 2 year old entitlement Extended Entitlement base rate per hour
  - 2 year old entitlement Deprivation extended entitlement working parents
  - Under 2 Year old Base Rate
  - Under 2 Year old Deprivation

### **2 year old funding**

- 4.8 The proposed 2024-25 budget for Disadvantaged 2 year olds has changed from a flat rate to forming part of the National Funding Formula in line with the DFE’s national rate rise from £5.75 to £7.84.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund**

- 4.9 Budgets for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), Disability Access Fund (DAF) shown in **Table 1** above are ringfenced and therefore excluded from the above hourly rate calculations. EYPP has increased by £0.06p per hour and DAF has increased by £82.00 per child per year for 2024-25. These budgets are also intended to support provision for 3 to 4-year olds only.

## **Maintained Nursery School Supplement**

- 4.10 There has been an increase in MNS funding for NNC as detailed in **Table 1**. This increase will be reflected in payments to Maintained Nurseries only. Maintained Nurseries Teachers Pay and Pension Grant is allocated part of the Maintained Nursery School Supplement funding rate.

## **5. Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)**

- 5.1 Given the anticipated increase in emerging needs for children born during the pandemic and to ensure that needs are identified as early as possible we will continue to use these funds to support funded 2-year-olds with SEND.
- 5.2 SENIF funding is intended as a contribution towards supporting providers to address the needs of individual and groups of children with low level and emerging We propose to remove the remaining 3p notional SEND payment to make a total of £300,000 as the overall amount available for SENIF funding in 2024-25. This will enable settings to apply for funding for more children ensuring their needs are met at the earliest opportunity. SENIF detail forms part of the 2023 Early Years Consultation with a view to expanding current criteria required.
- 5.3 The current High Needs Block Funding support and processes will remain for severe/complex and long-term need, for example children with an EHCP who require additional resources including targeted adult support we will be introducing SENIF Plus for funded children whose needs are not currently met by SENIF or EHCP funding.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the funding and methodology used to arrive at the budgets and indicative hourly rates of the Early Years Block budgets in 2024-25 as set out in **Appendix A and B**.
- 6.2 Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the budget set aside for SENIF and acknowledge the removal of Notional SEND to support settings to receive a swift response and access to funds ensuring children with low and emerging needs are supported quickly and that more children can be supported appropriately.
- 6.3 Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the change in NNC's EYNFF to include the two additional cohorts of funded children. Detailed in **Table 1**
- 6.4 Schools Forum is asked to approve the following funding rates and levels of funding for 2024-25 Detailed in Appendix B:

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**Background Papers:**

**Appendix A:** DFE 2024-25 Early Years Block Initial Allocation – **29 November 2023**

**Appendix B:** NNC 2024-2025 Indicative Early Years Block Budget

DRAFT

## DFE 2024/25 Early Years Block Initial Allocation – 29 November 2023

### Proposed 2024-25 Early Years Block Budget

Description	2024-25 Rate	2024-25 Indicative Early Years Block Budget	% allocated
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Universal Entitlement Base Rate per hour	£4.85	£13,197,612.42	59.74%
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Additional Entitlement Base Rate per hour	£4.85	£6,389,422.98	28.92%
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Notional SEN Rate per hour	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Deprivation Supplement Rate per hour	£0.31	£799,363.30	3.62%
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) TPPG for Schools and Academies only	£0.05	£300,000.00	1.36%
SEN Inclusion Fund - 3 & 4 Year Olds (Mandatory) - Funding allocated from EY Block		£300,000.00	1.36%
95% EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) paid to Providers		£20,986,398.70	95.00%
5% EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Centrally Retained by NNC		£1,104,547.30	5.00%
<b>Total 3 &amp; 4 year old Funding</b>		<b>£22,090,946.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
2 year old entitlement Disadvantaged Entitlement base rate per hour	£7.62	£2,503,970.10	28.19%
2 year old entitlement Extended Entitlement base rate per hour	£6.75	£5,430,707.78	61.13%
2 year old entitlement Deprivation extended entitlement working parents	£0.31	£505,056.57	5.69%
95% 2 Year Old		£8,439,734.45	95.00%
5% 2 Year Old Centrally Retained by NNC		£444,196.55	5.00%
<b>Total 2 Year Old Funding</b>		<b>£8,883,931.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under 2 Year old Base Rate	£9.62	£3,921,398.68	90.16%
Under 2 Year old Deprivation	£0.31	£210,540.82	4.84%
95% Under 2 Year Old		£4,131,939.50	95.00%
5% Under 2 Year Old Centrally Retained by NNC		£217,470.50	5.00%
<b>Total Under 2 Year Old Funding</b>		<b>£4,349,410.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Early Years Pupil Premium per hour	£0.68	£211,501.94	
Disability Access Fund per child per year	£910.00	£138,320.00	
Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary Funding including TPPG	£6.23	£1,221,153.00	
<b>2023-24 Indicative Early Years Block Budget</b>		<b>£36,895,261.94</b>	

