

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Ben Bausor, Rhodri Bryant, Peter Collins, Gill Denham, Claire Fletcher, Valerie Harffey, Emma Lister, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Eddie Neighbour, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Jamie Rockman, Neil Sykes and Maggie Waller

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Sue Butcher, Sarah Hockly, Neil Hoskinson, Tony Madden and Len Brazier
Cllr Puja Bedi (lead member for education & children's services)

MEETING DETAILS:

THURSDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 2024 AT 9.15 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88661215181?pwd=V0R3WWwwL3RNbUprMHkydzdnOHppZz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 886 6121 5181
Passcode: 135307

AGENDA

Item	Description	Presenter
1.	Apologies	Chair
2.	Notification of Any Other Business	Chair
3.	Declarations of Interest*	Chair
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 09.11.23 (including matters arising and action log)	Chair (Pages 1 - 6)
5.	Schools Forum Membership update	Chair (Pages 7 - 8)
6.	Local and national funding update/announcements	Sarah Hockly
7.	Safety Valve programme update	Neil Hoskinson
8.	Resource Provision and AP place commissioning	Len Brazier
9.	Growth Fund 2024-25	Tony Madden (Pages 9 - 20)
10.	Proposal for AP Place funding 2024/25	Jamie Rockman (Pages 21 - 22)
11.	DSG Schools Block 2024/25	Sarah Hockly (Pages 23 - 28)
12.	Early Years Block 2024/25	Sarah Hockly (Pages 29 - 38)
13.	2022/23 Forward Agenda Plan	Chair (Pages 39 - 40)
14.	Key Decisions Log	Chair (Pages 41 - 44)
15.	Any Other Business (notified at start of meeting)	Chair

** Declarations of Interest*

The Chair will ask Members to confirm whether they have any declarable interests in relation to any item on the agenda. All Members who believe they may have such an interest must declare it and may only: (a) remain in the meeting while that matter is discussed at the discretion of the Chair, and (b) speak on the matter by invitation. Examples of declarable interests include: where the outcome of a discussion may provide a personal advantage or avoid disadvantage (pecuniary or non-pecuniary), or where the focus of an agenda item and the likely impact of any outcome is wholly or mainly on a school with which the Member is associated.

Slough Schools Forum – Minutes of Meeting held on 9th November 2023

DRAFT MINUTES – for approval at meeting on 11th January 2024

Present: John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)
Ben Bausor, Always Growing Ltd
Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School
Jon Reekie, Phoenix Infants School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College
Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School
Rhodri Bryant, The Langley Academy
Emma Lister, Chalvey Early Years Centre
Gill Denham, Marish Primary School
Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School

Officers: Neil Hoskinson, Associate Director for Education and Inclusion
Sarah Hockley, Strategic Finance Manager, People (Children)
Tony Madden, Development Manager

Observer: Len Brazier – SEND transformation lead, Slough Borough Council

Apologies: Neill Butler, Interim Strategic Finance Manager, People (Children)
Sue Butcher, Director of Children's Services
Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College
Valerie Harffey, Ryvers School
Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
Carol Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School
Neil Sykes, Arbour Vale School

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that there was no clerk available for this meeting. Instead, the meeting would be recorded and transcribed afterwards.

971	Apologies Received as noted above.
972	Notification of any other business None
973	Declarations of Interest None
974	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 28 September 2023, (including matters arising and action log) The minutes of previous meeting held on 28 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting. There were no matters arising.
975	Schools Forum Membership update The Chair confirmed an ongoing vacancy for a Primary Academy representative and noted that it would be helpful to have some representation from larger trusts that are not currently included on Forum.

<p>976</p>	<p>Update on National / Local Funding Issues</p> <p>SH gave a brief update on recent work undertaken by the LA. This included the return for high needs places, and early modelling of the APT based on the October 23 census data.</p> <p>The Chair asked if there were relevant DfE announcements that Forum members should be aware of. SH confirmed that she checked the website the previous evening and nothing particular to mention. SH confirmed that the biggest topic at present is the Safety Value and the APT.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the national coverage of the DfE mis-count of pupil numbers and the consequent shortfall in the 2024-25 budget seemed to have gone quiet, and asked SH for comment. SH confirmed that the total DSG allocation for Slough is unaltered; however, amendments to funding rates affects the total headroom in the DSG. This will covered later in the meeting.</p>
<p>977</p>	<p>2023/2024 DSG Budget Monitoring Report – Q2 Report</p> <p>The Chair referred to the Q2 Budget Monitoring report on page 7 of the agenda pack and asked SH to lead the item.</p> <p>SH noted the build-up of the cumulative DSG deficit which is mainly attributed to overspends in the high needs block. Over a number of years, that deficit has risen to £25.5 million; of this about £10.8 million was written off last year by the DfE, leaving the current position of £14.7m deficit. SH noted that a small deficit of £0.1m at the end of the financial year in March 2023 increased the overall deficit slightly to £14.8m, which is the starting point for the 2023-24 year. There is an understanding with the DfE that there will be further payments to help reduce the remaining deficit over the period of the Safety Valve programme. This is dependent on returning to balanced budgets and 'living within our means' within the DSG.</p> <p>The forecast at the end of Q2 is for a surplus for the year of £0.6 million, comprised of a surplus of £0.3 million in schools, £0.2m in high needs and £0.1m on early years. The expectation is that the Central School Services Budget block would be fully allocated. This would reduce the overall deficit to £14.2 million with further payments coming in from the DfE to reduce that. However, although the Schools Block is showing an underspend of £300k, this is linked to the Growth Fund contingency which may be used in supporting bulge classes; in quarter 3 that figure may reduce.</p> <p>The Chair asked whether the likely DfE contribution at the end of this year was know, and what impact this would therefore have on the cumulative deficit? SH confirmed that SBC had received two payments of around £1 million each, with a third payment expected, and that the intention is for the deficit to be cleared by the end of 2026-27. NH noted that there are agreed staged payments agreed up to 2027, which total up to the £27m. The overspend should be reduced to a breakeven point and then to a positive position so that no new debt is added. NH confirmed that he has asked Len Brazier of the SEND team to join the meeting for his item so he can comment further on some of the work being done in this area. The Chair welcome LB to the meeting.</p> <p>There were no further questions or comments on this item.</p>
<p>978</p>	<p>Growth Fund (added as agenda item 7a)</p> <p>TM explained that this was a short paper to set the scene for this year, and reminded Forum members that following previous feedback, changes to the way growth fund allocations were presented had been implemented to align with the school year.</p> <p>The 2023-24 top slice had been agreed in January 2023 with a large contingency built in to allow for any further growth. TM noted the pressure within the primary phase, with 2 bulge classes opened this year already, in Y4 and Y6. The west of Slough has seen a large drop in births, with surplus places in all year groups there even after having closed 4 forms of entry. However, the central and east areas are very different, with little or negative capacity in many year groups.</p> <p>In terms of secondary school places, this is the peak year for year 7, and the previous expansion programme means there is no pressure on year 7 with enough school places for the current demand. This is the last year of support for the expansion at Westgate, with support from September 2023 to March 2024. Their funding for April 2024 to August 2024 would be through their normal funding so doesn't require support from the Growth fund.</p>

