

Schools Forum
Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at 0800

Venue – Remote Meeting

<https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

PLEASE NOTE

All meetings will be held in public; the agenda, decision list and minutes will be publicly available on the Council's website and Committee Secretariat, Room 112, City Hall, Bradford.

The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Forum Clerk Asad Shah who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Director of Governance will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of interests from Members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it only becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING
(minutes)

1 - 20

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2023 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

4. MATTERS RAISED BY SCHOOLS

Members will be asked to consider any issues raised by schools.

5. STANDING ITEM - DSG GROWTH FUND ALLOCATIONS (A)

There are no allocations for consideration at this meeting.

6. CONSULTATION - PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MAINSTREAM FORMULAE & SCHOOLS BLOCK MATTERS 2024/25 (A) 21 - 70

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QJ**, which asks the Schools Forum to consider the consultation document, which outlines the proposals for the Schools Block, the funding formula to be used to calculate allocations for mainstream Primary and Secondary schools and academies for the 2024/25 financial year, and the criteria that will form the basis of the allocation of additional funding to maintained schools (and academies where appropriate) from Schools Block centrally managed funds.

The Authority would like now to consult on these proposals. The feedback from this consultation will be presented to the Schools Forum on 6 December. The Forum will then be asked to give its final views (its recommendations) on 10 January 2024.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to agree that the consultation (Document QJ Appendix 1) is published.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. CONSULTATION - HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FORMULAE FUNDING 2024/25 (A) 71 - 116

The Principal Finance Officer (Schools) will present a report, **Document QK**, which asks the Schools Forum to consider the consultation document, which outlines the formula approach that the Authority proposes to use to delegate High Needs Block funding to high needs providers, mainstream schools and academies and other settings in the 2024/25 financial year April 2024 to March 2025.

The Authority would like now to consult on these proposals. The feedback from this consultation will be presented to the Schools Forum on 6 December. The Forum will then be asked to give its final views (its recommendations) on 10 January 2024.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to agree that the consultation (Document QK Appendix 1) is published.

(Dawn Haigh – 01274 433775)

8. EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING MATTERS 2024/25 (I)

The Business Advisor (Schools) will provide an update verbally on Early Years Block funding matters. No further announcements, since the 13 September Forum meeting, have been made by the DfE regarding the 2024/25 Early Years Block settlement or Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) arrangements.

Recommended –

The Schools Forum is asked to note the information provided.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

9. DSG CENTRAL ITEMS AND DE-DELEGATED FUNDS 2024/25 (A)

117 -
124

The Business Advisor (Schools) will present a report, **Document QL**, which asks the Schools Forum to review the position of Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block and Early Years Block central funds and de-delegated items for the 2024/25 financial year.

Recommended –

The Forum is asked to review the position of Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block and Early Years Block central funds and de-delegated items, to indicate what further consideration should be given / review work should take place, in advance of making final recommendations and decisions for 2024/25 at the 10 January 2024 meeting.

Members representing Maintained Primary Schools are asked to decide on de-delegation in 2024/25 for the purposes of purchasing subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

10. SCHOOLS FORUM STANDING ITEMS (I)

Updates on the following Forum standing items will be provided verbally where these have not been covered within other agenda items:

- Schools Forum membership
- Update from the High Needs Block Steering Group
- Update from the Schools Financial Performance Group (SFPG)
- Update on School / Academy Budgets
- Update from the Early Years Working Group (EYWG)
- Update from the Formula Funding Working Group (FFWG)
- Update on Primary School Places
- Update on Academies & Free Schools

The Forum is asked to note the information provided.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

11. AOB / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members will be asked for any additional items of business, for consideration at a future meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Please see the published schedule of meetings – the next Forum meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6 December 2023 (remote).

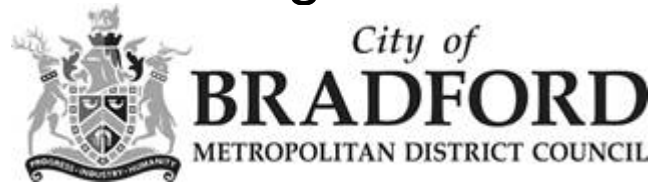
(A)	<i>Denotes an item for action (including where a formal view or recommendation is required).</i>
(I)	<i>Denotes an item for information.</i>

Signposting of High Needs Information

As per the schedule presented on 14 October 2020, “Forum members are expected to access ‘outside of the Forum meetings’ wider SEND information that is presented to other groups and that is already published, including information presented to the SEND Partnership. The Authority will signpost this information (webpage links) for Forum members at the bottom of agendas.”

SEND Partnership Board (minutes of meetings):

<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/coproduction--feedback/send-strategic-partnership-board->



Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Schools Forum on 11 October 2023

Schools Forum meeting held remotely on Wednesday 13 September 2023

To view the archived recording of this meeting, please see here:
<https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Commenced 08:00
Concluded 10:30

RECORD OF MEETING ATTENDEES, APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

Schools & Academies Members

IN ATTENDANCE

Member	Membership Group
Ian Morrel (Chair)	Maintained Secondary Schools – Headteacher
Ashley Reed (Vice Chair)	Academies Member
Wahid Zaman	Academies Member
Helen Williams	Academies Member
Michael Thorp	Academies Member
Amanda Sloney	Academies Member
Jonathan Nixon	Academies Member
Rowena Dixon	Academies Member
Isabel Peat	Academies Member
Matthew Hill	Academies Member
Lyndsey Brown	Academies Member - Special School Academies
Bev George	Maintained Nursery Schools – Governor
Sian Hudson	Maintained Nursery Schools - Headteacher
Helen Willett	Maintained Special Schools

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Member	Membership Group
Brent Fitzpatrick OBE	Academies Member
Sarah Murray	Academies Member
Graham Swinbourne	Maintained Primary Schools - Headteacher

NOT IN ATTENDANCE (WITHOUT APOLOGIES RECEIVED)

Member	Membership Group
Victoria Birch	Academies Member
Melanie Saville	Academies Member
Jon Skurr	Academies Member
Richard Bottomley	Academies Member – Alternative Provision Academies
Kathryn Swales	Maintained Primary Schools - Headteacher
Kirsty Ratcliffe	Pupil Referral Unit (maintained)

Non-Schools Members

IN ATTENDANCE

Member	Membership Group
Tom Bright	Teaching Unions

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Member	Membership Group

NOT IN ATTENDANCE (WITHOUT APOLOGIES RECEIVED)

Member	Membership Group
Junaid Karim	Council for Mosques (Bradford)
Ruth Terry	Officer Representing Vulnerable Children

Substitute Members present at the meeting as a Member (not as an Observer)

Substitute Member	Membership Group

Substitute Members present at the meeting as an Observer (not as a Member)

Substitute Member	Membership Group
Alison Kay	Academies Member

Local Authority Officers present at the meeting

Officer	Position
Asad Shah	Committee Secretariat
Niall Devlin	Assistant Director, SEND and Inclusion
Marium Haque	Strategic Director
Dawn Haigh	Principal Finance Officer (Schools)
Andrew Redding	Business Advisor (Schools)

40% of the School Forum's membership (filled membership positions) must be present for a meeting to be quorate. This meeting was quorate, with 58% of members present (15 out of 26 currently filled membership positions).

703. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

704. MINUTES OF 12 JULY 2023 & MATTERS ARISING

In introducing the meeting, the Chair welcomed 6 new members to the Forum: Helen Willett, Jon Skurr, Isabel Peat, Rowena Dixon, Matthew Hill and Ruth Terry. The Chair 'set the scene' for Members as follows:

- We expect to follow our usual timetable for the 2024/25 DSG and formula

funding cycle. Today's meeting, and then meetings in October and December, will prepare the way for the Forum to make its recommendations on 10 January. Today's meeting represents the starting point for discussions on the 2024/25 cycle. However, we will need to move quickly to formal consultation, beginning as usual mid-October.

- Important announcements have been made over the summer about 2024/25 financial year DSG funding and formula funding arrangements. These are presented to today's meeting. There have been significant announcements in particular, and a consultation, on early years entitlement funding, which are also presented to today's meeting.
- We warned in the July meeting that we are likely to find the 2024/25 budget round challenging. This is not so much because of technical changes that we will be required to manage (although there are some, especially in early years), but because we will find that the 2024/25 financial settlement is not at the level of recent years, the amount of budget headroom that we have will have reduced, and the financial position of our High Needs Block will worsen. It will be challenging also in respect of how the increases in funding for schools, academies and other providers (including early years' providers), that can be afforded by the 2024/25 settlement, compare with the current scale of growth in costs, especially as a result of pay awards and inflationary pressures. We begin to present to today's meeting further details on the 2024/25 settlement, and the view that this year's cycle will be 'challenging' is confirmed, especially for the Early Years Block and for the High Needs Block.
- As we have presented, we currently forecast a deficit High Needs Block financial position (based on the continuation of current growth rates and before mitigating activity is established) by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, with the rapid depletion of surplus balances in 2024/25. We have previously agreed with the Schools Forum that the Authority will convene a working group of interested Forum members in the autumn, at the point that the Authority has an outline plan for the mitigation and management of this deficit. We will provide an update on this under agenda item 10.
- One of the key messages for all schools and academies to take note of is the need to review and update their 2023/24 financial year budgets, as well as their 3-year budget forecasts, for the latest available information on pay awards, costs and formula funding projections. Most schools and academies will find that their budget positions have changed since original forecasts were produced earlier in the year.

