



**Schools Forum**

**Wednesday, 14 October 2020 4.00 p.m.  
To be held remotely, please contact  
below for access**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Chief Executive**

*Please contact Ann Jones - Tel: 0151 511 8276 or email:  
[ann.jones@halton.gov.uk](mailto:ann.jones@halton.gov.uk) for further information.  
The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday, 20 January 2021*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

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***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

**SCHOOLS FORUM**

*At a meeting of the Schools Forum on Thursday, 18 June 2020 via remote access*

Present: Councillor T. McInerney (Observer)  
 A. Jones, Democratic Services, HBC  
 A. McIntyre, Education, Inclusion & Provision, HBC  
 A. Jones, Financial Management, HBC  
 R. Sprigings, Financial Management, HBC  
 K. Landrum, (Chair) Primary School with a Nursery Representative  
 A. Brown, Nursery Schools Representative  
 J. O'Connor, PVI Representative  
 J. Coughlan, Primary Representative - Infant School  
 N. Hunt, Pupil Referral Unit Representative  
 J. Wilson, Secondary Governor Representative  
 A. Sheppard, VA Schools Representative  
 J. McConville, Secondary Academy Representative  
 I. Critchley, All Through Schools Representative  
 L. Roberts, Small Primary Representative

*Action*

SCF1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Thalia Bell, Kathryn Albiston, Simon Corner, Heather Austin and Anne Simmons.

SCF2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

SCF3 NORTH WEST LOCALLY MANAGED SCHOOLS (LMS) UPDATE

The Forum was presented with an update on the key issues discussed at the recent North West LMS meeting, which was held virtually on 12 May 2020.

This included question and answer section on the Covid 19 pandemic and its impact on schools budgets, which had been identified as a key regional issue. It was reported that the DfE had set up a financial support package for schools for which further guidance would be issued when the system was live. It was noted that a further meeting would be set up for July, after the 2021-22 guidance was issued.

RESOLVED: That the update is noted.

SCF4 DSG OUTTURN 2019/20

The Forum received the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn for 2019-20.

It was reported that the final amount of DSG to Halton for 2019-20 was £114,320,639, which was split between the Schools Block; High Needs Block; Early Years Block and Central School Services Block (CSSB). The report provided details of the expenditure within each block and supporting commentary where necessary. Further a detailed breakdown of the outturn was attached to the report at Appendix A.

It was noted that a balance of £136,464 from the DSG from 2019-20 would be carried forward into the 2020-21 financial year. This would contribute towards budget pressures in 2020-21.

RESOLVED: That the balance of £136,464 being carried over from the DSG from 2019-20 into the next financial year, be noted.

SCF5 HIGH NEEDS SUMMARY 2020-21

The Forum received a summary of the commitments to the High Needs budget for 2020-21.

The total High Needs allocation for Halton was £19,063,244, to support pupils and students aged 0 – 24 years with high needs. It was noted that after the recoupment of £2,906,662 (explained in paragraph 3.3) from the ESFA, the balance of grant was ££16,156,582.

The report provided a list of settings covered by the funding. Members were referred to Tables 2 and 3 where the proposed allocation of the funding was set out and explained. The Forum reviewed and discussed the amounts for each area of the High Needs Block as listed in table 2. Comments made regarding the success of the satellite provision at Brookfields and the establishment of this provision for Ashley in the future were noted.

Following queries, it was noted that the previously agreed £100k transfer from High Needs for the Educational Psychologists service was included in the 'staffing' allocation in table 2. Also, with regards to the budget provision for the educational psychologists, it was confirmed that the schools could keep this funding as it may be needed once the schools are re-opened following the Covid-19 pandemic and

the demand for the service is resumed.

The Forum agreed to support the budget allocations as discussed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum

- 1) Note the High Needs allocation for 2020-21;
- 2) Supports the budget allocation for 2020-21; and
- 3) Requests an update on High Needs expenditure at the next Schools Forum meeting.

Operational  
Director -  
Education, and  
Inclusion  
Provision

SCF6 SCHOOL BALANCES 2019-20

The Forum considered a report which presented the level of funding brought forward from 2019-20 by Halton's Maintained schools.

