

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Thursday 4 November 2021, 2.00pm

Remote meeting via Zoom

**Raj Sohal is dealing with this Agenda:**

Tel. 07500 607949 E-mail: rajvir.sohal@northnorthants.gov.uk

## AGENDA

**\*Vote required**

Item No	Subject	Page No	Responsible Officer
1 5 mins	Apologies for non-attendance, Forum membership changes and declarations of interest	--	Raj Sohal
2 10 mins	Minutes of meeting held on 22 July 2021 and points arising/officer feedback	5-10	Chair
3 10 mins	2022-23 National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs  Attachments:  DFE Slide – Schools NFF 2022-23  DFE Slide – Schools Revenue Funding 2022-23  DFE Slide – NNDR 2022-23	11-80	Yoke O’Brien
4* 30 mins	2022-23 NNC Schools Funding Consultation  Appendix A – Proposed Consultation Document  Appendix B – Summary Finance Models based on the Proposed Consultation	81-96	AnnMarie Dodds

5* 15 mins	LA Commissioned Outreach Services	97-102	AnnMarie Dodds
6 10 mins	Split Site Funding Policy	103-106	Chris Wickens
7 10 mins	Pupil Growth Fund	107-112	Chris Wickens
8 10 mins	Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy	113-118	Imtiaz Bhatti
9 10 mins	Central School Services Block	119-122	AnnMarie Dodds
10 10 mins	De-delegation for Trade Union Facility Time	123-128	Helen Hudson
11 10 mins	De-delegation for School Effectiveness	129-132	Jo Hutchinson
12 10 mins	De-delegation for Redundancy Costs	133-136	AnnMarie Dodds
13 10 mins	Early Years Verbal Update	--	AnnMarie Dodds
14 10 mins	Remote Meetings	137-142	Raj Sohal
15 10 mins	Schools Forum Plan	143-150	Raj Sohal
16 10 mins	Urgent Business	--	All

Raj Sohal  
Secretary

Future Meeting Dates:

- 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **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, except for PVI representatives; and
- c) retaining funding for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only is limited to maintained primary, secondary, special and PRU 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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# Agenda Item 2

## MINUTES OF THE NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021, 2.00PM

### Present:

#### Members:

Sandra Appleby (SA)	David Ross Education Trust
James Birkett, Chair (JB)	Wollaston School
Rob Hardcastle (RH)	Hatton Academies Trust
Pat Kelly (PK)	Millbrook Infant School
Cath Kitchen (CK)	Hospital and Outreach Education
Angela Prodger (AP)	Pen Green Nursery
Paul Wheeler (PW)	East Midlands Academy Trust

#### NCC Officers:

Hawa Bedwa (HB)	Dedicated Schools Grant Officer
Pauline Brennan (PB)	Democratic Services Officer
Tony Challinor (TC)	Assistant Director, Commissioning & Partnerships
Ann Marie Dodds (AMD)	Assistant Director for Education
Cathi Hadley (CH)	Director of Children's Services
Helen Hudson (HH)	HR Policy & Projects Advisor
Nicky McLoughlin	HR Policy & Projects Team Manager
Kelly Mills (KM)	Information & Support Team Manager
Paula Schofield (PS)	Senior Learning and Development Advisor
Raj Sohal (RS)	Democratic Services Officer
Cathryn Walker (CW)	Schools Support Team Manager

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE, FORUM MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Laura Clarke, Councillor Scott Edwards, Peter Leaver, Joanne Sanchez-Thompson and Ron Whittaker.

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum ratified the vote previously held by the Northamptonshire Schools Forum to appoint James Birkett as chair.

### 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

**RESOLVED that:** The Forum ratified the vote previously held by the Northamptonshire Schools Forum to appoint Paul Wheeler as vice-chair.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD 16 MARCH 2021

**RESOLVED that:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March were agreed as an accurate record.

Action: Raj Sohal

## **5. SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

5.1 CW introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- Local authorities were required to publish schemes for financing schools, which set out the financial relationship between authorities and maintained schools.
- Following the disaggregation of Northamptonshire County Council, the document had been updated and tailored to North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) specifically, using DfE guidance for reference, to ensure compliance.
- The Schools Support Team Manager recommended that the updated document be formally adopted by Forum.

**RESOLVED that: The Forum approved the scheme for financing schools.**

**Action: Cathryn Walker**

## **6. SCHOOLS 2020/21 OUTTURN REPORT**

6.1 HB introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- There had been an error regarding the figures listed in the report, whereby the outturn position for 2019/20 budget had been combined with the position of West Northamptonshire.
- The DSG officer assured the Forum that this would be corrected and circulated to members at a later date, with the correct, amended figures.

**RESOLVED that: The Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Hawa Bedwa**

## **7. 2021/22 GRANT AND DSG BUDGETS UPDATE**

7.1 HB introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- The analysis in the report pertained to the DSG budgets that were presented to the Northamptonshire Schools Forum in January, for authorisation.
- The 2021/22 allocation for the Schools Block was £244M.
- The Forum had agreed to transfer £1.1M to the High Needs block.
- The DSG officer posited that this transfer had placed pressure on the position of the Schools Block and suggested that this transfer should be reduced to allow for a sufficient budget for the Schools Block.
- Another transfer had previously been undertaken for the Central Schools Services Block however, this had remained within budget.

7.2 PW explained that the Schools Forum had previously expressed concern regarding the pressures on the High Needs block. He suggested that a succinct paper be brought to a future meeting, outlining the position of each block and specific pressures; with a formal proposal to vote on. HB agreed that a full analysis would be required before the forum could vote on such a proposal.

**RESOLVED that: The Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Hawa Bedwa**

## **8. SCHOOLS FACILITY TIME ARRANGEMENTS**

8.1 HH introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- Maintained schools across Northamptonshire voted in November 2020 to de-delegate DSG funds into a pooled trade union facility time arrangement for the financial year 2021/22.
- Academy schools joined the 2021/22 pooled arrangements, contributing funds via service level agreement.
- The combined funds had been converted into 11 days per week of facility time and re-distributed amongst the trade unions, who requested facility time to support their members in NNC schools.
- For the period April 21 to March 22, the allocations for use across all schools participating in the pooled arrangement included:
  - GMB - 2 days per week
  - Unison - 2 days per week
  - NEU - 4 days per week
  - NASUWT - 3 days per week

**RESOLVED that: The Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Helen Hudson**

## **9. SCHOOLS APPRENTICE LEVY UPDATE**

9.1 PS introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- Apprenticeships were paid for through the levy account - all maintained schools were under the North Northamptonshire account, to cover apprenticeships.
- The authority had also worked with academies, to encourage mixed cohorts.
- The government provided monetary incentives to promote apprenticeships.
- Apprenticeships could be valuable to fill vacancies, develop talent, increase staff morale and for graduate development etc.

9.2 The Senior Learning and Development Advisor asked the Forum to consider where the greatest need was for apprenticeships: non-teaching, teaching or leadership and left the forum with the following question to consider: “what prevents you from using apprenticeships in your school?”.

9.3 The aim of Learning and Development was to work with Forum members to develop an annual development plan of targeted apprenticeship activity to meet staff and school/service requirements.

**RESOLVED that: That Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Paula Schofield**

## **10. HOSPITAL OUTREACH IN NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

10.1 CK introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- all funding had come from West Northamptonshire, as the head office was located in West Northamptonshire.
- Nevertheless a county-wide service would be provided, with support for pupils with medical and mental health difficulties across North Northamptonshire.
- An advice and guidance line had been established for statutory guidance.
- Information and resources had also been made available on the hospital and outreach website.
- The AV1 project had also been successful for children who were unable to attend school physically, while still participating virtually.

**RESOLVED that: The Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Cath Kitchen**

## **11. REMOTE MEETINGS**

11.1 RS introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- Government guidance allowed for meetings of the Schools Forum to continue to be held virtually.
- There had been a number of advantages of virtual meetings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic including:
  - Increased transparency of meetings, due to YouTube live streaming.
  - Increased attendance, with no issues of quorum.

11.2 Members of the Forum, while agreeing that virtual meetings had worked well, also posited that a return to in-person meetings would be valuable in the near future; pandemic

restrictions permitting. The Forum agreed that it would continue with virtual meetings but would review the possibility of in-person meetings regularly, at the chair's discretion.

**RESOLVED that: The Forum voted to continue with remote meetings, with the possibility of in-person future meetings, at the Chair's discretion.**

**Action: Raj Sohal**

## **12. SCHOOLS FORUM PLAN**

12.1 AMD introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- The next meeting of the North Northamptonshire Schools Forum would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The agenda for this meeting would include items on:
  - Schools Block Combined Services Reports
  - Schools Block 2022-23 central expenditure
  - Primary and Secondary maintained schools de-delegation 2022-23 (SIG, Trade union and school redundancies)
  - School budgets 2022-23 – weighted numbers for new schools/year groups
  - School budgets 2022-23 – PFI utility subsidy
  - High Needs place numbers 2022-23
  - Early Years Update
  - Pupil Growth 2022-23 – projections and 2022-23 rates
  - Schools funding formula 2022-23 – consultation feedback
  - DSG Finance Risk Register

**RESOLVED that: The Forum noted the report.**

**Action: Ann Marie Dodds**

## **13. URGENT BUSINESS**

13.1 There was none.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

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# Agenda Item 3



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

**North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021**

## **Agenda Item 3**

### **2022-23 National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools and High Needs**

#### **1 Background**

1.1 This report sets out:

- Details of the National Funding Formula (NFF) 2022-23 policy publication for schools and high needs
- North Northamptonshire Council's local formulae for school budgets and high needs

#### **2 National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools and High Needs**

2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) published on 20 July an update on the policy paper of the National Funding Formula (NFF) 2022-23 for schools and high needs. Details can be found on [National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs](#).

2.2 Nationally core school funding increased by £2.6bn in 2020-21, £4.8bn in 2021-22 and is increasing by £7.1bn in 2022-23 compared to 2019-20, including significant additional funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities. This is the final year of the three-year funding commitment by the Government.

2.3 The proposed changes for 2022-23 schools funding are as follows:

- a) School funding is increasing by 3.2% overall. The funding is based upon the pupils and cohorts core factors increasing within the formula by 3%, but ensuring every school is allocated at least 2% more funding per pupil.
- b) Sparsity factor in support of small schools and remote schools will increase to £55,000 for primary and £80,000 for all other schools. The calculation or accuracy of this is to identify schools' remoteness by using road distances instead of straight-line distances and using a new distance "taper". This means that schools whose sparsity distance is between 1.6 and 2 miles (for primary schools) or 2.4 and 3 miles (for secondary schools) will now attract some additional funding through the sparsity factor.
- c) Decreasing the funding lag for Free School Meals - Ever 6 (FSM6) deprivation funding factor by 9 months, from using the previous year's January census to the October census.
- d) For the low prior attainment (LPA) factor in the NFF, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) assessments have been used as a proxy for the 2020 assessments, following the cancellation of these

assessments due to the pandemic. This is consistent with how the LPA factor was calculated in local formulae in 2021-22.

- e) Eligibility for the mobility factor is usually determined based on the census in which pupils first appear at their current school. As a result of the cancellation of the May 2020 census, pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 attract funding for mobility based on their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school.
- f) Centralising the business rates payment system for schools, so that ESFA will pay billing authorities directly on behalf of state funded schools.
- g) Local authorities will continue to set a minimum funding guarantee in local formulae, which in 2022-23 must be between +0.5% and +2%.
- h) Local authorities will be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their total Schools Block allocations to other blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with Schools Forum approval. A disapplication will continue to be required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without Schools Forum approval.
- i) High needs funding increasing by 9.6% ensuring that every local authority will receive at least 8% increase per head of population, and up to 11% (capped at 11% on gains). This vital extra resource will continue to help local authorities manage their cost pressures in this area. North Northamptonshire Council is due to receive 8% in 2022-23.
- j) Technical changes to the historic spend factor within the high needs national funding formula was made. The factor has been updated to use 50% of local authorities' actual spend data in 2017-18 rather than their planned spend.

2.4 The slide deck of the DfE presentation on revenue funding policy and National Funding Formulae in 2022-23 is attached to this report.

2.5 A DfE consultation exercise of moving to the hard NFF was published at the start of summer with a closing date 30 September for the consultation. **2022-23 financial year will not be the hard NFF as originally planned.**

[Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fair-school-funding-for-all-completing-our-reforms-to-the-national-funding-formula)

[Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula - Page 1 of 13 - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

### **3 Notional school budgets 2022-23**

3.1 In support of the policy proposals, notional school budget allocations calculated by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have been published on [National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2022 to 2023 - Impact of the schools NFF 2022 to 2023](#) to demonstrate the NFF and additional funding of 2% for 2022-23.



3.2 North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) School Funding Formulae is a locally agreed formula working in collaboration with the LA and School Forum in accordance with the DfE statutory guidelines of implementation of the NFF or hard formula within the timescales. It should be noted that NNC local formula factors and funding rates mirror the NFF apart from:

- Growth fund £0.7M – School Forum approval is required in a separate report on the agenda. Growth have **not** been included within the published notional school budget allocations, plus inclusion and changes of the autumn census 2021.
- NFF funding rates adjusted for Area Cost Adjustment

It should also be noted that the published allocation of school notional budgets 2022-23 is for **illustrative purposes** and not final school budgets 2022-23. The local authority will be calculating school budgets for 2022-23 upon publication of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding settlement in December 2021 as in previous years. School Forum will be approving the school budgets and APT in January 2022.

