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Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning
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Thursday 2 July 2026

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Kirklees Schools Forum

The **Kirklees Schools Forum** will meet in the **Willow Room, Cathedral House, St Thomas Road, Huddersfield. HD1 3LG** at **10.00 am** on **Friday 10 July 2026.**

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

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

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The KIRKLEES SCHOOLS FORUM PUBLIC
(Schools Funding Consultative Group)
meeting held on **Friday 16 January 2026**
Cathedral House, Huddersfield at 8.30am

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Present:

Name:	Category of Membership:
	Nursery School Head
Katie Pearson, Jenny Shore	**Primary School Head**
Andrew Fell	**High School Head**
Todd Cheetham	**Special School Head**
Paul Brook	**Special Academy Head**
Darren Christian (Chair), Dave Wadsworth, Natasha Carman, Laura Willimott	**Academy Head**
Rebecca Smith	**Alternative Provision**
	Non-school Member
Mathew Pinder	**School Governor**
Liz Kilner (Minute Clerk), Emma Brayford, Martin Wilby, John Bartlett, Jo-Anne Sanders	**Officers in Support**
Cllr Jane Rylah	**Observers**
	Others

Item	Title	Actions
1	**Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed. Apologies were received as follows. • Hazel Danson – Non-School Member • Vicky Morris – Non-School Member • Ian Rimmer – Academy Head • Tom Brailsford – Executive Director – Children & Families	
2	**Minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 10 October 2025** The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 10 October 2025.	
3	**Matters arising and actions from the meeting held on 10 October 2025** There were no matters arising for discussion.	
4	**Kirklees Education & Learning Partnership Board (KELPB)** Jo-Anne Sanders and Cllr Jane Rylah updated the meeting on discussions from the 17 December 2025 KELPB. The following discussions took place at the meeting. • Best Start to Life government initiative update. • Permanent Exclusions update from Emma Brayford. • Update on SEND and the white paper.	

	• Discussion and analysis on Cluster groups. • DfE Document – National Conversation SEND reform. The government is keen to get the views from stakeholders.	
5	**High Needs Block (standing item)** Jo Anne Sanders and John Bartlett updated the meeting. • The latest Safety Valve return has been submitted. We do have a new Safety Valve Financial Advisor in place. The latest return does show an overspend both in year and cumulative. We have not yet received any feedback on the submission. • It was noted that there is a lot of financial pressure on the system currently. A paper will be presented to Schools Forum on 6 February 2026 to explain financial pressures and actions being taken by Kirklees. • The Joseph Norton school rebuild is progressing and a Cabinet decision will be taken on Woodley School and College rebuild. • A Cabinet Report will be made on 10 February 2026 in relation to the AP Free School opportunity and options. The cabinet report will be published on 2 February 2026. An update on the AP Free School and next steps will be presented at the next Schools Forum Briefing meeting on 6 February 2026.	
6	**Central School Services Block 2026/27** The Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2026/27 report was circulated before the meeting. John Bartlett updated the meeting and summarised the report. • 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 of ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. • The CSSB allocations for the 2026/27 are £3.675m compared to the original 2025/26 allocations of £2.879m. • The census data from October 2025 has been incorporated into the final CSSB block allocation. • The DfE 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 to support a bid for additional resources to meet estimated costs for 2026/27. • The proposed CSSB Allocations for 2026/27 compared against the agreed allocations for 2025/26 were summarised by budget heading. CSSB allocations include Centrally Employed Staff NICS (National Insurance Contributions) of £560K and Centrally Employed Staff SBSG (School Budget Support Grant) of £414k. These budgets were received as a separate grant in 2025/26 but are rolled into CSSB for 2026/27. These items explain the increase in the CSSB allocations for 2026/27 compared to 2025/26. • It is proposed that allocations are increased by 3.5%, reflecting the anticipated impact of the Local Authority pay award (to be implemented from 1 April 2026), from the 2025/26 agreed contributions. **RESOLVED:** That the proposed allocations of the Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) for 2026/27 be approved.	

7

Local school funding formula 2026/27 / Authority Proforma Tool (APT)

The Consultation on the proposed local schools funding formula / APT Schools Block allocations for 2026/27 was circulated before the meeting.

John Bartlett updated the meeting and summarised the report.