	<p>Taking into account bulge classes currently open, and increases in class sizes to 32 in some schools, the current level of contingency is around £180k, which would be enough for at least two further bulge classes if needed</p> <p>The Chair thanked TM for the presentation asked what top slice might be sought for 2024-25? TM confirmed that as there won't be any permanent expansions to support, the only funding need would be for the second year of bulge classes and for contingency. The likely top slice could be of the order of this year's £600,000.</p> <p>MW asked about the trend of the in-year applications, whether this is levelling in general or whether there could be implications for the growth fund going forward. TM noted that it was difficult to forecast and that more analysis of a complex range of factors would be needed. NH noted that the concerns about in-year applications had been flagged for 2-3 years without action by the LA. A place planning working group had been convened to support the development of a more strategic approach.</p> <p>The Chair thanked NH and commented that we all welcome the level of strategic thinking that is developing here.</p>
<p>979.</p>	<p>2023/24 DSG - CSSB Budget 2023/24</p> <p>The Chair noted that consideration of the CSSB budget should have been brought to Forum earlier, but this did not happen because of difficulties around capacity within the LA. The Chair explained that this is an area where Schools Forum has a decision making role; in this case Forum was being asked to note a decision that had been made, and to retrospectively agree the CSSB budget allocations for 2023-24.</p> <p>SH explained that there was a block allocation of £785k in January 2023, together with an agreement by Schools Forum for a further £100k to be transferred from the Schools Block. This gave a total budget of £885k. This paper outlined the expenditures, including some costs which are negotiated centrally for all authorities, such as the copyright licenses we there is very little leeway to opt out.</p> <p>Comparison with the 2022-23 figures showed the high needs block contribution from the CSSB has been removed. The cost for the virtual school had been removed from the statutory regulatory line and was now being funded by the Slough Borough Council general fund. A small portion of the CSSB relates to historic commitments; this figure is about £32k and this will be decreased by 20% per annum over the coming years.</p> <p>JC thanked SH for the update and asked for questions/comments about individual budget lines.</p> <p>MW asked whether the allocation for admissions included the annual request to support by transferring £100k from schools block, first brought to Forum some years ago because of pressures in the admissions team. MW asked if this would be an ongoing annual request and expressed concern about the viability of the service going forward if it were dependent on this transfer. SH confirmed that the commitments were greater than the CSSB allocation, and combined with the year by year reduction in the allocation for historic commitments, and bringing the total budget allocation down to the CSSB funding level could be challenging without impacting services. The Chair confirmed that a transfer has been approved in at least two previous years and that Forum would be considerate of a transfer again; presumably that request would have to be made and then approved at the January Forum.</p> <p>RB commented that there was little flexibility in the funding levels, and questioned whether there was sufficient funding to address the pressures on education welfare given the current attendance challenges. NH noted that the council was looking at how to realign teams to priorities, and how to encourage collaborative working on attendance with early help and with social care.</p>
<p>980.</p>	<p>Safety Valve Programme Update</p> <p>NH gave an update on the Safety Value programme, presenting a report largely written by NB.</p> <p>The 2022-23 overspend was lower than expected and there is a projected underspend in this current financial year. However, this does not take account of backlog SEND cases; including an average cost for these, the projected underspend for 2023-24 is £0.2m as referred to in the item on the DSG Q2 figures.</p>

	<p>Overall, it is a better position than previously; it is not expected that the high needs block will break even year this year, but reductions are on track. NH advised that full monitoring arrangements are now in place.</p> <p>JC thanked NH for the summary, confirmed that everyone has the detailed paper in the agenda pack, and asked for comments and questions.</p> <p>JR referred to page 10 of the report and the funding for alternative provision. JR noted that the top-up funding for alternative provision in Slough was lower than statistical neighbouring local authorities, typically around £6k lower with a consequent impact on Haybrook's finances leading to a deficit budget position of £250k. JR noted that provision mapping referred to panel typically comes back with a lower allocation than requested. For an individual student the difference is relatively small, but compounds to a significant loss of income across multiple students and means that Haybrook cannot provide the quality of education required to meet the needs of the children referred.</p> <p>NH stated that there seemed to be a level of misunderstanding with schools, who had not been specifically told what was in the safety valve programme and what the overall aims were. DfE had made it clear that the local authority should not be paying for non-statutory alternative provision such as preventative places, or any AP to broaden the curriculum. Such provision should be funded from the schools block and a new commissioning framework for schools and for AP should be developed. The LA has statutory duties and it's funded only for those statutory duties – if it is not a statutory duty, the LA is not funded to do it. Due to the profile of Slough schools, the majority of the students requiring AP tend to come from 6 schools. It is unrealistic to expect the AP offered by Haybrook to be funded by those six schools and if the LA was not providing this support it should come from the Schools Block, and not the High Needs block.</p> <p>NH emphasised the need to look urgently at different commissioning/funding models, as there will be another cut to the number of places at Haybrook in the next financial year. The DfE will not accept the LA saying that this is putting pressure on Haybrook's staffing because they are saying the LA should not be paying for it, the schools should. The reality is therefore that Haybrook needs to be supported out of the Schools block and not the High Needs block, and that Schools Forum should look at a more holistic view of AP across the schools block. This would mean the use of headroom or a direct top slice of the schools block.</p> <p>LB commented that the past 6 months have been very difficult for JR and for Haybrook, in terms of both funding and planning staffing. He emphasised the strength of the Haybrook provision, and the importance of funding it at the right level. NH echoed LB's comments and said that his visit to Haybrook was inspiring and that the staff have excellent relationships with the young people.</p> <p>MW endorsed LB's comments about the value of AP and asked whether we could learn from what happens in other authorities that may have selective systems. MW also noted that funding directly from schools block would be more transparent, less painful and less specific to individual schools, and would support the moral drive to do it properly and for all schools to value it and pay for it.</p> <p>JC asked NH whether he would be advocating a further request for a block transfer for the 24/25 budget, which would need to be brought to Forum in January, or whether this was a longer term proposal. NH confirmed that the LA will be very happy to support something more immediate, but that it was important the any proposal should be driven by headteachers.</p> <p>JC thanked NH for his comments and noted that the structure of that piece of work is outside the scope of Forum to organise. Forum's role would be to look at any financial decisions required by any proposals.</p> <p>JR endorsed the suggestion about top slicing and emphasised that any proposal brought to Forum in January should include primary alternative provision as schools block is money for all schools.</p>
<p>981.</p>	<p>2024/2025 DSG – Schools Block transfer</p> <p>SH presented results of the consultation with schools and the principle of allocating headroom within the schools block.</p> <p>JC noted that there were two separate issues; the approval of the principle of the 0.5% block transfer, which is something that Forum has agreed in the previous two years, and then the principle for distribution of any headroom in the schools block. SH confirmed that the 0.5% transfer to the high needs block would essentially come from the headroom and would not decrease the NFF funding allocations for schools. SH</p>

	<p>confirmed that the headroom within the schools' block was approximately £3.5m, which was therefore well able to cover the block transfer which would be around £870k.</p> <p>SH noted the low level of responses from schools to the consultation. The majority view in relation to the block transfer was that the transfer should take place but some schools expressed reservations based on the impact to individual schools' budgets. The second recommendation to use basic entitlement to allocate surplus schools block funding had significant support.</p> <p>The Chair thanked SH and suggested that Forum give provisional approval for the proposal for block transfer, to be confirmed in January when any other pressures on headroom – eg in relation to the alternative provision discussed earlier – were known. He also proposed that Forum provisionally approve any headroom to be allocated via basic entitlement funding.</p> <p>MW agreed that she would endorse this approach. MW also noted that the consultation does not mention that the Safety Valve programme was predicated on a transfer, and suggested that making this clear might have generated responses that were more positive.</p> <p>Forum members agreed with the Chair's proposals and gave provisional approval to the 0.5% block transfer and to the principle of allocating headroom through basic entitlement.</p>
982.	<p>Task Group Update</p> <p>The Chair agreed to convene the 5-16 Task Group to discuss the issues raised in today's meeting. The Early Years has not yet happened.</p>
983.	<p>2023/2024 Forward Agenda Plan</p> <p>Dates for the next three meetings are now fixed as shown on the forward agenda.</p>
984.	<p>Key Decisions Log</p> <p>No comments</p>
985.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chair reminded Forum members that in the absence of a school's forum clerk, he and his PA at Langley Grammar School were undertaking clerking and minute taking duties this year. For transparency, he asked members to note that funding for time spent on these functions, although not the time of the meetings themselves, was claimed by Langley Grammar School and funded from the CSSB specific allocation for covering the operational costs of Schools Forum.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10:44.</p>

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Slough Schools Forum Membership

This version – 06/11/2023

School	Type of school	Name and role	Elected/appointed by	Term of office ends
ACADEMIES (11 members)				
Special schools/PRUs (2 members)				
Arbour Vale School (<i>OHCA</i>)	Special School	Neil Sykes (Principal)	Academies	31 December 2023
Haybrook College Trust	PRU	Jamie Rockman (CEO)	Academies	31 December 2023
Primary academies (4 members)				
Phoenix Infants Academy (<i>Baylis Court Trust MAT</i>)	Academy	Jon Reekie (Governor)	Academies	31 August 2025
Ryvers School	Academy	Valerie Haffrey (School Business Manager)	Academies	31 August 2025
Marish Primary School (<i>Marish & Willow Trust</i>)	Academy	Gill Denham (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Vacancy	Academy	Vacancy	Academies	
Secondary academies (5 members)				
Herschel Grammar School (<i>Schelwood Trust</i>)	Academy	Jo Rockall (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2025
Langley Grammar School	Academy	John Constable (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2025
Slough & Eton CofE School (<i>SEBMAT</i>)	Academy	Peter Collins (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Upton Court Grammar School (<i>Pioneer Education Trust</i>)	Academy	Eddie Neighbour (CEO, Pioneer Education Trust)	Academies	31 August 2025
The Langley Academy (<i>Arbib Trust</i>)	Academy	Rhodri Bryant (CEO, Arbib Trust)	Academies	31 August 2025
MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4 members)				
Primary maintained (3 members)				
Holy Family Primary School	Voluntary Aided	Maggie Waller (Governor)	Maintained schools	31 August 2025
Penn Wood School	Community	Claire Fletcher (Headteacher)	Maintained schools	31 December 2025
Wexham Court Primary School	Community	Navroop Mehat (Headteacher)	Maintained schools	(31 August 2023)
Secondary maintained (1 member)				
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	Voluntary Aided	Angela Mellish (SBM)	Maintained schools	31 August 2025
MAINTAINED NURSERIES (1 member)				
Chalvey Nursery School	Nursery	Emma Lister (Headteacher)	Maintained Nursery HTs	31 August 2025
NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS (2 members)				
16-19 Provider (1 member)				
Windsor Forest Colleges Group	16-19 Provider	Vacancy	16-19 Providers	TBC
PVI Provider (1 member)				
Always Growing Ltd.	PVI Provider	Ben Bausor	Local Authority	31 st August 2025
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP				16 members

