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**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

Samantha Lawton

Governance and Commissioning

PO Box 1720

Huddersfield

HD1 9EL

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Schools Forum Team

Email: schools.forum@kirklees.gov.uk

Thursday 2 January 2025

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Kirklees Schools Forum

The **Kirklees Schools Forum** will meet in the **Virtual Meeting - online** at **10.00 am** on **Friday 10 January 2025**.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lawton".

Samantha Lawton

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

	Pages
1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence	
2: Minutes of the Schools Forum Briefing held on 11th October 2024	1 - 6
3: Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th October 2024	
4: Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board (standing item) Verbal update: KELPB attendees	
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5: High Needs Block (standing item) Verbal update: Jo-Anne Sanders / John Bartlett	
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6: 2025/26 Funding Formula David Baxter <i>Paper to follow</i>	
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7: Growth Funding	7 - 10
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8: Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) proposed Allocations 2025/2026	11 - 14
David Baxter	
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9: Proposed Schools Block De-delegations for 2025/2026	15 - 18

David Baxter

10: Early Years Funding Consultation and next steps 19 - 20

Martin Wilby

11: Any Other Business

12: Confirm Minutes

13: Next meeting details

Friday, 7th March 2025 – Briefing & Public

Willow Room, Cathedral House, St Thomas Road, Huddersfield.
HD1 3LG

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The KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM PUBLIC
 (Schools Funding Consultative Group)
 meeting held on **Friday 11 October 2024** at
 10:00am at Cathedral House,
 Huddersfield HD1 3LG

Present:

Name:	Category of Membership:
	Maintained Nursery School Head
Diana Wilson, Jenny Shore, Katie Pearson, Helen Pearson	Maintained Primary School Head
Andrew Fell	Maintained High School Head
	Maintained Special School Head
	Special Academy Head
Darren Christian (Chair), Laura Willimott, Dave Wadsworth, Paul Brook	Academy Head
Rebecca Smith	Alternative Provision
Vicky Morris, Hazel Danson	Non-school Member
Mathew Pinder	School Governor
Liz Kilner (Minute Clerk), Martin Wilby, David Baxter	Officers in Support
	Observers
	Others

Item	Title	Actions
1	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introductions were completed.</p> <p>Apologies were received as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Amanda Pinnock – Cabinet Member for Education & Communities • Andi Gilroy-Sinclair – Local Authority Nursery School • Rik Robinson – Maintained Special School • Ian Rimmer – Secondary Academy • Kath Duffy – Early Years PVI Settings • Tom Brailsford – Strategic Director, Children & Families • Debbie Kelly – Academy Head • Jo- Anne Sanders - LA • John Bartlett - LA • Emma Brayford - LA 	
2	<p>Minutes of the Schools Forum Briefing meeting held on 13 September 2024</p> <p>The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the last meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 1 March 2024</p> <p>(a) <u>Action: The Chair to discuss the appropriateness of a letter to the DfE from School Forum raising concerns with Safety Valve communication (Minute 5(a) refers)</u></p> <p>Soon after the meeting there was a communication from the DfE which negated the need for this action.</p>	