It was noted that although schools balances were still reported to the Schools Forum, no excess surplus balance limits were in place. However, the Forum retained the right to require schools to provide further information as to how their balance would be spent, should they so decide.

Further to the publication of the reports some errors had come to light in the main report and Appendix A, so the following corrections were made:

- Paragraph 3.2 – balance should read £4,546,444;
- Paragraph 3.3 – balance should read £120,429 (due to error on Ditton Nursery which should be £35,317);
- Paragraph 3.4 – balance should read £3,960,980 (due to error on Woodside which should be £52,014);
- Paragraph 3.5 – balance should be £181,678 (due to error on PRU which should be £189,171).

The total of individual schools budget balances for Halton's maintained schools was £4,546,444 at the end of 2019-20.

The report provided a breakdown of types of schools and officers presented Appendix A (with the above amendments noted), which showed the balances against the 2018-19 balances for comparison. Appendix B showed the balances of Devolved Formula Capital grant for maintained

schools, and the 2018-19 balances for comparison, which had decreased on last years.

The Forum discussed the balances and the additional costs incurred by schools due to the Covid-19 outbreak and their reimbursement by the DfE. The Forum suggested that in respect of school balances, comparisons going back 3 years would be more useful in spotting trends (high or low balances) and therefore would help in considering whether or not more information should be requested from a particular school. This would be looked into by Financial Management.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum notes the report, corrections and associated appendices.

Financial  
Management,  
HBC

SCF7 SCHOOLS FORUM CONTINGENCY/STAFF DISMISSALS UPDATE

The Forum received an update on the total spend against the schools contingency and staff dismissal budget in 2020.

It was reported that the total budget for the schools contingency budget for 2019-20 was £198,780 and a total spend of £157,849 was approved at Schools Forum Sub Committees for 4 schools.

This left a balance of £40,903, however, following the DfE notification that they would no longer fund the per place funding for the sixth form at Ashley, a total of £93,333, this sum was taken from the school contingency. This, together with the required rates adjustment for primary and secondary schools costing an additional £73,759, has resulted in an overspend of £126,161.

The budget for staff dismissals was £127,110. Following one application for support for £105,304, which was approved by the Schools Forum Sub Committee, the balance remaining was £21,806.

Officers wished to record their thanks to all Forum Members who had volunteered their time to sit on the Schools Forum Sub Committees.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum note the spend against the school contingency and staff dismissals budgets.

*Meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.*

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director - Finance

**SUBJECT:** School Balances 2017-18 to 2019-20

**WARDS:** Borough wide

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To report to the Schools Forum the year-end balances for Halton Maintained Schools for the last three years.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

2.1 The report is noted.

#### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 As requested at the June 2020 meeting, attached are the year-end balances for the last three years.

3.2 The LMS balances are shown in Appendix A. We have 19 schools where balances have increased each year while there are nine schools where balances have decreased each year.

3.3 The DFC balances are shown in Appendix B. Most schools have varying balances as they save up then spend DFC on capital projects. We have only five schools where balances have increased each year and three schools where balances have decreased each year.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 It is pleasing to note that overall school balances have increased over the last three years. However there are still quite a number of schools having to use all or part of their previous year's surplus to meet their projected spend.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that schools receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Schools continue to face increasing cost pressures even though we now receive the full NFF allocation.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.



