

Please outline the reasons for your preference. - Please outline the reasons for your preference.

We feel it is difficult to take a view on any of the three options proposed without the detailed information and transparency as to how the MNS supplement was allocated across the 9 Nursery Schools for 2021-22 and what part of the £310,000 deficit is based on funding allocated from WNC/where this potential clawback will go? In recent meetings re the funding of our two schools in the West we have had no indication from WNC colleagues that additional funds would be coming back to the West MNS from the North. If there has been an underspend in WNC and the funding has been reallocated to NNC then this funding should stay with the North MNS, so as to provide stability and security for those schools.

We also feel there should be legal confirmation regarding the additional funding for the two integrated centre before considering whether a redistribution formula could be applied and the timescale for this.

Please identify any additional factors that you would wish to be taken into consideration in determining the maintained nursery supplement distribution. - Please identify any additional factors that you would wish to be taken into consideration in determining the maintained nursery supplement distribution.

At the February Schools Forum meeting NNC said that they would check with the DfE whether any funds ringfenced for integrated services were in the MNS supplementary funding block. Have you received confirmation from the DfE on this? Please can this correspondence be shared?

Please can you provide a copy of the disapplication request to the DfE for transparency? Also, you mention Schools Forum making an informed decision. Please can you confirm if Schools Forum or NNC will make the final decision on this proposal?

Point 8. You state that there is a deficit position of £310,816 for MNS supplement, and that the distribution of funds in 2021/2022 (as agreed at NCC Schools Forum in March 21) was greater than funds available through final settlement (as per the table in the document). Please can you present more information on this? What allocation of funds was given to NNC for 2021-22? Of this allocation, what was from DfE and what was from NCC/West Northants Council (WNC) as part of the disaggregation process?

In the table you present an income/allocation of £893,195 for 2021/22.

DSG allocation for West Northants Council for 2021-22 was £732,915, with the five schools only allocated £571,130 by WNC, meaning an additional £161,785 was allocated to WNC which the West MNS did not receive. From correspondence with WNC it has been confirmed there was a transfer to NNC due to the shortfall. Please can you confirm how much was transferred as part of the disaggregation process? And, if WNC did agree a transfer of MNS supplement to the North, please can you also confirm how much of this is being clawed back by WNC?

We are aware that, for the four Nursery Schools in North, this would lead to a shortfall from an expected MNS budget of £1,204,011, but we struggle to make sense of why this is £310,818 if, firstly, the Council allocated the funding to a much greater level, and secondly, if WNC provided additional allocations to offset this shortfall.

Agenda Item 04 – Appendix A

Point 9: You state that NNC did not reduce payments scheduled to MNS nurseries in line with reduction in pupil numbers and therefore find a deficit position for 2021/22.

Questions: Why did you allocate the incorrect amounts of funding to the schools in the North for 2021/22? If you had made an error on this part, why are the four Nursery Schools (with already such minimal supplements) now having to see a cut? If the clawback is based on pupil numbers, what happened to the allocation provided by WNC and why has this not reduced the deficit for NNC? Also, if you were aware of the funding being driven purely by pupil numbers/funds no longer being ringfenced for integrated services, why did the Council over-allocate?