4	<p>Kirklees Education and Learning Partnership Board (KELPB)</p> <p>Martin Wilby updated the meeting on the discussions at the KELPB meeting held on 25 September 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion on ‘Our Kirklees Futures’ including a conference update. There is a proposal for a combined committee meeting to review Our Kirklees Futures priorities and actions. • An update on Apprenticeships took place and a request was made for more representation from the schools system. Opportunities to use the Apprenticeship Levy in creative ways were discussed. • There was a presentation from C&K Careers – Post 16. This was very informative. • An overview was given of unvalidated data for all key stages and GCSE results. This information is very useful and it was requested that the data be shared more widely. • Jo Anne Sanders gave an update on the outcome of the Ofsted Social Care inspection for the LA. <p>It was noted that Kirklees numbers of Unknown destination and NEET children at post 16 are very low compared other nearby LA’s. Data tracking is impressive.</p> <p>There was concern noted about the falling number of SEN children in the unvalidated outcomes data presented at KELPB.</p>	
5	<p>High Needs Block</p> <p>The High Needs places update report was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The report was considered in detail and questions were noted. This is the first draft of the report and there will be further refinement which will include resolution of questions and comments raised.</p> <p>(a) <u>Safety Valve Update</u></p> <p>John Bartlett and Jo-Anne Sanders updated the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 2 return has been submitted and we are awaiting feedback. • We do expect the Quarter 2 payment to be released. • We are slightly off track in the Quarter 2 return. Plans are in place to recover the adverse variance. • Some of the adverse variance is due to more young people being placed in Independent Provision and the significant increase in cost of Independent Provision of up to 25% per place. • Cluster working will start soon and we hope that this will deliver improvements in provision. • It was noted that keeping children in mainstream schooling is a community challenge. <p>Q. How much additional capacity will be created with the new school buildings at Woodley and Joseph Norton?</p> <p>A. There will be an increase at Joseph Norton planned for September 2026 from 63 to 132 places. The Capacity at Woodley will increase to 194 with 180 places at Woodley new build and an additional 14 places in a satellite provision. An additional temporary satellite site for Woodley has been established to bring forward the availability of more places ahead of the new build.</p>	
6	<p>DSG Outturn 2023/24</p> <p>The 2023/2024 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn report was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>David Baxter summarised the report for the meeting.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 31st March 2024 was summarised. • This position has been reported in Kirklees Central Accounts. • There High Needs Block at £44.1m shows an increase of £15.1m on the previous year. • The balance for all maintained schools as at 31st March 2024 totalled £11.2 million (£11.7 million 2022/2023). This includes the in-year academisation of six schools and represents an overall reduction of £0.5 million in balances. <p>Q. Is the significant increase in the High Needs Block the reason for the Safety Valve? A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. Can we ensure that the High Needs Block £44m does not increase further in future years? A. We do have a focus on controlling spending in the LA through the new Cluster approach and reducing the number of children going to independent schools.</p> <p>Q. Is the 1% transfer from the School Block to the High Needs Block a maximum? A. In theory, the transfer could increase above 1%.</p> <p>Q. What is the comparable figure to the £44.1m for 2024/25? A. The High Needs Block is expected to continue to increase until 2026/27 in our current model. After 2026/27 the High Needs Block starts to reduce year on year.</p> <p>The key points of the report were noted by Schools Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall deficit outturn of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2023/2024 of £43.7 million was noted. - The total net surplus balance on individual maintained school accounts of £11.2 million was noted. - The outturn position for the centrally managed schools services was noted. 	
7	<p>Contingency review 2023/24</p> <p>The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) De-Delegated Contingency 2023/2024 report was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>David Baxter summarised the report for the meeting and provided detail on the 2023/24 contingency spend of £788k.</p> <p>Q. What issues are schools in difficulties having? A. Issues include falling pupil numbers and high school management costs.</p> <p>Q. What actions are taken by schools with a deficit position? A. Schools focus on the budget process and changes to costs including staff restructuring.</p> <p>Q. Do schools fully understand their deficit positions? A. Yes they do.</p>	
8	<p>Update on the national picture for school funding 2025/26</p> <p>David Baxter provided a verbal update for the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESFA have updated that the LA Planning Tool 2025/26 will be delayed and is now not expected until after the Budget on 31 October 2024. • This does create issues for the LA schools planning and decision making processes. • In summary, we currently do not know the funding levels for the LA. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our overall LA budget deadlines will remain unchanged but delay in receiving the LA Planning Tool from the ESFA will put time pressure on the process. • However there has been an announcement that School teachers are to receive a funded pay award of 5.5%, which will be fully funded by the government <p>It was noted that the process whereby the annual teachers pay award is not agreed before school budgets are agreed is a failure in the national process and this issue should be fed back to the DfE by the LA and Unions. Pay awards should be agreed for teachers before school budgets are finalised.</p>	
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Schools Premises disapplication</p> <p>The Schools Premises Disapplication Request 2025/2026 was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>David Baxter updated the meeting and summarised the key areas below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five schools incur additional premises costs (rents), due to individual and unique circumstances that the individual schools operate within. • The total amount to be funded in 2025/2026 through the application of the 'exceptional circumstances' disapplication request is £132,239. • Schools Forum members are requested to review the application of the exceptional circumstances factor (disapplication request) for the 2025/2026 financial year and indicate their support for the Local Authority's proposal. <p>Q. How will the disapplication request be funded? A. This will be funded from the Schools Block.</p> <p>Q. Do any of the five schools have excess balances and could they fund the cost without the disapplication request? A. Only one of the schools could cover the cost.</p> <p>Q. How long do we expect this support to be required? A. It may be until the government provide funding to the LA to invest in schools. There is currently no capital funding for the LA to fund modular building replacement including those approaching end of life. To note however that Gomersal St Marys is part of the DfE school rebuild programme, so at some point that modular rental will no longer be required.</p> <p>Q. Are the modular buildings still a requirement with the falling birth rate? A. We do review the requirement for modular buildings and the birth rate is taken into account.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Schools Forum confirm support for the exceptional circumstances disapplication request of £132,239</p>	
10	<p>Confirm Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed above.</p>	
11	<p>Dates and times of next public meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 29th November 2024, 10.00am – 11.00am – The meeting will be held at Cathedral House, St Thomas Road, Huddersfield. HD1 3LG <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting</p>	