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Schools Forum 11 January 2024	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Services	
Schools Growth Fund 2024/25	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	None
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Sarah Hockly Interim Strategic Finance Manager Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk</p> <p>Tony Madden Development Manager Email: Tony.Madden@slough.gov.uk</p>

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out the allocation criteria for the Growth Fund that will apply in 2024/25 and the ‘top slice’ from the Schools Block DSG that will fund commitments in 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Schools’ Forum is asked to comment on the proposed allocation of £500,000 to the Growth Fund in 2024/25 which will form a top slice from the Schools Block DSG.

2.2 Schools’ Forum is asked to note that the Growth Fund will fund the following additional places at both primary and secondary schools, where expansion is requested and agreed in advance by Slough Borough Council:

- a) Bulge classes;
 - i. 1st Year - Fully funding the class in its first academic year
 - ii. 2nd Year - Funding the growth in places between October Censuses.
- b) Permanent expansions at any school not just maintained schools until the increased PAN works its way through the school e.g. an increase from 2 FE to 3 FE would take 7 years for a primary school and 5 years for a secondary school.
- c) New places in excess of Planned Admission Numbers (PAN).

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Slough's birth rate rose by 48% over the period from 2001/2 to 2010/11. The effect of this growth along with inward migration to the town has meant that the primary school estate has been increased in capacity by 50% while the secondary school capacity has been increased by 60%.

Primary Places

3.2 Birth numbers have reduced year on year since the peak in 2010/11 and 2011/12. This has created a surplus of places in primary schools overall although this is not spread evenly across Slough's planning areas.

- This **west** planning area has seen the largest fall in birth numbers. A number of schools have already reduced their admission numbers, it is likely that a further reduction or two will be required over the next few years. The current surplus places are above the 'target surplus' in all year groups. No additional capacity is required.
- The **central** planning area is under pressure in many primary year groups, 3 year groups are already full. For October 2023 of the 7 current year groups 5 have less than the target surplus. Further capacity is now required in this planning area.
- The **east** planning area is very popular and attracts pupils from other planning areas. The October 2023 Census showed that 5 of the 7 current year groups have little or no surplus places. Further capacity is now required in this planning area.

3.3 There is a sustained pressure on places in the Central and East Planning Areas as in-year applications have risen to their highest ever levels over the last 18 months. This has required that the LA open 2 bulge classes at the start of the school year, further capacity is required in 2023/24 and future years. One school has admitted up to 31 in a class at SBC's request.

3.4 An issue has emerged recently whereby schools have managed partially filled classes down to a level where one less teacher is required in a specific year group. When this happens in areas with a pressure on places it can have an impact on the Growth Fund. To replace a 'lost' class with a bulge class would cost the Growth Fund up to £109K at 2023/24 rates, £164K for secondary schools.

Secondary Schools

3.4 The population growth has been impacting secondary schools for some years and 3 new secondary schools and an all-through school have opened. In addition, 2 non-selective schools plus one grammar school have undergone expansion funded by the LA. Slough's other three grammar schools have all increased their PANs.

3.5 The peak in Slough's birth numbers reached Year 7 in 2022 and 2023. The increases mentioned above provide sufficient capacity for this peak and the need for additional places is not expected. In other year groups the majority of surplus places are

located at a single school (Grove Academy). This situation needs to be monitored as the recent high rates of in-year applications may change this position.

Lagged Funding

- 3.6 The prescribed methodology for calculating revenue funding for expanding schools means that there is a 'lag' in the period from pupils starting until they appear on the school census and are funded. In acknowledgement of this lag the DfE permit LAs to top slice the Schools' Block to use for the 'Growth Fund'. The Growth Fund supports expanding Schools through the period where lag applies.
- 3.7 The methodology for qualification and allocation of the Growth Fund is reviewed and agreed by Schools' Forum on an annual basis. Schools' Forum is asked to consider the financial impact on schools of expansion and agree an affordable level of additional revenue support. Schools Forum agreed the methodology to be applied in 2023/24 at a meeting in January 2023. No variations are proposed within this report for 2024/25.

4 EXPANSION OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 All options for creating new places are explored by SBC including:
- Bulge classes – generally classes of 30 pupils, opened to provide capacity for new arrivals and supported by the Growth Fund;
 - Permanent expansions – full forms of entry added to an existing school by the LA. They require ongoing commitment from the Growth Fund to deal with the lag in revenue funding (usually 5-7 years);
 - Increased class sizes or numbers above PAN – termly commitment from the Growth Fund where pupils are not recorded on the October School Census;
 - New Free Schools – depending on how they are funded by the DfE, they can require support from the Growth Fund – currently no further new schools are planned or required in Slough. Bulge classes may be requested at new schools by the LA and will be treated the same as any other bulge class.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1. The Growth Fund is one of the centrally held budget areas that Schools Forum has decision making powers over. Guidance on how the Growth Fund should be approved and allocated can be found in *Schools operational guide: 2023 to 2024 (updated 23 August 2023)*. Section 29 states:

“The growth fund can only be used 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.”*

- 5.2 Falling Rolls Funding Section 30 states: “Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next 3 financial years.”

As this only applies where demand is projected to rise in the near future this has previously been discussed and discounted by Schools Forum. It remains a useful option that could support schools in the future should local circumstances change.

Level of Funding – Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

- 5.3 The methodology for distributing funding is based on an AWPU per pupil, reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school’s budget share. Note that secondary AWPU is based on an average of KS3 and KS4 AWPU funding.

Summary of Criteria Agreed for 2022/23 and 2023/24

- 5.4 **Bulge classes** must be agreed in advance by the LA.
- 5.5 Slough’s maintained schools receive Growth Funding for September until March and academies receive funding for September through until August. The different funding periods reflect the difference in financial years for each category of school: maintained schools receive their funding from April to March, while academies are funded from September to August.
- 5.6 Over the last 8 years Schools Forum has agreed to a one-off payment of additional funding in the second year of bulge classes at academies.
- 5.6.1 An issue that was first flagged in 2016 is that the lag for academies can be longer than 12 months if pupils are admitted after the October Census. This might be because the class opened after the School Census or opened before with a low starting number. If a bulge class were to open November 2022 for instance with 20 pupils, then an academy would not receive funding for this class until 22 months later (with Growth Funding supporting the first 10 months).
- 5.6.2 It is rare that a new bulge class will be full as its purpose is to provide capacity for the rest of the academic year for new arrivals; if it were full then the authority may look to open a further bulge class.
- 5.6.3 A number of options for providing additional funding were originally considered by Schools Forum in 2017. It was agreed that funding would be allocated based on the following table. It should be noted that this methodology does not ‘ghost fund’ places and can still result in the school subsidising some of the cost of a teacher, however it ensures every pupil is funded while remaining affordable.

Funding Calculation
Fund the difference in number of pupils between the first year Autumn School Census and the second year.
For instance NOR October Census 2022 = 10
NOR October Census 2023 = 20
Fund (20 – 10) = 10 places

5.7 **Expansion by a Form of Entry** - The Growth Fund provides financial support for all the years a school incurs a shortfall in funding whilst going through a permanent expansion. Where a school grows from Reception up to Year 6, they will receive funding for a full class for 7 years if they grow gradually by one class a year. Secondary schools will receive funding for 5 years as pupils move from Year 7 to Year 11. If a school doesn't have an additional class then it wouldn't be entitled to funding, for instance a bulge class leaves the school in the top year while an extra class joins in the lowest year group. In this case the school would have the same number of classes for 2 consecutive years and Growth Funding support wouldn't be necessary.

5.8 In 2023/24 only one school qualified for this funding and in 2024/25, unless new expansions are agreed, no schools will qualify for this funding.

5.9 **Larger Classes or Numbers in Excess of PAN** - The Growth Fund will provide financial support for schools that admit pupils in excess of their PAN for each period that they make each additional place available at the request of the Local Authority. For instance, where a school makes 96 places available into a year group instead of 90 at SBC's request, the school would be funded for 6 additional places for each week that the places are available.