### NNC 2024-2025 Indicative Early Years Block Provider Funding Rates

NNC Indicative 2024-25 Early Years Funding Rates	2024-25 Rate
Extended Entitlement (Children from 9 months) Base Rate – 15 hrs From September 2024	<b>£9.62 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (Children from 9 months) Deprivation Supplement – 15 hrs From September 2024	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>
Disadvantaged 2YO Entitlement Base Rate – up to 15 hrs	<b>£7.62 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (2YO) Base Rate – 15 hrs From April 2024	<b>£6.75 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (2YO) Deprivation Supplement – 15 hrs From April 2024	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>
Universal Entitlement (3/4YO) Base Rate – up to 15 hrs	<b>£4.85 per hour</b>
Extended Entitlement (3/4YO) Base Rate – up to an extra 15 hrs	<b>£4.85 per hour</b>
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) Deprivation Supplement for eligible pupils	<b>£0.31 per hour</b>
Notional SEND	<b>£0 per hour</b>
EYNFF (3 & 4 year olds) for Schools and Academies TPPG – up to 15 hrs	<b>£0.05 per hour</b>
SEN Inclusion Fund	<b>On Application</b>
Early Years Pupil Premium (3/4YO) Base Rate – up to 15 hrs	<b>£0.68 per hour</b>
Disability Access Fund (3/4YO)	<b>£910.00 per child per year</b>
Maintained Nursery Supplement (3/4YO) including TPPG – up to 15 hrs	<b>£6.23</b>

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: (date)

### Agenda Item 17

#### Notional SEND

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The Notional SEN Allocation is an indicative amount that should be sufficient for the reasonable costs that may be incurred by schools in supporting pupils with SEND. As per the attached guidance, schools should understand how the amount has been calculated and when it might be appropriate to seek additional resources.

[The notional SEN budget for mainstream schools: operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## 2 Main report section or sections

- 2.1 DfE have identified that in some cases schools the call on a school's Notional SEND budget is significantly greater than the funding available. This can be because the school is particularly inclusive, has low pupils numbers or is growing. In response to this, LAs in consultation with the School's Forum can opt to implement an additional allocation to make up this shortfall.
- 2.2 In order to calculate this additional funding, it would be reasonable to expect that up to 80% of the Notional SEN Budget be utilised to meet the first £6,000pa of provision for students with an EHCP (with the remaining 20% for general SEN). If this approach were taken in NNC for 2023/24, four schools have been identified four schools additional resources would be allocated as set out in 6.1 below.
- 2.3 Given the pressure on schools as a result of the increasing number of EHCPs, NNC would support the implementation of a Notional SEND Sufficiency factor on the basis set out above.

## 3 Future options

- 3.1 There are no plans to revise the Notional SEN calculation used locally, however, national changes may have to be reflected in the operation of this factor in future years.

## 4 Consultation Response

- 4.1 Eighteen schools submitted a response to the consultation. These were made up as follows; one maintained secondary, four maintained primary, three secondary academy, nine primary academy and one special academy.
- 4.2 Of the eighteen responses received, seventeen were in favour of the proposal, with one maintained secondary school not agreeing. The school not in agreement raised concerns about the appropriateness of the formula in relation to larger schools given the size of the notional SEND budget and the pressures on this to meet non EHCP pupils needs.