Signature (Chair)

Date.....

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Service Area:	Learning and Early Support / Schools Finance
Presented By:	Martin Wilby / David Baxter
Report:	Growth Fund for 2025/26
Date:	10 January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To provide Schools Forum with information required to agree the level of Growth Fund for 2025/26
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	Schools Forum are responsible setting central spend on and the criteria for allocating growth funding.

Growth Funding

A Dedicated School Grant Central Budget Retention [for mainstream maintained schools and academies] has been agreed by Schools Forum for Growth funding for several years:

Growth funding within the Schools Block

Budget provision	£	Notes
Pupil Growth Fund	600,000	Support in the KS1 primary school phase as per agreed principles and criteria.
Future pupil growth	600,000	Support for normal round bulge classes and permanent expansion as per agreed principles and criteria [current support is focused on bulge classes in the secondary school phase]
TOTAL	£1,200,000	

It is worth noting that the value of this budget has not changed over the years with inflation or changes in funding for schools. For example, secondary AWPU in 2019/20, the first year of funding bulge places, was £3,863 compared to £5,033 in 2024/25, an increase of 30%. The point being there is a real-terms reduction in this budget every year.

Future pupil growth (currently used for secondary school bulge places)

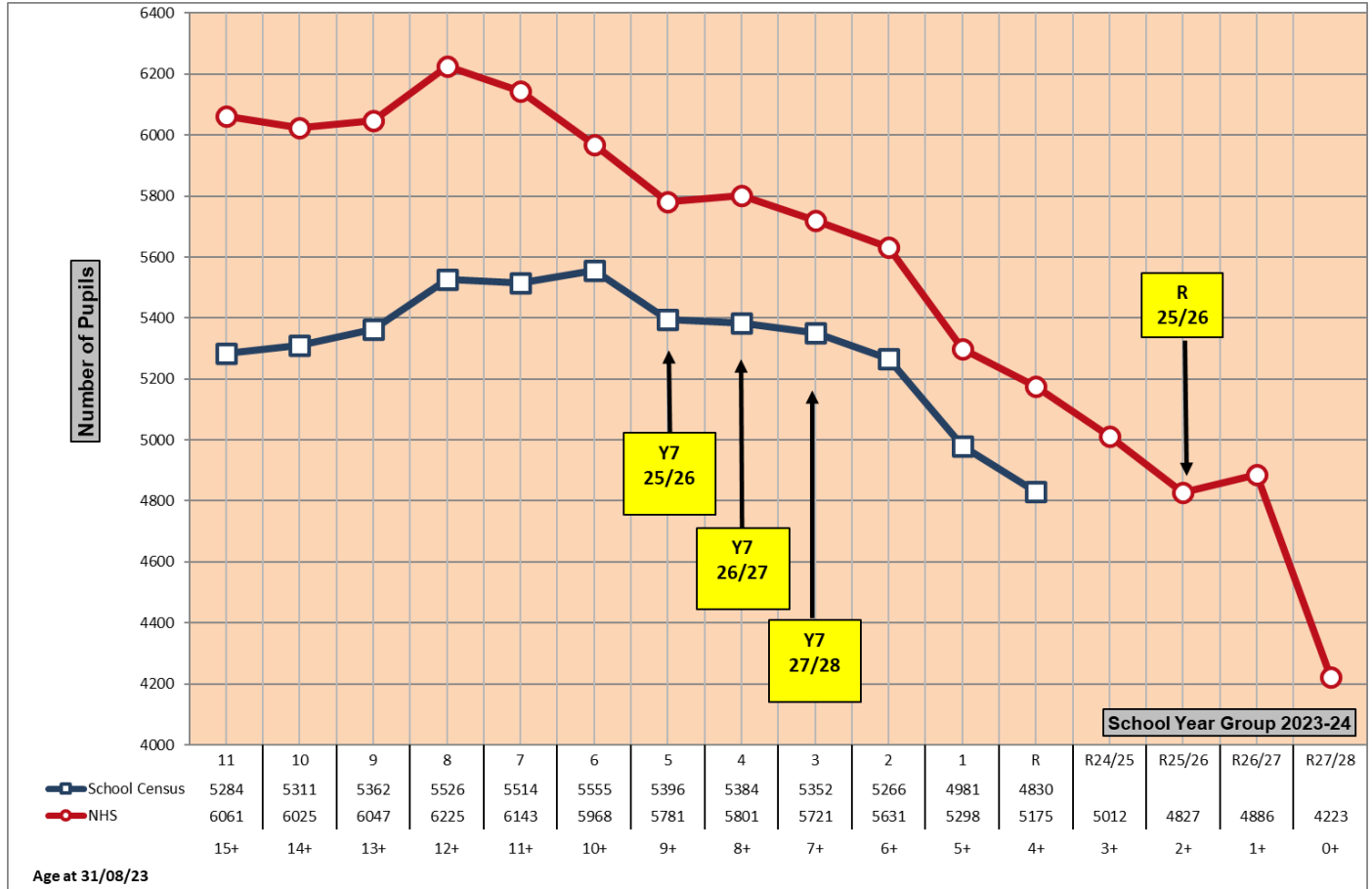
An update was last shared with Schools Forum in June 2024 which suggested the Future Growth Fund element for 2024 would likely just be within the 2024-2025 budget although there would remain some uncertainty until October 2024 Census was available. The report also stated that a maximum of £185K of commitments had already been made in the lead up to National Offer Day 2024 for the summer term 2024/25 which would fall into the financial year 2025/26.