The Business Advisor (Schools) then reported on progress made on "Action" items from the 12 July meeting. He reported that:

- **Item 696 (Schools Forum Membership):** A document is included in the meeting reports pack under matters arising, showing the Forum's membership for the 2023/24 academic year as it stands at September 2023. The Authority will continue to seek to fill vacant memberships.
- **Item 697 (DSG Outturn Balances):** The 2022/23 financial year final outturn balances have now been confirmed, include the final adjustment for the Early

Years Block. A document is included in the meeting reports pack under matters arising. The final balances figure is £36.856m, which is + £164k more than was estimated and presented in July. The only change is the balance held within the Early Years Block.

- **Item 698 (Early Years Block Funding and Entitlement Extension):** 2 reports are presented to this meeting, which provide details of the Early Years Supplementary Grant and the DfE's proposals for extending funding arrangements in 2024/25 for the new entitlements.
- **Item 699 (Formula Funding Development):** A report is presented to this meeting providing an update on Schools Block and High Needs Block formula funding development for the 2024/25 financial year.
- Within the agenda reports pack is a statement, which aims to summarise the main points regarding the latest pay award information for teachers. This is presented to ensure that Forum members are aware of this information, and also because it provides context for the information about the 2024/25 funding settlement, which will be presented through the agenda of this meeting. A Member asked for clarification on whether the new Teacher Pay Grant was only a one-off funding stream. The Business Advisor clarified that this Grant was not one off; that it would continue as a separate grant in 2024/25 before being merged into formula funding in 2025/26. However, the future year values of the grant are still to be confirmed.

Resolved –

- **That progress made on “Action” items and Matters Arising be noted.**
- **That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 be signed as a correct record.**

705. MATTERS RAISED BY SCHOOLS

No matters were raised, and no resolutions were passed on this item.

706. STANDING ITEM - DSG GROWTH FUND ALLOCATIONS

No allocations were presented, and no resolutions were passed on this item.

707. ALLOCATION OF THE EARLY YEARS SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT

The Business Advisor (Schools) presented a report, Document QE, which briefed the Schools Forum on the allocation of the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) in 2023/24. He explained how the EYSG has been allocated by the Authority and also then emphasised the implication for the DSG, as we forecast to

overspend the EYSG allocation by £0.30m, which will be met from the surplus balance held within the Early Years Block. This overspend is due to the Authority funding 4 more weeks of provision (26 weeks rather than 22 weeks) than we are receiving EYSG funding for from the DfE. He explained that this 'funding profile' issue is a significant factor when we assess the potential financial impact of the extension of the entitlements at September 2024 and September 2025. This is further discussed under the next agenda item.

A Member asked why the DfE would not fund us for 26 weeks of delivery. The Business Advisor offered the view that this is perhaps the result of the limitations of a national formula approach to the allocation of the EYSG (where different local circumstances are not specifically recognised) but also perhaps because the DfE has not been fully aware of this as an issue. We have emailed the DfE about this issue and the DfE has thanked us for highlighting it (saying that they will consider it further).

The Strategic Director, Children's Services, asked whether we understand why our rates of EYSG funding are below national median averages, explaining that this is something that is of concern (as we would expect Bradford's funding to be above national averages) and that the Forum may wish to further consider and to lobby Government on. The Business Advisor responded that he would need to look again at previous analysis, but he offered the view that this is most likely to do with the weighting of deprivation factors within the national early years formula. It was agreed that an analysis of this position should be presented to future Forum meeting for further consideration.

Resolved –

(1) That the information provided in Document QE be noted.

(2) That an analysis of why the uplifts in rates of EYSG funding received by Bradford are lower than national medians be presented to the Forum for further consideration.

708. DFE CONSULTATION ON EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING 2024/25

The Business Advisor (Schools) presented a report, Document QF, which briefed the Schools Forum on the DfE's consultation on the Early Years Block for 2024/25 and on the implications of the DfE's proposals for the funding of providers delivering the early years entitlements, as well as for our Early Years Block management. The report provided the Local Authority's response to this consultation, which has been submitted.

The Business Advisor explained that the Early Years Working Group will meet to consider more closely the DfE's proposals, as well as to consider our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2024/25 in response to these. He explained that our consultation with providers on our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2024/25 will not begin immediately following the Forum's October meeting and depends on the timing of the DfE's announcement of the outcomes of the consultation and the publication of the 2024/25 Early Years Block

operational guidance.

Referring to the 'funding profile' issue, the Business Advisor explained that, if the DfE does not alter the funding profile to account for the introduction and extension of the new entitlements at September 2024 and September 2025, we model that we will have £3.2m of unfunded cost across 2024/25 and 2025/26. This, therefore, is a significant issue for us (and would represent a significant call on DSG reserves if not resolved). The Business Advisor explained that this issue has been included within our consultation response and that we have also directly emailed the DfE. The DfE has responded to say that the issue will be considered further.

The Chair asked whether members in attendance representing nursery schools have any initial feedback on the DfE's proposals for the funding of the extension of the entitlements. The member representing maintained nursery school headteachers responded to explain that the major concern for the early years sector as a whole is that the rates of funding that are allocated for the new entitlements must be sufficient to cover delivery costs; currently providers subsidise underfunded entitlement delivery via charging for non-entitlement childcare hours. Where non-entitlement hours now become entitlement hours, there will be significantly less flexibility for subsidy, which could have significant negative financial implications for the sector. The member asked for clarification on whether the protection of the funding of maintained nursery schools would be extended to the funding of new entitlements. The Business Advisor responded to explain that nursery school protection and supplementary funding only currently applies to the 3&4-year-old entitlement and would only continue to apply to this entitlement going forward.

Resolved – That the information presented in Document QF be noted.

709. 2024/25 DSG & FORMULA FUNDING SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS - BRIEFING

The Business Advisor (Schools) presented Document QG, which provided a briefing on the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant settlement and formula funding arrangements, following the DfE's announcements made on 17 July 2023.

The Chair remarked that this report provides very important background for the development of our formula funding arrangements for 2024/25 and should be used as a reference document for Members going forward.

Within the presentation of the briefing note, the Assistant Director, SEND and Inclusion, informed the Forum that Bradford has been chosen as a local authority to pilot the DfE's SEND and Alternative Provision Review reforms. The Chair, and other Members, responded to this positively (that it is a positive step for us to engage with these reforms, and to feel their benefit, sooner).

Members did not have any other comments and did not ask any questions.

Resolved – That the information presented in Document QG be noted.

710. OUTLINE – FORMULA FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS & CONSULTATIONS 2024/25

The Business Advisor (Schools) presented a report, Document QH, which outlined the working principles that are being considered in the development of Bradford's formula funding arrangements for 2024/25 for the Schools and High Needs Blocks. He explained that the Authority anticipates presenting consultation reports, for Schools Block and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements, to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, with these consultations being published immediately after. In support of this, Forum Members are invited to (remotely) attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session, on Wednesday 27 September (8am) or Thursday 28 September (8am) or Tuesday 3 October (8am). As in previous years, these sessions will enable Forum Members to consider in more detail the impact of national formula funding decisions and to explore and guide the proposals for 2024/25. He explained that the Authority will contact the District Achievement Partnership to arrange to directly discuss the proposals for the continuation of the EHCP Banded Model (the special school funding formula).

Within his presentation, the Business Advisor highlighted the indicative initial modelling of the impact of potential formula funding proposals, and the growth in costs in the High Needs Block, on the 2024/25 DSG. He explained that this modelling, as a planning tool, helps to give sense of the level of "stress" that the 2024/25 DSG may come under. Our modelling, whilst still based on a series of early estimates (and prior to mitigation) currently indicates that we may overspend the 2024/25 DSG allocation by £15.25m, with £14.00m of this within the High Needs Block and £1.10m within the Early Years Block.

The Chair remarked again that this report provides very important background for the development of our formula funding arrangements for 2024/25 and for the beginning of our High Needs Block mitigation plan development.

An Academies Member asked for clarification on the impact of Census data-lag and whether the cost of this is negated by reducing pupil numbers. The Business Advisor explained that change in pupil numbers does not affect data-lag cost (as the Authority is funded in 2024/25 on October 2023 Census numbers, as are mainstream schools and academies). Data-lag cost is affected by changes in pupil circumstances and needs-led data between the annual October censuses, such as increases in Free School Meals.

Resolved –

(1) That the information presented in Document QH be noted.

(2) That Members be invited to attend a Formula Funding Working Group session

711. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK – FORECAST AND MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Business Advisor (Schools) provided an update verbally on the current forecast for the High Needs Block and on the development of a strategic mitigation plan. He explained that, in the May 2023 meeting, the Schools Forum

resolved that a working subgroup of Forum members be convened at the point the Authority has developed a draft (or outline) of a strategic mitigation plan. The Authority indicated that work would begin over the summer, in the light of most recent growth data and following confirmation of the 2024/25 DSG High Needs Block settlement, and that we would expect to look to convene a subgroup from the beginning of the autumn term.

Forum members were asked to express their interest (or to confirm where they have previously expressed their interest) in sitting on the working sub-group. We anticipate convening this sub-group shortly.