5.10 **Funding Mechanism** - Schools will receive AWPU funding for 'the period' that they make each 'additional place' available at the request of Slough.

Additional Place – This is a school place that is over and above the PAN for that year group; it is also higher than the number of pupils in that year group as at the October Census for that academic year. This definition avoids double funding pupils, as schools will receive funding for the number on roll reported as part of this Census.

Funding will only be provided for pupils in year groups Reception up to Year 11.

- The Period - This will be agreed in units of whole terms where possible. This will allow revenue funding to be provided near the start of each term and avoid the need for claw back. In some instances, it may be that the term has already started and places are urgently required by the LA, this would result in funding for a partial term.
- Agreement – The funding is not retrospective and will only apply where it is agreed in advance by SBC that funding will be provided.

- 5.11 Academies - There is an issue with funding of academies between April and August as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funds academies from April to August in arrears. The time to claim this funding is January each year during the budget build via the APT. Any decisions to create places after this date cannot be recouped from the ESFA. Therefore, the Growth Fund will also fund this period for academies.
- 5.12 Payment to Academies - SBC provides funding to growing academies in 2 tranches. The first tranche paid in September/October for the period September to March and the second tranche paid after Easter for the period April to September.
- 5.13 Non-Academies - As currently happens with bulge classes, the Growth Fund will support non-academy schools from September to March, thereafter funding is provided via the next School Census in October. This is due to non-academies (maintained schools) being funded April to March.

Budget requirements for 2024/25

- 5.14 The budget requirement for 2024/25 is:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Current bulge class commitments | £91K |
| Contingency sum | £409K |
| Total | £500K |
- 5.15 To fund these requirements it is suggested that a top slice from the DSG of £500K is agreed. The underspend from the 2023/24 Growth Fund, projected at c£150K, will be retained as part of the DSG and be used to support expenditure in that year.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options were considered.

8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Not applicable

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

10 Equality Implications

Not applicable

11 CONSULTATION

- 11.1 Slough Education Partnership Board (SEPB), SASH and SPHA are consulted on the wider expansion policy of the council on a regular basis.

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2023-24 Estimated Growth Fund Allocations (£)

Based on the financial year April 2023 to March 2024

APPENDIX A

Date: Jan 2024

	2022-23 rates	2023-24 rates
Primary AWPU	3,544.58	3,641.00
Pupils per Class	30	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	106,337.40	109,230.00
All schools (Sep - Mar)	62,030.15	63,717.50
Academies (Apr - Aug)	44,307.25	45,512.50

	2022-23 rates	2023-24 rates
Secondary AWPU (KS3 KS4 average)	5,315.94	5,460.00
KS3	4,998.70	5,134.00
KS4	5,633.17	5,786.00
Pupils per Class	30	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	159,478.05	163,800.00
All schools (Sep - Mar)	93,028.86	95,550.00
Academies (Apr - Aug)	66,449.19	68,250.00

2023-24 BUDGET		
Top Slice from the Schools Block	agreed with Schools' Forum Jan-23	565,000

FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2023-24

School	Status	Remaining years	Number of funded places	Apr-23 to Aug-23 liability	Sep 2023 - Mar 2024	TOTAL COMMITMENT
Permanent expansions						
Wexham School	Non-Academy	Last year	60		191,100	191,100
Apr-Aug 2023 commitments						
Westgate (permanent expansion)	Academy	Last year	30	66,449		66,449
Ryvers (+2s)	Academy	+2s	12	9,270	22,476	31,746
Contingency projects - agreed						
Godolphin Junior bulge (11 months)	Academy	Bulge	30		54,615	54,615
Marish Primary bulge (12 months)	Academy	Bulge	30		63,718	63,718
Remaining contingency						
Extra primary places (2 months)	Academy	+2s	60		36,410	36,410
Total			222		268,191	444,038

PROJECTED UNDERSPEND (Financial year 2023-24)

£120,962

Notes:

- Schools' Forum have expressed a preference for an underspend rather than a higher top slice be requested at a later date
- Wexham School is the last permanent expansion project funded by the Growth Fund, 2023-24 is the last year of support for the expansion
- Westgate completed their expansion last year but their funding for Apr-Aug 23 is deducted from this year's Growth Fund
- Ryvers created classes of up to 32 after Easter in response to a local pressure on places
- Godolphin Junior and Marish Primary opened bulge classes to assist with the pressure on places in certain year groups

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2024-25 Estimated Growth Fund Allocations (£)

Based on the financial year April 2024 to March 2025

APPENDIX B

Date: Jan 2024

	2023-24 rates	2024-25 rates	
Primary AWPU	3,641.00	3,775.00	subject to change
Pupils per Class	30	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	109,230.00	113,250.00	
All schools (Sep - Mar)	63,717.50	66,062.50	
Academies (Apr - Aug)	45,512.50	47,187.50	

	2023-24 rates	2024-25 rates	
Secondary AWPU (KS3 KS4 average)	5,460.00	5,657.50	subject to change
KS3	5,134.00	5,320.00	
KS4	5,786.00	5,995.00	
Pupils per Class	30	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	163,800.00	169,725.00	
All schools (Sep - Mar)	95,550.00	99,006.25	
Academies (Apr - Aug)	68,250.00	70,718.75	

2024-25 BUDGET

Top Slice from the Schools Block to be agreed by Schools' Forum **500,000**

FORECAST EXPENDITURE

School	Status	Remaining years	Number of funded places	Apr-24 to Aug-24 liability	Sep 2024 - Mar 2025	TOTAL COMMITMENT
Apr-Aug 2024 commitments						
Godolphin Junior bulge	Academy	Bulge	30	45,513		45,513
Marish Primary bulge	Academy	Bulge	30	45,513		45,513
2nd Year of Academy Bulge Classes						
Academy bulge classes opened 2023-24 Cohort growth between Oct-24 and Oct-25 Census	Academy	Bulges	0		0	0
Remaining contingency						
6 x primary bulge classes (or other places as necessary)	Academy	Extra places	180		396,375	396,375
Total		0			396,375	487,400

funded Dec-25

PROJECTED UNDERSPEND (Financial year 2024-25)

£12,600

Notes:

- Schools' Forum have expressed a preference for an underspend rather than a higher top slice be requested at a later date
- Godolphin Junior and Marish Primary opened bulge classes in 2023-24 and are entitled to funding for Apr-Aug 24, plus the criteria agreed in Jan 23 provides some support for a second year of academy bulge classes
- Contingency funding has been based on 6 primary bulge classes but this funding would support secondary growth or +2s as required
- Ryvers are expected to continue to offer an extra 12 places until at least Jul-24

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AP Place Funding 2024/25

Proposal for consideration at Schools Forum on 11 January 2024

1. Summary

This proposal is made on behalf of Slough's registered Alternative Provision (AP) providers and requests that Schools Forum consider agreeing to an allocation of £150,000 from the headroom within the school's block allocation for 2024-2025.

This is to support schools across Slough with early intervention alternative provision by base funding places at Littledown School (for primary pupils) and Haybrook College (for secondary pupils). Approving this allocation for early intervention alternative provision will allow Littledown School and Haybrook College to work with colleagues to provide early intervention AP services for up to 15 pupils in the academic year 2024-25.

2. Supporting Information

For several years, Slough Borough Council has supported Slough schools by providing non-statutory funding for early intervention alternative provision across the primary and secondary sectors. The long-term impact of this funding was to increase the High Needs Block overspend. The section 114 notice, subsequent DSG management plan linked to the Safety Valve Programme, and DfE direction, mean that SBC is only able to fund statutory services and therefore no longer able to provide funding for early intervention alternative provision.

As SBC transitions to funding only statutory services, such as providing 6th-day provision for permanently excluded pupils or those deemed medically unfit to attend school, early intervention services are at risk of diminishing, and support for schools with high-needs pupils is being eroded. Slough schools will therefore need to work collaboratively to develop and fund the early intervention alternative provision required to support schools and their vulnerable and challenging pupils.

Collaborative arrangements through which schools collectively fund non-statutory alternative provision are already well established in many other local authorities, particularly those with high levels of academisation. The allocation requested in this proposal will provide base funding for AP provisions to develop required services, with schools that utilise the available services paying a reduced top-up rate.

The funding would be an allocation of a proportion of available Schools Block headroom/surplus. This would otherwise be distributed across all mainstream schools on top of the formula allocation, on the basis of pupil numbers as agreed at the Forum meeting in November 2023.