Following confirmation of October Census 2024 a more accurate position can be confirmed. The Future Growth Fund will likely underspend by approximately £100K in 2024/25 and the future commitment for 2025/26 is approximately £100k (rather than the £185K maximum previously shared).

Predicting the required Growth Funding beyond this time to support the required secondary phase bulge classes is far from an exact science. However, some indicators are available from population and school census data. Chart 1 in the Kirklees School Place Planning Document provides the Kirklees level overview of these key data sets:

Chart 1: Year Group Numbers 2023-24 – NHS Data and Kirklees School Pupil Census

Sources: NHS GP registration data October 2023 - NHS Digital
 Kirklees School Census January 2024 – Data & Insight, Public Health & Corporate Resources directorate



Alongside the data set we have a history of the secondary school bulge places required over time:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TOTAL	130	210	178	193	230	152

As we move past the peak of demand for Year 7 places the number of required bulge places has started to reduce meaning less spend is required from the Future Growth Fund. An exact correlation between the reduction in bulge places and population data or the school census could not be found. The number of bulge places reduced by on average of 44% of change in these data sets between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

If the same conversion rate was applied to the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 there would likely be a requirement for 78 bulge places. This can be further reduced by 30 places as by 2025/26 as 5 full year groups will have received Future Growth Funding at North Huddersfield Trust resulting in no further lag funding gap and therefore no longer a requirement for further pupil funding outside the normal funding formula.

In addition to the Year 7 bulge places we are likely to require a further 24 bulge places in Y9, within the three tier system.