- The 2026/27 gross Kirklees final allocation is £571m.
- Safety Valve - High Needs Block Transfer (Disapplication Request submitted) is £3.6 million or 0.87% of schools block budget which requires Secretary of State approval.
- APT Factor Value Limits 2026/27 were summarised.
- The 2026/27 DfE APT December 2025 National Funding Formula (NFF) Rates were summarised. It was noted that rates used are highlighted in pink in the table. Rates are being moved towards the National Funding Formula over time.
- Minimum Fund Guarantee (MFG) has been set at 0% within a permissible range of -0.5% and 0.0%.
- The Growth Fund has been provisionally set at £0.9 million.
- The following grants are now part of the NFF for 2026/27
  - Mainstream school elements of School Budget Support Grant (SBSG)
  - National Insurance Contribution (NICs) Grant.

Q. How was it decided which rates should be used for each area as not all areas are at the NFF rate?
A. All rates will move towards the NFF rate over time from the current rate, we are making year on year progress towards the NFF rates.

Q. Why are we not at NFF rates for all areas?
A. We don't have sufficient funding for this.

Q. The KS4 rates are closer to minimum than NFF rate, why is this?
A. This is due to underfunding. We do have to balance to the total Kirklees funding allocation. We do not have sufficient funding for all areas to be at the NFF rates.

Q. Is there anything we can do to increase KS4 funding to move it closer to the NFF rates?
A. If we make an increase to KS4 in the model we will have to decrease another area of funding to balance back to the total funding.

Q. Is there a rational for the funding rates proposed related to deprivation indexes?
A. Historically yes.

Q. Why are Primary rates closer to the NFF rates than Secondary rates in the model?
A. This is linked to historical funding. There is a requirement to move 10% closer to NFF rates each year.

Q. Is the rationale for rates that primary schools have more vulnerable students than secondary schools due to needs and disadvantage?
A. Overall the model must balance back to the total allocated funding for Kirklees. We do have an obligation to move all rates to the NFF rates as soon as possible. We can change the model, but we must balance back to total allocated funding.

Q. Is the movement of 10% closer to NFF rates overall or for each individual area?
A. The requirement is to be between the minimum and maximum for each area, and if not to move 10% closer to the NFF rate each year.

Q. Have specific grants been rolled into the general fund?
A. Yes, this is an approach being taken by the government. The grants are not as easy to identify when rolled up into the general fund.

	Q. Why are we not at NFF rates for all areas of allocation in Kirklees? A. There is not sufficient funding in the total Kirklees allocation to do this. We will move towards NFF rates over time. **Q. Do we need to highlight the gap between total Kirklees allocations and the allocation which would be needed to have all areas at NFF rates?** A. Yes we can do the calculation of the gap in funding to Kirklees. **Q. Have other grants and funding streams been rolled into the NFF rates?** A. Yes they have. It was noted that when NFF rates were introduced there were gaps between Kirklees rates and NFF rates. It is the aim to move to NFF funding rates over time for all areas. Kirklees is historically underfunded. **ACTION:** John Bartlett to calculate the gap between Kirklees allocations and the total cost of NFF rates for all areas. This information will be emailed to Schools Forum members. *[**Subsequently noted at Schools Forum briefing 6 February 2026:*** *The additional funding required for National Funding Formula rates to be applied overall would be £4.8m, this is £1.2m higher than the transfer to the High Needs Block of £3.6m. In summary, even without the High Needs Block transfer, funding to Kirklees is not sufficient for National Funding Formula rates.]* **RESOLVED:** That Schools Forum confirm their support for the proposals set out for the Local Schools Funding Formula 2026/27.	**JB**
8	**Growth Fund 2026/27** The Growth Fund for 2026/27 report was circulated before the meeting. Martin Wilby updated the meeting and summarised the report. • 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. • **Future pupil growth** (currently used for secondary school bulge places in the North of Kirklees) final cost is likely to be £172K leaving an underspend of £428K for 2025/26. The Future pupil growth budget proposed for 2026/27 is £300k, a saving of £300k vs the 2025/26 budget of £600k. • **Pupil Growth Fund** is mainly used in KS1, primary phase. 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. 2025/26 commitments, using the agreed criteria, are over budget at £649K (compared to £544K 2024/25), reducing the total expected 2025/26 Growth Fund underspend to be £379K. £600K is considered to remain a realistic budget in 2026/27. • With a degree of risk, it should be possible to set a Growth Fund for 2026/27 at £0.90M, a saving of £0.30M from 2025/26. **Q. Where will the 2025/26 underspend of £379k go?** A. The underspend will contribute to the overall DSG deficit. **Q. Will the reduction in growth funding for 2026/27 impact the funding formula numbers reviewed?** A. The reduction is reflected in the Local school funding formula 2026/27. **Q. Is there a risk that we will go over the 72 bulge places assumed?** A. There is no guarantee, but we are trying to balance risk in the proposals. This is a best estimate based on the evidence that we have.	

