



# West Northamptonshire Schools Forum

A meeting of the West Northamptonshire Schools Forum will be held remotely via zoom conference call and at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyc2cNcl19OvcGOCuZDTBQ> on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 2.00 pm

## Agenda

1.	<b>Apologies for absence and Forum Membership Changes</b>
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	<b>Minutes</b> (Pages 7 - 14) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021.
4.	<b>2021-22 DSG Monitoring</b> (Pages 15 - 22) Emily Taylor
5.	<b>2022-23 WNC Schools Budgets</b> (Pages 23 - 34) Includes update on final DSG settlement and schools budgets for submission to ESFA. Beth Baines
6.	<b>Disapplication request (top slice) update</b> (Pages 35 - 38) Update following the December 2021 meeting vote on £2.1m top slice request and ESFA requirements (vote required). Beth Baines

<b>7.</b>	<b>2022-23 WNC High Needs Budgets (To Follow)</b> Includes update on final DSG settlement, any updates to HN places and LA high needs budgets for information.  Beth Baines
<b>8.</b>	<b>High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Plan (Pages 39 - 60)</b> Chris Kiernan
<b>9.</b>	<b>2022-23 Early Years Budgets (To Follow)</b> Includes Early Years consultation responses, proposed early years single funding formula 2022-23 and proposed LA central expenditure.  Beth Baines/Kelly Mills
<b>10.</b>	<b>WNC 2022-23 Draft Budget Consultation (Pages 61 - 66)</b> Emily Taylor
<b>11.</b>	<b>Forward Plan</b> Standing items (if required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSG Monitoring</li> <li>• DfE/ESFA Funding announcements</li> <li>• School Budgets</li> <li>• High Needs</li> <li>• Early Years</li> <li>• National Funding formula</li> </ul> <p>March 2022 – Please note it is proposed to cancel this meeting if there is insufficient business to justify holding the meeting.</p> <p>May 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional DSG and schools 2020-21 outturn report</li> <li>• Schools Apprentice Levy Update</li> <li>• 2021-22 Grant and DSG funding announcements update</li> </ul> <p>July 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding Formula announcements (if applicable)</li> <li>• DSG monitoring 2021-22</li> <li>• School budgets 2022-23 – areas to consult with schools on in September 2021 (if required)</li> <li>• EYSFF 2021-22 – areas to be reviewed/consultation with providers</li> <li>• DSG Finance risk register</li> <li>• North only – Hospital Outreach in North Northamptonshire</li> </ul>

	<p>October 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools block Combined Services Reports</li> <li>• Schools block 2022-23 central expenditure (vote required)</li> <li>• Primary and Secondary maintained schools de-delegation 2022-23 (SIG, Trade union and school redundancies)</li> <li>• School budgets 2022-23 – weighted numbers for new schools/year groups</li> <li>• School budgets 2022-23 – PFI utility subsidy</li> <li>• High Needs place numbers 2022-23</li> <li>• Pupil Growth 2022-23 – projections and 2022-23 rates</li> <li>• Schools funding formula 2022-23 – consultation feedback</li> </ul> <p>December 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Budgets 2022-23 –outcome of consultation and final proposals *</li> <li>• EYSFF –2022-23 - Early years central expenditure 2022-23* –outcome of consultation and consideration of proposals, including vote on central expenditure.</li> </ul> <p>January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WNC Draft Budget proposals 2022-23</li> <li>• EYSFF 2022-23</li> <li>• High Needs budgets 2022-23</li> <li>• Final School budgets 2022-23* (vote –if required)</li> <li>• Early years central expenditure 2022-23* –outcome of consultation and consideration of proposals, including vote on central expenditure.</li> </ul>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Urgent Business</b></p> <p>The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.</p>

Catherine Whitehead  
Proper Officer  
10 January 2022

**West Northamptonshire Schools Forum Members:**

Peter French	Paul Wheeler
James Shryane	Dan York
Sandra Appleby	Lyndsey Barnett
Simon Bentley	Vanessa Bradley
Lee Hughes	Rachel Martin
Jon Lake	Karen Lewis
Iain Massey	Jenny Thorpe
Hayley Walker	Rod Warsap
Eliza Hollis	

## **Information about this Agenda**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to [democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk) prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

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### **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Paul Hanson via the following:

Email: [paul.hanson@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:paul.hanson@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council  
One Angel Square  
Angel Street  
Northampton  
NN1 1ED



## West Northamptonshire Schools Forum

Minutes of a meeting of the West Northamptonshire Schools Forum held remotely via Zoom and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyc2cNcl19OvcGOCuZDTBQ> on Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 2.00 pm.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Present             | <p>Peter French, Church of England (chair) (PF)</p> <p>James Shryane, academy alternative provision (JS)</p> <p>Dan York, maintained primary (DY)</p> <p>Sandra Appleby, academy (SA)</p> <p>Lyndsey Barnett, maintained nursery (LB)</p> <p>Vanessa Bradley, academy (VB)</p> <p>Lee Hughes, academy (LH)</p> <p>Rachel Martin, PVI (RM)</p> <p>Jon Lake, maintained primary (JL)</p> <p>Karen Lewis, academy special (KL)</p> <p>Iain Massey, academy (IM)</p> <p>Jenny Thorpe, 16-19 (JT)</p> <p>Hayley Walker, PVI (HW)</p> <p>Rod Warsap, academy (RW)</p> <p>Eliza Hollis, maintained primary (EH)</p>     |
| Substitute Members: | <p>Joshua Coleman, academy (JC)</p> <p>substituting for Paul Wheeler</p>   |
| Also Present:       | <p>Councillor Fiona Baker, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education</p> <p>Councillor Daniel Lister, Assistant Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>William Healey, Education, Skills and Funding Agency</p> <p>Dan Perriman, NASUWT (DP)</p> <p>Richard Poole, Unison (RP)</p> <p>Elaine Coe, NEU (EC)</p> <p>Rachelle Wilkins, GMB (RW)</p>  |
| Apologies:          | <p>Paul Wheeler</p>  |
| Officers            | <p>Chris Kiernan, Assistant Director, Education (CK)</p> <p>Beth Baines, Senior Finance Business Partner (BB)</p> <p>Emily Taylor, Strategic Finance Business Partner (ET)</p> <p>Alison Golding, Assistant Director, HR (AG)</p> <p>Rosemary Kavanagh, Assistant HR Business Partner (RK)</p> <p>Kelly Mills, Early Years Business Compliance and Funding Support Service Manager, NNC (KM)</p> <p>Chris Wickens, Capital Programme Manager, Schools (CW)</p> <p>Paul Hanson, Secretary (PH)</p> <p>James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager (JE)</p> <p>Kathryn Holton, Committee Officer (KH)</p> |

**1. Apologies for absence and Forum Membership Changes**

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Wheeler and thanks were extended to Joshua Coleman who attended as a substitute.

James Shryane was welcomed to Schools Forum as the new member for Academy (Alternative Provision).

It was reported that Nikki Lamond had resigned from West Northamptonshire Schools Forum, but was continuing as a member for North Northamptonshire. Recruitment for vacant academy positions would take place in the new year.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4. 2021-22 DSG Monitoring**

ET advised that the report detailed the latest forecast outturn position for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). There had been no change in the overall forecast position since the last meeting, with an overspend of £2.4m reported for the high needs block (HNB). This represented 1.78% of the budget after academy recoupment and 0.62% of the gross budget which was below the threshold requiring a Department for Education (DfE) recovery plan. The overspend was structural in nature, so a plan was needed to address this to avoid pressures in future years. Whilst there was no overall movement in the £2.4m deficit, there had been movements within the HNB. The main swing from the previously reported position was in out of county placements which had almost doubled (£1.25m). There was also a £1m increase in provision for pupils in schools as a result of the increase in pupil numbers.

In relation to the increased forecast costs of out of county placements and following mention at the last meeting of a local authority (LA) strategy in respect of special school places, DY asked what was being done to address this.

CK advised that the most pressing issue was the lack of specialist places. By 2025 it was estimated that West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) would be short of 500 places. There were plans to increase provision from September 2022. Capital was available in the budget but there was a shortfall of £3m for the 200 places to be provided over the next 3 years. The LA would be seeking Council approval to borrow capital money for these places, without which a balanced budget would not be able to be achieved. Additionally another special school was needed in West Northamptonshire. The DfE would be approached regarding money for a free school but if this was not forthcoming the Council would need to sponsor a special school

and fund the capital to pay for it - potentially £12m. This could result in between £3m and £15m which would need to be borrowed between now and 2025-6.

Since it appeared that this issue was not going to be addressed within a year, DY asked whether schools would have to factor it into their budgets both for this year and next year. CK advised that schools would not be asked to factor it in at this stage. A review of the first year was needed before proceeding.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum noted the forecast outturn position for the year ending 31 March 2022.

**5. 2022-23 WNC Schools Funding Consultation**

BB advised that each annex a) to e) covered a different part of the consultation.

**5a Split site funding policy and permanent exclusion clawback policy**

BB advised that the background had been covered at the previous meeting. It was proposed to roll forward the split site policy from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) keeping the rates the same. The permanent exclusion clawback policy was proposed to be changed to be in line with legislation for 2022-23.

There had been 9 responses to the consultation overall, one of which covered several schools from the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust. Not all those responding answered every question.

There were 8 responses to the permanent exclusion clawback policy question "Do you agree with implementing the legislation?". 5 of these agreed to the change. One disagreed on the basis that the funding will have been used in supporting the child before exclusion. Unfortunately the legislation does not allow for this to be taken into consideration. Two others agreed in principle, but stated that the LA should only be able to claw back if funding had been received for that child, which required the child to have been on the previous census. BB confirmed that this would be done if the legislation allowed.

For the split site funding feedback, 5 were in agreement, 1 disagreed and considered that the rates should be 50% of the current rates in 2022/23, reducing to zero in 2023/24. Another response considered that there were many other significant additional costs for schools in addition to split site. BB noted that the National Funding Formula (NFF) was intended to cover these costs and that previously separate funding streams had been rolled into the age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) and lump sum when the NFF was first formulated. One of the areas not included was the split site funding and this was still a separate formula factor that could be used by LAs to support schools with those additional costs.

LH considered that 9 responses was not many, and requested clarity on why the trust was treated as one and not 15 schools. If the trust had collated responses from individual schools this would be different from submitting a single response from the trust. BB stated that the LA was aware that this one response represented a number of schools, although their individual circumstances might be different. EH noted that

all head teachers had the option to respond individually. PF agreed with LH - 9 responses was disappointing. CK noted that if the issue was not a priority, people were less likely to respond. WNC had publicised the consultation through many different routes (Head West, direct emails to schools and at bursar seminars) and had sought to maximise responses. Any further ideas to encourage increased participation would be welcomed. Cllr Baker endorsed this.

In response to a question from VB, BB confirmed that the permanent exclusion clawback policy would be effective from 1 April 2022.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members agreed the proposed Split Site Policy and rates.  
That Schools Forum members agreed the proposed Permanent Exclusion clawback policy.

**5b Place Planning and Growth Funding (Weighted Numbers)**

CW reported that it was intended to fund a number of new year groups at seven schools across West Northamptonshire. Schools requested to provide additional capacity by the LA would have access to revenue funding at the rates given. All schools were asked whether they agreed to roll forward the current Growth Fund Policy inherited from NCC and whether to use the same rates applied in 2021/22. 5 responses agreed with the Growth Fund Policy and to fund weighted numbers, one respondent selected other, but gave no further response. All respondents agreed to the continuation of the 2021/22 rates.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools forum members agreed the proposed Growth Fund Policy and rates, the proposed places for new and growing schools and the growth fund budget of £0.99m for the 2022-23 budget.

**5c Funding of Specialist Support and Impairment Services**

CK reported that feedback had been received from one member since publication of the consultation expressing disappointment at the low number of responses received, and also that the specialist support and impairment issue was not more prominent in the consultation and suggesting the list should have been ordered according to the impact on schools. This would be taken into account in future consultations. Of the responses, 6 selected option 2, the trust selected option 3 and one school made comments but did not select an option.

CK congratulated ET and BB for getting to grips with the HNB issues since vesting day. A 5% overspend was low compared with other authorities (one authority was 106%) and at the moment, due to PFI credits, a balanced budget was being reported.

CK advised that WNC wanted to be transparent with the nature of the problem and proposed action plan. The aim was to be back in balance within 4 years. A sub-group of Schools Forum members could be established to look at this.

DY queried the potential impact on schools where despite the uplift there would still be a detrimental effect on their budget. How would the LA support those schools? CK responded that where a school has a high needs problem and a general budget



problem the LA can use top up from the high needs budget. The one-size-fits-all policy cannot be allowed to have a serious deleterious effect on an individual school. Schools should contact CK in the first instance.

EH asked whether this would impact notional SEN in any way. CK advised that this was a separate issue, but it was fair to take account of this spending in the notional pot.

JC advised that all schools have to work within constraints of funding and queried what support was being made available. CK advised that it was generally very small schools which had a problem. Money was not given lightly and schools had to make a strong case, but the LA had to make sure that schools can support their pupils.

In response to JC, BB stated that there were no specific funds allocated to cover schools with financial difficulties. The School Effectiveness Team had a budget which could be used to help schools in severe difficulty. There was no contingency, although Schools Forum could decide to vote for maintained schools to have a pot of money to help.

DY noted that unknown variables such as the impending increase in PFI costs were a particular concern for smaller schools.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members agreed the second option put forward in the consultation – to top-slice £2.1m (approximately 0.68%), on the understanding that if it does so, the council will not ask for the 0.5% top-slice allowed by funding regulations.