The Business Advisor then also reported the following:

- The 2024/25 DSG settlement is now known, and this does not fundamentally alter our previous High Needs Block forecasts i.e. actual income for 2024/25 is consistent with our previous estimates.
- As we have included in the previous agenda item, we forecast that, prior to additional (noting that we are already taking action) mitigation, and assuming the continuation of existing spending growth rates, we may overspend our 2024/25 High Needs Block by £14m. It should be noted that this is a rough working estimate, that will develop and change. On the same basis, extending our estimates for a further year, it is forecasted that our High Needs Block may overspend by £22m in 2025/26. On this basis, our High Needs Block account, and then most likely our full DSG account, may be in deficit at the end of the 2025/26 financial year. This is similar to (a little worse than) the position that we outlined to the Forum when we presented our DSG Management Plan in January 2023. This position will be discussed in greater detail with the working sub-group.
- Members will recall that we have made a £0.920m investment in inclusion from the High Needs Block, with the continuation of this investment to be reviewed. The Authority, in outline, has determined that this investment is having impact, some of which will take further time to develop, and that this investment should continue, especially as it is in keeping the direction of travel of the national SEND Review and the DfE's guidance to authorities about investing in inclusion strategies. This will be discussed in greater detail with the working sub-group.
- From our review work, it is clear that the Authority is already taking mitigating action and already has in place many of the strategic actions that the DfE has identified and is progressing in working with the Safety Value / Delivering Better Value local authorities (the authorities currently in deficit, where the DfE has intervened, including to provide additional funds). The Authority has begun to outline actions that could (though not necessary would, assessing the knock-on implications) be taken in seeking to manage and to mitigate against deficit. These actions fall into 2 main categories a) formula funding and DSG funding management actions (such as banded funding, restraining uplifts, and moving income and expenditure between DSG Blocks, including Schools Block contribution), and b) high needs provision actions (where we would be further assessing that we have the right number and type of specialist placements available, and also where we would be seeking to

appropriately support and encourage inclusion in mainstream. From our review work, it is clear that the development of national standards for EHCPs is a critical element of budget control within the High Needs Block (as one of the implications / purposes of national standards is to 'cool' the current very high growth rate in the number of EHCPs).

- The Statutory Override (that means that DSG account deficits are 'set-aside' and are not counted against Council financial positions) is in place currently until the end of the 2025/26 financial year. CIPFA has recently issued some guidance / consultation that local authorities should be including DSG account forecasts within their wider Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP) and that authorities should be 'planning' for the ending of the override. In reality, this may be very difficult. In Bradford, we will include our DSG forecasting in our MTFP from the next presentation of this, which will take place in November. This will help support wider understanding of the deficit risks in the DSG and the delivery of wider strategic action.

The Academies member, representing special schools and special school academies, whilst emphasising that the special schools sector faces significant challenges, expressed the view that all sectors are under pressure and that the development of a strategic mitigation plan represents a real opportunity to work together. The Chair echoed these comments

Resolved –

(1) That the information presented be noted.

(2) That Members be invited to express their interest in sitting on the working subgroup.

712. WORK PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Business Advisor (Schools) presented a report, Document QI, which outlined the School Forum's 2023/24 Academic Year work programme.

Members had no comments and did not ask any questions.

Resolved – That the information presented in Document QI be noted.

713. SCHOOLS FORUM STANDING ITEMS

No matters were raised, and no resolutions were passed on this item.

714. AOB / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No matters were raised, and no resolutions were passed on this item.

715. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled is Wednesday 11 October. This meeting will be held remotely.

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Forum.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

Document QG

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Briefing Note

This briefing note is written following the DfE's announcement of 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) arrangements that was made on 17 July 2023. Please read this note alongside Appendix 1 (the DfE's National Funding Formula policy summary document for 2024/25).

A detailed briefing on the Early Years Block for 2024/25 is presented separately in Document QF.

1. 2024/25 will be the seventh year of National Funding Formula (NFF) within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
2. For the **Schools Block**, the DfE has stated its intention for the 'hard' National Funding Formula (NFF) to be fully implemented at the latest by the 2027/28 financial year. Following the 'tightening' that was directed at April 2023, the DfE records that progress continues to be made by local authorities towards the full mirroring of the NFF at local level. In 2023/24, 2/3rds (106 out of 151) of authorities directly (or closely within 2.5%) mirrored the NFF within the Schools Block at local level. We were one of these. 133 authorities set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at positive 0.5%. We were one of these.
3. Further 'directed' movement, towards the fuller adoption of the 'hard' NFF in the Schools Block, is confirmed for 2024/25. For mainstream primary and secondary formula funding, all authorities must again use all NFF factors (and only these factors), and authorities that do not currently mirror the NFF must move a further 10% closer. Authorities that currently mirror the NFF (as we do) must stay within 2.5% of the NFF formula factor variable values.

For 2024/25, the DfE has introduced a **new split sites factor**, which is mandatory. This will replace our existing locally determined split sites factor. Aside from this specific change, as we directly mirror the NFF, and have done since 2018/19, the continued 'tightening' requires minimal response within our arrangements for 2024/25. Subject to affordability (following our assessment of the cost of 'data lag' between the October 2022 and October 2023 censuses), we expect to continue to directly mirror the NFF. As in 2023/24, we continue to be formally required to include the NFF sparsity factor in our local formula. However, this is a 'tick box' exercise only, as none of our schools and academies qualify for sparsity funding due to their size.

The DfE continues to provide (and has updated for 2024/25) specific additional [guidance](#) to authorities on the calculation of **notional SEND budgets** within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding allocations and continues to advise that authorities must annually review their approaches. However, as for 2023/24, the 2024/25 guidance does not constitute a 'direction' and does not prescribe how notional SEND must be defined, though we do expect that prescription will soon come following the national SEND Review and the final full implementation of the 'hard' NFF. We will discuss the on-going review of our notional SEND definition in a separate report to the Forum. We made some adjustments to our definition in 2023/24, to improve fairness and to bring us more into line with other local authorities. We are likely to propose some small adjustments to our definition in 2024/25, in response to what the latest benchmarking tells us about the most recent positions in other authorities.

Authorities continue to be permitted to adopt **Targeted SEND (EHCP) support funding** arrangements for mainstream schools and academies in 2024/25. Whilst encouraging their use, the DfE has re-iterated the expectation that funding support of this kind would be allocated only to a minority of schools that have exceptionally higher levels of SEND (no.s of EHCPs). Only 33 (1/5th) authorities declared some form of SEND Funding Floor / Targeted Additional SEND funding arrangement in their APT in 2023/24. We were one of these.

For 2024/25, the DfE has amended **Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund** Schools Block funding as well as allocation criteria. The DfE has also introduced some new mandatory requirements. This is a specific change that we will need to respond to within our arrangements locally. This will be further discussed in a separate report to the Forum as part of the wider Schools Block consultation. The DfE has confirmed that Growth and Falling Rolls

Funds will continue to be managed locally under the 'hard' NFF framework and that changes to these mechanisms, to improve their value and the consistency of approach between local authorities, will be made gradually. We expect more changes to come in 2025/26. The way that Growth Fund funding is allocated by the DfE to local authorities has not changed. However, for the first time in 2024/25, the DfE will allocate Schools Block funding to local authorities for falling rolls. Previously, all falling rolls fund spending was required to be met via top-slice from other Schools Block funding. This is a positive step. For reference, 132 authorities retained a Growth Fund in 2023/24. We were one of these. However, only 20 authorities declared a Falling Rolls Fund in 2023/24. We were one of these (although we do not anticipate incurring any spend this year).

The DfE has stated that **the funding of PFI** will be brought into the 'hard' NFF within the Schools Block. However, PFI funding remains outside the NFF in 2024/25 and there is currently no timescale for this being brought into the NFF. On this basis, we expect to continue our current local arrangements in 2024/25 and to look out for DfE consultation on this matter.

For reference and wider awareness, the DfE has confirmed that authorities can continue to use the **Reception Uplift factor** in 2024/25, but that use of this factor will not be permitted from April 2025. We did not use the Reception Uplift factor in 2023/24 and we do not anticipate using this factor in 2024/25.

4. The **Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)** (£17.0m), which was introduced for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in 2023/24, is continued in 2024/25 but has been amalgamated into the Schools Block. This means that the NFF will allocate this grant and primary and secondary schools and academies should no longer budget for a separate allocation (otherwise they will double count this funding). The additional £4.8m that was added to the High Needs Block in 2023/24 from the Autumn 2022 Statement is continued within our High Needs Block allocation in 2024/25. Attached to this additional funding, the 2024/25 DSG conditions require local authorities to continue to pass through to special schools, special school academies, PRUs and AP Academies the additional "3.4% place-element" funding that was allocated in 2023/24.
5. Attached to the proposed teachers' pay settlement for September 2023, the DfE has announced a **new Teacher Pay Grant (TPG)** for primary and secondary schools and academies, beginning September 2023. This [new TPG](#) will continue as a separate grant in the 2024/25 financial year and will only be merged into the NFF in 2025/26. A new TPG will also be allocated to special schools, special school academies, PRUs and AP academies, but with each authority receiving a block allocation to decide locally how to allocate. We will consult with relevant providers on this early in the autumn term. Again, this new TPG for special schools et al will be in place from September 2023, and will remain as a separate grant during the 2024/25 financial year.
6. We have previously warned that the employers contribution to teacher pension is due for re-assessment at April 2024, with it being widely anticipated that this contribution will increase. Whilst we have not yet picked up any formal announcements from the DfE, we have read an article which indicates that the Treasury will be allocating additional monies to government departments to support the increased cost of pension contributions. When this happened previously in 2019, the DfE established a **Teacher Pensions Grant**, and we anticipate that this will happen again in 2024/25. We may expect to get some further details on this during the autumn term (around the Autumn Statement).
7. There are no changes for 2024/25, which appear to affect our **usual consultation and decision-making processes and timescales**. In the last 3 years, due to the timing of announcements, our consultation on our Early Years Block formula funding arrangements has been published towards the end of the autumn term or beginning of the spring term, later than the consultations on Schools Block and High Needs Block arrangements, which have been published mid-October. We anticipate that this will be the case for our consultations this autumn. The expected Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation and decision-making timetable for 2024/25 is as follows:
 - a. Our consultations on Schools Block and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements will be published mid-October (after the Forum's October meeting). Our Early Years Block consultation will be published in mid to late December or in early January.