	RESOLVED: That the growth fund for 2026/27 be agreed at £0.9m as proposed.	
9	**De-delegation 2026/27** The De-Delegation Proposals 2026/27 – Schools Block Funding was circulated before the meeting. John Bartlett updated the meeting. • The Schools Operational Guide for 2026/27 requires the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained school members of Schools Forum to agree the De-delegated services for the upcoming financial year. • 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. • 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 DfE'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. • The cost-of-living pressures continues to impact on all aspects of service delivery within both schools and the services supporting schools. • The current approved de-delegated services and charge rates in operation for the 2025/26 financial year were summarised. • The De-delegation rates are reviewed and are submitted on the final Authority Pro-Forma Tool (overall allocation of 2026/27 school finances) in January 2026. • The De-delegations represent probable future costs of service provision for 2026/27 and needs to consider the impact of both inflationary pressures and academisation which reduces the number of schools contributing to the de-delegated services. **Proposed De-Delegation Rates for 2026/27** • Three key components underpin the proposed de-delegated rates for 2026/27. Firstly, using the October 2025 pupil census data (latest published version), the number of maintained pupils in 2026/27 is anticipated to reduce by an average of 2,700 pupils mainly due to proposed academisations. Secondly the impact of Local Authority pay award from April 2025 and thirdly, the anticipated level of central financial and operational support for maintained schools that will be required in 2026/2027. • The growing need for exceptional financial support across an increasing number of maintained schools is placing considerable strain on the contingency budget. At the same time reduced economies of scale are putting further pressure on de-delegated budgets limiting both financial flexibility and efficiency. • Taking the above factors into account and to enable the most sustainable position, it is proposed that the de-delegated rates for 2026/27 are increased by 5.5% in the main, except for base contingency (50%), maternity/ paternity cover (20%) and trade union cover (10%). • Proposed pupil charges were summarised. • There has been pre-engagement with maintained school representatives on 12 December 2025 and 9 January 2026 which have helped shape the proposals. The support of the maintained schools representatives for the proposals was noted. **RESOLVED:** That the Schools Forum maintained schools representatives approve the proposed De-delegated rates for 2026/27.	
10	**Any Other Business**	

	There were no items of Any Other Business for discussion.	
11	**Confirm minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed above.	
12	**Date and time of next Public meeting** • 1 May 2026 – Public meeting - Cathedral House, Huddersfield The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.06am.	

Signature (Chair) ……………………………………………………………….

Date……………………………………………………………………………..

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Learning and Early Support / Schools Finance
Presented By:	Martin Wilby / Jon Haigh
Report:	Growth Fund monitoring
Date:	10 July 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To update Schools Forum on Growth Fund spending commitments following secondary National Offer Day
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	The budget is in a potential overspend position overall and there are options for significant variation on the agreed notional budgets.

Agenda Item 6

Growth Funding

A Dedicated School Grant Central Budget Retention 2026/2027 [for mainstream maintained schools and academies] has been agreed by Schools Forum for Growth funding:

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	300,000	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	**£900,000**	

Future Growth Fund element

The following summary table presents the most up to date position of the Future Growth Fund element spend for 2026-2027 following secondary National Offer Day:

	Budget	Spend/ Commitments	Balance
Future Pupil Growth	£ 300,000	£ 52,870	£ 247,130

For the first time in several years no secondary school bulge places have been required (for September 2026). Therefore, the above spend commitments are actual spend relating to 2025/26 bulge places summer term portion, paid in the 2026/27 financial year. As there are no planned bulge places in academic year 2026/27 there is greater certainty, at this point in the financial year than has been possible in recent years, of the predicted underspend in Future Growth Fund element of the Growth Fund.