The allocation will be divided as follows:

- £50,000 allocated to Littledown School to provide base funding for 5 places
- £100,000 allocated to Haybrook College to provide base funding for 10 places

Littledown School and Haybrook College will work collaboratively with schools across the sector to determine how the funding will be utilised appropriately by September 2024. The following points (as a minimum) will be considered and agreed by schools and the AP provisions:

- What early intervention services will be available to schools?
- How these services will be accessed?
- How these services will be distributed fairly to schools?
- How much will the top funding cost?
- How the impact will be measured, and who will the KPIs be reported to?

3. Financial Implication

The overall 2024-2025 Schools Block allocation for distribution would be reduced by £150k. Each school would therefore receive a slightly lower budget share than would otherwise have been the case. The assumption in this proposal is that the funding would be an allocation of a proportion of available headroom within Schools Block. This is funding received by the LA over and above the aggregated National Funding Formula allocation and would otherwise be distributed across all mainstream schools on the basis of pupil numbers, as agreed at the Forum meeting in November 2023.

4. Alternative Options Considered

There are no viable alternatives to ensure this provision continues to be funded. If the top slice is not agreed upon, the impact is that early intervention alternative provision will be lost.

5. Future Developments

In future years, schools will need to work collaboratively together and in collaboration with AP providers to determine what AP provision they want to develop to support schools. The aim will be to bring forward a fully developed and costed AP development plan for a School's Block top slice in 2025-26 and beyond.

Jamie Rockman
Executive Headteacher
Haybrook College Trust

Schools Forum 11 January 2024	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Services	
Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2024/25	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	Appendix A – High-level Funding Analysis Appendix B – Reconciliation of 2024/25 APT movement between Oct and Dec 2023
Contact Officer(s):	Neil Hoskinson Interim Director – Education & Inclusion Email: Neil.Hoskinson@slough.gov.uk Sarah Hockly Strategic Finance Manager Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for consultation and recommendation by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To comply with regulation and to furnish Schools Forum with the relevant information regarding schools funding.
- 2.2 Schools Forum is asked to confirm its November 2023 provisional decision to transfer 0.50% from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. Based on the December 2023 published allocations, this amounts to £0.862m. DfE regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to be transferred with Schools Forum approval.
- 2.3 Schools Forum is asked to recommend the budget for the DSG blocks, including the mainstream funding formula to Slough Borough Council.

3 Summary- 2024/25 DSG Funding Announcements

- 3.1. In November 2023, Schools Forum were presented with the provisional DSG allocations, which were published in October 2023. The final DSG block funding allocations were announced on 19 December 2023. This report gives an update of the final Schools Block allocations to include the growth funding allocation.

DSG Block	2023/24	2024/25	Change	Change
	Funding	Funding	Change	Change
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Schools Block ¹	162,757	172,308	9,550	5.87%
High Needs Block ²	36,547	37,481	1,024	2.80%
Central Schools Services Block	785	840	65	8.28%
Early Year Block ³	14,883	20,886	6,003	40.33%
	214,972	231,515	16,543	7.70%

Note 1:- In addition to the DSG Schools Block Funding there is a Main Stream Additional Grant of £5.433 million in 2023/24. When added to the schools block funding above this takes mainstream schools funding to £168.190 million.

Note 2:- The HNB Allocation 2023/24 was amended by DfE in July 2023 to reflect subsequent data on places and import/export figures.

Note 3:- The EYB Allocation 2023/24 was amended by the DfE in July 2023 to reflect the latest EY census data from January 2023. This may be revised again when the January 2024 census data becomes available.

- 3.2. The growth funding allocation included in the Schools Block has changed from £0.950m in 2023/24 to £0.863m in 2024/25.
- 3.3. The High Needs Block allocation has been announced at £37.481m, an increase of £1.024m on the current allocation for 2023/24 and represents a funding increase of 2.80%.
- 3.4. The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) is continuing to increase, therefore in addition to a number of measures outlined in the DSG management plan, Schools Forum is asked to approve a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. A detailed breakdown of the high needs block budget will be presented to Schools Forum in March 2024.
- 3.5. The Early Years Block allocations were also published in December 2023, which included further funding for qualifying working parents of 2-year-olds and children over 9 months.
- 3.6. Early Years funding rate options for 2024/25 have been consulted on with sector providers and are the subject of a separate paper to be presented to this Schools Forum.
- 3.7. The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £0.840m, an increase of £0.065m compared to 2023/24. This includes a small reduction of funding for historic commitments, and an increase in funding for ongoing commitments.

4 Schools Block Expenditure 2024/25 – Mainstream Funding Formula

- 4.1 The original financial modelling Summer 2023 estimated a headroom on the School Block allocation of £2.229m, and the consultation proposal was to transfer of 0.5% to the high needs block with the remainder to be allocated to maintained schools and academies through the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) Factor.
- 4.2 It was reported in the November 2023 School Forum that the latest data provided in October 2023 suggested a headroom in the school block allocation of £3.537m. This would have enabled £2.405m to be allocated via AWPU, which is the maximum allowable increase of 2.5%, and would leave £0.857m for the High Needs Block transfer and a contingency of £0.275m
- 4.3 Based on current funding factors and updated census information provided in Dec23, the anticipated headroom on the Schools Block DSG has reduced to £1.985m, which after the proposed High Needs Block transfer of 0.5% (£0.862m) and proposed growth fund £0.500 leaves a headroom of £0.623m to be allocated.
- 4.4 Appendix A provides a high-level analysis of the Schools Block DSG and current funding allocations but may be subject to change as the modelling develops.
- 4.5 There are multiple reasons for the change in headroom of £2.057m between October and December 2023:-

School Block Allocation	+£0.909m
Revised census impact	-£1.866m
Inclusion of split site allocation	-£0.305m
Proposed growth fund	-£0.500m
Revision of LPA factor	-£0.166m
Factor rounding to 5/0	-£0.128m

- 4.6 Appendix B provides further details on these changes in headroom.

5 Growth Fund

- 5.1 The proposed growth fund budget in 2024/25 is £0.500m and a detailed Growth Fund report is being presented to this Schools Forum

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper. Any additional funding received would go towards mitigating inflationary costs pressures faced by schools.

7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options were considered.

8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Not applicable

9 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

10 Equality Implications

Not applicable

Appendix A

Slough School Forum January 2024

School Block DSG Funding Analysis 2024-25

Funding Stream

£

Primary Funding	82,714,542
Secondary Funding	85,673,179
Premises – NNDR & PFI	3,057,353
Growth Funding	862,825
Total Schools Block DSG 2024-25	172,307,899

Allocations

Total School Funding Through APT	170,323,007
Provisional Growth Fund	500,000
Block Transfer of 0.5% to High Needs Block	861,539
Schools Block Funding Allocated	171,684,546
Current estimated Headroom	623,353

Appendix B

Reconciliation of 2024/25 APT movement between Oct23 provisional figures and Dec23 allocations					
				£k	Note
Reported provisional headroom Oct23				£3,537	
Less 0.5% HNB transfer				-£857	
Remaining provisional headroom Oct 23				£2,680	
Less					
Reduction in DSG for Slough BC				£909	
Revised census impact	AWPU		-£1,003		1
	Deprivation		-£177		
	EAL		-£448		2
	LPA		-£445		3
	Mobility		-£57		4
	Total		-£2,130		
LPA adjustment to NFF value				-£166	5
Split site allowances				-£305	6
Rounding up of all factors				-£128	7
Growth fund				-£500	8
Plus					
MFG and Minimum per pupil adj				£226	9
Adj to PFI funding				£42	10
Adj to 0.5% HNB block transfer				-£5	
Unallocated headroom				£623	
Notes:-					
1 Primary pupil units decreased by 63, and secondary PU increased by 214					
2 Eligible EAL proportion increased by 5.9% primary and 25.1% secondary					
3 Eligible LPA proportion increased by 7.6% primary and 0.5% secondary					
4 Eligible mobility proportion increased by 28.5% primary and 31.1% secondary					
5 Oct23 provisional APT included LPA at the minimum NFF value. Historically included at the mid rate.					
6 Excluded from Oct23 provisional APT. LA previously paid 2 schools (Claycots and Langley Hall) for an additional site at a rate of £34,300 each. New NFF factor in 2024/25, with rate more than doubling for each additional site, and an increase in sites from 2 to 4 for Langley Hall Primary Academy.					
7 All factors (other than those included at minimum levels) rounded up to zero/five as per prior years					
8 Growth was excluded from the Oct 2023 provisional DSG allocation and the calculated APT. Estimated at approx £500k including 150 contingency places for Sep24-Mar25					
9 Census changes increase average per pupil and school factors, thereby reducing MFG and minimum per pupil adjustments					
10 PFI increase adjusted to 7.6% which aligns to the reported RPI(X) as at September 2023					

School Forum	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Service	
Early Years National Funding Formula 2024-25	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	1
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Neil Hoskinson Interim Director – Education & Inclusion Email: Neil.Hoskinson@slough.gov.uk</p> <p>Sarah Hockly Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk</p>

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report updates Schools’ Forum on the conclusion of the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) modelling following the outcome of the consultation with the EY Task Group.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Schools Forum is asked to endorse Slough’s Early Years Funding Formula for 2024-25:

- **Notes** the conclusions of the work to develop the 2024-25 EYNFF funding model and associated budget development.
- **Notes** the LA recommendation to implement **option 2** as per the outcome of the Early Years Task Group.