**5d Schools block 2022-23 central expenditure**

BB noted that there were two parts to the central expenditure – historical and ongoing. The ongoing side included combined services where there was a 20% reduction in funding each year. CK pointed out that central expenditure formed part of the LA's budget and did not come from the DSG.

BB advised that each section of 5d had to be voted on separately.

In response to a question from VB, BB confirmed that all the items listed on the agenda under 5d formed part of the £4.3m Central Schools Services Block (CSSB).

JC referred to Table 3 on page 32 and asked why funding for some areas was increasing, but MASH and safeguarding were not, given the importance of family engagement. CK advised that the figures given were not necessarily the budget for the service, but represented the contribution to that service from central expenditure. PF agreed that sufficient budget for safeguarding was important.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum voted in favour of each of the central schools service block budgets, on a line by line basis, including each combined service budget, other historical CSSB and ongoing CSSB responsibilities

<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>	<b>2022-23 £m</b>	<b>2022-23 £m</b>
Admissions		0.485
Schools Forum		0.011
National Copyright Licenses		0.306
Ex ESG retained LA duties for all schools		0.875
Teacher's Pay and Pension Grant		0.256
Contribution to DSG / High Needs deficit		0.146
PFI – Greenfields Special School		0.279
Historical Teachers Pension pre-2013		1.147
Schools Standards & Effectiveness	0.434	
Parenting Support Coordinators	0.034	
Moderation	0.015	
Social Care Transport	0.000	
Supervised Contact	0.000	
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board	0.039	
MASH	0.057	
Education Entitlement	0.178	
Subtotal Combined Services		0.756
Total CSSB		<b>4.261</b>

#### **5e De-delegation: Primary and Secondary maintained schools de-delegation 2022-23 SIG, Trade Union and school redundancies**

##### **Trade Union**

EC stated that all schools were legally obliged to consult with members and Trade Union facility time represented a very straightforward way of meeting this legal obligation. TUs would still consult on policies if local officers were not released on facility time but would have to do that using paid regional officers which would likely result in delayed response times. If cases were referred to regional officers, localism and the opportunity to build closer relationships with schools and resolve issues informally would be lost. Local officers were able to bring their experience of what has worked elsewhere to TUPE negotiations, policy consultations, flexible working appeals etc.

DP agreed with EC and added that facility time had been very important in providing support and dealing with issues during Covid.

RP pointed out that the current rate was £2.10 per pupil. Consideration had been taken of the fact that unitary transition was ongoing and Covid was still an issue, together with National Insurance increases from April 2022. The average contribution for the East Midlands was £3.56, so the £2.10 rate would need to rise in future to cover increasing costs.

##### **SIG**

CK pointed out that historically the SIG budget had been spent. It was used for the direct benefit of schools of concern and went back in full to the block that paid for it. If there was any under-expenditure in a year, the amount requested would be

reduced. Currently the amount proposed for de-delegation to maintained schools was £7.50.

### **Redundancy**

CK advised that the amount required had been calculated at £8. However, following an internal discussion - and recognising that these are extra costs for maintained schools over academies in their delegated budgets – it was considered that the lower amount of £5 was probably manageable. If it transpired that £5 was not sufficient it would be covered in-year and raised next year.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members agreed to the proposed de-delegations:

- a) Trade Union duties de-delegation should be continued with the suggested scheme and rate of £2.10 per pupil;
- b) School Improvement Grant (SIG) de-delegation should be continued with the suggested scheme and rate of £7.50 per pupil;
- c) Redundancy de-delegation should be continued with the suggested scheme and rate of £5 per pupil.

A short break was taken at this point.

## **6. Early Years Funding Consultation**

CK introduced the report outlining the proposed consultation on early years funding. Funding allocations were received late, so discussion was taking place now about the consultation proposals. Consultation would take place from 16 December 2021 and the results reported back at the next meeting. Funding would be delivered from 1 April 2022. As outlined in Section 2.1, 95% of the funding would be passported to early years settings with 5% being kept to cover administration costs.

LB noted that because the consultation start date was the last day of term, there was likely to be a low response. BB explained that if the consultation was not started before Christmas, the budget would not be ready for February thus jeopardising the legal deadline of 31 March. Having consultation responses in January would enable better planning.

LB expressed concern about the funding pressures faced by nursery schools and outlined some of the factors influencing this. LB also had concerns about lack of understanding around the consultation and suggested that work with nursery schools, head teachers and governors could have informed the consultation. BB advised that this was the start of the consultation process – the questions had not yet been set and input would be welcomed. In addition, a detailed paper had been reported to the March 2021 shadow schools forum but no feedback had been received.

RM appreciated receiving the consultation before January, but advised that the consultation was not easy to understand for those without the relevant background and this could deter them from responding.

RM was concerned that there was not enough support for high needs. 10-15% of children in her setting had high needs and this was already understaffed and underfunded. Some children (for example with cerebral palsy) needed constant

support and the funding did not support this. There was no specialist provision for early years and supporting them in mainstream nursery was not sustainable. In addition, payments were not coming in correctly and had to be chased each month, taking management time.

CK advised that the local authority had a legal duty to support high needs. If it could be shown that allocated funding was insufficient, additional funding would be provided.

Following discussion and concerns expressed at the meeting it was agreed to discuss this further outside Schools Forum and to report back to the next meeting that this had been done.

No vote was required for this item, but the feedback would inform the consultation.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members noted the report and that further consideration would be given to the wording of the proposed consultation questions to make these as clear as possible.

That a discussion about early years funding would be held between relevant Schools Forum members and officers before the next meeting.

**7. High Needs Places**

BB introduced the paper to consult with Schools Forum on high needs places. By publishing now there was an opportunity for discussion before places were set. This was for information only and no vote was required.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members noted and agreed the places presented.

**8. Forward Plan**

This was provided for information.

**RESOLVED:**

That Schools Forum members noted the Forward Plan.

**9. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**West Northants Schools forum: 14 December 2021**  
**Agenda Item 4**  
**2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring as at Period 8**

**List of Appendices**

**Appendix A – 2021-22 DSG Forecast Outturn by Funding Block as at Period 8**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report provides an assessment of West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) financial performance against its approved 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget, incorporating key financial risks, issues and opportunities identified since 1 April 2021.
- 1.2 It is important to note that budgets for the new organisation are complex and still settling, as they are disaggregated County Council budgets, and approved before the majority of service redesigns and staffing structures were implemented for the new Council. Therefore, the detailed budgets are subject to continual review and challenge.
- 1.3 Table 1 shows the relevant responsibilities in relation to in year monitoring which is taken from the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities, published in March 2021.

Table 1

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Schools forum</b>	<b>ESFA</b>
De-delegation – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority's proposals
General Duties for maintained schools – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority's proposals
Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority's proposals
Central Spend on Early Years and Central School Services – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority's proposals
Central Spend on High Needs – Decides	None, but good practice to Consult	None

## 2 Executive Summary

2.1 Table 2 summarises the DSG forecast outturn and variance currently being estimated for this financial year. It highlights some identified service pressures against the high needs block which will seek to be managed within year and across the medium term.

Table 2 – Forecast Outturn 2021-22 by DSG Block £m

<b>DSG Block</b>	<b>Gross Expenditure Budget*</b>	<b>Recoupment</b>	<b>Net Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Net Spend</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Schools	300.2	-235.7	64.6	64.6	0.0
Early Years Provision	25.9	0	25.9	26.3	0.4
High Needs	55.5	-15.2	40.3	42.8	2.5
Central Schools Services Block	4.6	0	4.6	4.6	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>386.3</b>	<b>-250.9</b>	<b>135.4</b>	<b>138.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>

\*includes carry forward

2.2 The forecast outturn position for 2021-22 is an overspend of £2.9m against the budget including carry forwards of £135.4m after academy recoupment, or 2.14% (0.75% on the gross budget). This represents an adverse movement of £0.5m from the position as at period 7 previously reported to December Schools Forum. This variance is set out in section 3 below.

2.3 Any local authority that has an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2021-22 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must co-operate with the Department for Education in handling that situation. In particular, the authority must:

- provide information as and when requested by the department about its plans for managing its DSG account in the 2021-22 financial year and subsequent years
- provide information as and when requested by the department about pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget
- meet with officials of the department as and when they request to discuss the authority's plans and financial situation
- keep the schools forum regularly updated about the authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings.

2.4 The Secretary of State reserves the right to impose more specific conditions of grant on individual local authorities that have an overall deficit on their DSG account, where they believe that the LA are not taking sufficient action to address the situation.

2.5 WNC is not currently predicting an overall deficit on the DSG as the PFI reserve on the Wooldale Scheme is greater than the forecast £2.9m overspend. However, the authority is implementing the final point under section 2.3 above, and therefore will keep the schools forum regularly updated about the authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings (see agenda item 7).

### **3 Financial Overview by DSG Block**

3.1 This section of the report provides an update on the forecast variations against 2021-22 DSG budget by funding block. A more detailed breakdown of the 2021-22 forecast is included in Appendix A.

#### **3.2 Schools Block**

Gross Budget £300.2m

Net budget £64.6m (net of recoupment)

Forecast outturn £64.6m

Forecast variance £0.0m

Variance percentage 0.0%

Change since last Schools Forum reported variance £0.0m

3.3 The Schools Block includes Individual Schools Budgets which are disbursed to schools as budget in full and in cash on a monthly basis (12% April then 8% per month thereafter), the pupil growth fund (for schools receiving in-year new classes of 15 or more pupils), de-delegations from maintained school budgets as agreed by Schools forum for trade union facility time, redundancy cost support (in specific circumstances) and school improvement grant (SIG), and schools rates (NNDR).

3.4 Within the Schools Block the Pupil Growth Fund covers additional costs faced by schools for classes of 15 or more pupils (anything less than that is to be absorbed by a schools existing budget). Most growth and placement of additional classes in the year is planned 3 years in advance and the budget can usually be very well controlled. However, there can be pressures on the budget is large numbers of pupils move into

the area that were unexpected. The authority is not currently anticipating a variance on this budget.

- 3.5 The de-delegations for redundancy and SIG are demand led, depending on how many schools need to restructure due to financial difficulties, or need support due to standards or staffing issues. Based on current commitments and forecasting information expenditure projections are in line with the budget.
- 3.6 De-delegation for trade union facility time covers a planned number of days of facility member time to support teaching staff and no variances are anticipated.
- 3.7 The school rates budget has been a net nil budget for a number of and has previously provided a net income contribution from revaluations resulting from companies employed to challenge rateable value of properties. The net contribution in this financial year is currently uncertain and would offset overspends across the wider DSG. In previous years the net contribution has been no more than £0.2m in year benefit.

### **3.8 High Needs Block**

Gross Budget £55.5m

Net budget £40.3m (net of recoupment)

Forecast outturn £42.8m

Forecast variance £2.5m

Variance percentage 4.5%

Change since last Schools Forum reported variance +£0.1m

- 3.9 The High Needs Block includes funding for children and young adults who have additional educational needs in; mainstream education, SEN Units in mainstream schools, West Northamptonshire's state special schools, "out of LA" independent schools and schools outside of WNC area, alternative educational provision in AP schools or private tutoring and hospital and outreach education.
- 3.10 All these services are demand led, with parents being entitled to request their preference for how their high needs children are educated, and able to appeal any decisions that go against their preference. In addition to demand the costs of specialist independent school places can put pressure on this budget.
- 3.11 The overall overspend of £2.5m has increased by £0.1m since last Forum, however more detailed work on the individual budgets has resulted in some significant underlying changes to variances within the block. The main pressures within the high needs block are due to the demand for places and increased cost of new placements above budgeted levels and are as follows:
- Out of LA, (independents and other LA places) forecast overspend of £2.46m (previously reported £1.25m). The increase is due to price inflation on existing placements alongside an increase in demand of around 12% from this time last



year based on the latest data. The full year effect of this increase is currently being quantified.

- provision for pupils within schools forecast overspend of £0.50m (previously reported £1.00m) as the number of pupils needing higher levels of support is increasing more than anticipated,
- post 16 high needs education forecast overspend of £0.15m (no change),
- alternative provision forecast nil variance (previously reported £0.14m) as increased costs have not been as high as expected, and
- SEN Units were previously reporting a small underspend of £0.17m but more detailed analysis has meant a further improvement in this forecast to £0.09m overspend expected at the end of the year, this is due to increased funding so that SEN units have capacity to take on more children so that they do not have to go to out of county places.

3.12 There is a forecast underspend in the Special School Budgets of £0.70m (previously £0.31m) based on estimates of Autumn RAS updates, more accurate information will be known in January following detailed review, and the forecast amended appropriately.

3.13 Within the high needs budget there are also currently contributions to a range of statutory services that are provided by the local authority for the benefit of all schools and academies, these include; MASH, Educational Entitlement Team, Virtual School, Specialist Support Service, Sensory Impairment Provision, Education Health Care Team and Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service (NPPS). The remaining contribution to these services comes from the WNC general fund.

3.14 These budgets are largely salary based and no variance is currently anticipated on the DSG contribution.

### 3.15 **Early Years Block**

Net budget £25.9m

Forecast outturn £26.3m

Forecast variance £0.4m

Variance percentage 1.5%

Change since last Schools Forum reported variance +£0.4m

3.16 The Early Years Block includes funded entitlement to nursery education for 2 year olds and '3 and 4' year olds. The 3 and 4 year olds entitlement is split into Universal (15 hours per week) and Extended (from 15 to 30 hours per week) for 38 weeks per year. The 3 and 4 year old funding must cover a base rate and a deprivation funding factor (may include other supplements but WNC does not have any), and central local authority costs of up to 5%.