- b. The October 2023 Census will be completed as normal. The dataset (and APT) that authorities use to calculate Schools Block formula funding for 2024/25 will be available mid-December.
 - c. The ESFA's high needs places setting exercise, for academies and FE providers for the 2024/25 academic year, will be conducted as usual in October and November.
 - d. The DfE will confirm initial DSG allocations for 2024/25 mid-December.
 - e. The Authority expects the Forum to agree its recommendations on the 2024/25 DSG allocation and formula funding arrangements at its meeting to be held on 10 January 2024.
8. The existing main core technical basis of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the National Funding Formula (NFF) within the Schools, High Needs and Central Schools Services Blocks continues in 2024/25.

The **guiding restrictions and flexibilities**, regarding cross-block movements and the proportions of delegated vs. central spending, remain as 2023/24.

The **School Forum's role and statutory powers**, and the guidance on 'who decides what', are unchanged.

The framework for **de-delegation from maintained schools** within the Schools Block is unchanged.

The DfE's **High Needs Block operational guidance** has confirmed that the values of place-element funding (£10,000; £6,000), and the positions of the main 'levers' of the high needs place-plus funding system, remain unchanged in 2024/25. Local authorities continue to hold responsibility for calculating and allocating top-up funding. Any changes in the DSG, or in High Needs Block formula funding, or in the School Forum's role in respect of the High Needs Block, that may come from the national reviews, are now not anticipated to be implemented before April 2025 at the earliest and following consultations to come. The DfE has confirmed that the **Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which must be applied to special schools and to special school academies**, must be set between 0% and 0.5% in 2024/25, with consideration given to providing an MFG that is equivalent to the level of MFG for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies (which can also be set between 0% and 0.5%).

9. DSG Deficits Statutory Override

Whilst not immediately relevant to us, as we currently hold a surplus DSG account, it is important for the Forum to be aware of the '**statutory override**' within the Regulations, which is in place to the end of the 2025/26 financial year. This override concerns the treatment of deficit balances, that are held within the DSG, and cumulative deficit DSG accounts. Through the statutory override, cumulative deficit DSG accounts are ring-fenced and are 'set aside' from local authority general fund reserves, meaning that deficits are carried forward to be managed only by using DSG funds in future years and that authorities do not need to make provision for these from their general reserves. The impact of this override not being in place would be that DSG deficits would be added to local authority general fund reserve balances, which would have implications for the wider financial positions of local authorities and for how DSG deficits would need to be managed, using authority general fund reserves alongside / in addition to / rather than DSG funding. We must consider the position of the override (and that it is currently set to cease at the end of the 2025/26 financial year) within our medium term DSG financial planning and especially within our High Needs Block deficit mitigation planning.

10. The overall national High Needs Block settlement for 2024/25 provides a 4.3% increase on 2023/24. Authorities will receive minimum growth of 3% per pupil and maximum growth of 5% per pupil. This range is lower than in 2023/24, where the minimum was 5% and the maximum was 7%, prior to the addition of the Autumn Spending Statement funding.

On current estimates, our High Needs Block allocation in 2024/25 is £122.08m, which is £5.20m higher than received in 2023/24. This represents an increase of 4.5% in cash terms and 5.0% in per pupil terms. Our per pupil increase is affected by the 5% per pupil cap; the application of this cap reduces our allocation by £0.63m. This % increase is lower than received in recent years but does align with our previous forecasting (we estimated 4.5% per pupil), which was informed by the DfE's messaging, that the current 3-year national school funding settlement has been heavily weighted towards 2022/23 and 2023/24, with reduced increases to be allocated in 2024/25.

At this point in time, we do not have any information on which to accurately predict the likely increases in High Needs Block funding after 2024/25. We expect that these will be decided within the next national spending settlement round. However, as we have previously discussed with the Schools Forum, assuming that we will continue to receive an uplift in funding around 5% per pupil after 2024/25, we would only see a c. £4m annual cash increase in our High Needs Block funding after accounting for the forecasted reduction in pupil numbers. Growth in High Needs Block funding will continue to be allocated to cover three main pressures a) growth in the cost of provision (from inflation and pay award) funded through the top-up, b) growth in the number of EHCPs and in the needs of pupils with EHCPs and in placement costs reflected by banding (and stacking) and c) continued expansion of high needs places capacity in response to increased demand and placement in independent and non-maintained settings. We currently estimate that the growth in our High Needs Block costs in 2024/25 will substantially exceed the additional £5.20m income that we will receive. We currently estimate that will need to deploy in 2024/25 a substantial proportion of the High Needs Block brought forward balance that we currently hold and take adjusting 'mitigating' steps to control expenditure. We anticipate that, as part of a deficit mitigation plan, we will need to exercise 'restraint' in 2024/25 in how we uplift top up funding rates, needing to prioritise meeting the additional costs that come from the significant growth in the numbers of EHCPs and from the continued expansion of high needs places capacity. We will discuss this financial position in more detail with the Forum across the autumn term, beginning with a separate report to this meeting.

Authorities continue to be permitted to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2024/25 with the approval of the Schools Forum. **In the context of our High Needs Block surplus balance however, we do not anticipate proposing a transfer in 2024/25.** However, transfers in future years, subject to the Regulations, are likely to be considered as part of a deficit mitigation plan.

11. **The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) continues in 2024/25.** The DfE has indicated, in recent consultations, that changes will be made to this Block (including the possible merger of this Block into the main local government financial settlement), in response to the changing roles of local authorities in the context of the movement to a full academy system. However, there are no technical changes implemented for 2024/25.

Our CSSB funding per pupil has increased by 3.0% in 2024/25. In terms of our overall cash budget however, this per pupil increase is offset by 2 factors. Firstly, our funding for historic commitments has reduced by a further 20%, and so our allocation through this factor has reduced by £0.036m to £0.144m. We expect this funding to continue to reduce in future years until this allocation has ceased. Secondly, our CSSB funding will be affected by the forecasted overall net reduction in the number of pupils to be recorded in mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in the October 2023 Census. We currently estimate (arithmetically for formula funding modelling purposes) that the overall net reduction at October 2023 will be in the region of 350 pupils (primary phase pupil numbers reducing by 950 and secondary phase numbers increasing by 600). Accounting for these 2 factors, we estimate that our CSSB allocation in total will increase by only 1.4% in cash terms (+ £0.050m, on a budget of £3.6m). This relatively small cash increase should also be viewed in the context of the CSSB having to absorb a 10.6% increase in the cost of the nationally-set copyright licences charge in 2023/24.

As we have previously warned, **demographic reduction is now having an impact on our DSG funding**. Whilst pupil numbers continue to increase in the secondary phase (for a further year and then broadly flatten out), numbers in the primary phase, and in early years provisions, are forecasted to reduce, to the extent that we forecast that we will continue to see over the next few years an overall net reduction in the total number of DSG funded pupils. Reducing numbers, as well as having implications for the funding received by schools, academies, early years and other providers, and their sustainability, will mean that there is less 'headroom' available within our DSG settlements going forward than we have had historically, meaning that less money will be available for meeting emerging spending pressures, or for sustaining current levels of delivery, especially within the Central Schools Service Block and within the High Needs Block, where there are fixed budget contributions to school-support services and to other centrally managed costs. The counter to this trend, in the Early Years Block, is the extension of the entitlements for eligible working parents, beginning April 2024. Extension will mean a larger value of Early Years Block funding, which may create a small amount of headroom, which may be available to support the spending pressures with the Early Years Block that are also expected to increase e.g. Early Years Inclusion Fund spending.

12. **The national Schools Block NFF settlement for 2024/25 provides a 2.7% overall per pupil increase on 2023/24, inclusive of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (but excluding the new Teacher Pay Grant, which is not DSG Schools Block funding). On current estimates, Bradford's Schools Block allocation in 2024/25 is £538.479m, excluding Growth and Falling Rolls Fund funding *, which is £30.92m higher than in 2023/24 (an increase of 6.10% in cash terms). £17.0m of this increase relates to the transfer of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. Excluding this transfer, we estimate an increase of £13.9m (2.7%) in cash terms. Within this, we estimate that there will be c. 350 fewer pupils recorded in total in primary and secondary mainstream schools and academies in the October 2023 Census than were recorded at October 2022.**

* Growth and Falling Roll Funds are excluded as it is not yet clear how much funding we will receive, especially for the new funding of Falling Rolls. In 2023/24, we received an additional £1.83m for Growth Fund but £0 for Falling Rolls Fund. On current estimates, we anticipate receiving £1.54m Growth Fund in 2024/25. On current estimated modelling, we do not think that we will receive any new Falling Rolls Funding. This is because we do not think that any of our MSOAs will see reductions in pupil numbers of more than 10% between October 2023 and October 2022 (10% is the DfE's threshold for funding).