3 Summary

3.1. Appendix 1 outlines the proposed allocation of Slough’s Early Years Block 2024- 25 (based on the local authority funding operational guide 2024-25 published 29th November 23). The final grant value will be determined based on pupil numbers at the January 2024 and 2025 censuses. Therefore, budgets and funding formula rates may be adjusted accordingly to comply with the 95% pass through regulation and to manage the affordability of the formula.

- 3.2. There are significant changes in the Early Years Block allocations for 2024-25, following on from the Chancellor’s announcement in the Spring Budget 2023. Further funding has been made available to provide:
- 15 hours of Funded Early Education per week for 38 weeks (570 hours) for qualifying working parents of 2 year olds from April 2024.
 - 15 hours of Funded Early Education per week for 38 weeks (570 hours) for qualifying working parents of children from 9 months old from September 2024.
 - Disability Access Fund (DAF) is being extended to qualifying 2 year olds from April 2024, and qualifying children 9 months and older from September 2024. The criteria are the same as the current 3 & 4 year old universal entitlement.
 - Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and deprivation payments are being extended to qualifying 2 year olds from April 2024, and qualifying children 9 months and older from September 2024. The criteria are the same as the current 3 & 4 year old universal entitlement.
- 3.3. The four options detailed below were presented to the EY task group on the 11th December, where a decision was made to put forward the two preferred options for the Early Years sector to vote on. Options 1 and 2 were the preferred choice.

Table 1 High Level Early Years Provisional Budget modelling options

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old- increase of £0.44	£6.25	3-4 Yr Old- increase of £0.46	£6.27	3-4 Yr Old- increase of £0.41	£6.22	3-4 Yr Old- increase of £0.40	£6.21
Deprivation- increase of £0.02	£0.75	Deprivation- no change	£0.73	Deprivation- no change	£0.73	Deprivation- increase of £0.27	£1.00
2 Yr Old- increase of £2.61	£9.13	2 Yr Old- increase of £2.63	£9.15	2 Yr Old- increase of £2.58	£9.10	2 Yr Old- increase of £2.60	£9.12
2 yr Deprivation- new funding	£0.75	2 yr Deprivation- new funding	£0.73	2 yr Deprivation- new funding	£0.73	2 yr Deprivation- new funding	£1.00
Under 2 Yr Old- new funding	£12.30	Under 2 Yr Old- new funding	£12.50	Under 2 Yr Old- new funding	£12.41	Under 2 Yr Old- new funding	£12.30
U2 Deprivation- new funding	£0.75	U2 Deprivation- new funding	£0.73	U2 Deprivation- new funding	£0.73	U2 Deprivation- new funding	£1.00

- 3.4. Schools Forum is asked to note the 5% centrally retained budget for Early Years.

4 Proposed local funding formula for 2024-25

- 4.1. The overall base rate for providers is determined by the national formula allocation for Slough and the Local Authority’s mandatory responsibility to children with special educational needs (SEN). Table 2, below, outlines the hourly funding rates for the Local Funding Formula 2023-24 and proposed rates for 2024-25.

Table 2 – Funding Rates

Current and proposed Early Years Funding Formula Factors 2024-25			
Options put forward by the EY Task Group on 11-12-2023			
EY Funding Formula Factor	Current- all EY Providers	Option 1	Option 2
3&4 rate	£5.81	£6.25	£6.27
Universal 15 hours			
Extended (working parent) 15 hours			
Deprivation (mandatory supplement)	£0.73	£0.75	£0.73
2 year old rate			
Disadvantaged 15 hours	£6.52	£9.13	£9.15
Working parent 15 hours	New		
Under 2 year old rate (from Sep'24)	New	£12.30	£12.50

- 4.2. After the 5% reduction for central resources, this funding will be distributed to providers as a universal base hourly rate plus the additional allocation for deprivation where applicable. For 3 & 4 year olds the universal base rate to providers would increase by £0.44 from £5.81 in 2023-24 to £6.25 in 2023-24 in Option1 and would increase by £0.46 to £6.27 in Option 2.
- 4.3. Deprivation is allocated based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children. There is a £0.02 increase in the rate to £0.75 for Option 1 and no change £0.73 in option 2.
- 4.4. For 2 year olds in 2024-25, the funding rate has increased from £6.87 per hour to £9.82 per hour.
It is proposed to pass on £9.13 to providers in option 1 and £9.15 in Option 2, after deduction of 5% for central services.
- 4.5. For Under 2 year olds from September 2024, the funding rate has been set at £13.36. It is proposed to pass on £12.30 to providers in option 1 and £12.50 in Option 2, after deduction of 5% for central services.

5 The results of the consultation were as follows:

- 5.1. Two options were presented to the EY sector in an online consultation:
- Option 1- 18 votes 45%
 - Option 2- 21 votes 55%

Option 2 is the preferred choice.

- 5.2. A summary of the financial impact of the overall final position is set out in appendix A. It uses the estimated participation rates for 2024-25 which has been provided and validated by the Early Years' Service.

6 Participation based funding allocations

- 6.1. Schools and settings are funded based on participation over the whole year and not just the highest count, this ensures that funding is realistic and adjustments for over/under occupancy at the end of the year are more manageable. This will not change in line with the changes above.

7 Inclusion Fund

- 7.1 The government requires all Local Authorities to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund for three and four-year olds in their local funding systems. In order to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund, Slough have historically combined funding from the early years and high needs blocks of the DSG. The SEN inclusion grant funding forms part of the 95% pass through allocation for early years providers allocated on an application basis.
- 7.2. The proposal is to decrease of SEN inclusion funding from the 2023-24 allocation of £80k to £63.8k in 2024-25 which represents 0.33% of eligible funding from the early years block. The SEN inclusion grant along with high needs block funding is used to support children with additional needs in all settings including those in specialist nursery provision for young children with significant difficulties. The funding is allocated based on participation.

8 Funding for children with special educational needs

- 8.1. Disability Access Funding (DAF) ensures that every child in an early years setting receiving the free entitlement and in receipt of the disability living allowance receives an additional funding allocation to the setting. Recent announcements from the DfE increased this amount by £82 from £828 in 2023-24 to £910 for each eligible child from April 2024. Payment of DAF is being extended to eligible families in receipt of both types of 2 year funding from April 2024, and further extended to eligible children from 9 months old in September 2024

9 Early Years Pupil Premium

- 9.1. From 2015 the Government introduced the Early Years Pupil Premium to 3- and 4-year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds. This will be increased in 2024-25 by £34.20 from the current year rate of £353.40 to £387.60 for each qualifying child. Payment of EYPP is being extended to eligible families in receipt of both types of 2 year funding from April 2024, and further extended to eligible children from 9 months old in September 2024

10 Financial Implications

- 10.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

11 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options were considered.