3.17 The funding is demand led – early years settings submit claims based on the number of hours of the children they have and the local authority must pay these

settings what they are entitled to through the formula set before 31 March of the preceding the financial year. In normal years the biggest difficulty is estimating the grant funding (from a complex formula and usually based on two January censuses). Due to covid making the funding and claims even harder to predict this year will see the Government collect termly censuses and so we expect the funding to be much more closely aligned to the claims. The current forecast overspend is therefore an estimate based on the latest data about increased demand, particularly in high needs.

### **3.18 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)**

Net budget £4.6m

Forecast outturn £4.6m

Forecast variance £0.0m

Variance percentage 0.0%

Change since last Schools Forum reported variance £0.0m

3.19 The CSSB includes ongoing services such as schools copyright licenses, school admissions team, schools forum, back office and overheads previously covered by the Education Services Grant and teachers pay and pensions grant for centrally employed teachers' pay increases.

3.20 The CSSB also includes a historical part of the block. This budget covers combined services for children and education that are part funded by DSG and partly by the general fund, and a significant percentage on pre-2013 pensions costs for teachers.

3.21 Some underspends may arise through vacancies in year, but none are currently being forecast.

## **4 Financial implications**

4.1 The resource and financial implications of the WNC DSG budget are set out in the body of, and appendices to, this report.

## **5 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## **6 Risks**

6.1 This report sets out the financial forecast and risks identified following the Period 8 review of the Council's DSG budgets.

## **7 Recommendations for Schools forum**

7.1 That Schools forum notes the forecast outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2022.

### **Report Author:**

Officer name: Emily Taylor / Beth Baines

Officer title: Strategic Finance Business Partner / Senior Finance Business Partner

Email address: [emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk) / [beth.baines@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:beth.baines@westnorthants.gov.uk)

DSG OVERALL SUMMARY	Budget					
2021-22 Budget	Current Budget	Carry Forward	Recoupment	Current Budget (including c-fwd)	Delegated	Central Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools	299,614	626	-235,679	64,561	0	1,353
Early Years Provision	25,898	0	0	25,898	0	0
High Needs	55,548	0	-15,211	40,337	0	0
Central Schools Services Block	4,467	203	0	4,644	0	0
DSG TOTAL	385,527	829	-250,890	135,440	0	1,353

FULL YEAR		
Net Exp Budget	Forecast	Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000
64,561	64,561	0
25,898	26,250	352
40,337	42,860	2,523
4,644	4,639	-5
135,440	138,310	2,870

Prior FORUM Position		
Variance	Movement	
£'000	£'000	Comments
0	0	
0	352	
2,396	127	No significant movement at the top level
-5	0	
2,391	479	

Schools	Current Budget	Carry Forward	Recoupment	Budget	Delegated	Central
Schools Block						
Individual Schools Budgets (DSG)	0			0		
Schools Budgets (DSG)	298,307		-235,679	62,627		
Academies	0			0		
Redundancy/PRC - Schools de-delegated	21	185		206		
Union Facilities (DSG) Schools de-delegated	29	43		72		
School Improvement Group (DSG) de-delegated	104	198		302		
Pupil Growth Fund	1,153	200		1,353		1,353
School Rates	0			0		
Total Schools	299,614	626	-235,679	64,561	0	1,353

FULL YEAR		
Net Exp	Forecast	Variance
0	0	0
62,627	62,627	0
0	0	0
206	206	0
72	72	0
302	302	0
1,353	1,353	0
0	0	0
64,561	64,561	0

Prior Forum Position		
Variance	Movement	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	

Central Schools Services Block	Current Budget	Carry Forward	Recoupment	Budget	Delegated	Central
Schools Forum (DSG)	11			11		
School Admissions	485			485		
Copyright	300			300		
DSG grant and other costs (ESG services)	858			858		
Teacher's Pay and Pension Grant	325			325		
Redundancy/PRC	1,147			1,147		
Northampton Schools PFI	279			279		
Wooldale Centre - CCS (DSG)	0			0		
School Standards & Effectiveness (Combined DSG LA Services)	434	203		637		
Prevention & Early Help Operational - Parenting support (Combined	34			34		
Moderation (Combined DSG LA Services)	15			15		
Transport (Combined DSG LA Services)	286			286		
Supervised Contact (Combined DSG LA Services)	227			227		
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (Combined DSG LA S	39			39		
Total Central Schools Services Block	4,441	203	0	4,644	0	0

FULL YEAR		
Net Exp	Forecast	Variance
11	6	-5
485	485	0
300	300	0
858	858	0
325	325	0
1,147	1,147	0
279	279	0
0	0	0
637	637	0
34	34	0
15	15	0
286	286	0
227	227	0
39	39	0
4,644	4,639	-5

Prior Forum Position		
Variance	Movement	
-5	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	Includes ex-ESG services
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
-5	0	

Early Years Provision	Current Budget	Carry Forward	Recoupment	Budget	Delegated	Central
LSE - Early Years	935			935		
3 & 4 Free Entitlement EYSFF	21,805			21,805		
DSG - 2yr old Place Funding	2,331			2,331		
Early Years - Inclusion Fund and DAF	827			827		
Total Early Years Provision	25,898	0	0	25,898	0	0

FULL YEAR		
Net Exp	Forecast	Variance
935	935	0
21,805	21,805	0
2,331	2,331	0
827	1,179	352
25,898	26,250	352

Prior Forum Position		
Variance	Movement	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	352	
0	352	

High Needs	Current Budget	Carry Forward	Recoupment	Budget		
					Delegated	Central
			-727			
SEN Units and Res Prov funding	2,572			1,846		
Special School funding	24,102		-8,458	15,645		
Post 16 high needs funding	3,109		-2,328	781		
High Needs 'Out of LA'	9,705			9,705		
Provision For Pupils With SEN	6,104			6,104		
Hospital & Outreach	1,652		-1,146	506		
Alternative Provision	4,156		-2,553	1,603		
MASH - Staffing	57			57		
Educational Entitlement Team (incl 145k combined serv)	324			324		
Virtual School including Kick into Study	240			240		
Specialist Support Service	415			415		
Sensory Impairment Provision	1,074			1,074		
Education Health Care team	679			679		
NPPS (Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service)	11			11		
prior year deficit repayment	1,348			1,348		
Total High Needs	55,548	0	-15,211	40,337	0	0

FULL YEAR		
Net Exp	Forecast	Variance
		90
1,846	1,936	
15,645	14,942	-703
781	933	152
9,705	12,161	2,456
6,104	6,632	528
506	506	0
1,603	1,603	0
57	57	0
324	324	0
240	240	0
415	415	0
1,074	1,074	0
679	679	0
11	11	0
1,348	1,348	0
40,337	42,860	2,523

Prior Forum Position		Comments
Variance	Movement	
168	-78	Forecasting based on current spend to date, indicates pressures are slightly lower than previously forecast
-313	-390	Currently based on estimates of Autumn RAS updates, more accurate information will be known in January following detailed reviews.
152	0	Updated position based on known forecast spend. Could increase if any tribunal cases occur.
1,253	1,203	Pressure due to some inflation on existing cost of places but mainly due to a 12% increase in need for places in independent and out of LA area provision.
996	-468	Pressure due to greater number of children needing higher levels of support
0	0	
140	-140	Reduction in expected overspend due to increased costs not being as high as expected.
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
0	0	
2,396	127	

DSG Total	385,501	829	-250,890	135,440	0	1,353	135,440	138,310	2,870	2,391	479	
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## **West Northants Schools forum: 18 January 2022**

### **Agenda Item 5**

#### **West Northamptonshire Council Schools Funding 2022-23**

#### **List of Appendices**

##### **Appendix A – Summary Finance Model**

#### **Related agenda items**

**Agenda item 6 – Disapplication request (top slice) update**

**Agenda item 7 – 2022-23 High Needs Budgets**

**Agenda item 8 – High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Plan**

**Agenda item 9 – 2022-23 Early Years Budgets**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report is to update West Northamptonshire Schools forum of the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding settlement for 2022-23 and to present the schools budgets following the agreed votes on the schools funding consultation.
- 1.2 Table 1 shows the relevant responsibilities in relation to schools funding formula changes which is taken from the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) Schools forum Powers and Responsibilities, published in September 2018.
- 1.3 There are no votes required in relation to this agenda item as relevant votes were completed in December 2021 Schools Forum.

**Table 1**

	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Schools forum</b>	<b>ESFA</b>
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted. Voting is restricted to School Members.	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase.	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

- 1.4 Table 1 shows that for the optional parts of the formula, the setting of the schools funding formula continues to be a Local Authority decision in 2022-23 (a “soft” national funding formula).
- 1.5 The Government continue to move towards a “hard” national schools funding formula and have published the National Funding Formula for Local Authorities and Schools to give an indication of what the Government would fund schools under that “hard” formula. Where affordable with the dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocated, West Northamptonshire council (henceforth “the council”) aims to mirror that National Funding Formula.
- 1.6 As well as the consultation on changes to the schools funding formula, as in prior years schools forum must also be consulted on the items listed below. For these, the council proposes and the schools forum decides:
- changes to the schools funding formula being proposed as compared to prior year’s local formula
  - transfers proposed from the Schools Block and High Needs Block
  - de-delegations from the maintained individual schools budgets (ISBs)
  - Growth fund budget and policy
  - Changes to pupil numbers for new and growing schools (weighted numbers)
  - Central expenditure from the schools central services block on a line-by-line basis.
- 1.7 In addition to the routine consultation topics, the council also consulted with the schools on a number of local policies due to a change from previously held NCC policies or simply to confirm their continuation:
- Permanent Exclusion Clawback Policy
  - Split Site Funding within the schools funding formula.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Secretary of State for Education announced provisional funding allocations for 2022-23 through the schools, high needs and central school services national funding formulae (NFF) on Monday 19 July 2021.
- 2.2 On Thursday 16 December 2021 the ESFA confirmed the DSG funding allocations for the 2022-23 financial year.
- 2.3 The ESFA also provided information on the allocation of supplementary funding for mainstream schools worth £1.2 billion nationally in recognition of the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost pressures. Details on how this funding will be allocated, including funding rates and indicative allocations at local-authority level, have been published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-supplementary-grant-2022-to-2023>

2.4 Special schools and other providers funded from the high needs block of the DSG will benefit from an additional £325 million in 2022-23, through a top up to the DSG allocations. This is an increase of 4% to the high needs allocations announced in July 2021.

2.5 Again, this extra funding recognises the additional cost to LAs, special schools and alternative provision.

2.6 Table 2 shows the final published allocations for the council.

Table 2 – WNC Final DSG Funding Allocations £m

	<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>CSSB</b>	<b>Early Years Block</b>	<b>Total</b>
2021/22	301.0	54.2	4.7	25.9	385.8
Provisional 2022/23	309.4	58.5	4.3	25.2	397.4
<b>Final 2022/23</b>	<b>311.7</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>25.6*</b>	<b>400.5</b>
Increase / (decrease) from prior year	10.7	4.7	(0.4)	(0.3)	14.7
% Increase / (decrease) from prior year	3.6%	8.7%	(8.5%)	(1.2%)	3.8%
Supplementary Funding 2022/23	8.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	10.6
Total increase / (decrease) from prior year	19.3	6.7	(0.4)	(0.3)	25.3
Total % Increase / (decrease) from prior year	6.4%	12.4%	(8.5%)	(1.2%)	6.6%

*\* Early Years Block section of the final settlement is indicative; the final grant figure is expected to be provided by the ESFA in July 2022.*

2.7 Finalised allocations of the schools supplementary grant will be published in spring 2022.

### **3 Financial Overview by DSG Block**

3.1 This section of the report provides the key headlines on the 2022-23 DSG funding announcements on the funding received by the LA by funding block.

### 3.2 Schools Block Funding

- 3.3 2022-23 is the final year of the three-year school funding settlement that the Secretary of State for Education announced to Parliament on 3 September 2019. Core school funding increased by £2.6bn in 2020-21 and is increasing by £4.8bn and £7.1bn in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively, compared to 2019-20.
- 3.4 These allocations are part of the annual funding cycle. They are separate to the education support for recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 Funding through the schools NFF is increasing by 3.2% overall in 2022-23, and by 2.8% per pupil. The NFF will distribute this funding based on schools' and pupils' needs and characteristics. The main features in 2022-23 are:
- 3.6 The core factors in the NFF (such as basic per-pupil funding, and funding for additional needs such as deprivation) will increase by 3%.
- 3.7 The funding floor (i.e. minimum funding guarantee) will ensure that every school is allocated at least 2% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its indicative 2021-22 NFF allocation (not actual allocation received in 2021-22).
- 3.8 The minimum per pupil funding levels will increase by 2%, compared to 2021-22. This will mean that next year, schools will receive at least £4,265 for primary, £5,321 for KS3 and £5,831 for KS4 pupils.
- 3.9 Support for small and remote schools (through the "sparsity" factor) will receive a further increase. In 2022-23 the additional funding that such schools can attract is rising to up to £55,000 for primary schools, and up to £80,000 for secondary schools – in both cases, a £10,000 increase from 2021-22. Government is also moving to using road distances instead of straight-line distances when measuring a school's remoteness. This will significantly increase the number of schools attracting this funding. As a result, the funding allocated nationally through the sparsity factor in the NFF is increasing from £42 million in 2021-22 to £95 million in 2022-23.
- 3.10 The primary unit of funding (PUF) increases from £4,400.43 in 2021-22 to £4,537.50 in 2022-23. The secondary unit of funding (SUF) increases from £5,626.35 in 2021-22 to £5,768.90 in 2022-23.
- 3.11 Table 3 shows the increase in the value of the primary unit of funding and the secondary unit funding for 2022-23.