Report for Schools Forum

The cost of supporting 72 (48+24) bulge places for autumn 2025 and spring 2025 is likely to cost approximately £222K on top of the £100K commitment already made, which means a theoretical budget of £322K could be sufficient for 2025/26 financial year.

However, this is only an indicator and cost could increase due to further in-year pupil migration into Kirklees. A minimum budget of £450K may be a more prudent position to take.

This is because the risk of not having sufficient funds to support bulge places could result secondary schools refusing to accept unfunded pupils, leading to a breach of the council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places.

Pupil Growth Fund (Mainly used in KS1, primary phase)

Historic spend has been as follows:

Pupil Growth Fund allocations 2023-2024	
School	Allocation
Birkby I & N	£59,911
Clough Head	£23,308
Denby Dale F & N	£36,855
Hinchliffe Mill	£41,952
Holmfirth JIN	£31,296
Kirkburton First	£15,544
Lydgate J & I	£27,958
Marsden I & N	£59,060
Oak Primary	£10,177
Paddock JIN	£25,961
Pentland	£3,328
Roberttown	£35,947
Savile Town	£24,411
Scholes J & I	£42,399
Wellhouse	£21,088
Wilberlee	£22,638
Total	£481,833

KS1 class size rules continue to apply. With falling numbers, budgets in the primary phase continue to be under significant pressure meaning this support is vital.

After taking account of October 204 census data, £600K is considered to remain a realistic budget in 2025/2026.

The risk of withdrawing this support is an increase in sustainability pressures in the primary phase which is likely to compromise learning outcomes.

With a degree of risk, it would be possible to set a Growth Fund for 2025/26 at £1,05M although it should be noted that the £3.6m Block Transfer remains achievable with a continuation a £1.2M budget in line with previous years.

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	David Baxter
Report:	Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2025/2026
Date:	10 th January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To review proposed 2025/2026 Central Schools and Services Block, CSSB allocations.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	Section 8 of the Schools Forum good practice guide: Agreeing other centrally retained budgets, including for local authority statutory responsibilities Statutory Instrument: The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012

Kirklees Schools Forum (Public)

10 January 2025

Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2025/2026

1. Background information

1.1 The Central Schools and Service Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising 2 distinct elements:

- ongoing responsibilities
- historic commitments

2. Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) 2025/2026 Block Allocation

2.1 The CSSB allocations for the 2025/2026 (published 18th December 2024) compared to the 2024/2025 allocations are shown in the table below:

Kirklees Council CSSB Block Allocation				
Components	Revised 2024/2025	Final Allocation 2025/2026	Year on Year Change	Comments
CSSB Unit of Funding	£38.60	£43.38*	£4.78	<i>*Calculated to 13 decimal places</i>
Number of Pupils	62,863.5	62,439	-424.5	
Historic Commitments	£170,000	£136,000	£-34,000	A further bid for 2025/2026 has been submitted as the assumed 20% year on year reduction is excessive.
Additional Copyright allocation.	£29,545	-	£-29,545	
Total CSSB	£2,626,077	£2,844,604	£218,527	

2.2 The ESFA has protected any local authority from having a reduction that takes their total historic commitments funding below the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind. Kirklees Council has already submitted evidence and demonstrated the ongoing costs to support a bid to be funded to at least the 2024/2025 funding amount of £170k.

2.3 It is proposed that the allocations in the table below are increased by 4%, reflecting both the impact of the agreed Local Authority pay award (implemented from 1st April 2024) and the overall reduction in pupil numbers which is key driver in the ESFA funding mechanism.

2.4 The proposed CSSB Allocations for 2025/2026 are compared against the agreed allocations for 2024/2025 shown below:

Budget Heading	Revised Allocation 2024/2025 £	Proposed Allocation 2025/2026 £	Notes
Servicing of Schools Forum	34,200	35,568	
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	45,000	46,800	
Pupil Admissions Service	416,600	433,264	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Organisation & Planning	144,800	150,592	
Finance Support Costs	12,700	13,208	EY & HN blocks contribute
Payroll Support Costs	15,400	16,016	EY & HN blocks contribute
Personnel Costs	8,800	9,152	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Reorganisation Support	322,700	335,608	
Historic DSG pension commitments	170,000	136,000	Application to ESFA to protect to (at least) £170,000.
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Specialist Provision Coordination</i>	20,200	21,008	HN block contributes
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers - <i>Looked after children</i>	6,200	6,448	
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Portex ICAN EYSEN</i>	13,700	14,248	HN block contributes
National Copyright Licence charge	448,741	480,602	2025/2026 predicting 7.1% increase by the ESFA. This is set nationally and is mandatory.
Per pupil allocation to the Council in respect of statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees	967,036	1,146,090	In effect, this becomes the balancing figure from of the Central Schools and Services Block
TOTAL	£2,626,077	£2,844,604	