Maintained School Year end balances £			Appendix A
	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020
Ditton Nursery School	748	26,960	35,317
Birchfield Nursery School	29,470	55,109	30,014
Warrington Road Nursery School	11,917	38,950	55,098
<b>Nursery Total</b>	<b>42,136</b>	<b>121,019</b>	<b>120,429</b>
St Mary's Primary	174,013	214,146	266,228
St Edwards Primary	90,807	87,988	68,758
Weston Point Primary	157,796	202,818	158,410
Victoria Road Primary	108,945	87,228	74,827
Weston Primary	72,757	138,307	80,146
St Clements Primary	45,781	62,421	45,009
Westfield Primary	42,003	10,753	36,040
Halton Lodge Primary	12,779	44,055	54,110
Castle View Primary	113,494	82,408	91,604
Astmoor Primary	34,368	27,839	32,894
The Brow Primary	98,678	81,320	66,867
Woodside Primary	107,907	53,200	52,014
The Holy Spirit Primary	20,220	27,397	-4,632
Pewithall Primary	51,002	31,194	31,443
Hallwood Park Primary	57,761	41,800	12,275
Runcorn All Saints Primary	-28,821	60,885	8,136
Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Primary	129,143	152,922	172,101
Hillview Primary	79,928	68,809	60,755
Beechwood Primary	40,832	49,787	57,811
Brookvale Primary	256,615	276,201	325,148
St Martins Primary	-4,608	6,760	-9,099
Murdishaw West Primary	43,588	40,975	69,568
Gorsewood Primary	162,099	130,913	131,875
St Berteline's Primary	34,061	46,917	68,081
Windmill Hill Primary	32,466	98,336	130,536
Moore Primary	37,177	64,180	60,286
Hale Primary	51,094	31,511	19,295
St Bedes Junior School	122,740	140,145	28,113
St Bedes Infant School	126,295	140,949	164,500
St Michael's Primary	57,794	98,448	130,514
Farnworth Primary	7,743	48,339	49,422
Halebank Primary	72,311	147,403	164,767
St Gerard's Primary & Nursery	217,294	188,984	174,487
Simms Cross Primary School	155,664	214,921	95,512
Oakfield Primary School	86,031	55,347	65,631
Moorfield Primary School	39,436	13,038	18,336

Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour Primary	68,647	81,988	113,207
St Basils Primary	-7,817	103,197	184,832
All Saints Upton Primary	27,384	40,802	14,831
Fairfield Primary	131,119	132,237	278,808
Lunts Heath Primary School	51,425	32,153	100,027
St John Fisher Primary	174,406	170,429	217,507
<b>Maintained Primary Total</b>	<b>3,352,354</b>	<b>3,829,450</b>	<b>3,960,980</b>
St Chads Catholic High School	-101,840	41,655	-114,239
St Peter & Paul High	73,286	141,383	278,663
The Bridge School PRU	59,016	1,898	17,254
<b>Maintained Secondary Total</b>	<b>30,462</b>	<b>184,936</b>	<b>181,678</b>
Ashley School	58,372	51,164	40,593
Chesnut Lodge Special School	197,539	204,390	242,764
<b>Maintained Special Total</b>	<b>255,911</b>	<b>255,554</b>	<b>283,357</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,680,862</b>	<b>4,390,959</b>	<b>4,546,444</b>

Devolved Formula Capital Grant - Year end balances £			Appendix B
	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020
Ditton Nursery School	6,812	12,158	9,009
Birchfield Nursery School	2,571	8,605	3,777
Warrington Road Nursery School	4,485	8,348	13,192
Maintained Nursery DFC Total	<b>13,868</b>	<b>29,111</b>	<b>25,978</b>
Weston Point Primary	11,453	19,356	19,729
Victoria Road Primary	12,077	24,832	6,189
Weston Primary	6,168	9,751	3,716
Westfield Primary	12,744	8,764	9,707
Halton Lodge Primary	0	9,516	15,777
Castle View Primary	13,572	19,658	13,561
Astmoor Primary	5,766	0	5,701
The Brow Primary	6,048	20,937	4,481
Woodside Primary	4,975	8,901	8,044
Pewithall Primary	3,671	2,685	5,500
Hallwood Park Primary	3,215	12,258	14,775
Hillview Primary	16,958	9,292	7,445
Beechwood Primary	5,710	19,299	3,520
Brookvale Primary	13,573	22,627	6,079
Murdishaw West Primary	4,870	9,188	210
Gorsewood Primary	14,547	1,781	3,883
Windmill Hill Primary	10,763	4,092	9,689
Moore Primary	1,565	8,858	4,482
Hale Primary	11,910	11,223	16,956
Farnworth Primary	960	23,257	19,455
Halebank Primary	9,852	9,304	2,236
Simms Cross Primary School	13,537	11,635	15,116
Oakfield Primary School	3,479	4,402	558
Moorfield Primary School	5,605	15,877	5,825
All Saints Upton Primary	11,751	18,986	21,009
Fairfield Primary	6,675	2,963	8,127
Lunts Heath Primary School	-1,467	13,340	0
Maintained Primary DFC Total	<b>209,976</b>	<b>322,781</b>	<b>231,770</b>
The Bridge School PRU	<b>12,807</b>	<b>-2,560</b>	<b>2,655</b>
Ashley School	3,575	3,315	-4,545
Chesnut Lodge Special School	7,794	18,266	11,393
Maintained Special DFC Total	<b>11,369</b>	<b>21,580</b>	<b>6,848</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>248,020</b>	<b>370,913</b>	<b>267,251</b>