Table 3

	<b>2021-22</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2022-23</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2022-23</b> <b>Uplift £</b>	<b>2022-23</b> <b>Uplift %</b>
<b>Primary Unit Funding (PUF)</b>	4,400.43	4,537.55	137.12	3.11%
<b>Secondary Unit Funding (SUF)</b>	5,626.35	5,768.93	142.58	2.53%



- 3.12 In addition to the PUF and SUF funding approximately 5% of the schools block funding provided is for premises factors (PFI, rates, split sites) and approximately 0.8% is growth. The NFF uses the 2021-22 budget for rates for its calculations and for 2022-23 the school rates have been held at 2021-22 levels (except for VOA revaluations).
- 3.13 Within the modelling of 2022-23 using the provisional settlement we assumed a growth figure of £2.18m (as the NFF provisional value does not include the growth). The growth figure confirmed in the final December 2021 DSG announcement was £2.21m. The figures shown in appendix A compare the modelling of the schools budgets from the provisional settlement (as provided with the schools budget consultation) with the modelling of budgets using the December settlement. These are indicative until the ESFA reviews and approves the budget which we will submit to them on the 21 January 2022. They are therefore subject to change. Final budgets will be published in February 2022.
- 3.14 The supplementary funding for schools announced by Government following the December settlement is not included in the indicative budgets provided in Appendix A. This is additional and as per paragraph 2.7 allocations per school will be provided to us by the ESFA in Spring term 2022.
- 3.15 **High Needs Block**
- 3.16 The increase in the High Needs Block represents the authority's share of the £780 million national increase for 2022-23. WNC's High Needs Block is increasing by £4.7 million from 2021-22 which is the minimum guaranteed increase per head of population (8%) with some authorities seeing gains of up to 11%. Given the uplift and high needs pressures, the authority will not be seeking to continue to jointly fund the early years SEND children in nursery provision. WNC will not be requesting a block transfer from high needs to early years in 2022-23.
- 3.17 As discussed and agreed in the December 2021 Schools Forum, the council was not seeking to transfer 0.5% from the schools block to high needs block to cover the general overspend, as it has done so in previous years but instead sought a top slice to fund specialist support services of £2.1m (approx. 0.68%) which schools forum endorsed, which now requires ESFA approval. If the ESFA does not agree to the proposal, despite schools forum agreement, then the council must pursue the 0.5% top slice to fund part of the overspend (see also agenda item 6).
- 3.18 **Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)**
- 3.19 Central school services block funds local authorities for the ongoing responsibilities they continue to have for all schools. The national funding for ongoing responsibilities is £284 million in 2022-23. The Central School Services Block (CSSB) comprises two elements, ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. Ongoing responsibilities include the former retained duties element of the Education Services Grant and is funded on a per pupil allocation and deprivation factor.
- 3.20 The ongoing responsibilities element for WNC is provisionally increasing by £0.11m to £2.08m million as the formula used to calculate the funding allocation.

- 3.21 The historical responsibilities element for WNC is provisionally decreasing by £0.55m to £2.18m. This Government started to reduce this funding in 2020-21 to withdraw this funding, over time with 20% reduction per year, based on the historic commitments local authorities entered into before 2013-14.
- 3.22 This reduction leaves a funding gap of £0.44m against the expenditure requirement even after a review of service efficiencies and disinvestments in 2021-22 which will be met through the WNC general fund £0.4m (proposal in budget).
- 3.23 The ongoing reductions total £0.4m in 23-24 and £0.3m in 24-25 which are also currently forecast in the WNC general fund medium term financial plan.
- 3.24 **Early Years Block**
- 3.25 During normal circumstances, the DfE announce the early years national increases for the separate funding elements; 3&4 year old, 2 year old, disability access fund (DAF), early years pupil premium (EYPP) and early years maintained nursery setting supplement (EYMNS), for the coming year directly after the Government budget announcement in October. However, due to covid 19, this was delayed by a month and this was received on 25 November 2021.
- 3.26 Early Years Block DSG is calculated based on the number of hours children are taking up during census week, January 2022 (first 5 months of 2022-23) and January 2023 (for last 7 months of 2022-23). If a provider does not complete the censuses, the service does not receive funding for those children and we should not be funding that setting.
- 3.27 The Schools and Early Years Regulations 2018, (Regulation 22) require Local Authorities to ensure that from April 2018 at least 95% of the hourly funding rate for 3&4 year olds allocated by the DfE is passed on to providers through the formula, or other funding paid directly to providers. The DfE monitor this requirement through the WNC annual s251 budget returns.
- 3.28 WNC are due to receive an increase of 21p in the base rate, per hour for 2 year old funded places and 17p for 3&4 year old funded places.
- 3.29 Table 4 outlines the rates following the funding announcement.

Table 4 – 2022-23 Early Years Funding provided to WNC

	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	Change £	Change %
2 year old base rate per hour	5.41	5.62	0.21	3.9
Universal and Extended Entitlement for 3&4 year olds per hour	4.49	4.66	0.17	3.8
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) per hour	0.53	0.60	0.07	13.2
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	615.00*	800.00	185.00	30.0
Maintained Nursery Settings protection per hour	4.57	4.73	0.16	3.47

*\*per eligible child, per year*

3.30 Agenda item 9 provides the detail on the Early Years consultation and proposed budgets and rates for providers.

### 3.31 Key Changes 2022-23

- Key change to the schools National Funding Formula in 2022 to 2023 are: increases in sparsity rates and broadening of the tapering to include more schools, and increase of 3% basic entitlement and per pupil formula factors.
- the minimum funding guarantee is 2%, the minimum per pupil levels are £4,265, £5,321 and £5,831 for primary, KS3 and KS4 respectively.
- There are increases to the early years funding to be received by WNC of 17p per 3&4 year old part time equivalents (PTEs), 21p increase on 2 year old PTEs and 3% increase on the Maintained Nursery School protection rate.

## 4 Financial implications

Table 5: Funding comparison between 2021-22 and 2022-23 DSG

WNC Funding	£m
<b>DSG 2022-23 for WNC</b>	<b>400.5</b>
2021-22 DSG Grant	385.8
Schools Block	10.7
High Needs Block	4.7
Early Years Block	(0.3)*
Central Schools Services Block	(0.4)
Increase in 2022-23 £m	14.7
% Increase	3.8%

*\* Early Years Block section of the final settlement is indicative; the final grant figure is expected to be provided by the ESFA in July 2022.*

## **5 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## **6 Recommendations for schools forum**

6.1 That schools forum note the final funding settlement and schools budgets for 2022-23.

## **7 Next Steps**

7.1 WNC Cabinet has approved delegated authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services (DCS) to determine the DSG 2022-23 schools funding formula, high needs funding arrangements and the early years funding formula in line with DfE guidance.

7.2 The schools budgets as approved by the DCS will be submitted to the ESFA on 21 January 2022.

7.3 If ministerial approval for the top slice of £2.1m (0.68%) is not granted, the LA will default to the 0.5% transfer from the schools block to the high needs block as per the December 2021 forum papers. A formal vote for completeness is required (agenda item 6). Schools budgets will be updated accordingly.

### **Report Author:**

Officer name: Emily Taylor / Beth Baines

Officer title: Strategic Finance Business Partner / Senior Finance Business Partner

Email address: [emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk) /  
[beth.baines@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:beth.baines@westnorthants.gov.uk)

# Schools Forum January 2022 - Agenda Item 5 – Appendix A

Change to numbers on roll between indicative budget modelling for consultation and indicative budgets following December settlement for 2022-23

(1) INFO: 2021-22 PRIOR YEAR FOR COMPARISON

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INDICATIVE BUDGETS PRESENTED TO OCTOBER FORUM AND UPDATE FOLLOWING DECEMBER'S SETTLEMENT  
MODEL 2 - £2.1m top slice Balanced through AWPUP Reduction (P:-386.28, S:-493.30)

*\*Please note this includes rates and de-delegation which will not be paid to maintained*

TOTALS		59,325	59,525	200	-217.2%	298,387,730	304,652,829	306,328,791	3,996,495	1.2%
LAESTAB	School Name	NOR 2021-22 (Oct 2020)	NOR 2022-23 (Oct 2021)	Change (+ve = increase)	% change	2021-22 Formula Budget	MODEL 2 - Balanced through AWPUP Reduction (P:-60.14, S:-76.80)	Updated for 2022-23 (indicative dependent on ESFA finalisation)	Change	% Diff
9414018	Northampton International Academy	1,706	1,869	163	9.6%	9,729,694	9,920,707	10,824,915	961,552	9.7%
9414020	Wootton Park School	941	1,062	121	12.9%	4,473,236	4,560,147	5,124,115	569,955	12.5%
9414066	The Duston School	1,619	1,678	59	3.6%	8,876,146	9,050,627	9,344,519	324,283	3.6%
9412234	The Radstone Primary School	209	284	75	36.0%	893,993	909,398	1,209,128	301,770	33.2%
9412233	Pineham Barns Primary School	244	287	44	17.9%	1,025,814	1,046,345	1,224,055	185,695	17.7%
9413029	Gayton Church of England Primary School	68	70	2	2.9%	365,669	370,390	438,726	71,525	19.3%
9412023	Cosgrove Village Primary School	62	52	-10	-16.1%	354,576	358,846	376,181	21,330	5.9%
9413340	Tiffeld Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	44	47	3	6.8%	278,043	281,158	345,393	64,694	23.0%
9413080	Whittlebury Church of England Primary School	72	66	-6	-8.3%	377,100	381,717	409,354	32,129	8.4%
9413326	Little Houghton Church of England Primary	82	80	-2	-2.4%	407,503	413,006	453,958	42,779	10.4%
9416905	Northampton Academy	1,351	1,441	90	6.7%	8,172,740	8,336,223	8,821,555	539,813	6.5%
9413007	Boddington Church of England Voluntary School	53	53	0	0.0%	316,690	320,261	370,135	51,509	16.1%
9412013	Chipping Warden Primary Academy	90	82	-8	-8.9%	437,890	444,423	449,240	5,186	1.2%
9412012	The Bramptons Primary School	96	91	-5	-5.2%	463,457	471,191	483,807	19,332	4.1%
9412011	Byfield School	86	80	-6	-7.0%	442,797	448,880	474,213	26,399	5.9%
9412046	Harlestone Primary School	52	51	-1	-1.9%	318,138	321,630	327,740	10,106	3.1%
9412075	Pitsford Primary School	67	67	0	0.0%	373,902	378,432	403,012	29,878	7.9%
9413060	Stoke Bruerne Church of England Primary School	64	66	2	3.1%	368,888	373,310	400,930	31,475	8.4%
9412033	Spring Lane Primary School	399	395	-4	-1.0%	2,043,794	2,082,080	2,054,708	-19,575	-0.9%
9413307	Chacombe CEVA Primary Academy	96	92	-4	-4.2%	455,643	462,294	470,455	9,516	2.1%
9413028	Flore Church of England Primary School	74	76	2	2.7%	401,186	406,593	443,530	48,368	11.9%
9413203	Rothersthorpe Church of England Primary School	88	88	0	0.0%	420,987	426,364	449,798	29,169	6.8%
9413088	Yardley Gobion Church of England Primary School	95	97	2	2.1%	457,641	462,180	482,890	35,464	7.7%
9413331	Newbottle and Charlton Church of England Primary School	111	106	-5	-4.5%	522,242	529,703	530,801	10,834	2.0%
9412073	Newnham Primary School	75	75	0	0.0%	383,192	391,150	440,135	49,531	12.7%
9412161	Falconer's Hill Academy	227	229	2	0.9%	1,035,814	1,053,446	1,065,492	15,864	1.5%
9412107	Yardley Hastings Primary School	104	103	-1	-1.0%	473,286	479,383	498,919	26,056	5.4%
9412174	Vernon Terrace Primary School	199	205	6	3.0%	973,986	989,245	999,595	27,145	2.7%
9412026	Denton Primary School	109	106	-3	-2.8%	502,874	509,635	524,392	22,219	4.4%
9413039	Kilsby Church of England Primary School	104	129	25	24.0%	476,049	482,941	587,718	106,466	22.0%
9412074	Overstone Primary School	152	160	8	5.3%	698,439	709,341	720,309	30,180	4.3%
9412181	Chiltham Primary School	319	274	-45	-14.1%	1,486,103	1,512,920	1,317,164	-165,428	-10.9%
9412014	Delapre Primary School	594	599	5	0.8%	2,675,862	2,720,940	2,711,990	-38,411	-1.4%
9413050	Paulerspury Church of England Primary School	77	59	-18	-23.4%	403,224	424,507	390,593	-22,219	-5.2%
9413336	Staverton Church of England Voluntary Primary School	99	96	-3	-3.0%	461,775	468,020	503,965	37,221	8.0%
9413355	The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	296	275	-21	-7.1%	1,286,973	1,308,402	1,219,084	-79,864	-6.1%
9414071	Kingsthorpe College	1,175	1,207	32	2.7%	7,185,843	7,328,007	7,473,912	193,097	2.6%
9412039	Briar Hill Primary School	288	254	-34	-11.8%	1,455,632	1,481,972	1,314,264	-159,462	-10.8%
9413058	Spratton Church of England Primary School	82	76	-6	-7.3%	422,342	444,326	467,686	20,012	4.5%
9412038	Farthinghoe Primary School	53	53	0	0.0%	314,954	322,694	351,264	30,983	9.6%
9412160	Earl Spencer Primary School	388	396	8	2.1%	1,948,017	1,984,132	2,024,280	66,653	3.4%
9412002	Blisworth Community Primary School	154	165	11	7.1%	663,669	674,241	713,777	56,310	8.4%
9412153	Kings Heath Primary Academy	320	300	-20	-6.3%	1,615,601	1,644,376	1,541,399	-93,729	-5.7%
9413076	Welton Church of England Academy	127	131	4	3.1%	574,239	583,112	598,517	16,947	2.9%
9412065	Kings Sutton Primary School	136	134	-2	-1.5%	623,944	633,900	648,820	17,074	2.7%
9412184	Hopping Hill Primary School	410	405	-5	-1.2%	1,879,562	1,910,776	1,856,538	-15,245	-0.8%
9413205	Kingsthorpe Village Primary School	207	204	-3	-1.4%	942,981	959,358	947,129	-9,145	-1.0%
9412052	The Arbours Primary Academy	305	297	-8	-2.6%	1,546,430	1,574,312	1,530,001	-37,458	-2.4%
9412151	Castle Academy	410	410	0	0.0%	2,018,189	2,055,736	2,046,582	-196	-0.0%
9412238	Lumbertubs Primary School	197	201	4	2.0%	1,064,688	1,083,457	1,112,017	33,114	3.1%
9412157	Stimpson Avenue Academy	371	353	-18	-4.9%	1,648,417	1,678,832	1,597,587	-75,258	-4.5%
9412235	Blackthorn Primary School	217	189	-28	-12.9%	1,223,345	1,238,533	1,127,054	-97,205	-7.8%
9412042	Greatworth Primary School	64	63	-1	-1.6%	354,510	391,148	405,663	22,145	5.7%
9413019	Croughton All Saints CofE Primary School	123	114	-9	-7.3%	591,341	600,120	570,319	-20,661	-3.4%
9412024	Crick Primary School	185	186	1	0.5%	788,209	803,995	793,290	-4,204	-0.5%
9412126	Abbey CofE Academy	198	172	-26	-13.1%	909,344	924,491	816,440	-104,484	-11.3%
9413400	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Aston-le-Walls	85	74	-11	-12.9%	418,380	424,294	392,686	-30,633	-7.2%
9412092	Thorplands Primary School	198	200	2	1.0%	992,538	1,009,934	1,047,164	38,250	3.8%
9412202	Rectory Farm Primary School	194	197	3	1.5%	1,046,781	1,065,050	1,074,964	14,655	1.4%
9412169	The Abbey Primary School	352	332	-20	-5.7%	1,608,586	1,665,127	1,605,623	-79,177	-4.8%
9413035	Hartwell Primary School	191	188	-3	-1.6%	801,271	817,418	801,820	-12,707	-1.6%
9412208	Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School	418	428	10	2.4%	1,880,352	1,913,712	1,928,859	60,651	3.2%
9412150	Southfield Primary School	157	127	-30	-19.1%	673,764	684,724	590,952	-89,693	-13.1%
9413034	Harpole Primary School	207	186	-21	-10.1%	882,383	898,574	803,189	-78,262	-8.7%
9413026	East Haddon Church of England Primary School	92	83	-9	-9.8%	473,204	479,007	458,176	-13,615	-2.8%
9413008	Brackley Church of England Junior School	224	208	-16	-7.1%	954,410	972,825	893,261	-61,474	-6.3%