13. The national Schools Block NFF per pupil increase in 2024/25 of 2.7% is aggregated as follows:
- a. All the core NFF factors, including the deprivation and additional educational needs factors and the lump sum, prior to the addition of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and prior to rounding (variable values continue to be rounded to the nearest £5), are increasing by 2.4%. Following rounding, factors are increasing between broadly 1.8% and 3.0%.
 - b. The FSM flat variable is increasing by 1.6% (but with rounding is increasing by 2.0%).
 - c. The mandatory Minimum Levels of Funding Per Pupil (MFLs) are increasing by 2.4%.
 - d. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) can be set at a maximum 0.5%. The DfE has funded a 0.5% minimum floor increase for all schools and academies.

After applying these basic uplifts, the DfE has further increased the base £app, FSM6 and lump sum factors in order to allocate the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) via the NFF. The MFLs have also been uplifted for this purpose. 2023/24 MSAG allocations have been added into school and academy funding baselines, so that the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25 will provide budget protection, which is inclusive of the MSAG allocations that were allocated separately in 2023/24.

With the uplift for the MSAG, the MFLs for 2024/25 are £4,655 (primary – increased from £4,405) and £6,050 (secondary – increased from £5,715). These are the minimum values of per pupil funding that schools and academies must receive in 2024/25. These minimums continue to be mandatory and are therefore, not subject to local consultation.

To highlight the following aspects of this 2024/25 NFF settlement:

- a. An increase in 2024/25 of 2.4% (prior to the addition of MSAG) in the base \pounds app and lump sum factors is the same as the level of increase that was applied to these factors in 2023/24. We advised our maintained schools to assume 1.5% increases in 2024/25 on all NFF factors.
- b. In the current 2023/24 financial year settlement however, rather than a single % increase being applied to all NFF factors, the deprivation / additional education needs factors - FSM6 and IDACI - were additionally uplifted, which weighted the settlement towards schools and academies with higher levels of deprivation. The 2024/25 settlement does not do this; all core factors are increasing by the same 2.4% (prior to rounding). As a specific reference point, the IDACI factor continues to use IDACI 2019 (IDACI is updated every 5 years).
- c. In the current 2023/24 financial year settlement, the uplift of the mandatory Minimum Levels of Funding per pupil (MFLs) was significantly lower than the uplift of the core NFF factors – the core NFF factors increased by 2.4% but the MFLs increased by only 0.5%. As a result, schools and academies that were funded on the MFLs only received a 0.5% increase in their funding per pupil in 2023/24. However, in 2024/25 the MFLs are increasing by 2.4%, which is at the level of core formula funding. We advised our maintained schools to assume 0.5% increases in 2024/25. It is likely that this higher level of increase has been afforded by not weighting additional funding to the NFF deprivation factors (that an assessment has been made by the DfE that a priority for the 2024/25 settlement, in response to overall spending pressures, is to increase the base funding of schools and academies that are funded on the MFLs). *
- d. **The Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25 can be set between 0% and positive 0.5%. This is the same range as permitted in 2023/24. On current indicative modelling, we anticipate being able to propose a 0.5% MFG.** We advised our maintained schools to assume a 0.5% MFG in 2024/25. It must be emphasised that, in respect of the value of MFG that we can afford, the DfE has only funded a minimum 0.5% increase in respect of all schools and academies, meaning that we do not have the on-going funding within the 2024/25 Schools Block settlement to set a higher MFG (and we would need to apply to the Secretary of State in any case). *
- e. We estimate that we will receive in 2024/25 £0.411m of funding via the DfE's new split sites factor and we expect to fully spend this on our split site schools and academies.
- f. The Schools Forum will wish to begin to consider the implications of this funding settlement, especially in relation to the recent announcements on pay awards, which are summarised in the 'matters arising' document that is published for this meeting, and in relation to current inflationary pressures.
- g. Within the 2022/23 and 2023/24 DSG budget cycles, we considered quite carefully the potential financial impact of the lag in data, between the October 2020 / 2021 Census (on which the DSG is funded) and the October 2021 / 2022 Census (on which schools and academies were funded).

Ultimately, this data lag increased the cost of our 2022/23 formula funding by £0.95m (please see January 2022 Document OB Appendix 1d) and by £1.07m in 2023/24 (please see January 2023 Document PO Appendix 1d). In both years, we absorbed the cost by using Schools Block headroom alongside Schools Block reserves. Data lag is again expected to be a feature of our 2024/25 Schools Block spending, and we must set out our formula funding proposals with caution, whilst considering how we will ensure that our Schools Block arrangements are affordable. This does continue to include the allocation of DSG reserves, where appropriate and sustainable. However, we used £1.7m of reserve in 2023/24 and we warned that, depending on the size of the data lag in 2024/25, we may not have the reserves in place to fully cover the cost, meaning that we may need to employ options for reducing cost by adjusting our funding formula (keeping within the 2.5% NFF restriction that is now in place). We will continue to discuss this with the Schools Forum over the autumn and early spring.

* In summary, in 2023/24:

- Primary phase: 44 out of 156 schools (28%), including academies, are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 27 schools (17%), including academies, are funded at the £4,405 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies are funded above £4,405 per pupil.
- Secondary phase: 4 out of 31 schools (13%), including academies, are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 1 academy (3%) is funded at the £5,715 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies are funded above £5,715 per pupil.
- All through academies: None of the 4 academies are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. All of these academies are also funded above their composite minimum per pupil funding levels.
- In total, 48 out of 191 schools and academies (25%) are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. This is reduced from 73 (38%) in 2022/23. In total, 31 out of 191 schools and academies (16%) are funded on the minimum per pupil funding levels. This is reduced from 36 (19%) in 2022/23.

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Matters Arising – Early Years Supplementary Grant Rates

At the last meeting, a question was asked about whether we understand why our rates of Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) funding are lower than national medians. The Forum resolved that an analysis of why the uplifts in rates of EYSG funding received by Bradford are lower than national medians be presented to the Forum for further consideration.

For the delivery of the 2-year-old entitlement, Bradford has received an additional £1.79 per hour through the EYSG. The national median rate is £1.88 per hour.

For the delivery of the 3&4-year-old entitlement, Bradford has received an additional £0.27 per hour through the EYSG. The national median rate is £0.33 per hour.

‘London weighting’ is one of the causes of Bradford’s 2-year-old rate being lower than the national median. When we calculate a national median, excluding inner and outer London authorities, this median reduces from £1.88 to £1.83 per hour. Excluding the inner and outer London authorities from the calculation of the median for the 3&4-year-old entitlement, however, does not change the national median, which remains at £0.33 per hour.

EYSG rates of funding have been calculated with reference to the 2023/24 Early Years Block DSG calculations. As such, each authority’s rates of funding have been determined by the national Early Years Block formulae that the DfE has used in 2023/24. The vast majority of funding is allocated on a single universal rate of funding, adjusted for area costs (including London weighting), and about 10% of the formula for the 3&4-year-old entitlement uses measures of deprivation.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to assess, using 2023/24 data, whether the DfE’s national Early Years Block formulae benefits or hinders Bradford’s funding (in seeking to understand why Bradford would achieve lower than national median rates of funding when our levels of deprivation are higher than national averages). This is because, as discussed with the Forum in September 2022, the DfE has updated the data that is used to calculate authority-level allocations, when this data has not been updated for some years. This has produced large single year swings in the funding that individual authorities have received in 2023/24, and these swings have been protected by the application of ceilings and floors. As a result of the swings, ceilings and floors, it is very difficult to pull out any useful trends from an analysis of 2023/24 funding allocations, in order to conclude whether the national formula benefits or hinders Bradford.

We anticipate that an analysis based on 2024/25 early years funding allocations will be of more benefit for this purpose. We will complete this analysis when these allocations are published, expected later in the autumn term, and we will present the findings to the Forum at a future meeting.

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SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report asks the Forum to consider the consultation document, which outlines the proposals for the Schools Block, for the formulae to be used to calculate allocations for Primary and Secondary schools and academies for the 2024/25 financial year and the criteria that will form the basis of the allocation of additional funding to maintained schools (and academies where appropriate) from DSG centrally managed funds.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

A report outlining the developing proposals for 2024/25 funding arrangements was presented to the Schools Forum on 13 September.

Background / Context

Please see Appendix 1 (the consultation document itself).

Details of the Item for Consideration

Each autumn the Local Authority, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, publishes three separate consultations on DSG management and formula funding arrangements for the following year.

Appendix 1 represents the formal consultation document on Schools Block arrangements for 2024/25. This consultation presents proposals for the formulae to be used to calculate budget shares for primary and secondary schools and academies, for the criteria to be applied in the allocation of the Growth Fund and other Schools Block centrally managed funds and asks for feedback on the position of de-delegated Schools Block funds.