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

The following summary table presents the most up to date position of the Pupil Growth Fund element of the Growth Fund spend/commitments for 2026-2027 financial year:

	Budget	Spend/ Commitments	Balance
Pupil Growth Fund element	£ 600,000	£ 878,709	-£ 278,709

The 2026/27 spend/commitments detail above are based on an assessment KS1 class sizes where they meet the agreed criteria. If paid at the agreed rate this would result in a position that is over budget by £278k. This is compared to £49k over budget in 25/26. To manage this risk only a portion of the normal financial support has been agreed with eligible schools to date.

There are two elements to the pupil growth fund, one being the KS1 class size requirement, and the other being an increase in pupil numbers since the last October census that is sufficiently large enough to force the creation of a new class base (except where this is a direct result of a structural change). The spend/ commitments identified above are only in relation to the KS1 class size.

Further claims may still be received. Note that an amount of £50k has been retained as a contingent amount in case of such need.

KS1 class size rules continue to apply. With falling numbers, budgets in the primary phase continue to be under significant pressure meaning some of this support is vital. The risk of not providing this support is an increase in sustainability pressures in the primary phase which is likely to compromise learning outcomes.

At the same time, it is recognised that the financial and operational environment is evolving, with schools increasingly under strain. There is opportunity and potential to review the principals and methodology around the growth fund to ensure consistency and efficacy in its application. With regard to the medium term, a review could be undertaken to consider and appraise possible models for usage of the growth fund, and for changes to be applied for the next budget round (for 27-28).

Options available include:

Short term

1. To continue to allocate the Pupil Growth Fund element on a pro-rata basis to remain within the notional budget (approx. 68% paid based on identified schools to date)

2. Utilise predicted underspend in the Future Growth Fund element to maximise the funding to eligible schools under the Pupil Growth element and then allocate on a pro-rata basis (approx. 96% paid based on identified schools to date, with a contingency of £50k) i.e. utilise the underspend on the future pupil growth element to assist in the heightened coverage for the pupil growth fund (but only up to the total combined budget).

Medium term (for next budget round)

3. Review the criteria for allocating Pupil Growth funding including the calculation, assumptions, affordability checks and the connection to other opportunities (e.g. PAN reduction/admission limits)

Proposals:

1. **To confirm the expected underspend in the Future Growth Fund element can be fully used for the Pupil Growth Fund element to ensure eligible primary schools are paid the maximum support possible (when all claims are received).**

2. **Request Officers review the Pupil Growth Fund element principles and criteria (Appendix 1) and bring forward some recommendation for consideration at School Forum in the Autumn term.**

Appendix 1 – Growth Fund Principles and Criteria (as agreed by Schools Forum Dec 2023)

- Officers will continue to allocate growth funding within the agreed constraints (Part 1 and Part 2 below) and within the approved budget.
- Officers will provide School Forum with monitoring information at least bi-annually. Should the Growth Fund budget be at risk of overspend, Officers will bring an exceptions report to Schools Forum at the earliest opportunity.
- Schools Forum will act as an appeal body should a school disagree with an officer decision.
- Any underspend at the end of the year will be reported to Schools Forum alongside the overall DSG position and associated proposals.
- The principals and criteria will remain in place into future financial years until agreed otherwise by Schools Forum.

Part 1 - Pupil Growth Fund – Key Stage 1 (KS1) – principles and criteria

Criteria for the Operation of the Fund

1. The Pupil Growth Fund can only be used in the following circumstances:

a. When, at any point since the last October pupil census declaration, a school experiences an increase in pupil numbers that is sufficiently large enough to force the creation of a new class base (or class bases) * **OR**

[*except where the increase in pupil numbers is a direct result of a structural change, such as an expansion to a school's age range – these costs would be addressed from sources other than the Pupil Growth Fund].

b. When a school with KS1 provision, during the funding year, has a pattern of KS1 pupil numbers where the base AWPU funding they attract is unlikely to cover the cost of the requisite number of class bases as specified by the KS1 minimum class size regulations. (In practical terms this is most likely to be the case when a school has fewer than 15 pupils on the way to the last multiple of 30 children – see the example below).

E.g. A primary school has 130 pupils within KS1 (i.e., Reception + Years 1 and 2) and therefore needs 5 KS1 class bases/teachers to remain legal. It only has 10 Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) allocations towards the fifth class arrangement so may struggle to afford the required number of classes.