# Schools Forum January 2022 - Agenda Item 5 – Appendix A

Change to numbers on roll between indicative budget modelling for consultation and indicative budgets following December settlement for 2022-23

(1) INFO: 2021-22 PRIOR YEAR FOR COMPARISON

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9412076	John Hellins Primary School	195	204	9	4.6%	825,494	841,156	870,060	39,298	4.7%
9412166	Kingsley Primary School	394	386	-8	-2.0%	1,761,669	1,821,519	1,789,453	-47,683	-2.6%
9413046	Naseby Church of England Primary Academy	80	73	-7	-8.8%	439,128	443,947	437,534	-4,535	-1.0%
9412031	Eastfield Academy	195	190	-5	-2.6%	1,019,711	1,037,538	1,010,973	-23,334	-2.2%
9413202	Clipston Endowed Voluntary Controlled Primary School	118	108	-10	-8.5%	555,543	563,563	524,156	-27,604	-4.9%
9412025	Deanshanger Primary School	367	351	-16	-4.4%	1,565,917	1,597,255	1,499,501	-65,897	-4.1%
9412015	Cogenhoe Primary School	199	198	-1	-0.5%	842,022	858,641	844,470	-3,969	-0.5%
9413500	The Bliss Charity School	192	194	2	1.0%	804,474	820,607	827,410	8,717	1.1%
9413511	Hackleton CofE Primary School	209	202	-7	-3.3%	876,940	894,559	862,971	-28,269	-3.2%
9412190	Lings Primary School	377	379	2	0.5%	1,882,491	1,917,394	1,949,433	39,708	2.1%
9412143	Green Oaks Primary Academy	194	193	-1	-0.5%	1,050,560	1,062,449	1,050,079	-1,599	0.2%
9412006	Brington Primary School	55	55	0	0.0%	350,373	353,774	362,212	12,762	3.6%
9412105	Queen Eleanor Primary Academy	194	195	1	0.5%	1,012,241	1,029,890	1,031,393	4,761	0.5%
9412001	All Saints CofE VA Primary School	366	372	6	1.6%	1,538,697	1,569,848	1,586,580	25,549	1.6%
9415200	Moulton Primary School	552	578	26	4.7%	2,316,942	2,363,906	2,465,170	110,847	4.7%
9414703	Thomas Becket Catholic School	672	721	49	7.3%	4,199,712	4,284,908	4,614,339	353,345	8.2%
9412079	Roads Primary School	278	295	17	6.1%	1,177,943	1,201,638	1,258,175	72,440	6.0%
9413049	Pattishall Church of England Primary School	155	155	0	0.0%	666,198	676,894	667,905	-3,187	0.5%
9412008	Bugbrooke Community Primary School	293	266	-27	-9.2%	1,245,613	1,270,603	1,143,123	-106,607	-8.4%
9413012	Brixworth CofE VC Primary School	478	466	-12	-2.5%	2,036,523	2,077,326	1,987,520	-51,323	-2.5%
9413304	St Andrew's Ceva Primary School	330	327	-3	-0.9%	1,487,688	1,514,886	1,501,174	-5,862	-0.4%
9413086	Woodford Halse Church of England Primary Academy	249	254	5	2.0%	1,046,125	1,067,179	1,083,310	21,436	2.0%
9413344	St Lows Church of England Primary Academy, Weedon Lois	46	56	10	21.7%	319,085	321,918	375,065	53,674	16.7%
9412108	Yelvertoft Primary School	91	96	5	5.5%	494,599	502,357	522,820	29,278	5.8%
9412069	Maidwell Primary School	69	64	-5	-7.2%	405,232	410,595	395,161	-9,482	-2.3%
9412090	Walgrave Primary School	157	156	-1	-0.6%	684,610	695,732	683,523	-3,637	-0.5%
9413011	Braunston Church of England Primary School	197	196	-1	-0.5%	826,453	842,802	835,940	-3,869	-0.5%
9413350	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	205	201	-4	-2.0%	969,940	986,547	967,900	-14,464	-1.5%
9412197	Barry Primary School	409	400	-9	-2.2%	1,736,890	1,772,873	1,706,000	-39,603	-2.2%
9412003	Boughton Primary School	190	186	-4	-2.1%	796,623	812,690	793,290	-16,977	-2.1%
9412218	Hunsbury Park Primary School	313	301	-12	-3.8%	1,565,897	1,594,255	1,538,230	-22,129	-1.4%
9412047	Helmdon Primary School	123	121	-2	-1.6%	559,646	567,814	548,727	-6,787	-1.2%
9415212	Welford Sibbertoft and Sulby Endowed School	82	74	-8	-9.8%	462,234	472,850	462,420	-13,900	-2.9%
9412152	Hardingstone Academy	226	216	-10	-4.4%	947,053	966,263	923,996	-39,894	-4.1%
9413062	Syresham St James CofE Primary School and Nursery	80	75	-5	-6.3%	438,839	443,997	435,386	-1,205	0.3%
9412068	Long Buckby Infant School	127	128	1	0.8%	575,722	586,111	585,275	8,942	1.5%
9413045	Milton Parochial Primary School	91	80	-11	-12.1%	438,904	445,232	411,573	-32,823	-7.4%
9412094	Weedon Bec Primary School	225	204	-21	-9.3%	969,421	986,355	913,891	-71,444	-7.2%
9412067	Long Buckby Junior School	206	197	-9	-4.4%	891,647	905,397	857,796	-32,287	-3.6%
9413032	Greens Norton Church of England Primary School	156	173	17	10.9%	653,956	667,036	737,845	72,685	10.9%
9413354	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	287	256	-31	-10.8%	1,308,169	1,323,007	1,215,057	-89,704	-6.8%
9412117	Waynflete Infants' School	140	150	10	7.1%	611,578	621,337	657,375	38,013	6.1%
9412183	Whitehills Primary School	420	413	-7	-1.7%	1,857,152	1,897,716	1,863,999	-22,908	-1.2%
9413004	Barby Church of England Primary School	120	96	-24	-20.0%	534,394	542,232	457,933	-81,671	-15.1%
9412210	Duston Eldean Primary School	448	417	-31	-6.9%	2,018,737	2,062,176	1,886,270	-130,796	-6.3%
9413312	Culworth Church of England Primary Academy	85	80	-5	-5.9%	466,471	472,391	462,395	-8,976	-1.9%
9412118	St James Infant School	145	134	-11	-7.6%	676,990	695,860	664,627	-36,123	-5.2%
9412010	Bridgewater Primary School	625	619	-6	-1.0%	2,820,816	2,881,392	2,804,860	-15,467	-0.5%
9412125	Falconer's Hill Infant School	174	177	3	1.7%	859,495	873,892	884,010	13,218	1.5%
9413318	Gullsborough Church of England Primary School	129	116	-13	-10.1%	591,622	600,331	551,359	-45,244	-7.5%
9413040	Kislingbury Primary School	146	144	-2	-1.4%	633,595	648,201	651,616	389	0.1%
9412137	The Grange School, Daventry	425	430	5	1.2%	1,814,960	1,846,929	1,844,630	-36,161	-2.0%
9412000	Badby School	167	153	-14	-8.4%	709,131	720,859	669,696	-50,143	-7.0%
9412192	Standens Barn Primary School	387	388	1	0.3%	1,775,692	1,830,050	1,838,578	-7,089	-0.4%
9412162	Headlands Primary School	440	437	-3	-0.7%	1,881,958	1,916,888	1,898,110	-12,054	-0.6%
9412188	Boothville Primary School	624	617	-7	-1.1%	2,820,139	2,882,305	2,824,586	-20,765	-0.7%
9413515	Towcester Church of England Primary School	389	384	-5	-1.3%	1,630,450	1,662,850	1,637,760	-20,660	-1.2%
9413077	West Haddon Endowed Church of England Primary School	200	201	1	0.5%	849,295	871,089	857,265	-529	-0.1%
9412177	Abington Vale Primary School	408	411	3	0.7%	1,861,093	1,899,616	1,908,159	17,391	0.9%
9416910	Malcolm Arnold Academy	1,152	1,170	18	1.6%	6,758,061	6,891,656	6,947,929	103,212	1.5%
9412214	Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School	427	415	-12	-2.8%	1,789,865	1,826,160	1,770,449	-50,706	-2.8%
9412070	Middleton Cheney Primary Academy	365	357	-8	-2.2%	1,530,848	1,561,765	1,522,605	-34,012	-2.2%
9412016	Millway Primary School	385	377	-8	-2.1%	1,747,863	1,794,455	1,725,871	-34,746	-1.9%
9412064	Sunnyside Primary Academy	326	337	11	3.4%	1,538,537	1,571,449	1,606,330	43,708	2.8%
9413508	Upton Meadows Primary School	386	384	-2	-0.5%	1,658,796	1,701,334	1,687,867	-13,032	-0.8%
9412176	Lyncrest Primary School	198	199	1	0.5%	954,992	971,461	963,341	4,180	0.4%