For transparency and reporting to School Forum, a comparison of funding factor rates and NFF rates is detailed in Table 1 below. The 2021-22 rates were reported in January 2021 when the School Forum approved the NNC formulae. The 2022-23 NFF rates and the proposed 2022-23 NNC rates is detailed below:

**Table 1 – Comparison of NFF funding rates with NNC funding rates in 2021-22 and 2022-23**

NFF Funding Factors	2021-22 NFF rates	2021-22 NNC rates ACA adjusted 1.00328	2022-23 NFF rates	Proposed 2022-23 NNC rates ACA adjusted 1.00329
AWPU-primary (R-Y6) per pupil	£3,123	£3,133	£3,217	£3,228
AWPU-secondary (KS3) per pupil	£4,404	£4,418	£4,536	£4,551
AWPU-secondary (KS4) per pupil	£4,963	£4,979	£5,112	£5,129
FSM (primary/secondary)	£460	£462	£470	£472
FSM6 (primary)	£575	£577	£590	£592
FSM6 (secondary)	£840	£843	£865	£868
IDACI A (primary)	£620	£622	£640	£642
IDACI B (primary)	£475	£477	£490	£492
IDACI C (primary)	£445	£446	£460	£462
IDACI D (primary)	£410	£411	£420	£421
IDACI E (primary)	£260	£261	£270	£271
IDACI F (primary)	£215	£216	£220	£221
IDACI A (secondary)	£865	£868	£890	£893
IDACI B (secondary)	£680	£682	£700	£702
IDACI C (secondary)	£630	£632	£650	£652
IDACI D (secondary)	£580	£582	£595	£597
IDACI E (secondary)	£415	£416	£425	£426
IDACI F (secondary)	£310	£311	£320	£321
Low prior attainment (primary)	£1,095	£1,099	£1,130	£1,134
Low prior attainment (secondary)	£1,660	£1,665	£1,710	£1,716
EAL (primary)	£550	£552	£565	£567
EAL (secondary)	£1,485	£1,490	£1,530	£1,535
Mobility (primary)	£900	£903	£925	£928
Mobility (secondary)	£1,290	£1,294	£1,330	£1,334
Lump sum (both sectors)	£117,800	£118,186	£121,300	£121,699
Sparsity (primary)	£45,000	£45,148	£55,000	£55,181
Sparsity (secondary)	£70,000	£70,230	£80,000	£80,263
PFI (RPIX) %	1.56%	3.00%	tbc	tbc
MFG	-0.015	0.000185	-0.015	

## **4 High Needs NFF 2022-23**

- 4.1 The NFF high needs funding to local authorities will increase by an 8% increase per head of population and capped up to 11% on gains.
- 4.2 Due to recent consultation on the high needs formula the historic spend factor has been updated to use 50% of local authorities' actual spend data from 2017-18 section 251 reporting. In previous years the historic spend factor had been calculated using local authorities planned spend in 2017-18 rather than actual spend. The DfE are looking at alternative proxies to include within the NFF formula and remove the historic factor in future years.
- 4.3 There is no appropriate 2020 attainment data due to Covid-19 to use for two low attainment factors, and after the recent consultation on using 2019 data as a proxy for 2020, this basis for the 2022-23 high needs allocation has been used, the same approach as schools NFF formula.
- 4.4 The hospital education factor will also be uplifted by 8% as in 2021-22.

## **5 Central Schools Services NFF 2022-23**

- 5.1 The central services school block provides funding to local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies.
- 5.2 The block comprises of two elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments and funding will continue for 2022-23.

## **6 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 6.1 Schools Forum are asked to note the proposed changes to the 2022-23 National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools and High Needs.

## **7 Next steps**

- 7.1 The LA will go out to consultation with schools for 4 weeks from 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021. Schools are encouraged to participate in this consultation with the content of this report in mind so that Schools Forum can make the appropriate decisions at the December 2021 meeting.

## **8 Financial implications**

- 8.1 Schools need to be aware of all the latest proposed changes made by the DfE so that they can influence the decisions made by Schools Forum.

## **9 Legal implications**

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

## **10 Risks**

- 10.1 There's the risk that the wrong financial decision is made by Schools Forum. There is also the risk that decisions made could be ultra vires.

**Report Author:**

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Officer title: Strategic Finance Business Partner – Children Services

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# Revenue funding policy and National Funding Formulae in 2022-23

**Presentation for local authority finance officers**

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Page 17

Appendix



Department  
for Education

# Agenda

- **Section 1:** High Needs update
- **Section 2:** Overview of Schools NFF in 2022-23
  - Factor values changes
  - Sparsity changes – move to road distance
  - Minor technical changes: FSM6, LPA & Mobility
  - Direct Formula
- **Section 3:** CSSB
- **Section 4:** Early Years update
- **Questions:** Teams sidebar or [FundingPolicy.Queries@education.gov.uk](mailto:FundingPolicy.Queries@education.gov.uk)



# Section 1: High Needs NFF in 2022-23



# High Needs NFF

## Main changes for 2022-23:

- Limit on gains reduced to 11%, but funding floor remaining at 8%
- Historic spend factor based on LAs' actual spend in 2017-18, rather than the planned spend baseline originally calculated for that year
- Low attainment factor – adjustment to reflect absence of usable 2020 attainment data

## High needs operational guide for 2022-23:

- Further guidance, which applies with immediate effect, on –
  - How to pass on teachers' pay and pensions funding (for historic cost increases)
  - Top-up funding
  - Requests to disapply the special schools' minimum funding guarantee (MFG) – annex 1
  - Responsibility for children who move between local authorities – annex 2





# High needs NFF review

## First stage of review of the high needs NFF:

- Consultation in early 2021 on proposed changes
- Limited changes implemented in high needs NFF allocations for 2022-23

## Next stage of high needs NFF review:

- SEND review is taking longer than first planned, so timing of further changes, and the next consultation, as yet undecided
- Also need to consider and consult on changes in the context of moving towards a “direct NFF” for mainstream schools



# High Needs NFF Q&A



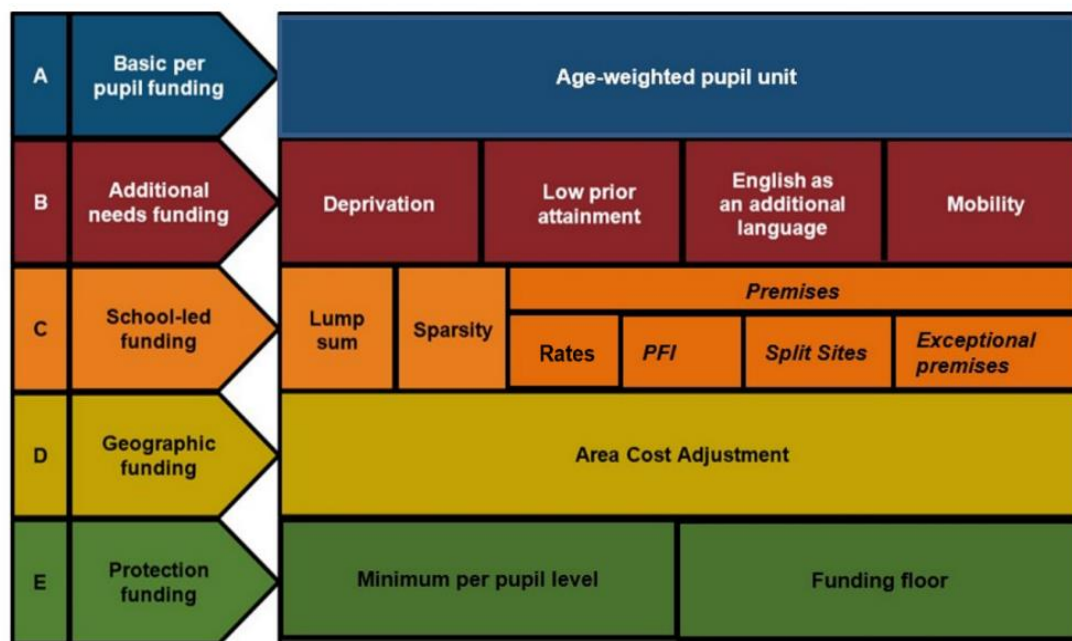
# Section : Schools NFF in 2022-23



# Overview

The overall structure of the formula is the same as in 2021-22.

- Most factors have increased by 3%.
- Exceptions to this are:
  - MPPL
  - FSM
  - Floor
  - Sparsity
  - Growth
  - Premises



# 2A. Factor Values Changes



# Factor values changes

- **AWPU, lump sum and additional needs\***: 3% uplift
- **Funding floor**: 2% uplift from 2021-22;
- **FSM factor**: 2% uplift to per-pupil value;
- **Minimum per-pupil (MPP) funding levels**: Primary: £4,265, Secondary: £5,525 (KS3: £5,321, KS4: £5,831)
- **Maximum sparsity factor**: £55k primary, £80k secondary

[\*excluding FSM]



# 2B. Sparsity factor



# Sparsity changes – move to road distance

- Funding is now based on **road distance** instead of straight-line distance from pupils' home to school.
- We have introduced a **sparsity distance taper**, in addition to the existing year group size taper.
- **Maximum sparsity factor:** £55k primary, £80k secondary





# 2C. Minor technical changes



# Minor technical changes for 2022-23

- **FSM6**

Now based on October 2020 school census (previously on January census) in line with pupil premium and other factors.

- **Low prior attainment (LPA)**

Key stage tests were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. For those who would have taken them in 2020, assumed LPA rates are based on 2019 test results for the cohort one year above.

- **Mobility**

The May 2020 school census was cancelled due to Covid. Pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 are classified as mobile on the basis of their entry date, instead of on the May census being their first census in the current school.



# 2D. Direct Formula



# Direct NFF

- **No further changes to local flexibility over school funding in 22-23.**
- **Fair Funding for all schools:**
  - We have launched our consultation on our proposals for “Fair Funding for all Schools: Completing our reforms to the NFF”
  - We would encourage you to respond by 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Consultation Proposals:**
  - Scope of the direct NFF and proposals for transition
  - Proposals for schools experiencing significant growth in pupil numbers
  - Proposals to move to a consistent funding year
  - Approach for funding central school services.



# Schools NFF Q&A



# Section 3: Central School Services Block (CSSB)

Page 34



# CSSB Update

- **Proposals for the future of CSSB funding included in the Department’s consultation on “Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the national funding formula”.**
- **Ongoing Responsibilities**
  - National 22-23 budget of c.£284m
  - LAs will have the same floor as in previous years of -2.5%, and the gains cap set at the maximum affordable rate of 5.6%
  - Additional pension funding claimed for centrally employed teachers was rolled into DSG in 21-22 is now a part of the 22-23 baseline.
- **Historic Commitments:**
  - 20% cash reduction to each LA’s allocation, compared to 21-22.
  - Same protection as in 21-22 whereby historic commitments funding cannot fall below the total value of ongoing termination of employment and prudential borrowing costs.
  - We will apply this protection in the DSG and LAs in this position should contact : [FundingPolicy.QUERIES@education.gov.uk](mailto:FundingPolicy.QUERIES@education.gov.uk).

# Section 4: Early Years Update

Page 36





# Early years funding – How LAs will be funded in 2021-22

- On 18 March we announced that we are temporarily varying our approach to funding local authorities (LAs) for the early years entitlements by funding on a termly count basis in 2021-22.
- This is to give LAs and providers more certainty over their funding income as the childcare system returns to normal from the pandemic.

Page 37

We have asked LAs to submit data from their 'local' 2021 summer and autumn counts to the Department, to determine the funding allocations in each of those terms for the Early Years block.

- The spring term 2022 will be funded as usual using the January 2022 census.



# Early years 2021 autumn term collection

- LAs need to submit a data return to the ESFA on the funded hours taken up during the census week for all childcare settings – week commencing 4 October 2021.
- For PVI settings - this includes all the settings normally in scope for the Early Years Census for all EY entitlements.
- For maintained settings - we will use the data the department normally collects via the autumn term schools census. Therefore, for school nurseries, Maintained Nursery Schools and maintained academies:
  - you don't need to provide 3-4 year old data
  - But you do need to provide 2 year old\* and EYPP data (as the autumn term school census does not allow us to identify eligible children)
- Autumn data return deadline – 13 December 2021
- **Note of change:** The data collection template will be issued and returned via the Document Exchange system. Details of the Document Exchange system can be found here: [Document exchange \(skillsfunding.service.gov.uk\)](https://skillsfunding.service.gov.uk)



# How the final funding allocation for 2021-22 is calculated

- The final EY funding allocations for 2021-22 will be based on the following:
  - 5/12th of the May 2021 count PTE numbers (to cover the April 2021 to August 2021 period), plus
  - 4/12th of the October 2021 count PTE numbers (to cover the September 2021 to December 2021 period); plus
  - 3/12th of the January 2022 census PTE numbers (to cover the January 2022 to March 2022 period)
  
- The Early Years block adjustments for 2021-22 will be published as follows:
  - January 2022 – update to provisional allocations (to reflect the summer and autumn term counts),
  - July 2022 - the final funding allocation for 2021-22



# Contact Details:

[Fundingpolicy.queries@education.gov.uk](mailto:Fundingpolicy.queries@education.gov.uk)

Page 40

For queries regarding policy and the CSSB.

For queries about actual allocations, the APT, or other things of a more operational nature, please continue to use the ESFA contact form.



# The schools revenue funding 2022 to 2023 Operational guide



# Changes to funding for 2022 to 2023

The schools operational guidance was published on the 19 July 2021 alongside the provisional NFF allocations [Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2022 to 2023](#) and provides further detail on the information below:

## 1. NFF factor values have increased by:

- £10,000 to the maximum sparsity values
- 3% to basic entitlement, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum
- 2% to the floor, the minimum per pupil levels and free school meals (FSM);
- 0% on the premises factors, except for PFI which has increased by RPIX.



# Changes to funding for 2022 to 2023

2. Schools sparsity distances are now based on road distances, instead of straight-line distances, and a sparsity distance taper has been introduced, in addition to the existing year group size taper
3. Data for FSM6 is now taken from the most recent October school census instead of the preceding January census, reducing the lag by 9 months
4. Data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests is used as a proxy for the 2020 tests, following the cancellation of assessment due to coronavirus (COVID-19).



# Changes to funding for 2022 to 2023

5. Mobility - Pupils who joined a school between January 2020 and May 2020 attract funding for mobility based on their entry date.

6. Schools business rates will be paid by ESFA to billing authorities directly on behalf of all state funded schools from 2022 to 2023 onwards.





# Key Features for 2022 to 2023

1. Local authorities can set MFG in their local formulae between +0.5% and +2% per pupil
2. TPG and TPECG are now fully rolled in to the NFF
3. MPPLs will remain mandatory, at the new NFF values
4. Local authorities continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval.