AND…

2. **The school cannot afford to meet the cost of this class (or classes) from its existing resources.** The school would need to demonstrate that this is the case via its budget plan for the relevant funding year.

Basis of Pupil Growth Fund allocations –

Providing the school meets the criteria set out at 1 above, the Fund will look to make the following allocations –

For schools in category 1a – the funding allocated shall be calculated from the relevant AWPU value for the pupils in the class base(s) in question multiplied by the number of additional pupils. The result will be applied pro rata to the remaining number of months in the funding year.

For schools in category 1b – the funding allocated will be initially calculated by taking the notional cost of a class base (currently £52,560), as used in the former KS1 Class Size funding factor and paying one thirtieth of this sum for every "missing" KS1 pupil up to the next highest multiple of 30, pro rata for the remaining number of months in the funding year.

E.g. For the example school at 1b above, the maximum payment would be £52,560 divided by 30 multiplied by 20 missing pupils = £35,040. If the problem had been triggered by a pupil number increase in September then the full year £35,040 would be reduced to a 7/12ths allocation (if the school was maintained by the authority. Maintained schools are funded for financial years rather than academic years).

The cost to the Growth Fund would be mitigated if it was determined that the school could afford to meet part of the cost of the class arrangement itself.

Part 2 - Growth Funding – principles and criteria used for supporting planned normal admission round bulge places and permanent expansion.

(a) Bulge places

Follow early intelligence to identify areas where bulge places will be required and review as National Offer Day 'dummy run' information becomes available in the Autumn term.

Where required, seek agreement with schools to admit a number of additional pupils over their PAN at their normal entry point (e.g. year R or year 7) the following September to meet the local basic need for school places.

Provide Growth Funding to fill the lag funding gap between additional pupils starting in September and the normal school funding formula recognising the additional pupils in school funding allocation by:

Number of pupils over PAN at October census (up to the maximum size of the agreed bulge)
x
AWPU rate (pro-rata)

(e.g., 10 additional pupils agreed and present at census x KS3 AWPU 22/23 of £4,536
= £45,360 for the full year)

Paid termly on a pro-rata basis until the funding formula takes account of the additional pupils:

Maintained Schools – the additional pupils are funded by the normal formula from the following 1 April, so Growth Funding covers 58% of an academic year.
(e.g., Autumn £15,120 (33%) + Spring £11,340 (25%) = Total £26,460)

Academies - the additional pupils are funded by the normal formula from the following 1 September, so Growth Funding covers 100% of an academic year.
(e.g., Autumn £15,120 (33%) + Spring £11,340 (25%) + Summer £18,900 (42%) = Total £45,360)

By exception, at an individual school level, where there is history of most of the agreed bulge places filling at National Offer Day but additional pupils not being present by October census, these risks have been shared by agreements to a minimum funding level usually around 50% of the agreed bulge.

No account is taken of existing school balances in allocating growth funding for planned bulges as agreement by the school is optional and the funding can be both an enabler and a lever.

(b) Permanent expansion

Permanent expansion differs from bulge places as it is intended to apply to all year groups over time and is likely to require a formal significant change process to establish the change. The permanency may be known from the start for example where new school is established or may evolve from a series of bulges classes over a number of years before a decision is made for a change in PAN to become permanent.

A similar formulaic approach based on the relevant AWPU, as described above to supporting bulge places, will be used with the potential for support over a number of years until the permanent change is established across all year groups. This will be subject to appropriate adjustments made as required by the individual circumstances which could include:

Potential adjustments	Circumstance where the adjustment may be used
Fixed pre-start-up funding	To meeting the pre-start costs of a new school which would for instance include employing a Headteacher and purchasing essential items ahead of the start of a new school.
A minimum number of places funded each year	Establishing a new school where economies of scale in the first few years require adequate funding beyond what can be achieved by pupil numbers
A value for money assessment ensuring Growth Fund support is provided only where it is needed	Where a new school has been established for a number of years and pupil numbers and associated cost are not disproportionate to other established schools.

Providing Growth Fund financial support of this nature requires a collaborative approach and an 'open book' means of sharing financial information to tailor support.

GROWTH FUNDING IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR IN-YEAR PUPIL GROWTH. Academies with significant in-year pupil grow should contact the ESFA to enquire about exceptional funding. Maintained school should speak to the School Finance Team in the first instance.