# Schools Forum January 2022 - Agenda Item 5 – Appendix A

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9413348	St James Church of England Primary School	406	387	-19	-4.7%	1,878,470	1,912,403	1,817,229	-82,299	-4.3%
9412106	Wootton Primary School	390	371	-19	-4.9%	1,637,876	1,670,190	1,585,409	-77,105	-4.6%
9412164	Malcolm Arnold Preparatory School	413	413	0	0.0%	1,733,483	1,768,439	1,761,445	149	0.0%
9412223	Preston Hedges Primary School	420	418	-2	-0.5%	1,763,068	1,798,551	1,782,770	-8,313	-0.5%
9413006	Blakesley Church of England Primary School	109	102	-7	-6.4%	529,296	536,703	520,940	-8,499	-1.6%
9412228	Woodland View Primary School	414	414	0	0.0%	1,737,958	1,772,992	1,765,710	156	0.0%
9412225	Ashby Fields Primary School	412	373	-39	-9.5%	1,729,671	1,764,534	1,599,639	-157,384	-8.9%
9413057	Silverstone Church of England Primary School	236	245	9	3.8%	995,656	1,013,894	1,044,925	40,207	4.0%
9412224	Bracken Leas Primary School	398	418	20	5.0%	1,671,367	1,705,197	1,782,770	85,300	5.0%
9412219	East Hunsbury Primary School	418	420	2	0.5%	1,758,586	1,793,879	1,791,300	8,767	0.5%
9412237	Parklands Primary School	397	410	13	3.3%	1,756,891	1,795,155	1,851,085	62,509	3.5%
9413002	Ashton CofE Primary School	27	27	0	0.0%	245,915	248,842	245,016	-510	-0.2%
9412158	Cedar Road Primary School	414	413	-1	-0.2%	1,825,789	1,865,541	1,861,227	2,883	0.2%
9413090	St Luke's Church of England Primary School	406	411	5	1.2%	1,789,269	1,828,310	1,834,938	14,986	0.8%
9412220	Simon de Senlis Primary School	415	416	1	0.2%	1,851,662	1,892,602	1,894,669	11,208	0.6%
9413091	Weston Favell CofE Primary School	419	420	1	0.2%	1,766,193	1,799,481	1,791,300	6,592	0.4%
9412239	Monksmoor Park Church of England Primary School	90	130	40	44.7%	507,787	514,805	621,768	152,327	29.6%
9412131	Old Stratford Primary School	186	188	2	1.1%	803,220	816,510	811,395	11,922	1.5%
9412063	Woodvale Primary Academy	416	410	-6	-1.4%	1,978,524	2,015,192	1,976,832	-26,908	-1.3%
9414051	Campion School	1,048	1,030	-18	-1.7%	5,727,115	5,838,041	5,712,059	-97,091	-1.7%
9414042	Gullsborough Academy	1,140	1,141	1	0.1%	6,199,626	6,324,471	6,304,025	6,080	0.1%
9414089	Chenderit School	876	883	7	0.8%	4,768,439	4,864,277	4,878,575	39,197	0.8%
9414011	Silverstone UTC	251	260	9	3.6%	1,550,601	1,577,943	1,650,584	102,844	6.5%
9414004	Sponne School	1,156	1,155	-1	-0.1%	6,287,842	6,414,414	6,381,375	-4,937	-0.1%
9412229	Collingtree Church of England Primary School	89	90	1	1.1%	459,663	466,286	505,391	42,439	9.1%
9414550	Magdalen College School	1,178	1,183	5	0.4%	6,482,708	6,611,684	6,611,075	28,229	0.4%
9414022	Moulton School and Science College	1,164	1,170	6	0.5%	6,333,001	6,460,414	6,464,250	33,777	0.5%
9412022	DSL V E-ACT Academy	838	868	30	3.6%	4,538,092	4,624,188	4,787,043	196,427	4.2%
9412209	Ecton Brook Primary School	601	574	-27	-4.5%	2,881,023	2,936,043	2,828,848	-98,877	-3.4%
9414000	Weston Favell Academy	1,204	1,262	58	4.8%	7,888,308	8,024,159	8,352,374	396,389	4.9%
9414041	Elizabeth Woodville School	994	995	1	0.1%	5,548,138	5,656,313	5,607,375	6,690	0.1%
9415404	Northampton School for Boys	1,116	1,114	-2	-0.2%	6,101,733	6,226,752	6,154,850	-13,309	-0.2%
9414007	Abbeyfield School	1,213	1,236	23	1.9%	7,409,509	7,554,308	7,705,900	195,135	2.6%
9414001	The Parker E-ACT Academy	941	993	52	5.5%	5,514,562	5,619,484	5,849,214	301,431	5.4%
9414005	Caroline Chisholm School	1,778	1,794	16	0.9%	9,789,171	9,979,832	10,003,680	89,509	0.9%
9414076	Northampton School for Girls	1,426	1,428	2	0.1%	8,229,740	8,411,304	8,331,189	-9,322	-0.1%
9412248	Marie Weller	48	32	-16	-33.7%	102,998	266,555	233,811	-32,744	-12.3%
9412247	Buckton Fields Primary	95	62	-34	-35.3%	137,054	411,412	336,502	-74,909	-18.2%

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## West Northants Schools forum: 18 January 2022

### Agenda Item 6

#### Disapplication Request (top slice) for funding of Specialist Support Services

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to update West Northamptonshire Schools Forum on the disapplication request to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) following the endorsement by Schools Forum in December 2021 to fund specialist services, and the visual and hearing impairment service through a 'top-slice' from mainstream maintained and academy schools.
- 1.2 Within National Funding Formula guidelines a Local Authority can transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block with schools forum approval. A disapplication request to the ESFA is required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without school's forum approval.
- 1.3 Table 1 shows the relevant responsibilities in relation to schools funding formula changes which is taken from the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) Schools forum Powers and Responsibilities, published in September 2018.

Table 1

	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Schools forum</b>	<b>ESFA</b>
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted. Voting is restricted to School Members.	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase.	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

- 1.4 **All members** of schools forum will be required to vote on this item as set out in section 5.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Following consultation with schools throughout October–November 2021, a clear majority of Schools Forum members agreed the second option put forward in the funding of specialist services, and the visual and hearing impairment service [paper](#) in December 2021 – to top-slice £2.1m (approximately 0.68%).
- 2.2 The preferred option was agreed on the understanding that the council would not ask for the 0.5% top-slice allowed by funding regulations as a result.
- 2.3 As per paragraph 1.2, if a local authority wishes to transfer more than 0.5%, even with endorsement from schools forum, they need to submit a disapplication request to the ESFA with a robust business case. The transfer is for one year only and to continue with the transfer of funding a new disapplication request is required each financial year following review of the continuation of the proposal, consultation and endorsement of schools forum.
- 2.4 WNC submitted the disapplication request with supporting evidence to the ESFA following the December 2021 meeting, and at the time of publication of papers for the January 2022 meeting, the council awaits feedback on the final decision from the ESFA.
- 2.5 If the ESFA do not approve the request for the 0.68% transfer, the LA would default to transferring the maximum allowable 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, with schools forum approval, to assist in mitigating the DSG pressures in the High Needs Block (see related agenda item 7).
- 2.6 For completeness this proposal requires a further vote as set out in section 5.

## **3 Financial implications**

- 3.1 Before voting, schools forum members are reminded that the top slice of approximately 0.68% as approved equates to approximately £2.1m in total, or on average £32 per primary pupil and £41 per key stage 3 / 4 pupil in order to fund, in the most straightforward way, services for which schools have delegated budgets.
- 3.2 The transfer of the maximum allowable 0.5% equates to approximately £1.5m in total, or on average £23 per primary pupil and £29 per key stage 3 / 4 pupil which would be a general contribution to the high needs block overspend.
- 3.3 If schools forum do not agree to the maximum allowable 0.5% (approximately £1.5m) then the LA would seek approval from the ESFA for this.

## **4 Legal implications**

- 4.1 Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks are permitted under funding guidelines with schools forum approval.

## **5 Recommendations for schools forum**

- 5.1 Schools forum are asked to agree to the movement of 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block, as allowed by funding regulations, in the event that the ESFA do not agree to the disapplication request of the £2.1m (approximately 0.68%) transfer.

## 6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The LA await the final decision from the ESFA on its disapplication request at the time of publication of January schools forum papers.
- 6.2 If ministerial approval for the top slice of £2.1m (0.68%) is not granted, the LA will default to the 0.5% transfer from the schools block to the high needs block as per the December 2021 forum papers. Schools budgets will be updated accordingly.

### Report Author:

Officer name: Emily Taylor

Officer title: Strategic Finance Business Partner

Email address: [emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk)

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## West Northants Schools Forum: 18 January 2022

### Agenda Item 8

#### High needs block recovery plan

## 1 Background

- 1.1 This report sets out the current deficit in the high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). In summary, it shows that, without significant action, the forecast deficit at the end of the current financial year – 2021/22 – will increase to £8.4 million by the end of the 2025/26 financial year (f/y).
- 1.2 While the HNB is one of the two blocks that are managed directly by the council (the other is the central block), proposals for both these blocks are made to schools forum for its agreement. Consequently, members of schools forum should be informed about the nature and scope of the structural overspend, the recovery plan that has been put in place and progress against the plan. Accordingly, this report proposes an efficient way of reporting regularly to schools forum.
- 1.3 The report will cover the:
  - current position of DSG and high needs budget update;
  - HNB recovery plan and spreadsheet setting out the forecast overspend between the end of this financial year and 31 March 2026, with currently agreed savings and cost-avoidance; and
  - next actions.
- 1.4 Schools forum members are asked to note that, given the level of overspend projected by the end of the 2025/26 f/y, the assistant director will report to a local authority member and officer group, which will be chaired by the lead member for children services, cllr. Fiona Baker and include the chief executive, the director of children services and director of finance. All the lead officers for the tasks in the action plan will attend each meeting and report on progress. The group's meetings will be scheduled a month ahead of each of the five meetings of schools forum across each financial year.

## 2 The structural overspend

- 2.1 The attached spreadsheet (see **attachment 1**) sets out officers' current estimate of the increase in the projected deficit between the current f/y and the end of the 2025/26 f/y, with assumptions that:
  - the overspend at the end of the current financial year remains at the £2.5m currently projected, and that this is structural – that is to say it will occur each year until £2.5 m is saved (or costs are avoided each year);
  - schools forum agrees to fund specialist services, costing £2.1m in future years, or that another means of cost avoidance for the LA is agreed and implemented;
  - the annual cost of commissioned alternative provision (AP) places is reduced by that least the part and full-year cost currently forecast;
  - the LA does not ask for a disapplication of 0.5 per cent of the DSG, as currently agreed by schools forum, as long as the disapplication to fund specialist services is agreed; and
  - a reduction in early years' high needs funding is sustainable.

### 3 The financial recovery plan

- 3.1 Attachment 2 contains the action plan, which aims to address the structural deficit and bring the HNB back into balance with five years. While it is the case that the savings / cost avoidance proposals are currently insufficient to prevent the forecast increase in the structural deficit by 31 March 2026, it must be noted that actions against six of the eight task areas have been put in place.
- 3.2 The eight tasks, which align with the savings lines (lines 3 to 10) comprise:
- the 'general deliverable' – this is broadly the outcome required;
  - specific actions – that is, defined, clear and measurable actions;
  - success criteria – that indicate whether the action has been successfully completed;
  - the deadline date for the completion of the task;
  - the lead officer, who is accountable for the specified action; and
  - a 'red / amber / green (RAG) rating for each separate deliverable.
- 3.2 There are four lead officers, whose initials are against each action, with a key to the initials at the end of the action plan. All actions are being progressed; however, the timing of certain actions – for example, the development of resourced places – may need to be revised.
- 3.3 To summarise the current progress and RAG rating for each task:
- task one – what is 'ordinarily available' without the need for additional funding in mainstream schools: this is currently **red** rated: while we have appointed a consultant to ensure there is the capacity to undertake the work, it has not yet started;
  - task 2 – the commissioning of resourced places in mainstream schools: xxx places have been agreed to meet projected need in x primary and x secondary schools, and capital funding is available for half the places needed (**red** rated as funding for all places needed is not in place);
  - task 3 – work has started on the identification of an appropriate site / buildings and potential capital funding (**red** rated – no land, buildings or funding have been located / agreed);
  - task 4 – banding: work to commence in January 2022 (**red** rated as work has not been scheduled and started);
  - task 5 – funding of specialist services: **green** in terms of schools forum agreement; **amber** for final sign-off pending DfE agreement; and
  - task 6 - reduction in AP places (currently WN council does not use all the places funded in primary or secondary AP): **amber** as proposals have been made to the ESFA but not finalised.

### 4 ESFA support for council with high deficit levels

- 4.1 The hyperlink ([here](#)) contains letters to the five LAs listed in attachment 3 under its dedicated schools grants 'safety valve' arrangement. The letters set out the financial support given by the DfE to five top-tier local authorities through its very high deficit intervention fund.
- 4.2 The table in attachment 3 shows the deficits in the five LAs that have support agreed very high – between 65 and 93 per cent of the HNB budgets, compared with 4.2 per cent in West Northants (or its share of the NCC deficit) the same year, 2020/21. However, by the end of the 2024/25 f/y, the projected deficit here is 16.5 per cent, and after DfE support, only two of the five are projected to have a higher deficit. Moreover, by the end of the next year, the deficit here is projected (without further intervention work) to be 12.5 per cent.

## **5 Recommendations for schools forum**

- 5.1 Schools forum members are asked their preference for LA officers to report progress against the recovery plan to its members. This could be, for example, through the creation of a special purpose sub-committee, or through regular reports to schools forum, or both.

## **6 Next steps**

- 6.1 The next steps depend on the feedback given by schools forum voting members at this meeting on its preferred way forward, noting the officers will report to a local authority board as set out in paragraph 1.4 above.

## **7 Financial implications**

- 7.1 The financial implications should a recovery plan not be put in place are summarised in the spreadsheet in attachment 1 to this report. However, schools forum is asked to note that budgets for the new organisation are complex and still settling, as they are disaggregated County Council budgets, therefore, the detailed budgets and forecasts are subject to continual review and challenge which may result in changes in forecast and medium term financial projections.
- 7.2 Moreover, the ESFA has not yet agreed the 0.68 per cent disapplication agreed by schools forum in December. Should it not do so (and even if a 0.5 per cent disapplication is agreed) the outturn at the end of each financial year in the savings table will increase by £629,000.

## **8 Legal implications**

- 8.1 The high needs block is allocated to local authorities by the DfE, through the ESFA. While formally the responsibility of the LA, ensuring the sustainability of the block is beneficial to all local settings, schools and colleges.