Forum Members are not asked to give their final views (final recommendations) for 2024/25 at this meeting. Members are asked to approve the publication of the documentation for consultation. The Forum will be asked to review responses to this consultation in December prior to making final recommendations on 10 January 2024.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

As set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to agree that the consultation document (Document QJ Appendix 1) is published.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1a – Primary and Secondary 2024/25 Formula Arrangements Consultation
Appendix 1b1 and 1b2 – Modelling (main modelling and modelling of the Notional SEND Budget change)

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Andrew Redding, Business Advisor (Schools)
01274 432678
andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk

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DOCUMENT QJ APP 1A - CONSULTATION & INFORMATION ON MAINSTREAM PRIMARY & SECONDARY FORMULA FUNDING 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the Authority's proposals for:

- The calculation of budget shares for mainstream primary (reception to year 6) and secondary (year 7 to year 11) maintained schools and academies in Bradford for the 2024/25 financial year (the "funding formula"). For those who may not wish to read the full detail of this document, an extended summary of the formula funding proposals is given in paragraph 3.
- The criteria to be used to allocate additional amounts from retained funds within the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), including from the Growth Fund and from the Falling Rolls Fund.

1.2 This document also asks for feedback on the continuation for the 2024/25 financial year of funds that are de-delegated from maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools. Please be aware however, that, due to the timescale necessary for confirmation, the Schools Forum has already taken a decision on de-delegation in 2024/25 from mainstream maintained primary schools for the purposes of subscribing to Fischer Family Trust.

1.3 The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Tuesday 28 November 2023**. An analysis of responses received will be discussed at the Schools Forum meeting on 6 December. Please address all questions and responses to Andrew Redding 01274 432678 andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk. A response form is included at Appendix 4. However, we encourage you to use the web-based questionnaire to submit your response. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

1.4 Please note that separate consultation documents, on Early Years Block and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements for 2024/25, will be published on Bradford Schools Online. These consultations will be signposted from our latest news and updates page [here](#).

1.5 This consultation, and the figures and modelling that are contained within it, are based on the DfE's [2024/25 National Funding Formula \(NFF\) announcements](#) that were made in July 2023. Mainstream schools and academies will be aware that, in addition to NFF-based formula funding, the DfE has established a new [Teacher Pay Grant](#), which is allocated to support the September 2023 teachers' pay award. The Pay Grant will continue in the 2024/25 financial year as an additional funding stream, which will be allocated according to the methodology and conditions to be set by the DfE, and which will be entirely separate from, and additional to, the National Funding Formula-based formula funding allocations that are set out for consultation in this document.

1.6 The Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) that has been allocated to mainstream primary and secondary schools in 2023/24 has been merged into the National Funding Formula in 2024/25. As such, mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies must now cease to budget for the MSAG as a separate additional allocation. All schools and academies should carefully check their 2024/25 budget scenarios (including any scenarios that are continued from existing ones) to ensure that they are not double counting the MSAG.

2. Background

2.1 It is important to confirm, for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), and the DfE's mandatory Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs), remain in place in 2024/25. These factors protect individual schools and academies against sharp reductions in per pupil funding in any single year, that may be caused by technical formula or by October Census data changes, and

provide for a minimum value of formula funding per pupil. The values of the MFLs for each phase are set nationally by the DfE, and are mandatory, but the level of the MFG is one of the key decisions that we must take locally.

2.2 In their most recent three-year budget forecasting, maintained primary and secondary schools will typically have budgeted in 2024/25 for a 'headline' increase of 1.50% per pupil in core formula funding and for a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of positive 0.50%. Schools affected by the mandatory Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) will typically have estimated that these minimums will increase by 0.50% in 2024/25. We are aware that a number of academies in Bradford follow the Authority's guidance in estimating their future year formula funding.

2.3 The actual 2024/25 settlement for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, provided through the National Funding Formula (NFF), and as announced by the DfE in July 2023, is confirmed as follows. The basic 'headline' settlement is moderately higher than the Authority's 1.50% estimate and the Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) are materially higher. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is as the Authority estimated.

- The national Schools Block NFF settlement for 2024/25 provides a 2.7% overall per pupil increase on 2023/24, inclusive of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (but excluding the new Teacher Pay Grant, which is not DSG Schools Block funding – please see paragraph 1.5).
- The national Schools Block NFF per pupil increase is aggregated as follows:
 - All the core NFF factors, including the deprivation and additional educational needs factors and the lump sum, prior to the addition of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and prior to rounding (variable values continue to be rounded to the nearest £5), are increasing by 2.4%. Following rounding, factors are increasing between broadly 1.8% and 3.0%.
 - The FSM flat variable is increasing by 1.6% (but with rounding is increasing by 2.1%).
 - The mandatory Minimum Levels of Funding Per Pupil (MFLs) are increasing by 2.4%.
 - The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) can be set at a maximum 0.5%. The DfE has funded a 0.5% minimum floor increase for all schools and academies.
- To highlight a specific feature of the 2024/25 settlement, in the current 2023/24 financial year settlement, rather than a single % increase being applied to all NFF factors, the deprivation / additional education needs factors - FSM6 and IDACI - were additionally uplifted, which weighted the 2023/24 settlement towards schools and academies with higher levels of deprivation. The 2024/25 settlement does not do this; all core factors are increasing by the same 2.4%, prior to rounding.
- After applying the basic uplifts, the DfE has further increased the base £app, FSM6 and lump sum factors in order to allocate the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) via the NFF. The MFLs have also been uplifted for this purpose. 2023/24 MSAG allocations have been added into school and academy funding baselines, so that the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25 will provide budget protection, which is inclusive of the MSAG allocations that were allocated separately in 2023/24. On this basis, mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies must now cease to budget for the MSAG as a separate additional allocation. All schools and academies should carefully check their 2024/25 budget scenarios (including any scenarios that are continued from existing ones) to ensure that they are not double counting the MSAG.
- With the uplift for the MSAG included, the Minimum Levels of per pupil Funding (MFLs) for 2024/25 are set at £4,655 (primary – increased from £4,405) and £6,050 (secondary – increased from £5,715). These are the minimum values of per pupil funding that schools and academies must receive in 2024/25. These minimums continue to be mandatory and are therefore, not subject to local consultation. In the current 2023/24 financial year settlement, the uplift of the mandatory Minimum Levels of Funding per pupil (MFLs) was significantly lower than the uplift of the core NFF factors – the core NFF factors increased by 2.4% but the MFLs increased by only 0.5%. As a result, schools and academies that were funded on the MFLs only received a 0.5% increase in their funding per pupil in 2023/24. However, in 2024/25 the MFLs are increasing by 2.4%, which is at the level of core formula funding. It is likely that this higher level of increase has been

afforded by not weighting additional funding to the NFF deprivation factors, as happened in 2023/24 (that an assessment has been made by the DfE that a priority for the 2024/25 settlement, in response to overall spending pressures, is to increase the base funding of schools and academies that are funded on the MFLs).

- The Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25 can be set between 0% and positive 0.5%. This is the same range as was permitted in 2023/24.
- The conditions and values of the remaining long-standing recurrent separate mainstream pre-16 additional grants in 2024/25 – Pupil Premium Grant, Primary PE & Sports Premium and Universal Infant Free School Meals – are still to be confirmed. DfE announcements on these grants, when they come, will be signposted on Bradford Schools Online.

2.4 We are in an extended period of system change, one of the most significant changes being the movement towards a 'hard' National Funding Formula (NFF) for the calculation of mainstream primary and secondary core formula funding allocations. The DfE has for some time stated that its intention is to transition to a 'hard' formula approach, whereby school and academy mainstream formula allocations will be calculated by the DfE, rather than by local authorities, using a single National Funding Formula. The DfE first introduced the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2018/19 in 'soft' format, meaning that local authorities can currently still decide the formulaic calculations that are used for distributing funding to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies within their areas, albeit within tightening Regulations. Local authorities continue to set their own Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund arrangements. There are also elements that are not yet covered by the NFF, the most prominent of these being the funding of PFI (Building Schools for the Future).

2.5 The DfE has recently completed another stage of consultation, on the final transition to the hard NFF. Although there isn't a fixed date for when this will be implemented, the DfE has set out the aim for full implementation by 2027/28 at the latest; sooner, if possible, but no later. Changes were directed by the DfE for the 2023/24 financial year and further changes are directed for 2024/25. These changes are incorporated into this consultation: a new mandatory factor for the funding of split sites and relatively minor amendments to the operation of Growth and Falling Rolls Funds. The DfE then has already indicated that further targeted incremental changes to the NFF will be made for the 2025/26 financial year, which we will need to incorporate into our consultation this time next year. The DfE has indicated that the construction of the NFF itself will continue to be reviewed annually. We are also conscious that the current national SEND and Alternative Provision Reviews are very likely to have implications for mainstream formula funding, with significant changes possibly being introduced from April 2025.

2.6 In this context, we wish to continue to ensure that we take an approach now to formula funding that will minimise any turbulence that might be caused by the final stages of the transition. Further announcements and consultations will be required in order for us to have a clearer understanding of the medium to longer term impact of further NFF reform on the funding of individual mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies in Bradford. Due to the DfE setting out proposals for a gradual approach, the timing of the final movement to the hard NFF is still uncertain. What the NFF will look like post-transition is also uncertain. We might perhaps expect this to be similar to the NFF as currently constructed, using similar factors, values, and protections. However, whilst it has been confirmed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee will continue, in an adjustment format, and that local authorities will continue to have responsibility for Growth and Falling Rolls Funds even after the final move to the hard NFF, the DfE has stated that many elements and factors of the National Funding Formula are under review. More recently, the DfE has clearly indicated that the NFF development will be heavily influenced by the final outcomes of the current national SEND and Alternative Provision Reviews. This includes the re-definition of Notional SEND budgets within mainstream formula funding allocations, for which the DfE has recently updated its [guidance](#).