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Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	Jon Haigh
Report:	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) De-Delegated Contingency 2025/2026
Date:	10 July 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To update Schools Forum on the financial performance of the above de-delegated scheme for maintained schools.
Is a Decision Required?	No

Kirklees Schools Forum
12 June 2026
Schools Contingency Review 2025/2026

1. Summary

1.1 This report is to update Schools forum on how the de-delegated contingency resources for 2024/2025 as agreed by Schools Forum on 10th November 2023 and by Cabinet on 21st January 2025 (Schools Funding Cabinet Report 2025 2026 13 January 2025.pdf - para 2.4.2 and appendix C) were applied.

1.2 The de-delegated contingency fund is used for maintained primary and secondary schools. It addresses funding errors, supports schools facing emergencies, covers costs that would be unfair for schools to handle, and provides one-off financial interventions for schools in financial difficulty. The contingency fund also helps schools secure necessary savings and manage any other exceptional circumstances as deemed appropriate.

2. Allocation of Funds 2025/2026

2.1 For the 2025/2026 financial year the contingency fund resources were allocated as per the table below. All funding allocations look to take into account whether, or not, it would be the best use of the resource, ideally delivering an outcome that improves the overall financial situation for either individual schools or the wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Note that offsets were seen via an energy rebate and use of the salary protection balance.

Area Supported	Amount £000
Schools in Financial Difficulty - Year end	713
Schools in Financial Difficulty - Other	79
Empty Property NNDR Contributions	63
Academisation	1
Salary Protection	-185
Flu Vouchers	4
Energy rebate	-66
Total	**609**

2.2 It should be noted that the despite the allocation of the above resources, particularly the £713k for schools in financial difficulty, seventeen schools continue to report a deficit financial position that totalled £1.76m as at 31st March 2026.

2.3 As per previous years, the pressures on schools continue, with the amount of funds available needing close consideration by Schools Forum as part of the annual budget challenge and review process in October / November 2026 for the 2027/2028 financial year.

3. Recommendations / Actions

Schools Forum are asked to note the contents of the report.

Jon Haigh
Finance Manager (Children and Families)

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Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Learning and Early Support / Schools Finance
Presented By:	Martin Wilby
Report:	Annual Schools Forum membership review
Date:	10 July 2026
Purpose Of Report:	To present the methodology and outcome of the annual Schools Forum membership review and seek consensus for the recommendations
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	It is fundamental that there is confidence Schools Forum is representative of the local school system as well as being compliant with the regulations

Agenda Item 8

Annual Membership Review to be reported to Schools Forum

Current Kirklees Schools Forum Membership June 2026

School Members		**Non-School Members**	
Andi Gilroy-Sinclair	Local Authority Nursery School	Vacant	Early Years PVI settings (shared position)
Helen Pearson	Maintained Primary Schools	Vicky Morris	NASUWT
Katie Pearson	Maintained Primary Schools	Hazel Danson	NEU
Jenny Shore	Maintained Primary Schools	Sally Rawson	Kirklees College (Post 16)
Rik Robinson	Maintained Special Schools	Matthew Pinder	Kirklees Governors
Andrew Fell	Maintained Secondary	TBC	Cabinet Member for Education*
Vacant	Primary Academy (TBC)	**Local Authority Officers in Support**	
Laura Willimott	Primary Academy (Learning Accord MAT)	Jo-Anne Sanders	Service Director - Learning and Early Support
Todd Cheetham	Special Academy (Wellspring Academy Trust)	Jon Haigh	Finance Manager
Darren Christian (Chair)	Secondary Academy ** (Heritage MAT)	Emma Brayford	Head of Educational Outcomes
David Wadsworth	Secondary Academy (SHARE MAT)	Martin Wilby	Head of Education, Places and Access
Ian Rimmer	Secondary Academy (King James's SAT)	John Bartlett	Head of Finance
Rebecca Smith	Alternative Provision (state funded) (Ethos Academy Trust)	Elizabeth Kilner	Minute Clerk
Paul Brook (Vice Chair)	Secondary Academy ** (Impact Education MAT)		
Natasha Carman	Secondary Academy (South Pennine Academies)		

* Non-voting member   ** Responsibility for mainstream primary and secondary schools in their role

Quorate position:

With 15 school members + 5 non school (voting) members and 40% of members required to be quorate = **8 members are required to be quorate**