### **Report Author:**

Name: Chris Kiernan  
Title: assistant director, education  
Email address: [chris.kiernan@west.northants.gov.uk](mailto:chris.kiernan@west.northants.gov.uk)  
Telephone number: 07958 411 564

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
no	task	lead officer	2021/22	2022/23 saving £	2023/24 saving £	2024/25 saving £	2025/26 saving £
1	Opening (deficit) / surplus balance		0	(1,500,000)	(3,406,958)	(5,087,958)	(6,768,958)
2	2021-22 structural budget (deficit)		(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)
3	(1) to define ordinarily available and apply the graduated approach to HN funding	AG	0				
4	(2) commission resourced places in mainstream schools	CW	0				
5	(3) implement a capital programme to increase special school places	CW	0				
6	(4) consult on a banding system for implementation in the 2023/24 fy	AG	0				
7	(5) cease funding of both outreach services through a top-slice	CK	0	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
8	(6) reduced funded AP places	CK	0	324,042	550,000	550,000	550,000
9	(7) cease non-EHCP top-up aside from exceptional cases (eg trauma)	AG	0				
10	(8) visit all independent providers with a view to improving VFM	AG	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
11	<b>total savings estimate</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2,424,042</b>	<b>2,650,000</b>	<b>2,650,000</b>	<b>2,650,000</b>
12	<b>disapplication of the 0.5 per cent for 2020/21 and assumption beyond this</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(1,500,000)</b>	<b>(1,500,000)</b>	<b>(1,500,000)</b>	<b>(1,500,000)</b>
13	total from savings / disapplication		0	<b>924,042</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>
14	Net end year projected surplus/(deficit) - Line 1 + line 2 + line 12		(2,500,000)	(3,075,958)	(4,756,958)	(6,437,958)	(8,118,958)
14	Use of contingency reserve		1,000,000				
15	cease HNB payment to the early years block		0	298,000	298,000	298,000	298,000
16	cost of specialist services staff transferring from GF		0	(629,000)	(629,000)	(629,000)	(629,000)
17	increased HNB budget baed on pupil number growth / reduction		0				
18	<b>Closing (deficit)/surplus balance - lines 13-18</b>		<b>(1,500,000)</b>	<b>(3,406,958)</b>	<b>(5,087,958)</b>	<b>(6,768,958)</b>	<b>(8,449,958)</b>

**Notes**

line	action and action number
3	(1) The methodology for these reductions is in the second tab (EHCP cumulative savings)-the overall reduction is the number of new EHCPs minus the projected number of leavers between national curriculum years 13 (age 18) to 20 (age 25) and net number of pupils leaving / arriving in the area
4	(2) The savings projected if resourced places start from September 2022 - on the basis of an approximate £10,000 saving per place (see tab 3 for details). Please note that this assumes a linear increase which is unlikely.
5	(3) A consultation on the banding system will start in the term 4 of the 2021/22 school year. It is intended to apply the new banding system in the 2023/24 f/y and to achieve savings if possible, but presently a zero saving is projected
6	(4) If schools forum does not agree the top-slidge, LA funding will be withdrawn for the LA funded services, which will be required to trade (ie funded through schools paying at the point of delivery for support)
7	(5) This will be achieved through recommissioning and in the medium term through a review of AP, encouraging more cluster based work. Detailed modelling of places required will be finalised by the end of October, shared with the main providers and submitted to the ESFA by 12 November 2021
8	(6) This will be achieved through workstream 7 of the action plan
9	(7) see tab 3 for methodology / detail of savings
10	(8) The estimated saving is £5,000 per pupil - the estimated reduction in the numbers supported in 2021/22 and 2022/23 is shown in the fifth tab (ceasing non-EHCP funding)
12	There will be no proposal for any disapplication, unless SF refuses to fund specialist services, in which officers will seek and take to the DfE for adjudication if schools forum does not agree

## Estimates of the cost of EHCPs

Year (financial)	Number of new EHCP's	total est EHCPs	New estimate	Additional pressure on HN Budget if average cost is £10k	Cumulative pressure on HN Budget	pupil number	% EHCPs	% + / - pupils
2020/21 (actual)								
2021/22								
2022/23								
2023/24								
2024/25								
2025/26								
2026/27								
2027/28								
2028/29								
2029/30								
EHCP increase 2020/30								
percentage increase			0.0%					

## West Northants HNB recovery plan - resourced places

### Specialist provision (assumed 70 per cent ASC, 20 per cent speechlanguage and communication, 10 per cent other)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
year R									
year 1									
year 2									
year 3									
year 4									
year 5									
year 6									
year 7									
year 8									
year 9									
year 10									
year 11									
year 12									
year 13									
total									

### Resourced provision (ASC) with existing funding

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
year R									
year 1									
year 2									
year 3									
year 4									
year 5									
year 6									
year 7									
year 8									
year 9									
year 10									
year 11									
year 12									
year 13									
total									

## West Northants HNB recovery plan - resourced places

### Resourced provision (SEMH) with existing funding

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
year R									
year 1									
year 2									
year 3									
year 4									
year 5									
year 6									
year 7									
year 8									
year 9									
year 10									
year 11									
year 12									
year 13									
total									

### Resourced provision (ASC) requiring new funding

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
year R									
year 1									
year 2									
year 3									
year 4									
year 5									
year 6									
year 7									
year 8									
year 9									
year 10									
year 11									
year 12									
year 13									
total									

## West Northants HNB recovery plan - resourced places

### Resourced provision (SEMH) requiring new funding

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
year R									
year 1									
year 2									
year 3									
year 4									
year 5									
year 6									
year 7									
year 8									
year 9									
year 10									
year 11									
year 12									
year 13									
total									

## West Northants HNB recovery plan

### Pupil Number Increase

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total	% ch	nom +/- bud	% EHCPs
2021/22 actual																		
2022/23 forecast																		
2023/24 forecast																		
2024/25 forecast																		
2025/26 forecast																		
2026/27 forecast																		

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## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 1: to define and apply the graduated approach with 'needs' vs HN funding

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead
Ordinarily available document co-produced by schools, health, LA and parents and adopted by all partners in the WN Local Area	Creation of a working group to include SENDCOs from all phases and NCFT to draft ordinarily available document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All EHCP assessment requests are appropriate and in line with the SEND code of practice criteria</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
Ordinarily available document is used when EHCP decisions are being made by LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case officers and SEND panel members are aware of and understand ordinarily available document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of inappropriate assessment requests drop</li> </ul>	APRIL 2022	AG
Consistent use of ordinarily available document in EHCP decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 working group meetings (4 x 2 hours) to discuss and agree criteria;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refusals to assess lead to few formal challenges (no significant rise in SENDIST appeals)</li> </ul>	JULY 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SENDSCO conference to publicise. Should be jointly led by leading SENDCOs, NHCP, school effectiveness team and SEND teams;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of EHCPs in WN begin to reflect those of statistical neighbours</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 training events (by phase) for settings in use of criteria;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of DSG (inc HNB) spend in line with budgets;</li> </ul>	MAR 2023	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree date for implementation (Ideally September 2022 Phased intro or pilot phase in the current school year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria implemented</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 2: the commissioning (and decommissioning if appropriate) of resourced provision in mainstream schools

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
All SEND local area partners have clear, reliable information on the level and range of SEND need in WN and the consequent number and type of places required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all relevant officers are clear on WN's demand and ensure complete consistency of messaging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All key partner managers are clear, when asked, about the type and level of place demands</li> </ul>	JAN 2022	CW
Agree with appropriate mainstream schools the capital funding required to offer the places required in line with identified demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree places required and appropriate capital funding with identified mainstream schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Places required agreed, funded and scheduled</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
Number of unfilled specialist places provides a degree of flexibility for in year admission but no 'waste'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and follow agreed project timeline for each provision to change or develop their offer as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of CYP requiring independent placement and spend reduces</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG
Set realistic timeline for delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure SEND test for change of provision is met</li> <li>Ensure communication plan supports local area partners, who are fully informed of changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEND test met in all instances</li> <li>Survey shows that partners are appropriately aware of changes</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022 JULY 2022	AG AG

### Task 3: implement the planned capital programme to increase special school places

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
Increase special school places for SEMH, ASD, SLD and PMLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seek capital funding (through the free schools programme or prudential borrowing;</li> <li>Identify appropriate land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital funding in place;</li> <li>Land / buildings identified and secured</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022: SEPT 2022	CW CW

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 4: consult on a banding system for implementation in the 2022/23 fy

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
To produce a draft EHCP banding system that can be applied across mainstream, resourced provisions and special schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete a sampling exercise of EHCPs in each special school, resource provision and mainstream school to establish the funding required in each band.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A draft banding system is available for consultation</li> </ul>	APR 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete an exercise to ensure that, when the proposed banding system is introduced, no mainstream school, resource provision or special school is adversely affected;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to consultation, all schools are aware what effect the Banding System will have on their budgets now and in the future;</li> </ul>	OCT 2020	BB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If any school is found to be adversely affected, to introduce a minimum income guarantee for 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any school adversely affected has time to adjust their budgets</li> </ul>	APRIL 2023	BB
To consult with schools, parents and health partners on banding system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>benchmark proposed banding system against neighbouring local authorities:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The banding system in WN is in line with neighbouring LA's levels</li> </ul>	APRIL 2023	BB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>finalise a consultation document</li> <li>undertake a consultation exercise to include parent coffee mornings, SENCO workshops and engagement events with schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approved by schools forum</li> <li>A full consultation exercise is completed and consultation responses have been used to adapt and improve the banding system</li> </ul>	DEC 2022 JUL 2022	
Banding system is fully implemented across all schools in WN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding Band is agreed by SEN Panel for all new EHCP's issued and schools informed;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banding system fully implemented across all schools;</li> </ul>	APR 2023	BB
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is an established way to appeal and review funding decisions.</li> </ul>	MAR 2023	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded band is agreed at all annual reviews of EHCPs;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each newly completed EHCP has an agreed funding band;</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An appeal process is established via SEN Panel to look at cases where the school does not agree with the Funding Band approved by SEN Panel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal panel in place</li> </ul>	APR 2023	AG
Annual review of banded funding levels is completed and agreed by schools forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in place an annual review process for banding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate funding for all EHCPs;</li> <li>appropriate cost inflation built in.</li> </ul>	EVERY JANUARY	AG

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 5: propose the funding of both specialist services through a top-slice to mainstream schools' budgets

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
Consult service managers and staff to explain the reasons for the proposal and gauge the responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief managers and then staff of the specialist and impairment services;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefings completed</li> </ul>	SEPT 2021	CK
Ensure all voting members of schools forum are aware of the proposal and the reasons for it in advance of the October schools forum meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief all voting members of schools forum</li> <li>ensure all voting members are aware of the cost of the top slice, in financial and school budget percentage terms, and the cost of the proposed top-slice to pay for specialist and impairment services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefings completed</li> <li>Agreement in principle in place</li> </ul>	SEPT 2021 OCT 2021	CK CK
Lobby voting members of schools forum again in advance of the December meeting (where the formal vote takes place)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the responses to the consultation on the proposal;</li> <li>Share the outcome with voting members to gauge their level of support – especially if the overall responses are negative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses (to date) assessed</li> <li>Outcome shared with most voting members and the likely outcome assessed</li> </ul>	NOV 2021 NOV 2021	CK CK
SF report drafted and finalised on time for the December meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>draft the report, get agreement of the DCS to the report and its recommendations;</li> <li>finalise the report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report drafted, DCS sign-off obtained</li> <li>report finalised</li> </ul>	NOV 2021 NOV 2021	CK CK
Consultation on the operation of the support services on an insurance or traded basis in place (if schools forum support for the proposed top-slice looks unlikely)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare the consultation;</li> <li>Distribute the consultation document if schools forum members' view of the top-slice is negative;</li> <li>Assess consultation responses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation documentation finalised;</li> <li>Consultation distributed:</li> <li>Responses considered and traded services planned</li> </ul>	DEC 2021 DEC 2021 DEC 2021	CK CK CK
Fund both outreach services through a top-slice (if agreed by schools forum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement top-slice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureaucratic process for putting in place the top-slice completed</li> </ul>	JAN 2022	BB

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Reduce places commissioned in alternative provision

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
Determine place requirements for primary and secondary places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• model commissioned requirements based on the profile of exclusions over the 2016/19 school years, using the year with the highest exclusions;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise completed</li> </ul>	29 Oct 21	CK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate reintegration patterns, year 11 leavers and project increased numbers through the 2022/23 school year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimates completed</li> </ul>	29 Oct 21	CK
Conclude the consultation on commissioning intentions in terms of place numbers with providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the head teacher of CE with regard to commissioning intentions;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head contacted</li> </ul>	5 Nov 21	CK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform the head about the deadline date for submission to the ESFA and the time by which we want to receive them in order to inform the ESFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information given</li> </ul>	5 Nov 21	
Submit commissioning intentions for CE to the ESFA and agree place numbers with Spire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the head teacher of Spires to discuss our needs and agree final numbers with the ESFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commissioned numbers agreed</li> </ul>	18 NOV 21	CK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake all necessary work to submit the return to the ESFA by the deadline;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve places to be commissioned at Spire</li> </ul>		MAR 2022	AG

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 7: cease non-ENCP top-up aside from exceptional cases (eg trauma)