2.7 Whilst the Local Authority in 2024/25 is still responsible for deciding Schools Block formula funding arrangements for the Bradford District, as in 2023/24, the DfE continues to require all authorities to use all National Funding Formula factors, and only these factors. Authorities that do not currently 'mirror' (fully use already) the NFF must move 10% closer. Authorities that currently mirror the NFF must continue to do so by staying within 2.5% of the NFF formula factor variable values. As Bradford already directly mirrors the NFF, we assess that this restriction will require minimal response within our arrangements for 2024/25. However, this does affect the extent to which we could move away from the NFF, either to allocate additional funding (via budget headroom, where available) or to reduce the cost of our formula funding arrangements in order to secure their affordability.

2.8 There is only one DfE directed change, which materially affects our 2024/25 formula funding arrangements. The DfE has introduced a new NFF-factor for the allocation of additional funding to split sites schools and academies. This is a mandatory split sites factor, which all authorities must now use. This change is explained (and modelled) later in this consultation document.

2.9 For 2024/25, the DfE has clarified and updated its guidance on the operation of Growth and Falling Rolls Funds and has directed some new mandatory requirements. However, our assessment is that these directions and updates do not materially alter our local Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund arrangements. We have taken the opportunity to re-draft our criteria, to make the wording of these clearer, and we propose to make amendments to the triggers that are applied in the allocation of our Falling Rolls Fund, but these changes are not assessed to be material to the actual allocation of Growth and Falling Rolls Funding to schools and academies in 2024/25. These changes are set out later in this consultation document.

2.10 Other than these changes, there is a great deal of continuity in 2024/25:

- The funding of PFI (Building Schools for the Future) continues not to be included in DfE's National Funding Formula and we will continue to apply local arrangements. There currently is no timescale for the inclusion of PFI funding in the NFF.
- The construct of the National Funding Formula is the same as it was in 2023/24, incorporating the same factors and how these are applied.
- The Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) are still in place and continue to be mandatory. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is also still in place.
- Local authorities continue to have the flexibility to set their own Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund mechanisms but must now comply with DfE's updated guidance and new mandatory requirements.
- The existing framework for the de-delegation of funding from maintained schools continues unchanged.
- Although the DfE has updated its guidance on Notional SEND, and has encouraged authorities to continue to review, this [guidance](#) still stops short of prescribing local arrangements. Authorities continue to have flexibility to define their own Notional SEND budgets. However, the DfE has asked that authorities in particular review the sufficiency of their Notional SEND budgets and has stated that the DfE may intervene (to require authorities to amend their definitions for the purpose of increasing Notional SEND budgets) where these budgets are assessed to be too low.
- There are no changes in operational guidance, which alter the way SEND funding works for mainstream schools and academies in 2024/25 e.g. the £6,000 threshold (element 2) is still £6,000.
- We will need to continue to absorb the cost of the 'lag' in data. In 2024/25, this will be the lag between the funding of schools / academies on October 2023 Census data and the funding of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block on October 2022 Census data.
- We will need to continue to manage the cost of Business Rates (NNDR) and changes in cost.
- Local authorities continue to be permitted to use the Reception Uplift Factor, on an optional basis. However, 2024/25 is the final year that use of this factor will be permitted.

2.11 To give context to the proposals that we put forward now for 2024/25, it is helpful to summarise briefly the key decisions that we have taken since the initial introduction of the National Funding Formula in 2018/19:

- In 2018/19, we replaced our local formula with the DfE's National Funding Formula, using this to calculate individual formula allocations for both primary and secondary phases. We have continued this 'mirroring' policy in each year since, adopting annual incremental changes in the NFF construction and uplifts in formula variable values. We have also adopted, as required, the Minimum Levels of per Pupil Funding (MFLs).

- We have set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG - protecting / ensuring a minimum increase in individual maintained school and academy per pupil funding year on year) as follows. For the last 4 years, we have set our MFG with reference to the maximum level that was permitted by the Regulations:
 - 2018/19 at positive 0.40% per pupil
 - 2019/20 at 0% per pupil
 - 2020/21 at positive 2.34% per pupil
 - 2021/22 at positive 2.00% per pupil
 - 2022/23 at positive 2.00% per pupil
 - 2023/24 at positive 0.50% per pupil
- Since 2018/19, we have not applied a ceiling, which would have capped the values of annual increases in per pupil funding received by individual maintained schools and academies. All formula funding gains, from annual data changes, have been passed through to maintained schools and academies.
- We have not transferred monies from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block since 2019/20.
- We have retained unchanged our local approaches in the areas of formula funding that, up to and including 2023/24, the DfE's NFF has not covered. These are:
 - Business Rates (NNDR) at actual cost.
 - Split sites.
 - PFI (Building Schools for the Future).
 - Growth Fund (at individual school level).
 - Falling Rolls Fund.
- In 2023/24, following the DfE's guidance and our benchmarking, we amended our definition of Notional SEND budgets for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, to improve the fairness of this definition and to bring us closer to the average of similar local authorities.

2.12 The combination of a number of changes and decisions since 2017/18 – transfers from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2017/18 and in 2019/20, our mirroring of the DfE's National Funding Formula, year on year changes for individual schools and academies in the data recorded in / sourced with reference to the pupils recorded in their annual October censuses, the DfE's mandatory Minimum Levels of per Pupil Funding - has created the following landscape in Bradford in 2023/24:

- Primary phase: 44 out of 156 schools (28%), including academies, are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 27 schools (17%), including academies, are funded at the £4,405 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies are funded above £4,405 per pupil.
- Secondary phase: 4 out of 31 schools (13%), including academies, are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 1 academy (3%) is funded at the £5,715 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies are funded above £5,715 per pupil.
- All through academies: None of the 4 academies are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. All of these academies are also funded above their composite minimum per pupil funding levels.
- In total, 48 out of 191 schools and academies (25%) are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. This is reduced from 73 (38%) in 2022/23. In total, 31 out of 191 schools and academies (16%) are funded on the minimum per pupil funding levels. This is reduced from 36 (19%) in 2022/23.

2.13 As a final point of reminder, and for awareness, our separate consultation on High Needs Block formula funding presents the Local Authority's proposals for the funding of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans in mainstream settings in 2024/25. This consultation is signposted from our latest news and updates page [here](#), and includes proposals for allocating top-up funding and for the SEND Funding Floor. We discuss within this

consultation here, as well as within the High Needs Block consultation, proposed amendments to the definition of Notional SEND budgets in 2024/25.

3. Formula Funding Proposals for 2024/25

3.1 There are **7 key decisions** we need to take on Bradford's 2024/25 mainstream primary and secondary Schools Block funding formula arrangements. These decisions are similar to those that were needed for 2023/24.

3.2 The 7 decisions are:

1. Whether we transfer budget from Schools Block to the High Needs Block and, if we do, the value of this transfer.
2. Whether we continue to fully mirror the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF).
3. The value (% level) of the Minimum Funding Guarantee, which can be set between 0% and positive 0.5%.
4. Whether we continue our existing local approaches to the factors that in 2024/25 are still not covered by the National Funding Formula – Business Rates (NNDR) and PFI.
5. Considering the DfE's recently updated guidance, whether we continue to take steps to review and to incrementally adjust our definition of Notional SEND budgets in the movement towards the 'hard' NFF, also having regard for updated benchmarking information.
6. How we would amend our mainstream primary and secondary funding formula, if necessary for affordability reasons, should the total cost of our formula substantially increase (and be unaffordable) when the October 2023 Census dataset is used.
7. Whether we continue to retain the funds that are currently managed centrally within the Schools Block and agree the criteria for eligibility and for allocation of these funds.
 - a. Growth Fund
 - b. Falling Rolls Fund (primary phase)
 - c. Funds de-delegated from mainstream maintained primary and secondary schools

3.3 Please be aware that the values of the primary and secondary phase Minimum Levels of Funding per Pupil (MFLs) are mandatory and not for local determination. We are not consulting on the application of the MFL factor.

3.4 Please be aware that the DfE requires all local authorities to adopt a new split sites NFF factor in 2024/25. As such, we are not consulting on this change. The new NFF factor replaces our previously locally determined factor. We have previously communicated with the individual schools and academies that have received split sites funding, to validate their eligibility for continued funding and to make them aware of the potential impact of this change, which is varied. Some schools and academies gain, whereas others lose, either because the funding allocated through the new NFF factor is reduced or because they no longer are eligible for split sites funding using the DfE's mandatory definition. The change in split sites funding can specifically be identified in the modelling at Appendix 1. We will adjust our Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) methodology in 2024/25 to help protect against losses in funding resulting from this factor change. This will be done by not excluding split sites funding from the MFG baselines, as we have done in recent years. This will be an MFG amendment for 2024/25 only. This MFG protection will, however, be quite limited, as schools / academies will need to trigger the overall MFG before any protection would be allocated. If schools / academies are funded at a level above the MFG, even after a reduction in split sites funding, the MFG will not provide additional protection and the loss of split sites funding will be felt in full. Splits sites funding operates outside of the DfE's Minimum Levels of Funding (MFLs).

The DfE's new NFF split sites factor is made up of two parts, both of which are compulsory:

- Basic eligibility funding: schools / academies must be allocated a lump sum payment for each of their additional eligible sites.
- Distance funding: additional funding must be paid out on top of the basic eligibility lump sum for schools / academies whose eligible sites are separated by more than 100 metres (by road distance) from the main site. Funding for the distance element is allocated through a tapered approach, beginning at 100 metres, with allocations increasing linearly up to 500 metres, from which point schools / academies should receive the total maximum funding available.