# Key Features for 2022 to 2023

5. The department will continue to approach selected local authorities about their deficit plans to begin or continue discussions with them
6. We recently changed the terms of the [school-improvement-monitoring-and-broking-grant-payment-conditions](#) so that it is used to support educational recovery priorities
7. The early years national funding formula (EYNFF) operational guide is due to be published in the autumn
8. APT we expect to provide the APT tool to local authorities in the autumn and will include the October 2020 census data set. This will be updated with October 2021 census information once available



# Changes to funding for 2022 to 2023

## High Needs

1. The DfE has published the [high-needs-funding-arrangements-2022-to-2023](#) in August 2021. The department has confirmed the following aspects of the high needs NFF:
2. The national increase in high needs funding in 2022 to 2023 will be £780 million, or 9.6% compared to the amounts allocated in 2021 to 2022. This is a substantial increase for local authorities
3. The funding floor factor in the high needs NFF for 2022 to 2023 will continue at 8% per head of 2 to 18 population.



# Changes to funding for 2022 to 2023

## High Needs

4. The hospital education factor amount will be uplifted in line with the 8% funding floor factor.
5. The limit on gains is set at 11%.
6. The historic spend factor has been updated for 2022 to 2023, to use 50% of local authorities' actual spend in 2017 to 2018 rather than planned spend as previously used.
7. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there is no appropriate 2020 attainment data to use for the 2 low attainment factors; therefore, 2019 data has been used in place of 2020 data for the 2022 to 2023 high needs allocations.



# Setting a formula for 2022 to 2023

- Indicative dedicated schools grant (DSG) budgets were published in July. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2022-to-2023>
- These are subject to change and will be confirmed in December



# Pupil led factors

Page 50



# Factors - basic entitlement

**This is a compulsory factor.**

Based on pupil numbers as per the October census:

- Funding is allocated according to a basic per-pupil rate
- There is a single rate for primary but there can be different rates for KS3 and KS4



# Factors - basic entitlement

## Compulsory factor

- local authorities can choose to increase the pupil number count for schools with higher reception pupil numbers in the January census, rather than the October census
- We do not include reception uplift in the national funding formula; local authorities currently using a reception uplift factor should consider whether to do so in 2022 to 2023
- Schools with reception uplift will not be financially disadvantaged in the national funding formula calculations, as the funding will remain in their baselines





# Factors – minimum per pupil amount

## This is a compulsory factor:

- the purpose of this factor is to allow local authorities to provide amounts up to the minimum per pupil funding levels for primary and secondary schools
- The per pupil minimum funding levels for 2022 to 2023 are set out below.
- The rates for the minimum per pupil funding levels are as follows:
- Primary: £4,265
- Secondary £5,321 and £5,831 for KS3 and KS4
- Secondary schools that are new and growing will receive the secondary school minimum amounts even if they do not yet have pupils in year 10 and 11.



# Factors – minimum per pupil amount

- Local authorities who wish to reflect the NFF calculation by excluding the premises factors that have been excluded from the NFF calculation can do so through the APT and will not need to submit a disapplication
- The funding floor will be set at 2% for 2022 to 2023, in line with the forecast GDP deflator, to protect pupil-led per-pupil funding in real terms.
- In light of the uncertainty created by COVID-19, inflation levels in 2022-23 are particularly difficult to predict with accuracy.



# Additional needs

Page 55



# Factors – deprivation

**This is a compulsory factor:**

- this factor allocates funding based on the additional needs of the specific child
- local authorities can use one, two or all of free school meals (FSM), FSM6, the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), to calculate the deprivation factor



# Factors – prior attainment

**This is an optional factor, although most local authorities do choose to use this:**

- the prior attainment factor acts as a proxy indicator for low level, high incidence, special educational needs
  - primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development in the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP)
  - secondary pupils not reaching the expected standard in KS2 at either reading or writing or maths
  - As there is no 2020 assessment data due to Covid, LAs have to use last years data for Reception and Year7 pupils in 2022 to 2023. The operational guide has further information.



# Factors – looked after children

**This is an optional factor:**

- this factor is available for local authorities to use; however this factor is not used as part of the NFF
- local authorities can apply a single unit value for any child who has been looked after for one day or more, as recorded on the local authority SSDA903 return as at 31 March 2021



# Factors – English as an additional language (EAL)

**This is an optional factor:**

- pupils identified in the October census with a first language other than English may attract funding for up to three years after they enter the statutory school system



# Factors – mobility

## This is an optional factor:

- The mobility factor allocates funding to schools with a high proportion of pupils who first joined on a non-standard date in the last three years.
- From 2020 to 2021, a new methodology is applied to allocate this funding on a formulaic basis
- To be eligible for mobility funding, the proportion of mobile pupils a school has must be above the threshold of 6%.
- Funding is then allocated on a per-pupil amount to all mobile pupils above that threshold



# School led funding

Page 61



# Factors – sparsity

**This is an optional factor.**

Schools that are eligible for sparsity funding must meet two criteria:

- they are in areas where pupils would have to travel a significant distance to an alternative school, should the school close
  - they are small schools
- 
- **Support in funding has been increased in 2022 to 2023 to £55,000 for primary schools, and to £80,000 for secondary schools and can be tapered.**



# Factors – lump sum

## **This is an optional factor:**

- local authorities can set a flat lump sum for all phases, or differentiate the sums for primary and secondary
- the maximum lump sum is £175,000, even for schools that receive a London fringe uplift



# Factors – split site

## **This is an optional factor:**

- the purpose of this factor is to support schools that have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites
- allocations must be based on objective criteria for the definition of a split site, and for how much is paid



# Factors – rates

- From 2022- 2023

Business rates will be paid directly to Billing authorities

- Rates will be paid directly by ESFA to billing authorities on behalf of all maintained schools and academies from 2022-23 onwards. LAs will no longer need to fund rates at their estimate of the actual cost and will no longer allocate rates payments to schools
- From April 2022 onwards billing authorities will communicate the cost of schools rates to the ESFA by uploading rates bill data to an online portal. LA's and schools will have observer access to this
- LAs will be able to continue to claim back money for historic adjustments arising in 2021 to 2022 through recording changes for the final time in the 2022 to 2023 APT. Final adjustments will be received by LAs in the 2023 to 2024 NFF allocations, with payments reflected in their DSG from April 2023



# Factors – rates

- Local authorities should continue to record rates data in the 2022/2023 APT, as this information will be used to aid the new process by providing useful estimates for comparisons for future years.
- Local authorities may also record any adjustments related to 2021/22 in the 2022/23 APT, in line with existing adjustment arrangements. This adjustment method will take place for the final time in the 2022/23 APT, with final adjustments received by local authorities in the 2023/24 NFF allocations, to ensure there is no disbenefit to local authorities that wish to claim back money for historic adjustments.
- Local authorities will not be required to submit rates data in their APT after the 2022/23 APT.



# Factors – Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

## **This is an optional factor:**

- the purpose of this factor is to support schools that have unavoidable extra premises costs, because they are a PFI school, and to cover situations where the PFI ‘affordability gap’ is delegated and paid back to the local authority



# Factors – exceptional Circumstances (premises)

**This is an optional factor:**

- local authorities can apply to the ESFA to use exceptional factors relating to school premises costs, for example, for rents, or joint-use sports facilities
- local authorities should only submit applications where the value of the factor is more than 1% of a school's budget, and applies to fewer than 5% of the schools in the authority's area
- local authorities can use exceptional premises factors used in the previous six years (for pre-existing, and newly-qualifying schools) in 2022 to 2023, if the qualification criteria are still met





# Geographic Funding

Page 69



# Factors – London fringe

## **This is an optional factor:**

- only applicable for 5 authorities
- the purpose of this factor is to support schools that have higher costs because they are in the London fringe area, and only part of the local authority is in this area
- the multiplier is applied to the 7 pupil-led factors, the lump sum factor, and the sparsity factor



# Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)

- Local authorities can set a pre-16 MFG in their local formulae, to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes and to allow changes in pupil characteristics (for example, reducing levels of deprivation in a school) to flow through.
- Local authorities can choose to set an MFG between plus 0.5% up to plus 2%.
- Local authorities will need to consult on the level of the MFG, as with the rest of the formula.



# Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)

- The MFG applies to pupils in reception to year 11 only (Early years pupils, and post-16 pupils are excluded from the calculation).
- Certain elements of funding need to be added to the schools budget shares before the MFG calculation
- There are several formulae factors that are automatically excluded from the MFG calculation, as not doing so would result in excessive protection, or would be inconsistent with other policies.
- All other funding will be in the MFG baseline and there will be no other automatic adjustments. Local authorities can, however, exclude other premises factors from the MFG, if they wish to mirror the NFF.



# MFG exemption

There are exceptional circumstances where local authorities may want to disapply the MFG if there is a significant change in a school's circumstances or pupil numbers. For instance:

- schools that previously qualified for a split site, PFI or exceptional factor, but are no longer eligible (or vice versa)
- where the normal operation of the MFG would produce perverse results for very small schools with falling or rising rolls
- secondary schools that are admitting primary age pupils who would otherwise be over protected at the secondary age weighted pupil unit of funding
- where over protection would otherwise occur, for example where additional funding has been distributed in the previous year and the authority can demonstrate that the funding is genuinely one-off



A disapplication may be made in these circumstances.

# Capping and scaling

- It is likely that protection will still be required in some areas as a result of changes to formulas
- Schools NFF will not include a gains cap in 2022-23. Although gains can be capped through the formula to allow affordability.
- Capping and scaling must be applied on the same basis to all schools. It no longer has to be applied only to the extent that it offsets the cost of the MFG since that could prevent local authorities from coming close to the NFF.
- Local authorities and their schools forums will need to agree the levels
- ESFA will apply caps and scales to academy budgets on the same basis as for maintained schools



# Growth fund

Local authorities are responsible for funding the following growth needs for all schools in their area, for new and existing maintained schools and academies. The growth fund can only be used only to:

- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
- meet the costs of new schools

To meet this responsibility, most local authorities set aside funding to cover this growth. The amount of the fund can vary depending on the local authority's predictions of growth.



# Growth fund

Local authorities are required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated, which must be agreed by the schools forum.

Criteria must include:

- details that the growth fund is available to both schools and academies
- details that the growth fund is available to meet basic need growth as opposed to popular growth
- details of the methodology of distributing funding





# Falling rolls fund

- Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good and outstanding schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.
- Criteria for allocating falling rolls funding should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification, and a clear formula for calculating allocations. Differences in allocation methodology are permitted between phases.



# Other Workshops

- **15/09/2021 – 10:30**      **NFF changes**
- **15/09/2021 – 15:00**      **Schools Operational Guide**
- **16/09/2021 – 14:00**      **Authority proforma tool (APT)**
- **21/09/2021 – 11:00**      **High needs funding : an overview**
- **21/09/2021 – 15:00**      **High needs data collection (place change process)**
- **24/09/2021 – 11:00**      **DSG and other grants**
- **24/09/2021 – 11:30**      **Recoupment**
- **29/09/2021 – 10:00**      **Dissapplications**
- **30/09/2021 – 14:00**      **LA assurance – s215, CFR, assurance statements**
- **04/10/2021 – 11:00**      **Schools forum**
- **04/10/2021 – 14:00**      **Management plans**



# Factors – rates

- From 2022- 2023 business rates will be paid directly to billing authorities.
- Rates will be paid directly by ESFA to billing authorities on behalf of all maintained schools and academies from 2022-23 onwards. LAs will no longer need to fund rates at their estimate of the actual cost and will no longer allocate rates payments to schools.
- From April 2022 onwards billing authorities will communicate the cost of schools' rates to the ESFA by uploading rates bill data to an online portal. LAs and schools will have observer access to this.

# Factors – rates

- Local authorities should continue to record rates data in the 2022/2023 APT, as this information will be used to aid the new process by providing useful estimates for comparisons for future years.
- Local authorities may also record any adjustments related to 2021/22 in the 2022/23 APT, in line with existing adjustment arrangements. This adjustment method will take place for the final time in the 2022/23 APT, with final adjustments received by local authorities in the 2023/24 NFF allocations, to ensure there is no disbenefit to local authorities that wish to claim back money for historic adjustments.
- Local authorities will not be required to submit rates data in their APT after the 2022/23 APT.



**North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021**

**Agenda Item 4**

**2022-23 North Northamptonshire Council Schools Funding Consultation**

## List of Appendices

- Appendix A – Proposed Consultation Document**
- Appendix B – Summary Finance Models based on the Proposed Consultation**
- Appendix C – LA Commissioned Outreach Services**
- Appendix D – Split Site Funding Policy**
- Appendix E – Pupil Growth Fund**
- Appendix F – Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy**
- Appendix G – Central School Services Block**
- Appendix H – De-delegation for Trade Union Facility Time**
- Appendix I – De-delegation for School Effectiveness**
- Appendix J – De-delegation for Redundancy Costs**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report is to update North Northamptonshire Schools Forum of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding settlement for 2022-23 and to present the proposed school funding consultation.
- 1.2 This paper does not include Early Years DSG funding, which will have a separate consultation later in the year following Government publication of the funding settlement.
- 1.3 Table 1 shows the relevant responsibilities in relation to schools funding formula changes which is taken from the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities, published in March 2020.

**Table 1**

**Schools forum powers and responsibilities**

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

1.4 Table 1 shows that for the optional parts of the formula, the setting of the schools funding formula continues to be a Local Authority decision in 2022-23 (a “soft” national funding formula).

1.5 The Government continue to move towards a “hard” national schools funding formula and have published the National Funding Formula for Local Authorities and Schools to give an indication of what the Government would fund schools under that “hard” formula. Where affordable with the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocated, NNC aims to mirror that National Funding Formula.

1.6 As well as the consultation on changes to the schools funding formula, as in prior years Schools Forum must also be consulted on the items listed below. For these, the LA proposes and the Schools Forum decides:

- changes to the schools funding formula being proposed as compared to prior year’s local formula
- transfers proposed from the Schools Block and High Needs Block
- de-delegations from the maintained individual schools budgets (ISBs)
- Growth fund budget and policy
- Changes to pupil numbers for new and growing schools (weighted numbers)
- Central expenditure from the School Central Services Block on a line by line basis

1.7 In addition to the routine consultation topics, we will also be consulting with the schools on a number of local policies due to a change from previously held NCC policies or simply to confirm their continuation:

- Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy
- Split Site Funding within the schools funding formula

## 2 Background

2.1 The Secretary of State for Education announced provisional funding allocations for 2022-23 through the schools, high needs and central school services national funding formulae (NFF) on Monday 19 July 2021. Table 2 shows the provisional allocation for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). The final allocation will be published in December 2021.