## 5 Recommendations for Schools Forum

- 5.1 Based on the consultation responses received above, the Forum is asked to consider the proposal as set out below.
- 5.2 On the placement of an EHCP pupil in a school, a calculation will be made to assess whether 80% of Notional SEND is sufficient to meet the £6,000 initial funding. Where this is not the case, a payment will be made to cover this shortfall.

5.2 Example: No of EHCP's = 5 x £6,000 = £30,000

Notional SEN = £25,000

80% for EHCP = £20,000

Shortfall against expected £6k spend = £10,000

## 6 Next steps

6.1 If Schools Forum agree to fund the shortfall as identified for the four schools identified in 23/24 and any schools in future years, this additional top up will be paid from the High Needs Block.

## 7 Financial implications

7.1 The schools / costs relating to 2023/24:

NAME	Current No of EHCP's	Notional SEN	80% Notional SEN	£6k Spend Expectation	Notional SEN Shortfall
Windmill Primary School	22	£128,553	£102,843	£132,000	-£29,157
Great Doddington Primary School	7	£47,355	£37,884	£42,000	-£4,116
Mears Ashby Church of England Primary school	5	£24,514	£19,611	£30,000	-£10,389
Stanton Cross Primary School	5	£20,209	£16,167	£30,000	-£13,833
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-£57,495</b>

## 8 Legal implications

8.1 This proposal is in line with DfE regulations relating to Notional SEND funding.

## 9 Risks

9.1 Without additional financial support, the pressure on provision of SEN resources significantly increases.

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## Joint Commissioning Proposal for Securing Speech and Language Therapy Services – Education Health and Care Plan Section F Provision

Discussions regarding the joint commissioning of Speech and Language Therapy services have been held between current lead representatives from North Northants and West Northants Councils, together with the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board. Historically, talks between the councils and Health on this issue have been ongoing for a significant period and pre-date the local government reorganisation. Progressing with joint commissioning would help to address this unsustainable situation and allow health investment to focus on delivering the EHC needs assessment process. It would also support the improvement of outcomes for children and young people.

There is universal agreement between all parties on a number of points:

1. Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board commission the NHS Speech and Language Therapy service which undertakes assessments and provides the advice for the Education, Health, and Care (EHC) needs assessment process. The Speech and Language Therapy service is provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.
2. Speech and Language Therapy provision is health provision that educates and trains, and therefore is included in Part F of the Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). The responsibility for securing Special Education Needs (SEN) provision outlined in Part F rests with the local authority. **(See Appendix A for statutory duties)**
3. Historically the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board commissioned Speech and Language Therapy service has delivered the provision in Part F of EHC Plans. However, due to a combination of factors this service is now under unprecedented pressure and is not able to consistently deliver this. To this end the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board is not able to use its currently funded service to support the delivery of EHCP Part F provision, beyond March 31st, 2024.

4. National Health Service England in the East Midlands region have commissioned Better Communication Community Interest Company to undertake a series of regional workshops. These were entitled 'Achieving Impactful Change for children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs'. As a result of this work, data was shared which showed children and young people within North and West Northamptonshire have access to the lowest level of Speech and Language Therapy support within the East Midland Region, taking into account predicted population need. Interrogation of this data shows that Northamptonshire has a very low percentage of jointly commissioned Speech and Language Therapy provision when compared to other areas.
  
5. Commissioning Speech and Language Therapy services for EHCP Part F from the current provider, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT), would provide consistency and continuity of services to children and young people and achieve the best outcomes for them. **(See Appendix B for Joint Commissioning costings).**

Progress will be monitored through the SEND and Short Breaks Programme of the refreshed CYP Transformation Programme, and regular updates provided to the Children and Young People's Transformation Partnership Board.