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum  
**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director - Finance  
**SUBJECT:** DSG Forecast Outturn 2020-21  
**WARDS:** Borough wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to the Schools Forum the Dedicated Schools Grant forecast outturn for 2020-21.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The report is noted.

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 DSG Allocation

The Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for 2020-21 is £122,099,358 broken down as follows:

Schools Block	£92,581,025
CSSB	£665,450
High Needs Block	£19,004,582
Early Years Block	£9,848,301

Of this, £39,824,678 is recouped from the Schools Block and £2,906,662 from the High Needs Block for academies etc.

### 3.2 Schools Block

As we did not request a transfer to the High Needs Block for 2020-21, the full amount of £92,581,025 was devolved to schools and academies through the funding formula. We are fully following the National Funding Formula and using those cash values except for the Lump Sum factor which was increased to ensure the whole of the Schools Block was devolved.

### 3.3 Central Schools Services Block

The CSSB is currently forecast to come in over budget by £11,871. This is mainly due to the under achievement on IAR/Exclusions income. The closure of schools during the summer term and continuing difficulties regarding working with Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in no schools permanently excluding pupils in the current financial year to date. The income budget for exclusions is therefore not going to be achieved but it is uncertain at this point in time what the

shortfall on income is going to be so we can expect this block to have a significantly higher deficit than currently shown.

### 3.4 High Needs Block

The High Needs Block is forecast to come in over budget by £902,468. The key areas of pressure are:

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
INMSS	£3,172,450	£3,964,386	£791,936
IAR	£375,000	£482,870	£107,870
Top-up funding	£1,300,000	£1,729,826	£429,826
Inclusion Staffing	£1,833,320	£1,676,138	(£157,182)
Supplies & Svcs	£172,820	£198,795	£25,975
HN Contingency	£539,729	£240,509	(£295,957)

The INMSS budget was originally set at £2,412,450 and we have added £760,000 from the HN Contingency as we were expecting spend in the region of £3.2M. This was based on last year's outturn. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 we had 94 placements of which 19 ended during the summer term. We currently have 99 placements, which is 24 new placements this financial year, with the full year costs for 30 pupils taking up placements from September 2019, resulting in the current forecast deficit of £792k.

Top-up funding is also looking to come in over budget by £430k. This is a combination of EHCP support funding, Resource Base funding, Special School and PRU funding. We have seen Special School pupil numbers increase by 20 from the start of the autumn term contributing to a deficit of £165k with a further £244k deficit on EHCP support funding.

### 3.5 Early Years Block

The Early Years Block is extremely difficult to forecast. The DfE have announced that for this year only the funding they pay to local authorities will be as follows: 9/12ths based on January 2020 census plus 3/12ths based on January 2021 census. As such, we will not know how much grant we are likely to receive until February next year and will not receive the confirmed figure until July.

The DfE asked that local authorities fund EY on either the 2019 Autumn term actual hours or the 2020 Autumn term estimated hours, whichever is the higher. We have calculated that we will be paying just over £520k to providers for 3&4 year old provision for the Autumn term over and above the estimated hours for this term.

With the additional costs for 2 year old provision taken into account, it is considered that we will come within budget here, by an estimated £113k. Overall we currently consider the EY block will come in under budget by £67,871.

3.6 DSG Balances

Forecast outturn 2020-21	£846,468 deficit
2019-20 DSG balance	£136,464 surplus
DSG as at March 2021	£710,004 deficit

We have been cautious in calculating the forecast position and there are savings that may arise throughout the year to reduce this deficit. A breakdown of the budgets, forecast and variance is shown in Appendix A.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Department for Education has made changes to the School and Early Years (Finance) (England) Regulations 2020 to give statutory backing to a new process for handing DSG deficits. A local authority must now carry forward all of the deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year, or carry part of the deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year and carry the rest of it forward to the following financial year.