**Table 2 – North Northamptonshire Council Provisional DSG Funding Allocations**

	<b>2021-22 DSG Allocation</b>	<b>Provisional 2022-23 NFF Allocation</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Schools Block	244,805,438	250,375,503	5,570,065	2.28%
Central School Services Block	3,908,081	3,550,399	-357,682	-9.15%
High Needs Block	45,504,413	49,363,187	3,858,774	8.48%
<b>Total DSG Allocation</b>	<b>294,217,932</b>	<b>303,289,088</b>	<b>9,071,156</b>	<b>3.08%</b>

2.2 Early Years announcement for 2020-21 final funding is expected to be announced in November 2021 and further information will be brought to Schools forum once the final allocations for 2020-21 are released.

2.3 The key headlines are set out in section 3 below.

## 3 Financial Overview by DSG Block

3.1 This section of the report provides the key headlines on the 2022-23 DSG funding announcements on the funding received by the LA by funding block.

### **Schools Block Funding**

3.2 2022-23 is the final year of the three-year school funding settlement that the Secretary of State for Education announced to Parliament on 3 September 2019. Core school funding increased by £2.6bn in 2020-21 and is increased by £4.8bn in 2021-22 and will be increasing by £7.1bn in 2022-23 respectively, compared to 2019-20.

3.3 These allocations are part of the annual funding cycle. They are separate to the education support for recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.4 Funding through the schools NFF is increasing by 3.2% overall in 2022-23, and by 2.8% per pupil. The NFF will distribute this funding based on schools' and pupils' needs and characteristics. The main features in 2022-23 are:

3.5 The core factors in the NFF (such as basic per-pupil funding, and funding for additional needs such as deprivation) will increase by 3%.

3.6 The funding floor (i.e. minimum funding guarantee) will ensure that every school is allocated at least 2% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its indicative 2021-22 NFF allocation (not actual allocation received in 2021-22).

3.7 The minimum per pupil funding levels will increase by 2%, compared to 2021-22. This will mean that, next year, every primary school will receive at least £4,265 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,525.

- 3.8 Support for small and remote schools (through the “sparsity” factor) will receive a further increase. In 2022-23 the additional funding that such schools can attract is rising to up to £55,000 for primary schools, and up to £80,000 for secondary schools – in both cases, a £10,000 increase from 2021-22. The DFE is also moving to use road distances instead of straight line distances when measuring a school’s remoteness. This will significantly increase the number of schools attracting this funding. As a result, the funding allocated nationally through the sparsity factor in the NFF is increasing from £42 million in 2021-22 to £95 million in 2022-23.
- 3.9 The primary unit of funding (PUF) increases from £4,400.43 in 2021-22 to £4,537.50 in 2022-23. The secondary unit of funding (SUF) increases from £5,626.35 in 2021-22 to £5,768.90 in 2022-23. These rates are final and will be multiplied by the total number of primary and secondary pupils recorded on the October Census.
- 3.10 The final Schools Block allocation will comprise the total allocation from pupil numbers multiplied by the relevant units of funding plus the growth fund and the premises allocations.
- 3.11 Table 3 shows the increase in the value of the primary unit of funding and the secondary unit funding for 2022-23.

**Table 3**

	<b>2021-22</b> £	<b>2022-23</b> £	<b>2022-23 Uplift</b> £	<b>2022-23 Uplift</b> %
<b>Primary Unit Funding (PUF)</b>	4,405.29	4,526.11	120.82	2.74%
<b>Secondary Unit Funding (SUF)</b>	5,693.88	5,857.68	163.80	2.88%

- 3.13 In addition to the PUF and SUF funding approximately 0.72% of the schools block funding provided is for premises factors (PFI, rates, split sites). The NFF uses the 2021-22 rates for its calculations and the same is used for the modelling the two options for consultation. The NFF does not include the growth part of the funding whereas an assumed estimate of what growth funding will be received and NNC’s growth requirement for 2022-23 in modelling the two options. The growth figure will be confirmed in the final December 2021 DSG announcement. The figures shown in the two modelled options are therefore indicative and subject to change.

**High Needs Block Funding**

- 3.14 The provisional increase in the High Needs Block represents the authority’s share of the £780 million national increase for 2022-23. NNC’s High Needs Block is increasing by £3.85 million from 2021-22 which is the minimum guaranteed increase per head of population (8%) with some authorities seeing gains of up to 11%. Given the minimum uplift and increasing high needs pressures, NNC will not be seeking to continue to jointly fund the early years SEND children in nursery provision. A block transfer from high needs to early years will not be requested in 2022-23 as in 2021-22.



- 3.15 As discussed in Appendix A NNC's preferred proposal is to transfer 1.31% Option B from the Schools Block to High Needs Block to address the current existing High Needs Block deficit as well as being able to continue to provide specialist support services and sensory impairment services.
- 3.16 However if Schools Forum does not agree to the proposed consultation, then NNC will have no choice but to propose a transfer of 0.5% (Option A) from Schools Block to High Needs Block to address the existing High Needs Block overspend. In addition NNC may have to either cease to provide the current Specialist Support Services and Sensory Impairment Services or charge schools for the provision of these services in 2022-23. Please see details in the appendix C and related consultation questions in appendix B.

### **Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) Funding**

- 3.17 Central school services block funds local authorities for the ongoing responsibilities they continue to have for all schools. The national funding for ongoing responsibilities is £284 million in 2022-23. The Central School Services Block (CSSB) comprises two elements, ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. Ongoing responsibilities include the former retained duties element of the Education Services Grant and is funded on a per pupil allocation and deprivation factor.
- 3.18 The ongoing responsibilities element for NNC is provisionally increasing by £0.09M to £1.75M million as the formula is used to calculate the funding allocation.
- 3.19 The historical responsibilities element for NNC is provisionally decreasing by £0.45m to £1.80M. This Government started to reduce this funding in 2020-21 to withdraw this funding, over time with 20% reduction per year, based on the historic commitments local authorities entered into before 2013-14.
- 3.20 This reduction leaves a funding gap of £0.35M against the expenditure requirement. After a review of service efficiencies and disinvestments in 2021-22 the Contribution to Combined Services have been revised as set out in the 2022-23 Central School Services Block report on the agenda.

### **Key Changes 2022-23**

- 3.21 Key change to the schools National Funding Formula in 2022 to 2023 are:
- 3.18 NFF factor values have increased by:
- £10,000 to the maximum sparsity values
  - 3% to basic entitlement, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum
  - 2% to the floor, the minimum per pupil levels and free school meals (FSM);
  - 0% on the premises factors, except for PFI which has increased by RPIX of 3.17%
- 3.19 Sparsity formula factor also has two other changes aimed to increase support for small and rural schools. The distances are now based on road distances, instead of straight-line

distances, and a sparsity distance taper has been introduced, in addition to the existing year group size taper.

#### 4 Financial implications

4.14 Table 2 above shows the provisional 2022-23 National Funding of £303.28M, an increase of £9.07M (3.08%) from 2021-22.

4.15 Appendix A shows the proposed consultation document and Appendix B shows the school level financial modelling based on the consultation proposals for the schools formula funding. Within Appendix B is also a comparison of the existing 2021-22 School budget share, the two options modelled using the ESFA provided “Authority Proforma Tool” (APT) as well as the published NFF. Both option models have applied assumptions based on:

- Growth funding for 2022-23 remains the same as 2021-22 i.e. £1.339M
- All schools are guaranteed the minimum per pupil funding of :

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level
£4,265.00	£5,321.00	£5,831.00	£5,525.00

- Minimum funding guarantee of 2%
- Two different modelled options:

ASSUMPTIONS USED:	OPTION A	OPTION B
1. 2022-23 GROWTH FUNDING RECEIVED	£1.339M	£1.339M
2a. TRANSFER % SCHOOLS BLOCK TO HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	0.50%	1.31%
2b. TRANSFER AMOUNT SCHOOLS BLOCK TO HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	£1.258M	£3.297M
3. MFG SET AT	2.00%	2.00%
4. INCREASES CAP AT	100.00%	2.00%
5. ALL CAPPED INCREASES SCALE BY	100%	100%
6. GROWTH FUND BUDGET FOR 2022-23	£0.892M	£0.717M

4.16 The comparison is an important one, as there are significant differences between the two models that use the same NFF formula and the same pupil data set (October 2020 census) and schools should be aware that both are indicative example models and based on historical data sets that are subject to potentially significant changes before the final budgets are set and published.

4.17 The differences in the indicative budgets of both options modelled are apparent when comparing with the published NFF allocations for schools.

4.18 Many of the differences are due to the change to the sparsity data set and the way in which the tapering is applied. There are also differences due to the change in the FSM data moving from a January census basis to an October census basis. As in previous years the minimum funding guarantee which looks at per pupil increases from year to year, also results in differences. This is because the prior year comparison in the NFF uses the indicative 2021-22 NFF published data as the baseline, not the actual funding received by schools and academies.

4.19 Although complex, the comparison between national NFF and local NFF is useful. Within Appendix B is also a comparison of the individual schools budgets actually received within 2021-22 and the indicative increase that schools would receive through the 2022-23 funding formula (if data sets remained unchanged). Table 6 shows the range of changes that we are forecasting for schools, if all schools were on the full NFF.

**Table 6: Range of change in individual budgets as compared to 2021-22 in the local NFF model.**

Range of differences from 2021-22 Budget	NNC Schools and Academies		
	Notional NFF Budget	Option A Budget	Option B Budget
Under 0%	1	1	1
0% to 0.99%	1	2	3
1% to 1.99%	25	19	97
2% to 2.99%	57	90	24
3% to 3.99%	28	6	6
4% to 4.99%	4	7	0
5% to 5.99%	2	2	0
6% to 6.99%	0	1	0
7% to 7.99%	1	1	0
8% to 8.99%	1	2	0
9% to 9.99%	4	0	0
10% to 10.99%	2	0	0
11% to 11.99%	3	0	0
12% to 12.99%	1	0	0
13% to 13.99%	0	0	0
14% to 14.99%	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>131</b>

## 5 Next stages

5.1 Please see the Appendix A to this paper which is the proposed consultation document for discussion in Schools forum ahead of its release on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, for return on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. The consultation links to the other appendices noted at the start of this paper.

## 6 Legal implications

6.14 Option B will require NNC to submit a disapplication request to the DFE for Secretary of State approval to transfer 1.31% from School Block to High Needs Block if Schools Forum are in agreement for Option B to be consulted on.

## 7 Risks

7.14 This report is drawing Schools Forum attention to the risks of a spiralling DSG High Needs Block budget deficit should Schools Forum choose not agree to the consultation of Option B.

## 8 Recommendations for Schools Forum

8.14 That Schools Forum note the provisional funding settlement for 2022-23.

8.15 **For Decision:** Schools Forum is requested to agree the school funding consultation document for 2022-23.

**9 Next Steps**

9.14 Consultation with schools will be held for a period of four weeks between 5 November - 3 December 2021 inclusive

9.15 The consultation feedback will be shared with School Forum at the December 2021 meeting.

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## Appendix A – Proposed Consultation Document

### 2022-23 North Northamptonshire Council Schools Budget Consultation

Duration of Consultation: 5 November to 3 December 2021

#### Overview

This consultation provides an opportunity for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) to engage with all primary and secondary schools, both maintained and academies about the principles of the local school funding formula for 2022-23.

Based on **the provisional allocations** for the total Dedicated Schools Grant allocation, North Northamptonshire schools will gain £9m overall in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22.

	2021-22 DSG Allocation	Provisional 2022-23 NFF Allocation	Change	% Change
	£	£	£	%
Schools Block	244,805,438	250,375,503	5,570,065	2.28%
Central School Services Block	3,908,081	3,550,399	-357,682	-9.15%
High Needs Block	45,504,413	49,363,187	3,858,774	8.48%
<b>Total DSG Allocation</b>	<b>294,217,932</b>	<b>303,289,088</b>	<b>9,071,156</b>	<b>3.08%</b>

The Department for Education has increased the NNC Schools Block funding by £5.5m (2.28%) in 2022-23. The comparison of the NFF provisional allocation against 2021-22 Schools APT is on Appendix B.

Modelling the full increase of 2% MFG using the NFF ACA (area cost adjustment) adjusted rates shows that all schools except for one could expect to see a per pupil increase between 0.7% and 8.47% in 2022-23 as compared to their 2021-22 budget share. With the exception of one school, the minimum increase is £6.7k, the maximum is £255.6k and the average increase is £50.2k.

The NNC schools funding formula will mirror the DfE's national funding formula as closely as possible. It may not be possible to mirror it completely due to the funding formula costing more than the funding allocation.

The first purpose of the consultation is to seek schools views on the principles for dealing with a potential variance between the Dedicated Schools Grant funding allocation and the cost of the local mainstream (primary, secondary and all-through) schools funding formulae for 2022-23.

If we need to balance the funding formula to our local resources following the final settlement in December 2021, which option would schools prefer. It is important schools read the paper **Appendix C - LA Commissioned Outreach Services: Proposed funding from 1 April 2022** prior to making their choice of option as this paper sets out the impact of both options.