12 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Not applicable

13 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

14 Equality Implications

Not applicable

APPENDIX 1

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old	£6.25	3-4 Yr Old	£6.27	3-4 Yr Old	£6.22	3-4 Yr Old	£6.21
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
2 Yr Old	£9.13	2 Yr Old	£9.15	2 Yr Old	£9.10	2 Yr Old	£9.12
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Under 2 Yr		Under 2 Yr		Under 2 Yr		Under 2 Yr	
Old	£12.30	Old	£12.50	Old	£12.41	Old	£12.30
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old		3-4 Yr Old		3-4 Yr Old		3-4 Yr Old	
DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75
Slough Rate	£6.25	Slough Rate	£6.27	Slough Rate	£6.22	Slough Rate	£6.21
Hours (DfE Estimate)	1,999,988	Hours (DfE Estimate)	1,999,988	Hours (DfE Estimate)	1,999,988	Hours (DfE Estimate)	1,999,988
Pass Through Cost	£12,499,925	Pass Through Cost	£12,539,925	Pass Through Cost	£12,439,925	Pass Through Cost	£12,419,925
Supplement - Deprivation	£244,678	Supplement - Deprivation	£238,153	Supplement - Deprivation	£238,153	Supplement - Deprivation	£326,237
Contingency	£40,000	Contingency	£0	Contingency	£46,800	Contingency	£0
SEN Inclusion	£40,000	SEN Inclusion	£46,500	SEN Inclusion	£100,000	SEN Inclusion	£78,500
Subtotal Pass Through	£12,824,603	Subtotal Pass Through	£12,824,578	Subtotal Pass Through	£12,824,878	Subtotal Pass Through	£12,824,662
Average Hourly Rate	£6.41	Average Hourly Rate	£6.41	Average Hourly Rate	£6.41	Average Hourly Rate	£6.41
DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75	DfE Rate	£6.75
Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%
Centrally Retained 3-4 Yr Old	£674,996	Centrally Retained 3-4 Yr Old	£674,996	Centrally Retained 3-4 Yr Old	£674,996	Centrally Retained 3-4 Yr Old	£539,997
Growth	£318	Growth	£343	Growth	£43	Growth	£135,258
Total 3&4 yr old	£13,499,917	Total 3&4 yr old	£13,499,917	Total 3&4 yr old	£13,499,917	Total 3&4 yr old	£13,499,917
Settlement	£13,499,917	Settlement	£13,499,917	Settlement	£13,499,917	Settlement	£13,499,917
Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old	£6.25	3-4 Yr Old	£6.27	3-4 Yr Old	£6.22	3-4 Yr Old	£6.21
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
2 Yr Old	£9.13	2 Yr Old	£9.15	2 Yr Old	£9.10	2 Yr Old	£9.12
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.50	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.41	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
2 Yr Old		2 Yr Old		2 Yr Old		2 Yr Old	
DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82
Slough Rate	£9.13	Slough Rate	£9.15	Slough Rate	£9.10	Slough Rate	£9.12
Hours (DfE Estimate)	421,977	Hours (DfE Estimate)	421,977	Hours (DfE Estimate)	421,977	Hours (DfE Estimate)	421,977
Pass Through Cost	£3,852,650	Pass Through Cost	£3,861,090	Pass Through Cost	£3,839,991	Pass Through Cost	£3,848,430
Supplement - Deprivation	£65,069	Supplement - Deprivation	£63,333	Supplement - Deprivation	£63,333	Supplement - Deprivation	£86,758
Contingency		Contingency	£0	Contingency	£15,300	Contingency	£0
SEN Inclusion	£18,800	SEN Inclusion	£12,000	SEN Inclusion	£18,000	SEN Inclusion	£1,600
Subtotal Pass Through	£3,936,519	Subtotal Pass Through	£3,936,423	Subtotal Pass Through	£3,936,624	Subtotal Pass Through	£3,936,788
Average Hourly Rate	£9.33	Average Hourly Rate	£9.33	Average Hourly Rate	£9.33	Average Hourly Rate	£9.33
DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82	DfE Rate	£9.82
Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%
Centrally Retained 2 Yr Old	£207,191	Centrally Retained 2 Yr Old	£207,191	Centrally Retained 2 Yr Old	£207,191	Centrally Retained 2 Yr Old	£207,026
Growth	£102	Growth	£198	Growth	-£3	Growth	-£2
Total 2 yr old	£4,143,812	Total 2 yr old	£4,143,812	Total 2 yr old	£4,143,812	Total 2 yr old	£4,143,812
Settlement	£4,143,812	Settlement	£4,143,812	Settlement	£4,143,812	Settlement	£4,143,812
Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old	£6.25	3-4 Yr Old	£6.27	3-4 Yr Old	£6.22	3-4 Yr Old	£6.21
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
2 Yr Old	£9.13	2 Yr Old	£9.15	2 Yr Old	£9.10	2 Yr Old	£9.12
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.50	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.41	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
U2 Yr Old		U2 Yr Old		U2 Yr Old		U2 Yr Old	
DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36
Slough Rate	£12.30	Slough Rate	£12.50	Slough Rate	£12.41	Slough Rate	£12.30
Hours (DfE Estimate)	127,857	Hours (DfE Estimate)	127,857	Hours (DfE Estimate)	127,857	Hours (DfE Estimate)	127,857
Pass Through Cost	£1,572,641	Pass Through Cost	£1,598,213	Pass Through Cost	£1,586,705	Pass Through Cost	£1,572,641
Supplement - Deprivation	£19,715	Supplement - Deprivation	£19,190	Supplement - Deprivation	£19,190	Supplement - Deprivation	£26,287
Contingency	£350	Contingency	£0	Contingency	£1,800	Contingency	£800
SEN Inclusion	£30,000	SEN Inclusion	£5,300	SEN Inclusion	£15,000	SEN Inclusion	£23,000
Subtotal Pass Through	£1,622,706	Subtotal Pass Through	£1,622,702	Subtotal Pass Through	£1,622,695	Subtotal Pass Through	£1,622,728
Average Hourly Rate	£12.69	Average Hourly Rate	£12.69	Average Hourly Rate	£12.69	Average Hourly Rate	£12.69
DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36	DfE Rate	£13.36
Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%	Pass through Compliance	95.00%
Centrally Retained U2 Yr Old	£85,408	Centrally Retained U2 Yr Old	£85,408	Centrally Retained U2 Yr Old	£85,408	Centrally Retained U2 Yr Old	£85,408
Growth	£52	Growth	£56	Growth	£63	Growth	£30
Total U2 yr old	£1,708,166	Total U2 yr old	£1,708,166	Total U2 yr old	£1,708,166	Total U2 yr old	£1,708,166
Settlement	£1,708,166	Settlement	£1,708,166	Settlement	£1,708,166	Settlement	£1,708,166
Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
3-4 Yr Old	£6.25	3-4 Yr Old	£6.27	3-4 Yr Old	£6.22	3-4 Yr Old	£6.21
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
2 Yr Old	£9.13	2 Yr Old	£9.15	2 Yr Old	£9.10	2 Yr Old	£9.12
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.50	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.41	Under 2 Yr Old	£12.30
Deprivation	£0.75	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£0.73	Deprivation	£1.00
Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
MNS	£1,219,253	MNS	£1,219,253	MNS	£1,219,253	MNS	£1,219,253
Centrally Retained all ages	£967,595	Centrally Retained all ages	£967,595	Centrally Retained all ages	£967,595	Centrally Retained all ages	£832,431
Growth	£472	Growth	£597	Growth	£103	Growth	£135,285
Subtotal	£20,571,148	Subtotal	£20,571,148	Subtotal	£20,571,148	Subtotal	£20,571,148
Disability Access Fund	£92,820	Disability Access Fund	£92,820	Disability Access Fund	£92,820	Disability Access Fund	£92,820
EYPP	£221,666	EYPP	£221,666	EYPP	£221,666	EYPP	£221,666
TOTAL	£20,885,634	TOTAL	£20,885,634	TOTAL	£20,885,634	TOTAL	£20,885,634
Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634
Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0
Grand Total	£20,885,634	Grand Total	£20,885,634	Grand Total	£20,885,634	Grand Total	£20,885,634
Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634	Settlement	£20,885,634
Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0	Variance	£0
Total Centrally Retained 5% SEN Inclusion	£967,595 £88,800 £1,056,395	Total Centrally Retained 5% SEN Inclusion	£967,595 £63,800 £1,031,395	Total Centrally Retained 5% SEN Inclusion	£967,595 £133,000 £1,100,595	Total Centrally Retained 5% SEN Inclusion	£967,595 £103,100 £1,070,695

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

PROPOSED FORWARD AGENDA PLAN 2023/24

Updated 09/01/24

Substantive Agenda items

Meeting 1 – Thursday 28 September 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	2022/23 DSG monitoring	Q4/final outturn for 202/23 – Forum to note
2	2023/24 DSG monitoring	Q1 report - Forum to note
3	Safety Valve plan update	Update on progress with DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
5	2024/25 DSG workplan	To include confirmation of process for Schools Block 2024/25 consultation.
6	Task Groups	Confirmation of role and membership of task groups
Meeting 2 – Thursday 9 November 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q2 report - Forum to note
	Growth Fund update	Forum to note 2022-23 outturn and projection for 2023-24
2	CSSB budget 2023/24	Forum to approve budget
3	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme.
4	Provisional DSG settlement 2024/25	Forum to note position and make provisional recommendation on any headroom allocation.
5	DSG Consultation 2024/25	Forum to note report on outcome of consultation with schools for DSG block funding transfer.
6	DSG Block transfer proposals 2024/25	Forum to consider and make provisional decision
Meeting 3 – Thursday 11 January 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme.
2	Growth Fund report	LA confirms of 2024-25 ‘top slice’ from Schools Block. Forum agrees allocation criteria.
3	Resource Provision and AP place commissioning	LA to confirm places commissioned in academies for 2023/24
4	DSG Schools Block 2024/25 – confirmed settlement	Forum notes final DSG settlement, recommends local formula to LA, confirms decisions on block transfer requests
5	Early Years block 2024/25	LA confirms funding arrangements for 2024/25
Meeting 4 – Wednesday 13 March 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q3 report – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Schools Block – confirmation of individual schools’ budgets 2024/25	LA confirmation of individual budgets for 2024/25 following APT submission and any subsequent adjustments
4	DSG HNB centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of HNB centrally retained funding.
5	DSG EY centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of EY centrally retained funding
6	Central School Services Budget 2024/25	Forum approves CSSB budget allocations for 2024/25
Meeting 5 – Thursday 13 June 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q4 report and outturn – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Growth Fund - outturn from 2023/24 financial year	LA confirms outturn from 2023/24 and any consequent update to the allocations for 2024/25
4	Scheme for financing schools	Approval of revised scheme by maintained school reps following consultation.
5	Annual membership review	