If the local authority sets any part of the deficit against the schools budget for the next financial year, it must plan to eliminate that part of the deficit through funding from the DSG that it will receive during that financial year.

Therefore a deficit position this year will impact on the amount of DSG available to spend in the coming financial years.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

**5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 Ending the year with a DSG deficit balance will impact on plans to change and improve services and provision until we get back to a balanced position.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

**Summary**

	Original budget	Current budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
Schools Block	£ 92,581,025	£ 92,581,025	£ 92,581,025	£ -	
Central Schools Services Block	£ 665,450	£ 665,450	£ 677,321	-£ 11,871	
Early Years Block	£ 9,848,301	£ 9,848,301	£ 9,780,434	£ 67,867	
High Needs Block	£ 16,156,582	£ 16,155,582	£ 17,060,063	-£ 904,481	
DSG carry forward (central)	£ 136,464	£ 136,464	£ -	£ 136,464	
<b>Total DSG</b>	<b>£ 119,387,822</b>	<b>£ 119,386,822</b>	<b>£ 120,098,843</b>	<b>-£ 712,021</b>	<b>-0.62%</b>

**Schools Block**

Primary (before de-delegation)	£ 47,869,844	£ 47,869,844	£ 47,869,844	£ -	
Secondary (before de-delegation)	£ 44,711,181	£ 44,711,181	£ 44,711,181	£ -	
<b>Total Schools Block</b>	<b>£ 92,581,025</b>	<b>£ 92,581,025</b>	<b>£ 92,581,025</b>	<b>£ -</b>	

**Central Schools Services Block**

Safeguarding post contribution	£ 37,680	£ 37,680	£ 37,680	£ -	
Licences	£ 104,480	£ 104,480	£ 104,481	-£ 1	
Teachers Panel	£ 19,460	£ 19,460	£ 19,460	£ -	
Premature Retirement costs	£ 501,930	£ 501,930	£ 478,992	£ 22,938	
Transfer to High Needs Block	£ 99,220	£ 99,220	£ -	£ 99,220	
Exclusions Income	-£ 149,040	-£ 149,040	-£ 49,820	-£ 99,220	
Inter Authority Income	-£ 252,890	-£ 252,890	-£ 215,676	-£ 37,214	
Staff Responsibilities (de-del)	£ 25,500	£ 25,500	£ 25,500	£ -	
FSM Eligibility contribution (de-del)	£ 6,510	£ 6,510	£ 6,510	£ -	
Dismissals Costs (de-del)	£ 127,150	£ 127,150	£ 127,150	£ -	
Schools Contingency (de-del)	£ 198,780	£ 198,780	£ 198,780	£ -	
De-delegated income	-£ 357,940	-£ 357,940	-£ 357,940	£ -	

**Former ESG Retained Duties**

Revenue budget preparation/Formulation and review of LA schools funding formula	£ 84,450	£ 84,450	£ 84,450	£ -	
Director of children's services/Planning for the education service as a whole	£ 89,890	£ 89,890	£ 88,727	£ 1,163	
Admissions service contribution	£ 8,910	£ 8,910	£ 9,001	-£ 91	
SACRE	£ 2,970	£ 2,970	£ 2,970	£ -	
Investigation of Complaints contribution	£ 8,530	£ 8,530	£ 8,530	£ -	
Administrative costs and overheads	£ 109,860	£ 109,860	£ 109,860	£ -	

**Former ESG General Duties**

Budgeting and accounting functions relating to m	£ 21,970	£ 21,970	£ 21,970	£ -	
Asset Management contribution	£ 47,800	£ 47,800	£ 46,496	£ 1,304	
Health & Safety contribution	£ 61,230	£ 61,230	£ 61,200	£ 30	
De-delegated income	-£ 131,000	-£ 131,000	-£ 131,000	£ -	

<b>Total Central Schools Services Block</b>	<b>£ 665,450</b>	<b>£ 665,450</b>	<b>£ 677,321</b>	<b>-£ 11,871</b>	
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**Early Years Block**