In attempting to mitigate the spiralling High Needs Block deficit, the two options were modelled using the ESFA provided “Authority Proforma Tool” (APT). Both option models have applied assumptions based on:

- Growth funding for 2022-23 remains the same as 2021-22 i.e. £1.339M
- All schools are guaranteed the minimum per pupil funding of :

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level
£4,265.00	£5,321.00	£5,831.00	£5,525.00

- Minimum funding guarantee of 2%
- Two different modelled options:

ASSUMPTIONS USED:	OPTION A	OPTION B
1. 2022-23 GROWTH FUNDING RECEIVED	£1.339M	£1.339M
2a. TRANSFER % SCHOOLS BLOCK TO HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	0.50%	1.31%
2b. TRANSFER AMOUNT SCHOOLS BLOCK TO HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	£1.258M	£3.297M
3. MFG SET AT	2.00%	2.00%
4. INCREASES CAP AT	100.00%	2.00%
5. ALL CAPPED INCREASES SCALE BY	100%	100%
6. GROWTH FUND BUDGET FOR 2022-23	£0.892M	£0.717M

**It is essential to point out that Option B will allow for the continuation of specialist support and sensory impairment services (See Appendix C). Option B allows for the funding of these services to continue as outlined in the paper. Should schools determine that Option A is their preferred choice then without an alternative means of funding (outlined in Appendix C) these services will cease to be delivered in their current form.**

In addition to the balancing mechanism for the schools formula funding we have a significant number of other important areas of the schools budgets on which we need to consult with schools for 2022-23. For each of these areas there are separate reports attached to this paper as separate appendices. These subjects are listed below:

- Appendix C** – LA Commissioned Outreach Services
- Appendix D** – Split Site Funding Policy
- Appendix E** – Pupil Growth Fund
- Appendix F** – Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy
- Appendix G** – Central School Services Block
- Appendix H** – De-delegation for Trade Union Facility Time
- Appendix I** – De-delegation for School Effectiveness
- Appendix J** – De-delegation for Redundancy Costs

### **Who is this consultation for?**

This consultation is for all maintained and academy schools in North Northamptonshire. There is a specific focus on the local funding formula for mainstream schools, so it will be most relevant for primary and secondary mainstream schools.

### **Responding to the consultation**

Please only make one submission per school DfE number.

To respond to this consultation, please email [finschoolsnorth@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:finschoolsnorth@northnorthants.gov.uk)

The appendix to this consultation document provides an indicative financial summary by individual school for each of the consultation proposals.

Schools should note that all values are illustrative based on the DfE provisional allocation and values are likely to change when the final allocation is confirmed in December 2021.

In addition, the data used in the financial modelling is based on the same data used to create the 2021-22 schools budgets plus an estimate of growth as the schools census data from October 2021 will not be available until December 2021.

### **Enquiries**

North Northamptonshire Schools Funding Team can be contacted through the following email address:

[finschoolsnorth@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:finschoolsnorth@northnorthants.gov.uk)

### **Deadline**

The deadline for this consultation is **3 December 2021 at 11:59pm**.

### **Responses**

The consultation feedback will be shared with [Schools Forum at the December 2021 meeting](#) and used to inform the schools funding formula for 2022-23.

School:

DFE Number:

## Schools Funding Consultation Questions

- 1) Which funding formula option would you prefer North Northamptonshire Schools Forum to adopt?

Options	Please tick one	Comments
<b>Option A –</b> Transfer 0.5% from Schools Block to High Needs Block		
<b>Option B –</b> Transfer 1.31% from Schools Block to High Needs Block		

- 2) If the funding formula needs to be brought into balance the overall cost, which methodology would you prefer NNC use?
- A reduction of the floor (minimum funding guarantee per pupil)
  - A cap on per pupil increases
  - Other – please provide details
  - Comments please use this space for any further comments you would like to make.
- 3) With regards to the LA Commissioned Outreach Services paper which option do you support:
- Option 1
  - Option 2
  - Option 3
  - Other – please provide details
  - Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make





- 4) Split Site Policy: Do you agree with rolling forward the split site policy from NCC
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
  
- 5) Split Site Rates: Do you agree with using the 2021-22 split site rates
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
  
- 6) Growth Fund Policy: Do you agree with rolling forward the growth fund policy from NCC
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
  
- 7) Growth Funding Rates: Do you agree with using the 2021-22 growth fund rates?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
  
- 8) Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy: Do you agree with the change from previous NCC clawback policy, to bring NNC onto the clawback as set out in the legislation?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make



- 9) Central: Are you in favour of the continuation of the central services that are partly funded by the dedicated services grant?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
- 10) De-delegation for Trade Union Facility Time: Do you support the proposed continuation of this de-delegation and the rate proposed?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
- 11) De-delegation for School Effectiveness: Do you support the proposed continuation of this de-delegation and the rate proposed?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make
- 12) De-delegation for Redundancy Costs: Do you support the proposed continuation of this de-delegation and the rate proposed?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Other – please provide details
  - d) Comments - please use this space for any comments you would like to make

Response to the consultation submitted by:

Name:

Title:

Email address:





# Agenda Item 5



North  
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North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

Agenda Item 5

LA Commissioned Outreach Services: Proposed funding from 1 April 2022

## Appendix C

### 1 Background

- 1.1 This report sets out the provision made by North Northants specialist services and the visual and hearing impairment service. Both services focus on assisting schools to meet the needs of pupils with additional needs who attend schools in North Northants (henceforth 'the council').
- 1.2 The council has taken the significant increase in high needs funding in 2022 to 2023, on top of increases in the previous two years, into consideration when making decisions on block movements, and will as this paper sets out appropriately discuss this issue relating to specialist support at this and subsequent schools forum meetings.
- 1.3 This paper is in line with the DfE expectation to keep the local offer of special provision under review, and to have a plan to ensure good quality provision can be developed and sustained in line with available resources.
- 1.4 This paper will set out how mainstream schools can contribute to the local offer, and how this can affect specialist provision and the costs that local authorities consequently have to meet from their high needs budgets.
- 1.5 There is strong evidence that, in addition to the significant increases to high needs funding in 2022 to 2023 and any past transfers, a further transfer remains necessary to address significant cost pressures placed on specialist support services as a means of preventing later higher cost specialist intervention. For example, the council continues to experience an increase in permanent exclusions requiring the local authority to make more alternative provision, and a significant increase in the proportion of children with education, health, and care plans placed in specialist settings rather than mainstream schools.
- 1.6 The council currently funds these support services, partly from the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant, but also using the council's general fund. While the council has the legal power to fund these services, the budget, and the duty to fund them, sits with schools. The legal context is set out in detail in section 7 below.

### 2 Specialist and Impairment Services' Funding and Proposed Changes for 2022-23

- 2.1 The cost of the specialist services is considerable (circa £2.3M). The total cost of all the services provided by the high needs block (HNB) and the council general fund falls to the council. This is not sustainable as the HNB is already carrying a High Needs Block deficit from 2020-21 by £2.4m and the council is also facing challenges in its general fund next year.

- 2.2 The HNB budget is of particular concern, as the overspend is structural in nature. This means if nothing changes i.e. spending is not reduced – the overspend will continue to grow year on year, with deficits forecasted to increase in size each year.
- 2.3 The council cannot let cumulative, structural deficits continue. Therefore, a range of actions are being proposed or taken. The focus of this report is the council’s intention to cease funding specialist services through a combination of general fund and high needs block. This is not the preferred action of the council but a necessary one. It is proposed to fund the services through the transfer of funds from the Schools Block.
- 2.4 Funding the services in this way will allow for transparency in the funding arrangement. In order to ensure consistency of the approach a formula has been applied that provides for parity across all schools.
- 2.5 Council officers and members recognise the services’ efficiency and effectiveness. The table below shows the number of primary and secondary schools (in Northamptonshire County) that received a service from the services in the 2020-21 school year.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Total</b>
Specialist support service	116	17	133
Sensory impairment service	89	17	106

- 2.6 The services provide early intervention to schools, settings and families for children and young people aged 0-19 years. This would include children with or without an EHC plan. Interventions delivered during 2020-21 included:
- Advice and guidance through consultations and direct work with pupils and staff where needed
  - Assessment of learning and the environment and development of appropriate interventions and strategies in schools
  - Support and advice at times of transition to new schools, including sensory impairment awareness training to schools
  - A range of courses delivered to parents and schools (in the period between October 20 and July 21 732 parents enrolled on specialist courses and workshops)
  - Advice and support to the whole family of a child or young person with SEND or sensory impairment, alongside support provided to schools, ensuring a holistic approach for the pupil
  - Direct teaching of the use of assistive technology and the loan of equipment
- 2.7 Schools have reported the value of specialist practitioners (including teachers with specialist qualifications) to support and empower their staff in ensuring positive outcomes for pupils. This is particularly key for pupils with significant and complex additional needs. Schools have reported a positive impact on their inclusive practice.

- 2.8 Since the council cannot fund the services from the HNB in future (that is, from April 2022 onwards), there are three potential options – the options broadly form ‘insurance-based’ or ‘traded services’ arrangements.
- 2.9 One is that schools subscribe individually on a per-pupil basis. It is the service supplier that sets the price per-pupil and triages to determine the greatest need and delivers outreach support accordingly.
- 2.10 The second method of funding is an ‘insurance’ based service which is a formula-based approach. This means an equitable application of the formula to the school’s block budget for all mainstream academy and maintained schools, to be allocated to the high needs block.
- 2.11 The third option is a wholly traded service where the service supplier sets the price and availability of intervention/support. The service is invoiced at the point of access.
- 2.12 Therefore, there are three options:
- **Option 1:** Individual schools buying into the service at an agreed, per pupil rate
  - **Option 2:** A formula application to the schools block to fund the services (Option B – Consultation Document – transfer 1.31%)
  - **Option3:** A wholly traded service with a menu of options/prices to be invoiced at the point of delivery
- 2.13 If schools’ forum indicates it prefers the offer of the ‘insurance’ based option, then the council will proceed with Option B.
- 2.14 The cost to a school of service provision on a traded service is likely to be in the region of £150 per pupil (this is not confirmed, and further work will be required should this be the preferred option). At present, up to half the time of the specialist support service workers’ time is spent working with parents, and it may prove difficult for the service to charge a school for this the likely consequence is that the offer would be revised).

### 3 Options Appraisal

- 3.1 In this section there is a brief appraisal of each option, setting out some of the advantages and disadvantages. It is essential to point out that Option B will allow for the continuation of specialist support and sensory impairment services (See Appendix C). Option B allows for the funding of these services to continue as outlined in the paper. Should schools determine that Option A is their preferred choice then without an alternative means of funding (outlined in Appendix C) these services will cease to be delivered in their current form.
- 3.2 The **first option** – a traded scheme that is voluntary for each mainstream or special school and academy and has the following advantages:
- It is transparent, and fair, with each school or trust being able to appraise what is on offer from its own perspective, assessing openly other market options; and
  - There is the potential for schools to decide to sign up for a contractual period, say, three years, offering the services income stability.
- 3.3 However, the disadvantages are:



- Setting up and running a subscription arrangement will require an increased level of administrative costs, raising the subscription level above the cost of the current service, or one funded through budget formula.
- There will inevitably be an inconsistent understanding of costs and benefits, and the market alternatives, which could lead to poorer-quality support services for pupils.
- Parenting support (that forms a significant part of the existing offer) would likely be reduced/removed or incur additional charges and
- Inevitably, some schools will always refuse to subscribe, which can be for several reasons – for example, a head teacher has never, or rarely, used the service, or s/he is content to pay as need arises – but the outcome is that the services will need to trade as well as serve subscribers, which will make the services more expensive (due to higher administration costs)
- A minimum trading guarantee would need to be reached to allow the services to continue. It may be that the services cease to be delivered by the council.

3.4 The **second option** – formula-based approach (Option B – funding model) - the resource secured from schools’ budgets – has the following advantages:

- The services will remain free at the point of delivery, and therefore will not be discriminatory against schools that have high levels of need, but tight budgets that might mean difficult choices regarding the support their pupils need
- Peaks and troughs in need are smoothed out by what is in effect an ‘insurance’ based system that means each school’s costs are fixed
- The funding to support the purchase of specialist outreach services is delegated to schools (see section 7 below), and therefore this proposal is consistent with funding arrangements
- Specialist service managers can remain focused on meeting the greatest need, without regard to ‘ability to pay’ of any school

3.5 The disadvantages are:

- Schools forum must agree to a revised formula annually – if it does not, alternative, individual school insurance or traded arrangements, with their inherent disadvantages, will have to be implemented
- Schools with low historic use, or that have chosen to purchase their own support, are in effect paying for a service they will not use (although this might encourage the consideration by these schools of use of the services in future)
- Schools choosing alternative providers will be paying twice for the service – once through loss of budget and a second time through payment for the chosen service

3.6 The **third option** – trading the services – has the advantage of being completely transparent and respecting the benefits of a competitive market and diversity and choice for schools. However, there are some significant disadvantages:

- Traded services for outreach are difficult to cost, inefficient to administer and difficult to market – the council would have to allocate resources to administration, which would increase the cost of the services



- Schools using the services would start to consider the cost as well as the appropriateness of the service, and consider alternative suppliers, which, for some schools, might be a key consideration – while this might be considered an advantage for some schools, it brings uncertainty to the services and could leave the council considering whether it can maintain the services and
- Some schools – even small ones – have peaks and troughs of need, with peaks causing a problem if outreach services have to be paid by them at the point of delivery rather than through an ‘insurance’ based system
- A minimum trading guarantee would need to be reached to allow the services to continue. It may be that the services cease to be delivered by the council.

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

4.1 It is recommended that the schools forum through consultation agree the formula application to fund the specialist services. Providing for transparency, parity and access to services that are free at the point of need.

#### **5 Next steps**

5.1 If schools forum agrees the recommendation, arrangements for formula application for the 2022-23 budget will be put into the proposed local formula for agreement by schools forum in December 2021 and the council’s cabinet in February 2022.

5.2 If the formula approach is not agreed, council officers and the lead member will need to set a timescale for schools to be approached to determine interest/engagement in a per-pupil insurance-based approach or a fully traded offer.

5.3 It will also be a consideration for officers and members from NNC should they continue to fund specialist support services from the general fund with effect from April 2022.

#### **6 Financial implications**

6.1 Should schools forum agree the formula approach, the services will remain available to schools and on the same basis as at present. The HNB will be assisted in coming back to balance (although other proposals on this agenda will need to be agreed by schools forum members for a balanced HNB plan to be achieved for 2022-23).

6.2 Note that while schools will, if the proposal is agreed, pay more from delegated budgets for insurance-based services, overall balances held by schools and academies indicate this contribution can be comfortably managed by most (balances).

#### **7 Legal implications**

7.1 Under funding arrangements introduced in 2012 and implemented in April 2013, (see [here](#)), local authorities can still fund specialist SEN support services, such as services to support children with a visual or hearing impairment. This therefore remains a power. However, local authorities can hold back funding from schools for ‘expenditure on support services for pupils who have a statement (now an education and healthcare plan or EHCP) of special educational needs and for pupils with special educational needs who do not have such a statement’.