2.5 The national copyright licence charge will be further revised once the rates are agreed centrally (currently information produced by the ESFA identifies a 7.1% increase) with the balance of remaining resources reflected within the 'statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees'.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are requested to approve the proposed allocations of the Central Schools and Services Block, CSSB, for the 2025/2026 financial year.

David Baxter
Schools Finance Manager
9 January 2025

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	David Baxter
Report:	De-Delegation Proposals 2025/2026 – Schools Block Funding
Date:	10 th January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To review proposed 2025/2026 de-delegation rates for maintained schools.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	<p>Section 8 of the Schools Forum good practice guide: De-delegation from mainstream maintained schools budgets (separate approval will be required by the primary and secondary phase members of schools forum), for prescribed services to be provided centrally.</p> <p><u>Voting procedures:</u> De-delegation is limited to the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members.</p> <p>Statutory Instrument: The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012</p>

Kirklees Schools Forum (Public)

10 January 2025

Maintained Schools

De-Delegation Proposals 2025/2026 – Schools Block Funding

1. Background information

- 1.1 The Schools Operational Guide for 2025/2026 requires the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members of Schools Forum to agree the De-delegated services for the upcoming financial year.
- 1.2 De-delegated services are for maintained schools only. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or de-delegated, for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.
- 1.3 De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or Alternative Provisions. Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, the ESFA's presumption is that the Local Authority will offer the service on a buyback basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation.
- 1.4 There are a number of key cost drivers involved in the de-delegation process that include reference to pay awards for both Local Authority staff (£1,290 or 2.5%, from 1st April 2024), Teacher Pay award (5.5% from 1st September 2024) and that de-delegations are calculated on a per pupil basis, which is reducing through both through academisation and overall numbers on roll.

2. De-Delegations proposal for 2025/2026

- 2.1 The De-delegation rates are reviewed annually with the proposed rates circulated to all maintained schools for consideration as part of an ongoing engagement and consultation process. The responses are then reflected in the final Authority Pro-Forma Tool (overall allocation of 2025/2026 school finances) in January 2025.
- 2.2 The De-delegations represent probable future costs of service provision for 2025/2026 and needs to consider the impact of both inflationary pressures and academisation which reduces the number of schools contributing to the de-delegated services.
- 2.3 The proposed rates for 2025/2026 are based on three main factors: fewer pupils on roll mainly due to more schools becoming academies, the respective pay increases for both local authority staff & teachers, and the need for more financial and operational support for schools. Because of these reasons, it is proposed that the rates be increased by 6.5%.

2.4 The current and proposed de-delegated services and charge rates are shown in the table below:

De-Delegation Description	Primary per pupil rate 2024/2025	Proposed Primary per pupil rate 2025/2026 6.5%	Secondary per pupil rate 2024/2025	Proposed Secondary per pupil rate 2025/2026 6.5%	Notes
School Contingency	£12.62	£13.44	£15.82	£16.85	Used to correct funding errors, support schools facing emergencies, pick up costs it would be unfair to ask schools to meet, one-off financial interventions to schools in financial difficulty to help them secure necessary savings.
Voluntary Early Retirement (VER)	£2.86	£3.05	£3.59	£3.82	Costs of historic voluntary early retirements.
Free school meals eligibility checks	£1.20	£1.28	£1.50	£1.60	Customer & Exchequer service checks to identify children eligible to claim free school meals – helps schools maximise their deprivation-related funding.
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	£40.95	£43.61	£40.95	£43.61	Central payment of salary costs during these leave periods so the school only pays the replacement costs.
Trade union facilities time	£6.67	£7.10	£0.00	£0.00	Pays for the release from schools of local TU officials to manage casework (competence, attendance, disciplinary etc) involving school staff.
Public duties	£0.19	£0.20	£0.23	£0.24	School cover costs re staff on jury service, appearing as witnesses in court proceedings, serving as magistrates, serving as governors at another school.
International new arrivals	£1.84	£1.96	£2.31	£2.46	Support to schools dealing with language-related issues of children admitted from different parts of the world.
School Improvement Commissioning	£5.25	£5.59	£14.00	£14.91	Supports improvement interventions in schools – appropriate support to schools for the cost of implementing improvement action plans, brokering school-to-school support by meeting the cost of releasing staff from other schools to work with the school in need of support.
TOTALS	£71.58	£76.23	£78.40	£83.49	