Report for Schools Forum

School Members vs voting non-school members check

No. of school members	Total members	% of school members	Compliance
15	20	75%	**Compliant with the 67% minimum requirement for school members**

Mainstream school membership check

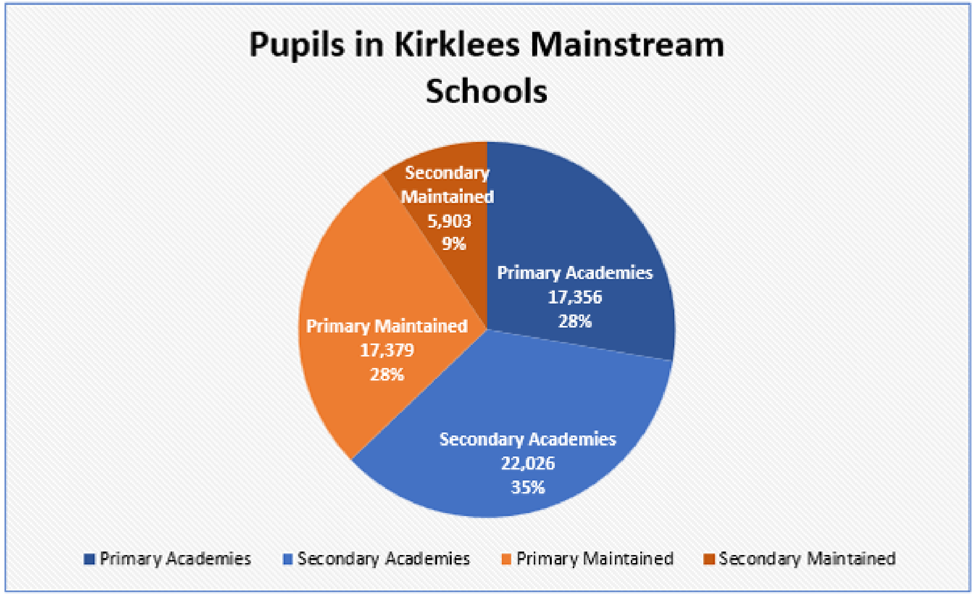
Current mainstream school membership:

	Maintained		Academy		Total	
Primary	**3**	27.3%	**2**	18.2%	**5**	45.5%
Secondary	**1**	9.1%	**5**	45.5%	**6**	54.5%
Total	**4**	36.4%	**7**	63.6%	**11**	100.0%

June 2026 mathematical 'ideal' membership model:

	Maintained		Academy		Total	
Primary	**3.1**	27.7%	**3.0**	27.7%	**6.1**	55.4%
Secondary	**1.0**	9.4%	**3.9**	35.1%	**4.9**	44.6%
Total	**4.1**	54.5%	**6.9**	45.5%	**11.0**	100.0%

This model is based upon the status of each school in June 2026 and Pupil numbers at January 20206 school census.



N.B. This information is provided by the January 2026 School Census.

July 2026 Membership Review Recommendation:

Taking account of the regulations for academy representation, where there is no requirement to make a distinction between primary and secondary representation, and noting current academy members who are responsibility for primary and secondary schools:

No change is required to the current membership model

Checks are based on requirement from: [Schools Forum – Operational and good practice guide](), Department for Education, March 2021

Appendix 1 – Historic pupil numbers

June 2026

Pupil numbers

	Maintained		Academy		Total	
Primary	17379	27.7%	17356	27.7%	34735	55.4%
Secondary	5903	9.4%	22026	35.1%	27929	44.6%
Total	23282	37.2%	39382	62.8%	62664	100%

May 2025

Pupil numbers

	Maintained		Academy		Total	
Primary	19447	30.6%	16096	25.3%	35543	55.9%
Secondary	6003	9.4%	22032	34.7%	28035	44.1%
Total	25450	40.0%	38128	60.0%	63578	100%

May 2024

Pupil numbers

	Maintained		Academy		Total	
Primary	22885	35.6%	13215	20.6%	36100	56.2%
Secondary	5993	9.3%	22123	34.5%	28116	43.8%
Total	28878	45.0%	35338	55.0%	64216	100%

Note: Changes between the May 2024 to May 2025 models – The May 2024 model was based upon School status and census in January 2024. Whereas the May 2025 model is based upon school status in May 2025 and January census 2025 pupil numbers. Hence the changes between the models reflect 18 months of academy conversion.

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