## **Appendix A - Statutory duties for securing EHCP Part F SEN provision**

1. An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) is separated into twelve parts which detail the education, health and social care needs and provision necessary to meet a child or young person's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
2. The description of the child or young person's special educational needs go into Section B. The LA is responsible for securing the provision to meet those needs which are detailed in Section F of the EHCP (See s42(2) Children and Families Act 2014)
3. [Para 9.73 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states that 'Health or social care provision which educates or trains a child or young person must be treated as special educational provision and included in Section F of the EHC plan'.
4. [Para 9.74 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states 'since communication is so fundamental in education, addressing speech and language impairment should normally be recorded as special educational provision unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so'.
5. [Para 9.76 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states that 'In cases where health care provision or social care provision is to be treated as special educational provision, ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the provision is made rests with the local authority'.

## **Appendix B – Joint commissioning costings for securing Speech and Language Therapy provision outlined in Part F of Education Health and Care Plans**

The below costings are based on prescribed Speech and Language Therapy interventions within current EHC Plans open on the Speech and Language Therapy caseload of **1220** in total as of March 2023. The trend for requests for assessment is upwards.

The prescribed interventions from Speech and Language Therapy staff would include the provision of the following direct and indirect work based on definitions in the current advice templates used by the Speech and Language Therapy Team.

1. **Direct Provision** – anything the therapist needs to do to support the child to meet the outcomes on the EHCP
  - Annual Review / Assessment / Intervention / Therapy
  - Home Visits
  - Direct 1:1s with child
  - Target setting
  - Liaison with parents
  - Liaison with school staff
  - New referral processing
  - Liaison with wider professionals
  - Coaching for staff/parents
  - Training for education staff on specific interventions and approaches as prescribed
  - Report writing
  
2. **Indirect Provision** – **provided by** the key adults supporting the child daily, specific to supporting their speech language and communication needs.
  - Advice to Education to access appropriate external training courses. (therapist)
  - Administration relating to advices. Please note the item below is included in the template as indirect provision but is not provided by the therapist.
  - Provision of support by key adults in the child's everyday communication environment - outlined by the therapist in the EHCP.
  - The Speech and Language therapist will provide progress information that will feed in to the EHCP Annual Review

## Costings to commence within 2024/25

Recurrent funding agreement to enable the recruitment and retention of substantive staff. This option provides a sustainable solution and is likely to deliver the most rapid recruitment rates. These arrangements will be jointly evaluated and reviewed during the 2024/2025 period.

Staff Pay		
Role	WTE Required	Annual Staff Cost from Q1 24/25 <small>(Inc. on-costs, based on 23/24 Agenda for Change pay-scales)</small>
Band 7 Speech Therapist	1	£57,495.00
Band 6 Speech Therapist	2	£93,375.00
Band 5 Speech Therapist	2	£75,984.72
Band 4 Technical Instructor	4.6	£156,138.17
<b>Direct Clinical Delivery TOTAL</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>£382,992.89</b>
Band 3 Administrator	0.6	£17,813.95
<b>Support TOTAL</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>£17,813.95</b>
<b>Staff Pay TOTAL</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>£400,806.84</b>
<b>Non-Pay</b>		
	Mobile Phones	£4,800
	Travel	£20,040
	EBITDA (14%)	£59,590.61
	<b>Non-Pay TOTAL</b>	<b>£84,430.61</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£485,237.45</b>

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# Agenda Item 19

## **Briefing note for Schools Forum 12 December**

### **This only applies for Community/Voluntary Controlled School and Local Authority Nurseries**

North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) are currently undertaking a Pay and Grading review to implement a new pay and grading structure and terms and conditions. This is because NNC was formed out of five councils in April 2021 and as a new entity it needs to have its own pay and grading arrangements. At the moment, there is a 'hybrid' system in place from the previous councils which is unsustainable.

This project has been progressing since 2021 and is now reaching implementation stage in early 2024. Therefore, it is at a point where we need to now consider how the implementation of this project might impact non-teaching employees in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and nurseries. That is our staff on Green Book terms and conditions whose employer is NNC.

Although we are at the very early stages of considering this, we are keen to engage with you at the earliest possible opportunity and will be inviting Heads from the Community/Voluntary Controlled schools to an online (Teams) meeting in January to brief you on the project and to discuss a way forward.

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