Nursery Schools	£ 1,026,746	£ 1,026,746	£ 1,026,746	£ -	
Nursery Units	£ 474,630	£ 474,630	£ 474,630	£ -	
PVI - 3 & 4 yo provision	£ 6,401,510	£ 6,401,510	£ 6,401,510	£ -	
Early Years Pupil Premium	£ 142,773	£ 142,775	£ 142,775	£ -	
Disability Access Fund	£ 53,505	£ 53,505	£ 53,505	£ -	
2 yo provision	£ 1,431,840	£ 1,431,840	£ 1,318,890	£ 112,950	
EYFS Business Rates	£ 24,210	£ 24,210	£ 24,210	£ -	
EY Inclusion Funding	£ 40,000	£ 40,000	£ 40,000	£ -	
Staffing - 2, 3 & 4 yo provision	£ 169,340	£ 169,340	£ 169,340	£ -	
Supplies & Services - 2, 3 & 4 yo provision	£ 7,000	£ 7,000	£ 1,300	£ 5,700	
Contribution to IWIST	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ -	
EY contingency	£ 26,745	£ 26,745	£ 77,528	-£ 50,783	

<b>Total Early Years Block</b>	<b>£ 9,848,299</b>	<b>£ 9,848,301</b>	<b>£ 9,780,434</b>	<b>£ 67,867</b>	
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**High Needs Block**

Special Schools & Academies	£ 5,109,893	£ 5,109,893	£ 5,109,893	£ -	
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Resource Bases	£	1,186,633	£	1,186,633	£	1,186,633	£	-
PRU	£	1,500,000	£	1,500,000	£	1,500,000	£	-
Top-up funding	£	1,300,000	£	1,300,000	£	1,709,951	-£	409,951
Special Schools Equipment	£	20,000	£	20,000	£	20,000	£	-
Specialist Provision:								
Visually Impaired	£	122,970	£	122,970	£	122,970	£	-
Cognition & Learning	£	126,540	£	126,540	£	101,868	£	24,672
Communication, Language & ASD	£	107,840	£	107,840	£	103,992	£	3,848
Hearing Impaired	£	210,020	£	210,020	£	225,867	-£	15,847
Home Tuition	£	295,260	£	295,260	£	216,361	£	78,899
Education Psychology Service	£	230,470	£	230,470	£	230,470	£	-
Independent Special Schools	£	2,412,450	£	3,172,450	£	3,986,274	-£	813,824
Inter-Authority Recoupment	£	175,000	£	375,000	£	482,870	-£	107,870
Post 16 Provision	£	969,000	£	969,000	£	969,000	£	-
Behaviour Support Team	£	334,660	£	334,660	£	336,377	-£	1,717
HN Contingency	£	1,400,509	£	536,466	£	240,509	£	295,957
Inclusion Division staffing	£	558,380	£	558,380	£	517,028	£	41,352
<b>Total High Needs Block</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>16,059,625</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>16,155,582</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>17,060,063</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>904,481</b>

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director - Finance

**SUBJECT:** Funding for 2021-22

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to the Schools Forum the Dedicated Schools Grant provisional funding for 2021-22.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

2.1 The report is noted.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Overview**

The Dedicated Schools Grant provisional settlement was announced on 27<sup>th</sup> July using the 2021-22 cash values against the 2020-21 pupil numbers. We have drawn up a draft budget based on current knowledge and expectations. This will change over the coming months as plans are moved forward and numbers firmed up.

Within the draft budget, all staffing costs have been increased by 3% to take account of any pay awards. Supplies and services budgets have largely been kept at the same level as this year, except where we expect to see increased costs, such as for Out of Borough placements. For these budgets we have built in current year expected costs or calculated expected costs using forecast numbers.

### **3.2 Schools Block**

The provisional Schools Block allocation for 2021-22 is £98,686,606 based on the October 2019 census. This will change once the October 2020 census has been received by the DfE. This is an increase of £6,105,581 on the current Schools Block allocation of £92,581,025.