7.2 From 1 April 2013, local authorities have been required to give mainstream schools a notional SEN budget from the schools block. This might be made up of funding from the

basic per-pupil entitlement, deprivation and low cost, high incidence SEN factors. It is from this notional budget that mainstream schools will be expected to: a) meet the needs of pupils with low cost, high incidence SEN; and b) contribute, up to a certain level set by the local authority, towards the costs of provision for pupils with high needs (including those with high cost, low incidence SEN) (paragraph 35, the notional SEN budget).

7.3 It should be noted that mainstream maintained schools and academies have recourse to top-up funding should the support required for an individual pupil or group of pupils exceed the £6,000 notional funding as set out in paragraphs 108 and 109 of the school funding reform arrangements (see the hyperlink in paragraph 7.1).

## **8. Risks**

8.1 The main risks arising should schools forum not agree the formula approach are:

- The specialist services becoming unviable if insufficient schools and academies either subscribe or buy the service on an ad-hoc basis for the recoupment of the services' costs; and / or
- Pupils receiving a diminished or poorer services through new arrangements

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 6

#### 2022-23 Split Site Funding Policy

## Appendix D

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report is to update North Northamptonshire Schools Forum of the proposed Split Site Policy for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) schools, funded from the Schools Block for 2022-23. The same policy criteria is proposed to be applied to fund Special Schools split sites but funded from the Special Schools Budget of the High Needs Block.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The DfE has referred to split site funding specifically within the new school funding arrangements. It is recognised that these schools incur higher running costs, for example extra staffing costs due to travel between sites and the care and maintenance of 2 sites.
- 2.2 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) provided split site funding in three component elements, leadership costs, building care and maintenance and staff and pupil travel. A school may be entitled to one, two or all three. There is a fourth component level for Secondary Schools only, where the buildings are more than 5 miles apart and this is exclusive of, not in conjunction with, the other three elements. The funding in each of the component elements is a maximum allowing for lower amounts to be applied where circumstances warrant.

### 3 Financial Impact

- 3.1 The premises factor within the National Funding Formula (NFF) is made up of :
- PFI factor
  - rates
  - split sites and
  - exceptional circumstances.
- 3.2 There is no NFF rate set for the split site factor. The premises funding within the 2021-22 NFF allocation to Local Authorities is the levels of funding awarded for split sites to school in their 2020-21 Authority Proforma Tool (APT).
- 3.3 The total funding distributed through the schools funding formula for North Northamptonshire schools split sites in 2020-21 & 2021-22 was £75k and this level is proposed for 2022-23 school budgets.

## 4 The Split Site Policy and Rates

4.1 Schools will be assessed at their request based on these criteria (including those schools currently in receipt of split site funding). The criteria to qualify for the funding elements are as follows:

- a) Where a school is more than 1 mile apart an allocation is given to support extra leadership costs including site management. Primary schools of less than 400 pupils in total or secondary schools of less than 1,500 pupils would be entitled to this element of funding. It is assumed larger split site schools should have sufficient scale to manage the efficient use of their site not to require this element of split site funding; and/or
- b) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic, funding will be given to support the extra pressure incurred by having 2 sites incurring higher fixed costs for the care, maintenance and operation of the buildings; and/or
- c) Where a school is separated by a public road that utilises traffic and there is daily movement of pupils between sites there will be a contribution towards the extra costs of staff and pupils' transportation between the 2 sites.
- d) Any Secondary schools with sites greater than 5 miles apart would receive split site funding equivalent to the Secondary lump sum funding amount.

4.2 Split Site Rates (same as for 2021-22)

**Table 1: Split Site Funding Rates 2022-23**

Phase	Criteria (a) Leadership Costs(*)	Criteria (b) Building Care & Maintenance	Criteria (c) Staff and pupil travel	Criteria (d) Secondary 5+ miles apart
Primary	Up to a maximum of £25,000	Up to a maximum of £20,000	Up to a maximum of £30,000	n/a
Secondary	Up to a maximum of £40,000	Up to a maximum of 25000	Up to a maximum of £50,000	Equivalent of the Secondary Lump Sum £ in 2022/23

Note: (\*) applies where a Primary school is less than 400 pupils in total or a Secondary school is less than 1,500 pupils in total.

## 5 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## 6 Risks

6.1 There is a risk that not funding split sites appropriately leads to a greater financial burden on some schools than others. This creates the risk of financial instability, or inadequate cover for the safety of pupils travelling between sites or inadequate caretaking of a site and could lead to a school becoming less appealing to parents.

## **7 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

7.1 That Schools Forum consider and support the proposed Split Site Policy.

## **8 Next Steps**

8.1 Consultation with schools will be held for a period of four weeks between 5 November - 3 December 2021 inclusive.

The consultation feedback will be shared with School Forum at the December 2021 meeting.

### **Report Authors:**

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# Agenda Item 7



North  
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North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

Agenda Item 7

Pupil Growth Fund – 2021/22 position and requirements for 2022/23

## Appendix E

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Pupil Growth Fund (PGF) provides the mechanism by which the Local Authority (LA) provides revenue funding to schools to employ the necessary staff to allow for the provision of new school places. The PGF is a key factor in ensuring that the LA is able to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of school places in all areas of North Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 The PGF is funded from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and is top-sliced from school budgets before the remainder is distributed via the Schools Funding Formula (for primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies).
- 1.3 Schools Forum is responsible for setting the amount of funding that schools receive when providing new school places at the request of the LA and the total allocated budget of the Pupil Growth Fund.
- 1.4 The PGF rates were last updated for the 21/22 financial year and are based upon average teacher costs. These rates are identified below:

Pupil Growth Fund rates			
£ per 30 additional places added			
Secondary		Primary	
Teacher	£52,587	Teacher	£41,648.25
LSA	£26,752	LSA	£14,194.90
Resources	£3,000	Resource	£1,000

- 1.5 Due to the fact that the LA operates on the 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March financial year and schools operate on an academic year, any school that receives PGF funding will receive the funding in two tranches. One payment of 5/12ths to cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> August each year and a second payment of 7/12ths to cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- 1.6 The LA is able to recoup any PGF funding paid to an academy from the DfE made in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August annually, due to the manner in which academies are funded.

### 2. 2021/22 PGF Position

- 2.1 The agreed budget set by the NNC's Shadow Schools Forum in October 2020 equated to **£700,000**.
  - Total Growth Fund payments made to NNC schools for the 21/22 financial year = **£1,080,944**;
  - Total anticipated recoupment of academy PGF payments = **£411,981**;
  - Total Growth funded – recoupment = a forecast underspend of **£31,037** against the PGF budget for 21/22.
- 2.2 Growth has been funded at the following schools in 2021/22;

Phase	School	Growth Funded (£)
Sec	Brooke Weston Academy	798,153
	Corby Technical School (permanent)	
	Corby Technical School (bulge)	
	Kettering Science Academy	
	Kingswood Secondary	
	Prince William	
	Sir Christopher Hatton	
	Southfield School for Girls	
Pri	Hawthorn Primary	282,791
	Hayfield Cross CE Primary	
	Irthlingborough Infants	
	Loatlands Primary	
	Priors Hall Primary	
	Rushden Primary Academy	
	St Brendans RC Primary	
	Titchmarsh Primary	

### 3. Requirements for the 2022/23 Pupil Growth Fund

3.1 The forecast requirement for the 22/23 PGF is as follows. The requirement is based upon agreed growth that has already been added and is moving through the system i.e. new and growing schools and the funding that will be required to meet demand from September 2022 onwards (where this capacity will be added is still to be agreed in some instances).

Phase	School	Growth Funded (£)
Sec	Brooke Weston Academy	803,603
	Corby Technical School	
	CTS bulge 2 & BWA	
	Kettering Science Academy	
	Kingswood Secondary	
	Prince William School	
	Sir Christopher Hatton	
	Southfield School for Girls	
	Funding to support bulge capacity in Corby	
	Funding to support bulge cap in Kett	
	Funding to support bulge cap in W'boro	
Pri	Hawthorn Primary	224,258
	Hayfield Cross (Kettering East)	
	Irthlingborough Infant	
	Priors Hall Primary	
	Stanton Cross Primary (new school)	
	St Brendans	
	Titchmarsh Primary	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,027,861</b>
Estimated recoupment		399,421



- 3.2 Total PGF payments to schools – academy recoupment from the DfE = **£628,440**.
- 3.3 Total forecast expenditure compared to the 21/22 PGF budget amount of £700,000, would therefore equate to a forecast underspend of **£71,660** for the 22/23 Pupil Growth Fund budget.
- 3.4 The anticipated expenditure against the 22/23 Pupil Growth Fund has been formulated with the best knowledge available to the LA at the present time, however, a number of assumptions about the growth required in 22/23 have been made and as such, the amounts shown above may be subject to change.
- 3.5 To mitigate against any unforeseen growth requirements in the North Northamptonshire area during the 22/23 financial year, it is recommended that the 22/23 PGF budget be maintained at its 21/22 amount and a budget of **£700,000** be approved by Schools Forum.
- 3.6 Any underspend against the PGF will be returned to the DSG.

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

- 4.1 To agree that the teacher rates be maintained at 21/22 levels.
- 4.2 To note the current position of the 21/22 Pupil Growth Fund and the forecast expenditure required to support growth and to ensure that NNC is able to provide a sufficiency of school places across in North Northamptonshire in 22/23.
- 4.3 To approve a Pupil Growth Fund budget of £700,000 for the 2022/23 financial year.

#### **5 Next steps**

- 5.1 To consult upon/vote on the recommendations made above.

#### **6 Financial implications**

- 6.1 Should a Pupil Growth Fund of £700,000 be agreed for the 2022/23 financial year, this amount will be top-sliced from the Schools Block prior to the budgets for all mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies individual budgets are established.

#### **7 Legal implications**

- 7.1 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)

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
General Duties for maintained schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (<b>please see <a href="#">operational guide</a> for more information</b>)</li> </ul>	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>funding for significant pre-16 <a href="#">pupil growth</a>, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

7.2 For further information on the legislature for deductions please see [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

SCHEDULE 2 Regulations 6 and 8  
 CLASSES OR DESCRIPTIONS OF PLANNED EXPENDITURE PRESCRIBED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY WHICH MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM IT TO DETERMINE THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

PART 1  
 Historic Commitments

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

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

3. Any deductions under any of paragraphs 1 and 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) must not exceed the amount deducted under each of the corresponding paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 2020 Regulations for the previous funding period.

PART 2  
 Central Schools Expenditure

4. Expenditure due to a significant growth in pupil numbers as a result of the local authority's duty under section 13(1) of the 1996 Act to secure that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of its area, including expenditure resulting from the additional costs associated with establishing a new school.
5. Expenditure to be incurred due to a decline in pupil numbers in—
  - (a) schools maintained by the authority which were awarded either the highest or the second highest grade in their last inspection under section 5 of the 2005 Act, including those inspected during the funding period; and
  - (b) academies that have not previously been inspected under section 5 of the 2005 Act and have a predecessor school or schools which were awarded the highest or second highest grade in their last inspection under section 5 of the 2005 Act, including those inspected during the funding period,

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

6. Expenditure to be incurred before the opening of new schools to fund the appointment of staff and to enable the purchase of any goods and services necessary in order to admit pupils.
7. Expenditure to make provision for extra classes in order to comply with the School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012(14).

## **8 Risks**

- 8.1 If a PGF is not established for 22/23, NNC will fail to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of school places.
- 8.2 If a PGF is not established for 22/23, 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 a number of schools listed above, incur significant reputational damage and possible legal action against NNC by the schools involved.
- 8.3 Should a PGF for 22/23 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.

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 8

#### 2021-22 Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy

## Appendix F

### 1 Background

- 1.1 To update the local policy in relation to permanent exclusion clawback. This new policy will replace the previous NCC policy position so that the new council is following the legislation and guidance in calculating clawback.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the LA to clawback funding from schools and academies that permanently exclude pupils. Previous NCC policy was to clawback a fixed fee of £3,000 and a pro-rata amount of the AWPU (pro-rata based on LA financial year). The mechanism for clawing back is to reduce monthly transfer payments unless an invoice is requested.
- 1.3 The previous NCC policy was a general method of arriving at the clawback value and had the advantage that it didn't involve the need for specific child level data and time consuming calculation. It also removed the "temptation" for a school or academy to manage the date on which they permanently excluded a pupil for financial reasons. As a new council we will move to a more literal interpretation of the legislation following feedback from schools.
- 1.4 In some cases this is likely to mean a higher clawback and in others a lower clawback, depending on whether the pupil would have generated budget for the school through: FSM, FSMever6, IDACI, low prior attainment, ESOL and pupil premium grants. It is also dependent on the time in the year when the pupil is excluded.
- 1.5 This budget clawback is separate to, and may be in addition to, a review panel ordering a financial adjustment of £4,000 to a school or academy budget share if a permanent exclusion is over turned.
- 1.6 This paper is brought to the Schools Forum to raise awareness and for consultation. As a LA we are constrained by the legislation.

### 2 Legislation

#### 2.1 ***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.*

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

### [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

#### CHAPTER 2

##### Adjustments, Correction of Errors, and Alternative Arrangements Authorised by the Secretary of State

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

29.—(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 is £4,188 for the funding period).

(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(57) in respect of the exclusion of the pupil from the excluding school.

### **3 Future options**

#### **3.1 Proposed Policy**

- a) The clawback of funding from schools and academies will be based on the per pupil funding formula that the individual excluded pupil would have generated for the school's budget share and pupil premium grants, (whether they were present on census day or not).



- b) The clawback will be pro-rata based on 52 weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March (unless the pupil is in their final year, then pro-rata from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August).
- c) The mechanism of clawback will default to a reduction in monthly transfers unless the value is large and/or the school or academy request an invoice.

#### 4. Recommendations for Schools Forum

Schools Forum are asked to approve the policy shift as stated in this paper.

A full policy document will be circulated to all schools in line with this proposal should the Schools Forum agree to the proposal.

#### 5. Next steps

- a) To include the proposal in the schools’ consultation to be considered at the schools forum in December following responses from schools.
- b) For Schools Forum to vote on the acceptance of the policy.