2.5 To encourage active engagement and consultation, a questionnaire linked to all the proposed de-delegations and increases for 2025/2026 was circulated to the 94 LA maintained mainstream schools. The process ran from the 2 December 2024 until 9th December 2024 and generated 23 responses.

2.6 The table below summarises the responses which were asked for individual proposed de-delegation service area and proposed increase for 2025/2026.

	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure
1a	Do you support the de-delegation for Contingencies for 2025/2026?	69.6%	13.0%	17.4%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	43.5%	34.8%	21.7%
2a	Do you support the de-delegation for Voluntary Early Retirements Commitments for 2025/2026?	69.6%	13.0%	17.4%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	56.6%	21.7%	21.7%
3a	Do you support the de-delegation for Free school meals eligibility checks for 2025/2026?	73.9%	17.4%	8.7%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	60.9%	26.1%	13.0%
4a	Do you support the de-delegation service for Maternity, Paternity and adoptive leave for 2025/2026?	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	56.6%	21.7%	21.7%
5a	Do you support the de-delegation service for Trade union facilities time for 2025/2026?	47.8%	34.8%	17.4%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	26.1%	56.5%	17.4%
6a	Do you support the de-delegation service for Public Duties for 2025/2026?	91.3%	0.0%	8.7%

b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	78.3%	8.7%	13.0%
7a	Do you support the de-delegation service for International new arrivals areas for 2025/2026?	82.6%	13.0%	4.4%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	60.9%	26.1%	13.0%
8a	Do you support the de-delegation service for School improvement and commissioning for 2025/2026?	60.9%	21.7%	17.4%
b	Do you support the proposed increase in charges for 2025/2026?	43.5%	34.8%	21.7%

2.7 The above responses generally indicate strong support for the proposed de-delegated services only highlighting trade union facilities time as being an area for further question and challenge.

2.8 The second part to each question was less favourably received, with specific challenge as to the proposed 6.5% increase in charges for 2025/2026. Again, trade union facilities time being highlighted.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Schools Forum maintained schools representatives only (by phase) are asked to consider and approve the proposed De-delegated rates for 2025/2026.

David Baxter
 Schools Finance Manager
 9th January 2025

Service Area:	Learning and Early Support
Presented By:	Martin Wilby
Report:	Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26
Date:	10 January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To provide Schools Forum with details of the Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26
Is a Decision Required?	No
Decision context	n/a

Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26

Key areas for consultation in 2025-26

The Council is seeking providers views on the following elements for 2025-26:

- A. The amount of funding retained centrally to support local authority statutory duties around the early years entitlements including administration of the funding.
- B. Retaining a contingency fund for each of the five entitlement funding streams.
- C. Transfer of funds from the Early Years Block to the High Needs Block.
- D. The amount of funding allocated to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund (SENDIF).
- E. The frequency of early years funding payments to providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector including academies.

Consultation timeline

Table 2: Consultation timeline

Event	Dates
Online survey	20 December 2024 to 19 January 2025
Virtual briefing sessions	8 and 16 January 2025
Early Years and Childcare Reference group includes provider representation for childminders, pre-schools, day nurseries, out of school provision and schools and academies with nursery provision.	27 January 2025
Schools Forum	7 February 2025
Funding formula and rates communicated to providers	Before 28 February 2025

Full details of the consultation can be found at the following link:

[Early Years Funding Formula 2025-26 Consultation](#)