It should however be remembered that the Schools Block from April 2021 includes the Teachers' Pay Grant and the Teachers' Pension Employee Contribution Grant which are both separate to DSG this year. It is estimated that these two specific grants will total £3.17M in 2020-21. Both grants will be rolled into the Basic Entitlement factor and will also be reflected in the Minimum Per Pupil funding Level and the Minimum Funding Guarantee.

Therefore the estimated increase in Schools Block funding is in the region of £2.94M, subject to actual pupil numbers.

There are some technical changes to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2021-22. The Deprivation factor is now using the data from the 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index which has resulted in slightly different band widths.

### 3.3 Central Schools Services Block

The provisional CSSB allocation for 2021-22 is £674,932 compared to the current allocation of £665,450. The funding for historic commitments is again reducing by 20%. As this is based on total pupil numbers the actual allocation will be known in December.

A detailed breakdown of the budget allocations and requests for the de-delegation of funding for specific services for maintained schools will be provided as normal at the January meeting for approval.

### 3.4 High Needs Block

The provisional allocation of High Needs Block funding for 2021-22 is £21,221,875 compared to the current allocation of £19,040,582. The draft budget is using the current spend forecast or current pupil numbers costed for a full year and totals £17,917,609. This is £255,266 under the provisional allocation which is good.

However, the pressure point of Out of Borough placements is still seeing an increase in numbers and one placement extra could incur up to an additional £80k in costs pa. We are also expecting to see an increase in EHCP top-up funding costs but this has not been quantified at this point in time so has not yet been built into the draft budget.

The High Needs Safety Valve Funding now requires local authorities to carry the full DSG deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year, or to carry part of the deficit forward to set against the schools budget in the next financial year and carry the rest of it forward to the following financial year.

A detailed High Needs budget will, as normal, be presented at the February meeting for approval.

### 3.5 Early Years Block

While the Operational guidance and technical notes have been released for the Schools Block, CSSB and High Needs Block we have not yet received the guidance for the Early Years Block. Nor have we received any indication of the funding we are likely to receive for 2021-22. The EY information is typically released in December for the following financial year.

3.6 Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block

As we are seeing an increase to the High Needs Block we are not requesting a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2021-22. This is to allow schools to receive their full allocation of Schools Block funding which we believe is required to support the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic that are not covered by specific grants and to allow time for more inclusive practices to bed in.

However, as we are expecting to see a deficit balance at the end of March 2022, it is likely that we will have to ask for such a transfer for 2022-23 if the HN costs continue to increase as they have been over the last year.

3.7 Minimum Funding Guarantee

Local authorities can set their MFG between +0.5% and +2.0% per pupil. The MFG protects schools from excessive year-on-year changes other than for changes in pupil numbers. As in previous years, it is difficult to predict what level of MFG will be needed until we get the final allocation and pupil numbers in December.

3.8 Consultation

We are not required to consult on the changes to the IDACI data or the rolling in of the Teachers' Pay and Pension grants as these are national changes. We will be issuing a consultation on the use of the National Funding Formula going forward and for the Minimum Funding Guarantee rate to be used next year.

3.9 Key Dates

1 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	School Census Day
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Deadline for certain disapplication requests
Mid-November 2020	Deadline for submission of HN place change workbooks
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Deadline for disapplication requests including transfer from Schools Block to HN Block
December 2020	Publication of 2021-22 DSG Schools Block, CSSB, initial HN Block and initial EY Block allocations
Mid-January 2021	Schools Forum consultation and political approval required for final 2021-22 funding formula.
21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021	Deadline for submission of APT for 2021-22
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Deadline for confirmation of school budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Deadline for confirmation of general annual grant for academies open by January 9 <sup>th</sup>

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Where a local authority ends the year with a deficit balance on its DSG is required to provide information to the Department for Education about its plans for managing its DSG, including information on pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget. We are required to keep the Schools Forum regularly updated about the DSG balances.

The ESFA have recently issued a Management Plan template, a substantial spreadsheet asking for data and figures for the years 2017-18 to 2024-25 inclusive, along with estimated pupil numbers, EHCPs and savings etc. While it is not mandatory to complete this, it is expected of LAs to do so. A quick comment around the NW group has indicated that most LAs will be using this document to support their plans for bringing DSG back to a balanced position.