#### 6. Financial implications

6.1 It is difficult to predict the financial value as the general rule is that there will be higher value clawbacks from the new policy from schools’ budgets where:

- excluded pupils are generating a large budget share through characteristics other than the AWP. For example, FSM, FSM6, IDACI, Low Prior Attainment, ESOL and the pupil premium grants and
- excluded pupils are excluded soon after 1<sup>st</sup> April reducing (to almost £0) as it reaches 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

6.2 Table 1 shows the old policy calculation of the clawback as compared to the proposed policy that will bring the LA back in line with the legislation.

**Table 1 – The proposed policy compared to NCC policy for clawback for permanent exclusion**

Phase	OLD Policy Maximum Clawback	OLD Policy Minimum Clawback	NEW Policy Maximum Clawback	New Policy Minimum Clawback
Primary	£3,133.24 + £3,000 = £6,133.24	£3,000	£9,630	£0
Sec – KS3	£4,418.45 + £3,000 = £7,418.45	£3,000	£11,995	£0
Sec – KS4	£4,979.28 + £3,000 = £7,979.28	£3,000	£12,556	£0



6.3 Table 2 shows the value of each formula factor that can be clawed back through the new policy

**Table 2: Formula Factors that have to be included in the calculation of the clawback based on latest modelling for 2022-23 schools' formula budgets (subject to change). Pupil Premium Grant gives 2021-22 rate**

Funding Formula Factor	Primary	Secondary KS3	Secondary KS4
AWPU	£3,133.24	£4,418.45	£4,979.28
FSM	£461.51	£461.51	£461.51
FSM6	£576.89	£842.76	£842.76
IDACI band A	£622.03	£867.84	£867.84
EAL	£551.80	£1,489.87	£1,489.87
Mobility	£902.95	£1,294.23	£1,294.23
Low Prior Attainment	£1,098.59	£1,665.44	£1,665.44
Pupil Premium FSM	£1,345.00	£955.00	£955.00

6.4 Income from clawbacks has been falling as the high needs service work with schools to look at alternative arrangements

	Northamptonshire County Council			NNC
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income Budget from clawbacks	£450k	£450k	£0	£0
Income achieved/ <i>estimated</i>	£306k	£683k	£310k	£70k est
Variance	-£144k	£233k	£310k	£70k est

## 7 Legal implications

7.1 Legal implications are discussed above as this paper seeks to align practises within legislative requirements for permanent exclusion budget clawbacks.

## 8 Risks

8.1 If the proposed changes to the policy are not approved by Schools Forum, the LA is not adhering with legislative requirements.

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 9

#### DSG Central School Services Block (CSSB)

#### Appendix G

##### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to present to Schools Forum the Local Authority's proposals for central expenditure on education functions for 2022-23.
- 1.2 There is a £0.35M decrease in the available amount for central expenditure largely due to the 20% reduction in the historical element of the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB).

##### 2 Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 2.1 CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England.
- 2.2 The CSSB is split into two elements:
- funding for ongoing responsibilities which is formula driven (nationally distributed 90% via a per pupil rate currently multiplied by October 2020 pupil census data but will be revised to October 2021 numbers in the December 2021 announcement).
  - funding for historic commitments allocated at levels carried forward from previous years. The DfE have been reducing the historic commitments funding from 2020-21 by 20% per annum. This reduction has been applied to the provisional 2022-23 CSSB funding.
- 2.3 NNC received a provisional allocation of £3.55M compared to £3.90M in 2021-22 which is a reduction of £0.35M.

#### 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 below.

- Below, you will see the LA's 2021-22 CSSB funding baseline and the change in funding under the NFF.
- At the top of the page are the baseline and 2022-23 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 2022-23 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 2022-23 will fall more than 2.5% compared to its 2021-22 per-pupil funding.

Please select your local authority from the drop down menu

North Northamptonshire

2021-22 baseline for historic commitments	£2,249,495	This shows the 2021-22 LA allocation for historic commitments.
NFF funding for historic commitments	£1,799,596	This shows what the LA will receive for historic commitments in 2022-23.

Table 1: 2022-23 funding for historic commitments

2021-22 baseline for ongoing responsibilities	£1,658,586	This shows the LA's allocation for ongoing responsibilities in the 2021-22 DSG allocations.
2022-23 total funding for ongoing responsibilities	£1,750,803	This shows what the LA would provisionally receive for ongoing responsibilities in 2022-23.
Percentage change in per pupil funding in 2022-23	5.56%	This shows the percentage change in what the LA would provisionally receive per pupil in 2022-23 compared with the 2021-22 baseline for ongoing responsibilities.

Table 2: Provisional 2022-23 funding for ongoing responsibilities, under the NFF

2.4 Table 1 shows the differential in CSSB funding in 2022-23 against the 2021-22 allocation.

**Table 1 – CSSB Funding**

<b>Central School Services Block Funding</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Change</b>
Final CSSB unit of funding	£33.72	£35.59	£1.87
2021 to 2022 CSSB pupil count	49,187	49,187	0
Funding for On-going Duties	£1.65M	£1.75M	£0.09M
Funding for Historic Commitments	£2.25M	£1.80M	-£0.45M
<b>Total Central School Services Block Funding</b>	<b>£3.90M</b>	<b>£3.55M</b>	<b>-£0.35M</b>

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

2.5 Table 2 shows NNC's current use of the CSSB funding in 2021-22, together with proposals for its use in 2022-23 and changes from 2021-22. It has been assumed expenditure under ongoing responsibilities will remain as 2021-22 with the residue used to contribute to High Needs Block deficit.

**Table 2 – NNC Provisional CSSB Expenditure £M**

<b>Central School Services Block Expenditure</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Historical Commitments</b>	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>
Contribution to Combined Services (see Table 3)	1.07	0.64	-0.43
Contribution to DSG High Needs Deficit	0.18	0.18	0.00
Historical Teachers Pension pre-2013	0.99	0.99	0.00
<b>Total Historical Commitments</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>-0.43</b>
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>
Admissions	0.48	0.48	0.00
Schools Forum	0.01	0.01	0.00
National Copyright Licences	0.30	0.30	0.00
Ex Education Services Grant - retained Local Authority duties for all schools	0.86	0.86	0.00
Teacher's Pay and Pension Grant	0.01	0.01	0.00
Contribution to DSG High Needs Deficit	0.00	0.09	0.09
<b>Total Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.09</b>
<b>Total Central School Services Block Expenditure</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>3.57</b>	<b>-0.34</b>

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

2.6 Table 3 provides a breakdown NNC’s proposals for the use of the CSSB on Combined Services in 2022-23, together with explanations of its use and changes from 2021-22.

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

<b>Contribution to Combined Services Expenditure</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>	<b>£M</b>
School Standards & Effectiveness	0.43	0.43	0.00
Moderation	0.02	0.01	0.00
Prevention & Early Help - Parenting Support Co-ordinators	0.03	0.00	-0.03
Social Care Transport	0.22	0.00	-0.22
Supervised Contact	0.17	0.00	-0.17
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board	0.03	0.03	0.00
MASH	0.04	0.03	-0.01
Educational Entitlement	0.13	0.13	0.00
<b>Total Contribution to Combined Services Expenditure</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>-0.43</b>

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

### **3 Financial implications**

3.1 This reduction of £0.35M funding leaves a funding gap of £0.01M against the overall expenditure requirement.

3.2 A realignment of current expenditure budgets against DSG CSSB regulations has been proposed to address this reduction in funding. Three contributions to Combined Services Expenditure have been removed from CSSB. They are:

- Prevention & Early Help – Parenting Support Co-ordinators
- Social Care Transport
- Supervised Contact

3.3 For 2022-23 the contributions to these three combined expenditure will be funded from General Fund as well as the gap of £0.01M on CSSB.

3.4 The funding gap will be met through the NNC General Fund £0.45M (proposal in NNC budget) in 2022-23. This will need to be reviewed every year by North Northamptonshire Council.

3.5 The ongoing 20% reductions on Historic Commitments Funding on CSSB will continue year on year i.e. a further reduction of £0.36M in 2023-24 and £0.29M in 2024-25.

### **4 Legal implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **5 Risks**

5.1 The main risks arising should Schools Forum not agree with the recommendations is to find an alternative source of funding to support the existing commitments as the DSG CSSB is set by the DFE.

## **6 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

6.1 Schools Forum members are asked to agree the Central Expenditure on Education Functions proposals for 2022-23 funded from the CSSB as per Table 2 which are included in the Schools Funding Consultation.

## **7 Next Steps**

7.1 Consultation with schools will be held for a period of four weeks between 5 November - 3 December 2021 inclusive.

7.2 The consultation feedback will be shared with School Forum at the December 2021 meeting.

7.3 Schools Forum members will be asked to agree to the final proposals for central expenditure in December 2021.

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 10

#### 2022-23 De-delegation : Trade Union Facilities Time for Maintained Schools

#### Appendix H

##### 1 Background

- 1.1 North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) implemented a new Recognition Agreement with trade unions in April 2021 and this recognition agreement automatically covers schools where the local authority is the employer.
- 1.2 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. Prior to the disaggregation of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), Schools Forum members representing maintained schools voted to de-delegate a sum of their 2021-22 Post MFG Budget into a pooled trade union facility time arrangement for financial year 2021/22. Academy schools also joined the 21/22 pooled arrangements, contributing funding via service level agreements.
- 1.3 When NCC disaggregated, the arrangements and funds were split between WNC and NNC unitary councils. The NNC pooled facility time arrangements for the current financial year (21/22) are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

##### 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; or
- 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 of Employment) Regulations 2006.

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

3.1 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 a pooled arrangement**

4.1 It ensures 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 school faces a disproportionate cost.

4.4 The majority of schools/academies do not currently employ internal, accredited TU officials.

### **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 2**.

### **6 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

6.1 Schools Forum are recommended to vote to pool facility time arrangements in 2022/2023 between the schools that fall in North Northamptonshire.



6.2 Maintained (Primary and then Secondary) School Forum members are asked to vote as to whether the trade union de-delegation should be continued in 2021-22 at the same rate of £2.10 per pupil. The final amount will be determined by the pupil numbers in the October 2021 Schools Census at the rate of £2.10 per pupil.

## 7 Next steps

7.1 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.

## 8 Financial implications

8.1 The de-delegation of £2.10 per pupil will generate the following budget using October 2020 Census as an example. This de-delegated budget will be updated with the October 2021 Census for 2022-23.

	Rate	Oct 2020 Census Primary NOR	Primary Budget	Oct 2020 Census Secondary NOR	Secondary Budget	Total Budget
De-delegation of Trade Union Facilities Time	£2.10	8958	£18,811.80	1005	£2,110.50	£20,922.30

8.2 Without the Trade Union de-delegation, schools and academies will have to employ and fully fund their own facility union rep for the time they need. It is likely to be more expensive purchasing directly than through the de-delegation.

8.3 Academies and Free Schools, Nursery Schools and Special Schools are welcomed to join the pooled arrangements via separate service level agreements.

## 9 Legal implications

9.1 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 schools to meet these requirements.

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

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

## 10 Risks

- 10.1 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 schools own HR policies).
- 10.2 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.

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## Appendix 1

### NNC pooled facility time arrangements 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

- Currently operated on a per-pupil rate cost to schools of £2.10
- Benchmarking East Midlands local authorities (2019) found per-pupil de-delegation rates between £1.51 - £6.00 (mean £3.56)
- 13 academies and 2 Academy Trusts are also currently contributing, charged at the same per pupil rate of £2.10
- the combined funds for operating the 2021/22 pooled arrangements (which included a carry forward from 2020/21) total £66k and this is used to reimburse those schools who employ one of the trade union representatives who undertakes trade union duties across all the schools and academies within the pooled arrangement. The reimbursement is for the salary costs.
- 11 days per week of funded facility time, distributed as follows:
  - GMB – 2 days/week
  - Unison – 2 days/week
  - NEU – 4 days/week
  - NASUWT – 3 days/week
- **NNC schools – trade union employee representatives during 21/22**

Union	Name	Contact	Employer	Days /week
GMB	tbc	tbc	tbc	2
Unison	Richard Poole*	<a href="mailto:Richard.poole@northantsunison.co.uk">Richard.poole@northantsunison.co.uk</a>	Northamptonshire Children's Trust	2
NEU	Hayley Ansell	<a href="mailto:HAYLEY.ANSELL@neu.org.uk">HAYLEY.ANSELL@neu.org.uk</a>	Oundle CE Primary	2
	Simon Rielly	<a href="mailto:SIMON.RIELLY@neu.org.uk">SIMON.RIELLY@neu.org.uk</a>	Kettering Buccleuch Academy	2
NASUWT	Richard Kempa	<a href="mailto:Richard.Kempa@northnorthants.gov.uk">Richard.Kempa@northnorthants.gov.uk</a>	NNC	1
	Mike Molloy	tbc	Havelock School	1
	Bruce Choto	tbc	Prince William School	1

*\*Transitional arrangement for 2021/22 for continuity, whilst UNISON undergo a reorganisation of their branch structures*

## Appendix 2

### **Joint statement from the recognised trade unions – benefits of pooling facility time:**

- Positive and supportive informal communications with head teachers and HR departments.
- Continued support for members that have been affected adversely by COVID-19.
- The ability to resolve issues promptly and informally (avoiding lengthy formal processes).
- Offer a balanced opinion as to what is reasonable for the employer and what is reasonable for our members to accept.
- Trade unions retain local knowledge of agreements and bring regional and national comparisons to the table.
- Consistently working with senior leaders and governors to support them in achieving their aims within their education settings (effective and happy staff offer children and young people more opportunities to achieve).
- Benchmarking East Midlands local authority de -delegation rates: these are between £1.51 and £6 (mean £3.56). The current Northamptonshire rate is £2.10. Given increased employment costs in the next financial year, the trade unions propose that the rate of £2.10 for the 2022/2023 financial year is maintained. This offers good value for money whilst recovering from the continued impact of COVID-19.