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
To produce proposed criteria for the use of high needs funding when a child without an EHCP requires additional support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working group with membership from SEN, school effectiveness, inclusion primary and secondary school SENCOs is established to produce proposed criteria for non-EHCP high need funding</li> </ul>	Proposed criteria are produced and ready for consultation.	MAR 2022	AG
Proposed criteria for non-EHCP high needs funding is agreed by schools and schools forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present a report to schools forum detailing the proposed criteria for non-EHCP high needs funding and obtain their agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools forum agreement is given to proposed criteria</li> </ul>	MAY 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend head teacher meetings to present the proposed criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary and secondary heads are aware of proposed criteria and consultation exercise.</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a consultation exercise with schools and parents on the proposed criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation responses are reviewed and used to inform criteria for non-EHCP high needs funding,</li> </ul>	Nov2022	AG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of all applications for non-EHCP high needs funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High needs funding is only provided to schools to support children and young people who do not have an EHCP where there is an exceptional need</li> </ul>	APRIL 2023	AG
implement new criteria for non-EHCP high-need funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure heads and SENDCOs understand what should be ordinality available through the school's budget through a clear, agreed OA document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools make more timely EHCP requests for children who need additional support</li> <li>Schools have clear guidance about the criteria for a pupil who does not have an EHCP and how to apply for this</li> <li>High needs budget spend on support for children and young people who do not have an ECP is reduced</li> </ul>	APRIL 2023	AG

## West Northamptonshire council: SEN financial recovery plan – implementation / action plan September 2021 to August 2022

### Task 8: visit all independent providers with a view to improving VFM

General deliverable	Specific actions	Success criteria	deadline	Lead officer
WN LA able to evidence that CYP are appropriately placed (SEND needs met, and appropriately safeguarded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk top analysis of current QA and inspection data as first line of assurance - any anomalies or concerns followed up as urgent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CYP are appropriately placed – demonstrated by external audit;</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unsatisfactory placements are remedied either by relevant action by provider or by change of placement.</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
All WN CYP in NMIs are placed only as a result of low need/high complexity needs; adequate progress is evident; learning from external providers is shared with local schools to develop local provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktop review of current costs of placement by SEND need (eg: ASD placements, SEMH placements). Those with cost anomalies (atypically high or low) are checked for potential cost saving negotiations;</li> <li>• NMIs with significant numbers of WN pupils are identified for VFM visits/re-procurement of places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containment or reduction in costs for current placements;</li> </ul>	SEPT 2022	AG
		Containment or reduction in costs for current placements	SEPT 2022	AG
WN LA is able to evidence that CYP are appropriately placed (SEND needs met, and appropriately safeguarded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk top analysis of current QA and inspection data as first line of assurance. Any anomalies or concerns followed up as urgent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WN LA able to evidence that CYP are appropriately placed (SEND needs met, and appropriately safeguarded)</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any unsatisfactory placements are remedied either by relevant action by provider or by change of placement.</li> </ul>	MAR 2022	AG

### Key to abbreviations

abbreviations	name	title
CK	Chris Kiernan	Interim assistant director,
AG	Anthony Giles	Head of SEN assessment
CW	Chris Wickens	Head of school organisation and capital services
BB	Beth Baines	Finance business partner, business support department

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# West Northants LA HNB deficit 2021 to 2026 c/w LAs receiving ESFA assistance

## Budget / deficit all £m

	Bury	Hammersmith	Kingston	Richmond	Stoke on Trent	W Northants
HNB budget 2020/21*	£33.1	£24.6	£25.3	£27.1	£36.9	£55.0
HNB deficit 2020/21	£25.5	£22.9	£25.1	£17.6	£25.5	£2.3
O/S percentage of HNB budget	77.1%	93.0%	99.4%	64.9%	69.0%	4.2%
DfE support 2020/21	£6.0	£6.0	£9.0	£6.0	£3.0	£0.0
O/S after DfE support	£19.5	£16.9	£16.1	£11.6	£22.5	£2.3
O/S percentage after DfE support	58.9%	68.6%	63.7%	42.8%	60.9%	4.2%
HNB deficit 2021/22	£25.6	£23.3	£28.6	£18.6	£24.3	£1.5
O/S percentage of HNB budget	77.4%	94.6%	113.2%	68.6%	65.8%	2.7%
DfE support 2021/22	£4.0	£4.0	£5.0	£4.0	£3.0	
O/S after DfE support	£15.6	£13.3	£14.6	£8.6	£18.3	£1.5
O/S percentage after DfE support	47.1%	54.0%	57.8%	31.7%	49.5%	2.7%
HNB deficit 2022/23	£25.0	£23.0	£31.4	£19.4	£18.3	£3.4
O/S percentage of HNB budget	75.5%	93.4%	124.3%	71.5%	49.5%	6.2%
DfE support 2022/23	£4.0	£4.0	£5.0	£4.0	£2.0	
O/S after DfE support	£11.0	£15.0	£21.4	£11.4	£13.3	£3.4
O/S percentage after DfE support	33.2%	60.9%	84.7%	42.0%	36.0%	6.2%
HNB deficit 2023/24	£21.9	£22.9	£32.2	£19.9	£9.1	£5.1
O/S percentage of HNB budget	66.2%	93.0%	127.5%	73.3%	24.7%	9.3%
DfE support 2023/24	£3.0	£3.0	£5.0	£3.0	£2.0	
O/S after DfE support	£4.9	£5.9	£8.2	£2.9	£-0.9	£5.1
O/S percentage after DfE support	14.8%	24.0%	32.5%	10.7%	-2.4%	9.3%
HNB deficit 2024/25	£16.0	£21.9	£31.6	£20.0		£6.8
O/S percentage of HNB budget	48.4%	88.9%	125.1%	73.7%		12.4%
DfE support 2023/24	£3.0	£3.0	£3.0	£3.0		
O/S after DfE support	£-4.0	£1.9	£4.6	£0.0		£6.8
O/S percentage after DfE support	-12.1%	7.7%	18.2%	0.0%		12.4%
total DfE support	£20.0	£20.0	£27.0	£20.0	£10.0	£0.0

\* WN share of NCC's HNB overspend

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## **West Northants Schools forum: 18 January 2022**

### **Agenda Item 10**

#### **West Northamptonshire Council 2022-23 Draft Budget Consultation**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report is to update West Northamptonshire schools forum of the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 1.2 The Budget is the identification and allocation of financial resources by the Council, including:
  - (a) Revenue expenditure
  - (b) Contingency and reserve funds
  - (c) Council Tax
  - (d) Borrowing requirements and limits
  - (e) Capital expenditure
  - (f) Medium Term Financial Plan
  - (g) Any limitations to, conditions on or rules governing the management of budgets, virement between budgets, treatment of underspends, windfall income or reserves contained within the Finance and Contract Procedure Rules.
- 1.3 The Council is responsible for the setting of a budget that ensures it has a robustly resourced plan to deliver its vision and priority objectives, and has aligned resources appropriately following an assessment of risks, issues and opportunities using the latest available information.
- 1.4 The draft budget was discussed at the Cabinet meeting held on 21 December 2021 and the papers can be viewed through the link below:  
[Agenda item - Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 1.5 The WNC Cabinet approved for consultation the draft 2022-23 budget which commenced the budget consultation process enabling residents, businesses, local partners and other stakeholders to have the opportunity to review the budget proposals and financial plans, and provide feedback during the six week consultation period.

1.6 This paper is for information only and there are no votes required in relation to this agenda item.

## **2 Background**

2.1 The budgets of West Northamptonshire Council will comprise:

- a General Fund revenue account
- a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded budget
- a Public Health funded budget,
- a Housing Revenue Account (though this is subject to a separate report)
- a Capital Programme.

2.2 The General Fund includes all revenue income and expenditure, including day to day running costs, financed from Council Tax, Business Rates, government grants and fees and charges, but excluding those related to council housing.

2.3 The DSG focuses on the funding for schools and Early Years settings as well as other specific Education related costs.

2.4 The Public Health budget funds a range of local public health activities, that aim to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the West Northamptonshire population and reduce inequalities in order to enable people to live healthy, happy and productive lives.

2.5 The Housing Revenue Account (reported as a separate agenda item to December Cabinet) includes all revenue expenditure and income on activities related to the Council's role as a housing landlord.

2.6 The Capital Programme includes all capital expenditure and income, including the acquisition, replacement and enhancement of assets financed from government grants, external contributions, revenue contributions, capital receipts and borrowing.

2.7 The Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan has been prepared using the latest service intelligence and financial information available, incorporating prudent estimates and financial assumptions.

2.8 A fundamental part of the budgeting process this year has been a round of budget scrutiny of all of the service budgets which has been referred to as a 'star chamber' process. This involved the leader of the Council, all portfolio holders, the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer and his deputy, other Executive Directors, Assistant Directors, the Director of Transformation and members of the Finance, HR and Transformation teams.

2.9 The purpose was to scrutinise all of the service budgets to get a view on the robustness of current year budgets, unavoidable pressures, transformation projects, efficiencies to assist in closing the budget gap and staffing levels.

2.10 The gap being forecast prior to the start of the star chamber process was in excess of £21m or 6% of the net budget.

- 2.11 At the end of the Star Chambers process and having taken into account our interpretation of the Spending Review the budget projections showed a surplus of approximately £1.5m. However, this included no service investments and it was felt that significant investment was required in some areas to improve services, increase capacity or accelerate transformation.
- 2.12 Although the Council has a balanced 2022-23 budget position, it is clear that it faces a challenging medium term financial position with estimated gaps of £10.7m in 2023-24, £16.6m in 2024-25 and £18.2m in 2025-26. This emphasises the importance of the transformation journey that the Council continues with to reduce the cost of service provision in order to mitigate the need for service reductions to balance future years budgets.
- 2.13 The summary General Fund Budget is set out in Appendix A of the budget papers through the link provided under paragraph 1.4. This section describes each of the budget movements and further detailed budget proposal breakdowns are set out in Appendix B of the budget papers.

### **3 Financial Overview**

- 3.1 The WNC 2022-23 draft net budget is an estimated £733.8m (£336.4m excluding DSG).
- 3.2 Of the total draft net budget, excluding DSG, the Children's Services budget totals £75.0m which includes the contract for early help and social care services with the Northamptonshire Children's Trust.
- 3.3 The draft budget includes £1.98m budget growth in respect of service pressures, inflation and service investment and efficiencies of £0.63m.
- 3.4 Within the service investment there is £0.48m general fund investment to mitigate the reduction of the historical funding element of the Central Schools Services Block following the 20% year on year reduction imposed by the Government. This ensures that education services are protected at the existing levels thereby ensuring no reductions to services.
- 3.5 The service investment also includes £0.46m general fund investment to fund the ongoing additional requirement for caseworkers in the statutory team which manages the assessment and educational placements of children and young people to manage increasing workloads whilst ensuring timeliness of assessments is in line with Department for Education expectations and in comparison with regional authorities.
- 3.6 One off service investment funded from reserves totals £0.76m relating to invest to save schemes proposed by the children's trust.
- 3.7 Remaining budget growth relates to the net impact of consolidated growth and efficiencies proposals relating to the West Northamptonshire Council share of the sum agreed for the NCT service delivery contract.
- 3.8 The £0.63m efficiencies relate to the funding of specialist, hearing impairment and visual impairment services as outlined in October and December schools forum related papers. Again services will remain at the current level, as the proposed future funding

of these services is through a top slice of delegated schools and academies budgets funded from notional SEN budget from the schools block which will be subject to an annual vote.

- 3.9 The indicative DSG budget included in the draft budget, based on the provisional funding settlement, is £397.4m. Schools forum members will note that the final DSG settlement (see agenda item 5) was received after the publication of the draft WNC budget. Agenda item 5 updates this position from the provisional £397.4m to the December settlement total of £400.5 and the report provides the key headlines on the 2022-23 DSG funding announcements on the funding received by the LA by funding block.

#### **4 Legal implications**

- 4.1 The setting of the budget is carried out in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution.
- 4.2 The provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set out what the Council has to base its budget calculations upon, and require the Council to set a balanced budget with regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).
- 4.3 The robustness of the proposed estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves must be addressed in the formal report to be made in February 2022 to both the Cabinet and the Full Council by the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer). This report is required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003. There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

#### **5 Recommendations for schools forum**

- 5.1 That schools forum note the WNC Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 5.2 Schools Forum members, and those who members represent are encouraged to have your say and tell us your views on our budget proposals for 2022/23. More information about the budget proposals, including an online questionnaire, can be found on the WNC dedicated [Draft Budget 2022/23 consultation](#) web page. This consultation closes on 1 February 2022.

#### **6 Next Steps**

- 6.1 WNC Budget consultation commenced on 22 December 2021, the day after Cabinet have considered the draft budget proposals, and will be open for six weeks.
- 6.2 The draft Budget will also be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 January 2022 who will then be able to provide their views and comments to Cabinet prior to their consideration of the final Budget for recommendation to full council.
- 6.3 The timeline for the rest of the Budget process is as set out below:
- Publish draft Budget 13 December
  - Cabinet consider draft Budget 21 December
  - Commence draft Budget consultation 22 December

- Overview and Scrutiny consider budget 12 January
- Consultation closes (six weeks) 1 February
- Publish final Budget report 7 February
- Cabinet consider final Budget 15 February
- Council Tax Setting and Budget report published 16 February
- Full authority considers final Budget 24 February

6.4 The response to the budget consultation will be analysed and form part of the final Budget report to Cabinet on 15th February.

**Report Author:**

Officer name: Emily Taylor

Officer title: Strategic Finance Business Partner

Email address: [emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.taylor@westnorthants.gov.uk)

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