If we do not bring the DSG back to a balanced position, where we are spending up to but not above the grant we are allocated for the year, we will end up in a position where the following year's grant is eaten away by the current year's deficit.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 Failure to keep expenditure within the total grant allocated will create pressure on following year(s) budgets.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director - Finance

**SUBJECT:** Update from NW LMS meeting

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to the Schools Forum key issues discussed at the recent regional meeting.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

2.1 The report is noted.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 NW LMS Group**

The NW LMS group is made up of representatives from each local authority in the North West region, specifically those dealing with school funding/Dedicated Schools Grant. At some meetings we have representatives from the Department for Education and/or the Education Skills Funding Agency.

### **3.2 Virtual meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

- The bulk of the discussion was regarding the funding for 2021-22 which has been covered in the separate Schools Forum report.
- The High Needs national review is ongoing and a Green Paper is expected in Autumn 2020.
- The Teachers Pay & Pension Grants for centrally employed teachers are to be added into the CSSB in the December 2020 final allocations. However, at the DfE workgroups held on 16<sup>th</sup> September we were told that the Basic per pupil element of funding in the High Needs Block would be increased to cover these grants.
- A decision is still to be announced regarding the Maintained Nursery School transitional protection funding.
- The Primary PE & Sports Grant will continue in 2021-22 as current.
- The Pupil Premium Grant will carry on into next year as it is.
- No national conference will be held this year.
- The DfE are preparing a template for local authorities to complete where there is a deficit balance or where their DSG surplus has decreased significantly. This will be issued shortly.

### 3.3 DfE virtual meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

A number of virtual meetings have been set up during September and October, covering subjects that would normally have been individual seminars at the national conference.

#### Revenue Funding Policy & NFF in 2021-22

- The Schools Block NFF is the same overall structure as for 2020-21 but some factors have been increased by 3% and rounded to the nearest £5.
- IDACI is now based on ranks instead of scores. The average scores have decreased with the change to the 2019 index which would have seen a decrease in the proportion of pupils attracting funding. Ranks are not affected by this so by changing to IDACI ranks funding has been stabilised and future updates to the index will be easier to integrate into the NFF.
- A consultation is to be released shortly regarding the change to the Hard NFF for 2024-25. There is uncertainty around the Notional SEN and how that will fit with the Hard NFF.
- There is a plan to roll the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants into the Early Years Block for Maintained Nursery Schools. More details on this will be announced at a later date.
- There will be a condition of grant to ensure LAs allocate the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants within the High Needs Block at the equivalent funding level of this year, unless a provision is closed or place numbers reduce. If place numbers increase then the TPG/TPECG is to be increased accordingly.
- The DfE is starting to plan the SEN review, including what needs to be consulted on. They are focussing on changes for 2022-23, including the SEND review conclusions but acknowledge there may be a need for changes beyond 2022-23.
- For Early Years, the normal funding approach for Spring term 2021 is under review.

#### Covid-19 funding update

- Where schools submitted claims in July under the Exceptional Schools Fund with all amounts for either Free School Meal, premises or cleaning additional costs, these were paid at the end of August. Where schools submitted claims including some costs in the “Other” category, these are still being scrutinised and there is no date yet of when/if these will be paid.
- Schools who did not make a claim in July, or who forgot some items, will be able to submit a claim at some point during the autumn term but it will only be for additional costs between March and July. Additional costs after July will not be funded.
- The ESFA will be checking at a later point regarding school in-year surpluses. There are no plans to cover costs relating to staff who are having to self-isolate. The ESFA acknowledge the



situation has changed with local lockdowns so they are reviewing this but no change has been agreed as yet.

- The Covid-19 Catch-Up Premium allocations for the academic year have been released, as has the autumn term payment. The National Tutoring grant will be announced at some point this term.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Changes to and the introduction of school-related grants tend to be notified via the NW LMS slightly ahead of the DfE notifications. We will continue to share relevant information with schools as soon as possible.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

##### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

##### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

#### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 There is a clear risk that schools will not be able to recover all of the additional costs/loss of income incurred due to Covid-19 which will increase financial pressures.

#### **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.