## North Northants Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 11

#### 2022-23 De-delegation : School Effectiveness for Maintained Schools

#### Appendix I

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 The School Effectiveness (SE) team is funded from the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 The current team consists of a Head of Service and Associate Head Teacher 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.
- 1.2 It also consists of School Improvement Partners (SIPs) who work with Primary, Secondary and Early Years school based settings including, Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) and Governors.
- 1.2 School Effectiveness provide essential services enabling the school effectiveness team to broker support for maintained schools requiring additional support including:
- A team of well-qualified and experienced head teachers (partnership heads) who work with SIPs on school reviews, bespoke support and monitor progress against agreed objectives.
  - An Interim Executive Board chair.
  - Governing body review
  - School- to-school support plans (general) approved by the Head of School Effectiveness.
  - School- to-school support for targeted outcomes or where progress is slow in target areas of phonics, reading, maths, SEND and pupil premium outcomes.
  - School-to-school support from Partnership Head Teachers (PHTs), Local Leaders of Education (LLEs) and National Leaders of Education (NLEs);
- 1.3 This report covers
- School Effectiveness Funding and review of Impact
  - Future Priorities
  - Recommendations for 2022-23

## 2 School Effectiveness Funding and Review of Impact

- 2.1 For 2021-22 School Effectiveness de-delegation was approved by Northamptonshire Schools Forum in October 2020. Forum agreed to continue with School Effectiveness de-delegated funding of £7.50 per pupil from primary maintained schools to create an estimated budget of £67k for North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools in 2021-22.
- 2.2 School Effectiveness is being used to target maintained schools which were judged by Ofsted to require improvement or are in special measures, or:
- have a data dip or downward trend in outcomes that would put them at risk of an adverse Ofsted inspection unless bespoke interventions were put in place;
  - require improvement in pupil premium outcomes;
  - require improvement in reading outcomes
  - require School Effectiveness significant improvements to their curriculum provision to ensure that the quality of Education is at least Good as detailed in the School Inspection Handbook - See [here](#) for latest iteration updated September 2021.
- 2.3 School Effectiveness was used to:
- Resource school-to-school support plans for those schools requiring intervention;
  - Secure the placement of an executive head to support improvements for those schools requiring intervention and in schools placed into requires improvement or special measures;
  - Fund several reviews of governance and pupil premium;
  - Fund school-to-school support from partnership heads, LLEs and NLEs;
  - Provide initial funding for the Northamptonshire collaborative reading project;
  - Provide initial funding for the North Northamptonshire Curriculum Training launch;
  - Provide funding for the Pupil Premium focus project.
- 2.4 The **impact** has been:
- Schools of concern have become more focused on improving outcomes compared to national benchmarks and comparing their pupils' outcomes with those of similar pupils in similar schools, thereby raising aspiration of what can be achieved;
  - Outcomes in maintained schools have improved over 2018-19 in all KS2 measures except progress in maths;
  - The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard and above in reading has risen to above national in maintained schools;
  - The improvement in reading at both expected standard and greater depth is 3% nationally and 5% across all Northamptonshire's schools;
  - Ofsted inspections have all been favourable in the schools supported by the DSG; and
  - Although many improvements are evident this year, standards remain below national and below that of statistical neighbours for many schools;
  - Schools requiring intervention that are causing concern and receiving direct input from AHT, high level input from SIPs or NLE targeted support, have received acknowledgement of improvement stated by Ofsted as 'taking effective action towards becoming good' in most recent Section 8 monitoring inspection outcome.

(Note: data on pupil premium outcomes are not available presently)

2.5 **Future priorities** are to:

- Continue to raise aspiration using FFT benchmark data;
- Improve progress and attainment in reading and phonics;
- Accelerate the rate of improvement in primary outcomes at key stages 1 and 2;
- Reduce the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils and those with send; and
- Work with teaching schools and MATS to improve outcomes in primary maths for all pupils; and
- Continue to focus on and improve the 'quality of education' (the curriculum) so that schools continue to have a curriculum that is coherently planned and sequenced and one which is aspirational for all pupils and groups of pupils.

2.6 It is currently estimated School Effectiveness resources will be fully utilised in 2021-2022. In the unlikely event that School Effectiveness is not fully utilised at the end of March 2022, the underspend would be rolled forward to be used in future years for School Effectiveness.

**3 Proposed next steps**

3.1 The council intends to consult upon its intention to ask maintained schools' representatives to increase de-delegation for this purpose to £15 per pupil.

3.2 This increase would help the LA to economically secure the provision of services of an Associate Headteacher who will enable the LA to be more agile in responding to the needs of schools as well as build relationships with the sector.

3.3 Further conversion of two primary schools into academies since the 2021-22 de-delegated budget was set meant that there is currently less resource in the pot to deliver the required services going forward.

3.4 The increase in employer's National Insurance contributions in the 2022-23 further exacerbates the resource issue.

3.5 This increase will generate a budget of £134k (based on the October 2020 census – this budget will be amended to reflect October 2021 census once the DFE Settlement is received in December 2021)

3.2 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 rate of £15 per pupil  
c. If no what rate would you consider reasonable?

**4 Recommendations**

4.1 Schools forum members are asked to agree the consultation proposals and questions, or propose alternatives.

**5 Financial implications**

5.1 Should the consultation take place, Schools Forum will need to agree at its December meeting the de-delegation of £15 per pupil for maintained primary and secondary schools. This £15 per pupil will be deducted from the individual maintained schools' 2022-23 Post MFG Budget.

## 6 Legal implications

6.1 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>• <b>School improvement</b></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

## 7.1 Risks

7.1 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.

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## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 4 November 2021

### Agenda Item 12

#### 2022-23 De-delegation : Redundancy Costs for Maintained Schools

#### Appendix J

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 The redundancy costs for maintained schools de-delegation enables maintained schools to collectively manage redundancy situations that are unaffordable for individual schools. It provides a means for maintained schools to access financial support when restructuring for the purpose of bringing their budget into balance.
- 1.2 This gives some protection to schools that need to adjust their staffing structures in order to manage their financial circumstances, potentially preventing them from incurring deficits and compounding their financial circumstances.

#### 2 Accessing the Fund

- 2.1 Maintained Schools can submit a redundancy business case and a three year budget plan for before and after planned redundancies (in an agreed format available on asking) to NNC HR and NNC Finance. If specific conditions are met, financial support is authorised by both the Director of Children's Services and the Section 151 Officer (or their deputies).
- 2.2 The standard level of support provided is 25% of the cost of redundancy or greater if the resulting cost leaves the school in a deficit budget in the year purely as a result of the redundancy costs.
- 2.3 Detailed criteria for accessing the fund:
  - a) Must be a maintained school
  - b) Restructure needed to bring school budget into balance within next year or across the 3 year business plan
  - c) Reserves not held that could cover cost of redundancies
  - d) The revised structure must balance the budget (or significant work must be in progress towards that end e.g. amalgamation)
  - e) Full year business plan before and after restructure must be provided in business case (in full excel format)
  - f) Estimate of cost must be provided in business case, including pension strain.

#### 3 Financial Position and Budget Requirement for 2022-23

- 3.1 In 2021-22 budget setting the rate was reduced significantly from £5 in 2020-21 to £1.50 due to a large carry forward from 2020-21. However a number of significant restructures

are on the horizon as we come out of lockdown and we anticipate the current budget to be depleted.

**Table 1: 2021-22 Forecast Outturn Position on Redundancy De-delegation Budget**

Description	NCC 2019-20	NCC 2020-21	NNC 2021-22	NNC 2022-23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Carry Forward	282	220	**153	166
De-delegation from Maintained Schools	27	124	13	71
Total Budget	309	344	166	237
Expenditure	89	66	***0	***166
Balance remaining	220	*338	166	71

\* Carry forward from NCC, \*\* carry forward proportion for NNC, \*\*\*Estimated

- 3.2 Although no redundancy business cases have been received so far in 2021-22, there are some significant restructures expected in the coming months. Some of these restructures involves significant numbers of staff in 2022-23.
- 3.3 As a consequence the LA are proposing the rate for the 2022-23 de-delegation for redundancy costs be increased to £8 per pupil for Maintained Schools for the provision of this service to continue. An estimate of the budget this will generate are shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Calculation of rate required for 2022-23**

Description	Total
Primary pupil numbers (Oct 2020 census basis)	8958
Total required budget estimate	circa £71K
Per pupil rate required	£8 per primary pupil

- 3.4 Maintained schools contributions determines the available budget. The budget pot can reduce during the year if maintained schools convert to academy in year.
- 3.5 As this funding is de-delegated from individual maintained school budgets any underspend at the end of 2022-23 would be ring-fenced and carried forward to use in future years as necessary.

#### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 Information on the redundancy de-delegation will be included in the schools consultation document for the 2022-23 budget setting process.
- 4.2 School Forum members will be asked to vote on whether the redundancy de-delegation should be continued with the suggested scheme at the rate of £8 per pupil, as outline above.

#### **5 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 5.1 Schools Forum is recommended to support the proposed de-delegation rate for redundancy funding for inclusion in the Schools Funding Consultation and to note that a vote will be required by Maintained School Members at the December's Schools Forum meeting.

## 6 Legal implications

6.1 [Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities](#) outlines de-delegations voting requirements by maintained schools forum members.

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

6.2 Detailed guidance can be found under Regulation 11(5) and 11(6) and Part 7 (68) of [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2021](#)

(5) After the local authority has made a determination under paragraph (1) but before giving notice under paragraph (10), the authority may apply to its schools forum under regulation 12(1), or to the Secretary of State under regulation 12(2), for authorisation to redetermine schools' budget shares by removing any of the expenditure referred to in Part 6 (Items That May Be Removed From Maintained Schools' Budget Shares – Primary and Secondary Schools) of Schedule 2 from the budget shares of—

- (a) all primary schools other than nursery schools;
- (b) all secondary schools; or
- (c) all primary schools other than nursery schools, and all secondary schools,

where the expenditure is instead to be treated as if it were part of central expenditure.

(6) After the local authority has made a determination under paragraph (1) or (4) but before giving notice under paragraph (10), the authority may apply to its schools forum under regulation 12(1), or to the Secretary of State under regulation 12(2), for authorisation to redetermine schools' budget shares by removing any of the expenditure referred to in Part 7 (Items That May Be Removed From Maintained Schools' Budget Shares – Primary, Secondary, and Special Schools, and Pupil Referral Units) of Schedule 2 from the budget shares of the schools specified in paragraph (7), where the expenditure is instead to be treated as if it were part of central expenditure.

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (6), the specified schools are all primary schools other than nursery schools, all secondary schools, and all special schools and pupil referral units.

**68. Expenditure in relation to the authority's functions regarding the appointment or dismissal of employees in maintained schools.**

## 7 Risks

7.1 The main risk is that the budget is not sufficient to support all schools that are restructuring due to financial difficulties. This could be mitigated by agreeing to carry forward any overspends to the following year to fund from the budget set for 2023-24.

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# Item 14: Remote Meetings



## Background

- ▶ National regulations govern the composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums.
- ▶ In common with local authority meetings, the Government introduced specific legislation during spring 2020 to enable Schools Forums to meet remotely during the coronavirus pandemic.
- ▶ That legislation had a 'sunset clause' and ceased to have effect on 1 April 2021.
- ▶ However, unlike the legislation applicable to local authority meetings which would require a change to primary legislation to continue to have effect, the law permitting remote meetings for Schools Forums was enacted via secondary legislation.



## Remote meetings

- ▶ The Government has enacted The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021, which have amended The Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 to make permanent the provisions that have enable schools forums meetings to be held remotely. This includes (but is not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming.
- ▶ Where a schools forum decides to hold a public meeting by remote means only, the forum should provide support or make alternative arrangements so that any interested parties who do not have telephone or online access can attend virtual meetings.
- ▶ The Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide has been updated to reflect this change.



## Experience with Remote Meetings so far

- ▶ The previous Northamptonshire Schools Forum met remotely from May 2020 to March 2021.
- ▶ Although formal feedback on the success of remote meetings has not been sought from members, informally the procedures appear to have worked well.
- ▶ Attendance throughout this period has been good and there have been no issues with quorum. Meetings have also been available to stream via YouTube, increasing transparency for Forum. The costs and environmental impact associated with Forum meetings have also reduced.





## Next Steps

- ▶ Forum members are invited to comment on whether remote meetings should become the default option for the NNC Schools Forum.
- ▶ Forum may wish to take a vote on the issue.

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# Item 15: Forum Forward Plan



## Background

- ▶ This plan sets out an outline for Forum meetings over the next 12 months.
- ▶ Some items will be covered at the majority of meetings so these are listed separately.
- ▶ In some areas discussions and votes are required so these are included against the relevant meetings although there may be discussions at previous meetings.
- ▶ The listing will not be exhaustive but hopefully provides a useful planning tool for Forum.



# Standing Forum Agenda items (if required)

- ▶ DSG Monitoring
- ▶ DfE/ESFA Funding announcements
- ▶ School Budgets
- ▶ High Needs
- ▶ Early Years
- ▶ National Funding formula



2021

Meeting date	Agenda items
22 July 2021	Scheme for Financing Schools Schools Outturn Grant and DSG Funding Update Schools Apprentice Levy Update Hospital Outreach in North Northamptonshire Remote Meetings
Note - * - Forum vote	



# 2021

Meeting date	Agenda items
04 November 2021	Schools block Combined Services Reports Schools block 2022-23 central expenditure * Primary and Secondary maintained schools de-delegation 2022-23* (SIG, Trade union and school redundancies) School budgets 2022-23 - weighted numbers for new schools/year groups School budgets 2022-23 - PFI utility subsidy Early Years Update Pupil Growth 2022-23 - projections and 2022-23 rates Schools funding formula 2022-23 - consultation feedback
Note - * - Forum vote	



# 2021

Meeting date	Agenda items
16 December 2021	<p>School Budgets 2022-23 - outcome of consultation and final proposals *</p> <p>EYSFF - 2022-23</p> <p>Early years central expenditure 2022-23* - outcome of consultation and consideration of proposals, including vote on central expenditure.</p> <p>High Needs update including HN panel, SEN Units RAS, special schools - split site, and draft 21-22 HN budgets, HN place numbers 22-23 academic year</p> <p>DSG Finance Risk Register</p>
Note - * - Forum vote	





# 2021

Meeting date	Agenda items
20 January 2022	<p>NNC Draft Budget proposals 2022-23 EYSFF 2022-23 High Needs budgets 2022-23 Final School budgets 2022-23* (vote - if required) Early years central expenditure 2022-23* - outcome of consultation and consideration of proposals, including vote on central expenditure. DSG Finance Risk register</p>
17 March 2022	<p>DSG Monitoring High Needs Update and 2022-23 Planning Early Years 2022-23 Scheme for Financing Schools DSG Finance risk register</p>
Note - * - Forum vote	

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