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
School Forum membership update	09/12/21	4	866
Gill Denham confirmed as academies member			
Chair to write to Coral Snowden and Peter Collins to ask if they wish to continue in post from January 2022			
DSG 2021/22 Monitoring report	09/12/21	6	868
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG funding update 2022/23	09/12/21	7	869
Forum NOTED the provisional DSG allocation for 2022/23 as set out in the report			
Schools Block 2022/23	09/12/21	9	871
LA to provide scenario modelling with and without requested 0.5% DSG top slice, to inform decision on block transfer in January meeting			
Early Years update	09/12/21	10	872
Forum NOTED the verbal report on EY funding			
Scheme for Financing Schools	09/12/21	11	873
Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools, required in relation to the UK leaving the European Union, APPROVED by maintained school members, subject to confirmation from maintained secondary member (absent from meeting)			
Schools Forum membership update	19/01/22	5	879
Peter Collins confirmed as academies member for two years until January 2024			
Coral Snowden’s term extended until July 2022			
Nominations to be sought for secondary academy member vacancy			
DSG 2021/22 monitoring report	19/01/22	7	880
Forum NOTED current 2021/22 DSG position			
DSG Management Plan update	19/01/22	8	881
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan			
SEND Banding	19/01/22	9	882
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Chelsea Barnes on changes to the SEND banding matrix			
Growth Fund update	19/01/22	10	883
Forum APPROVED the Growth Fund criteria for 2022/23			
Forum NOTED the forecast position for the three years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24			
Schools Block 2022/23	19/01/22	11	883
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing 0.44% figure (£676k) to the High Needs block transfer.			
Report to brought to March Forum meeting describing in detail the difference that this funding has made and how the funds transferred are being allocated.			
Early Years funding 2022/23	19/01/22	12	884
Forum members endorsed the EY Task Group recommendation and APPROVED Option 1 from the 2022/23 funding consultation			
AOB – School Improvement funding	19/01/22	16	888
Discussion to be arranged between LA officers and the chairs of SPHA and SASH to develop proposals for school improvement funding to take to the School Improvement Board and bring back to Forum.			

DSG monitoring report 2021/22	10/03/22	7	894
Forum NOTED the latest DSG position.			
DSG Schools Block 2022-23	10/03/22	8	895
Kamaljit Kaur confirmed she would follow up NNDR payment mechanism and issue clarification for all schools.			
CSSB budget 2022-23	10/03/22	9	896
Forum APPROVED transfer of £180,815 from High Needs block to the CSSB for 2022-23			
Forum AGREED allocation within the CSSB as proposed by the local authority.			
EY centrally retained budget 2022-23	10/03/22	10	897
Forum AGREED the use of the central retained funding as proposed by the local authority.			
DSG Management plan update	10/03/22	11	898
Forum NOTED the Cabinet report on current status of DSG Management Plan and accompanying verbal update			
Written or verbal update to be given at next meeting			
Task group update	10/03/22	12	899
Work of Task groups (Schools Block, High Needs and EY)			
Forward agenda and Key decisions log	10/03/22	14	901
Key decisions log to be updated for May meeting (Chair)			
Forum membership	05/07/22	5	906
Forum NOTED the adjustments to members' terms of office to better align with the academic terms.			
Chair agreed to seek nominations to fill primary and secondary vacancies in September			
Update on national/local funding issues	05/07/22	6	907
Chair agreed to collate and return Forum response to DfE consultation on national funding formula.			
High Needs Budget 2022/23	05/07/22	10	911
Forum NOTED the allocation of centrally retained funding			
Scheme for financing schools	05/07/22	14	912
Maintained Forum members AGREED the proposed minor change to the current Scheme raising the tender threshold from £10k to £25k			
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
DSG 2022/23 Monitoring report	10/11/22	7	923
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG Management Plan update	10/11/22	8	924
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			
Schools Block 2023/24	10/11/22	10	926
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB.			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing figure (0.5% less £100k) to the High Needs block, subject to confirmation in January 2023 following final DSG settlement.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA recommendation that DSG headroom be allocated through the basic entitlement factor			
Resource provision and AP place commissioning	13/01/23	7	937
Forum NOTED the number of resource and alternative provision places commissioned by the LA in academies for September 2023.			
Growth Fund 2023/24	13/01/23	8	938
Forum NOTED the proposed 2023/24 Schools Block top slice of £565k to support the Growth Fund.			
DSG Management Plan and Safety Valve programme	13/01/23	9	939
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			

DSG settlement 2023/24	13/01/23	10	940
Forum CONFIRMED the overall 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to the CSSB (£100k) and HNB (0.5% less £100k) as provisionally approved in November 2022.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA's proposals for the overall 2023/24 DSG allocation.			
Forum NOTED the LA's continued commitment to allocate DSG headroom through the basic entitlement factor.			
DSG Management Plan update	14/07/23	6	949
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Neil Hoskinson on the DSG management plan and the application DfE Safety Valve programme			
Primary-secondary funding ratio	14/07/23	7	950
Forum AGREED that discussion of the impact of the formula decisions on the primary-secondary ratio be discussed within the 5-16 Task Group Chair was tasked with responding to the SPHA letter			
Local School Improvement Fund	14/07/23	8	951
Forum AGREED the proposed principles for the future operation of the LSIF, to now be delegated to the phase associations with a regular report back to Forum.			
Schools Forum membership update	14/07/23	9	952
Forum NOTED that the terms of office of a number of members would end in August 2023. Chair to write to members asking if they wish to continue. Chair to seek nominations to fill primary and secondary academy vacancies			
Reappointment of Chair	14/07/23	10	953
John Constable reappointed as Chair for the AY 2023/24			
Forward agenda plan	14/07/23	11	954
Forum AGREED the structure of meetings proposed for 2023/24			
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
Schools Forum membership update	28/09/23	5	961
Rhodri Bryant confirmed as secondary academies member (subject to formal approval by academy proprietors), representing The Langley Academy			
2022/23 DSG outturn	28/09/23	7	963
Forum NOTED the 2022/23 DSG outturn and the receipt of the first payment of £10.8 million from the DfE under the Safety Valve programme.			
DSG Management Plan update	28/09/23	8	964
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Neil Hoskinson on the DSG management plan and the application DfE Safety Valve programme			
2024/25 DSG Budget setting timetable	28/09/23	9	965
Forum NOTED the LA's timetable for consultation with schools on (a) the annual request to transfer 0.5% from Schools Block to the High Needs Block, and (b) the proposed allocation of any headroom through AWPU.			
Update on task groups	28/09/23	11	967
Forum NOTED the continued role of the Early Years Task Group. Forum ENDORSED the role of the 5-16 Task Group in examining the impact of the DSG settlement on 2024/25 school budgets, and in clarifying how the primary-secondary ratio is affected by decision about NFF factor rates. Forum ENDORSED the membership of the 5-16 group, to include Valerie Harffey.			
Forum AGREED that there was sufficient headteacher representation on other groups to provide oversight of the High Needs block, and that a High Needs Task Group was not currently needed.			
2023/24 DSG update	09/11/23	7	977
Forum NOTED the Quarter 2 position for the 2023/24 DSG.			
2023/24 Growth Fund update	09/11/23	7a	978
Forum NOTED the updated 2023/24 Growth Fund position.			
2023/24 Central School Services Block (CSSB)	09/11/23	8	979
Forum NOTED the CSSB allocation for 2023/24.			

Forum APPROVED the line-by-line allocation within the CSSB as proposed by the local authority.			
DSG Management Plan update	09/11/23	9	980
Forum NOTED the update from Neil Hoskinson on the DSG management plan and the Safety Valve programme			
Schools Block 2023/24	09/11/23	10	981
Forum PROVISIONALLY APPROVED a transfer of 0.5% to the High Needs block, subject to confirmation in January 2024.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA recommendation that DSG headroom be allocated through the basic entitlement factor.			