The NFF lump sum for basic eligibility is £54,300 and the NFF maximum distance funding is £27,100. Local authorities are required to uplift these values with their respective Area Cost Adjustments (ACA) in their local formulae and set their local factor values within the 2.5% mirroring threshold of the ACA uplifted lump sum value.

The basic eligibility criteria for split sites funding requires additional sites to:

- Be part of the main school / academy, that is, to share the same unique reference number (URN) with the school's / academy's main site.
- Be separated from the school's / academy's main site by a public road or railway.
- Have a building on them which is maintained by the school / academy and which is primarily used for the education of 5 to 16- year-old pupils in mainstream education. This excludes playing fields, ancillary buildings and buildings leased out full time by the school / academy to another entity.

Further details on the DfE's new eligibility criteria are set out here: [annex 5: split site eligibility criteria](#).

3.5 Running alongside our 7 decisions, it should be noted:

- We continue to be required to include the NFF 'sparsity factor' into our local formula. As this is mandatory and is a 'tick box' exercise as none of our school / academies are eligible, we are not consulting on this. We will simply inform the DfE, via our Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) return in January, that we have mirrored the NFF sparsity factor in 2024/25. This is what we did for 2023/24.
- The construct of the national high needs funding system – the notional value of £4,000 for element 1 and £6,000 for element 2 – remains unchanged from 2023/24 arrangements.
- The role of Bradford's Dedicated Schools Grant in the funding of PFI (Building Schools for the Future) remains unchanged, limited to funding the agreed DSG Affordability Gap. PFI funding is a matter that the Schools Forum wishes to monitor closely within the national 'hard' NFF review work to come.
- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) made a change at April 2022 to how payments to billing authorities from mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies for business rates (NNDR) can be managed. This change was optional. Bradford Local Authority has determined not to implement the amended approach at this time.
- The data source for the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) has been transferred on a permanent basis from the annual January Census back to the annual October Census. 2024/25 PPG allocations data will be sourced with reference to the pupils recorded in the October 2023 Census.
- We do not intend to use the Reception Uplift Factor in 2024/25. 2024/25 is the final year that this could be used.

Decision 1 - Whether we transfer budget from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2024/25

3.6 This is the first decision in our consultation, because a transfer of monies out of the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) directly affects the amount of funding that is available to spend on mainstream primary and secondary formula funding and therefore, what level of uplift and what Minimum Funding Guarantee we can afford to propose in 2024/25.

3.7 On current estimates, our High Needs Block allocation in 2024/25 is £122.08m. This represents an increase of 4.5% in cash terms and 5.0% in per pupil terms on 2023/24. This increase is lower than received in recent years and does align with our previous forecasting, which was informed by the DfE's messaging, that the current 3-year national school funding settlement has been weighted towards 2022/23 and 2023/24, with reduced increases to be allocated in 2024/25. We forecast the continued growth in the numbers of children and young people in Bradford with EHCPs and that our High Needs Block financial position will be significantly challenging going forward. Our management of this position must begin in 2024/25, and we discuss this further within our separate High Needs formula funding consultation.

3.8 This being said, **the Local Authority does not propose to transfer Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block in the 2024/25 financial year.** This means that the full Schools Block settlement will be retained for spending on the funding of mainstream primary and secondary provision.

Decision 2 – Whether we continue to fully mirror the DfE's 2024/25 National Funding Formula

3.9 The table below shows the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF) factors in 2024/25, as these are applied to Bradford (so adjusted for area costs - ACA), compared against those used for 2023/24. These are the factors that we use in Bradford to allocate formula funding to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies. The key changes for 2024/25 are:

- The values of the NFF pupil-led factors have been uplifted in line with the DfE's settlement, which we've described in paragraph 2.3. As in previous years, prior to the application of the ACA, the DfE has rounded the NFF variable values to the nearest £5. This rounding affects the % increases.
- The mandatory minimum levels of funding per pupil (MFLs) have been increased from £4,405 to £4,655 (primary) and from £5,715 to £6,050 (secondary).
- The Base £APP (AWPU), Lump Sum and FMS6 (Ever 6) factors have been increased in order to allocate the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, which has been merged into the National Funding Formula.
- The new mandatory split sites funding factors has been added, which allocates funding on a lump sum basis. The values of lump sums are the same for both primary and secondary phases.

Factor	NFF £ 2024/25	NFF £ 2023/24	£Diff	% Diff
Primary – Base £APP (AWPU)	£3,597.61	£3,394.54	£203.07	6.0%
Secondary – Key Stage 3 Base £APP	£5,072.86	£4,785.77	£287.09	6.0%
Secondary – Key Stage 4 Base £APP	£5,717.97	£5,393.86	£324.11	6.0%
Lump Sum – Primary & Secondary	£135,723	£128,020	£7,703	6.0%
Primary - Deprivation – FSM Ever 6	£830.14	£705.11	£125.03	17.7%
Primary - Deprivation – Flat FSM	£490.08	£480.08	£10.00	2.1%
Secondary - Deprivation – FSM Ever 6	£1,210.21	£1,030.16	£180.05	17.5%
Secondary - Deprivation – Flat FSM	£490.08	£480.08	£10.00	2.1%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI F	£235.04	£230.04	£5.00	2.2%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI E	£285.05	£280.04	£5.01	1.8%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI D	£450.08	£440.07	£10.01	2.3%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI C	£490.08	£480.08	£10.00	2.1%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI B	£520.09	£510.08	£10.01	2.0%
Primary - Deprivation – IDACI A	£685.12	£670.11	£15.01	2.2%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI F	£345.06	£335.05	£10.01	3.0%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI E	£455.08	£445.07	£10.01	2.2%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI D	£635.11	£620.10	£15.01	2.4%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI C	£695.12	£680.11	£15.01	2.2%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI B	£750.13	£730.12	£20.01	2.7%
Secondary - Deprivation – IDACI A	£950.16	£930.15	£20.01	2.2%
Primary - Eng as an Additional Language	£595.10	£580.09	£15.01	2.6%
Secondary - Eng as an Additional Language	£1,605.27	£1,565.25	£40.02	2.6%
Primary – Low Prior Attainment	£1,185.20	£1,155.18	£30.02	2.6%

Secondary – Low Prior Attainment	£1,790.30	£1,750.28	£40.02	2.3%
Primary - Pupil Mobility	£970.16	£945.15	£25.01	2.6%
Secondary – Pupil Mobility	£1,395.24	£1,360.22	£35.02	2.6%
Primary – Minimum £APP (MFL)	£4,655	£4,405	£250.00	5.7%
Secondary – Minimum £APP (MFL)	£6,050	£5,715	£335.00	5.9%
Split Sites – Basic Entitlement Lump Sum	£54,309	n/a	n/a	n/a
Split Sites – Maximum Distance Lump Sum	£27,105	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary – Sparsity Lump Sum	£57,709.81	£56,309.01	£1,400.80	2.5%
Secondary – Sparsity Lump Sum	£83,914.26	£81,913.10	£2,001.16	2.4%

3.10 So, the NFF in 2024/25 retains the same dynamic as in the last six years, including its focus on Additional Educational Needs (AEN) funding, the Low Prior Attainment factor within AEN, and the lower value of lump sum, which has been one of the most significant factors in terms of impact of the NFF on smaller schools and on the primary phase more widely.

3.11 The Authority’s case for moving to fully replicate the DfE’s NFF, originally put forward for 2018/19, was strongly supported. Schools and academies in Bradford have since continued to support our close mirroring of the NFF. Therefore, we believe schools and academies will also support the principle that, in this short period, prior to the final establishment of the ‘hard’ NFF, when further transition has been directed by the DfE for 2024/25 for all local authorities, our local formula funding arrangements should continue to move fully in line with the DfE’s NFF as this uplifts and incrementally develops. For point of reference, 2/3rds (106 out of 151) authorities mirrored the NFF (within 2.5%) in 2023/24, as we did.

3.12 We propose therefore, **subject to final affordability (please see decision 6), that we will continue to fully mirror the NFF in 2024/25, using the ‘NFF 2024/25’ factor values shown in the table above.**

3.13 The indicative impact of this proposal is shown in Appendices 1a and 1b. Please also refer to the explanation of the modelling in paragraph 4.

Question 1 - Do you agree that our local formula in 2024/25 should fully mirror the DfE’s 2024/25 National Funding Formula and that this formula should be used to calculate primary and secondary school and academy mainstream formula funding allocations? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Decision 3 – The % level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

3.14 The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is the mechanism through which the Authority must ensure a minimum percentage increase in funding per pupil for all schools and academies in 2024/25. Typically, we seek to set the MFG at the maximum that is permitted by the Regulations, if this is affordable, having also considered the minimum that has been provided by the DfE within its NFF settlement and how costs in schools and academies may increase, especially following teacher and support staff pay awards and salary on-costs changes.

3.15 The DfE permits the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25 to be set between 0% and positive 0.5%. This is the same as the range that was permitted in 2023/24. 0.5% would mean, simply for example, that a school or academy that is funded on the MFG, and that has the same total pupil numbers recorded in October 2023 as recorded in October 2022, will receive in 2024/25 the cash value of its 2023/24 core-formula funding, plus its Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, uplifted by 0.5%.

3.16 The DfE has provided a floor (a minimum increase) of + 0.5% in its notional 2024/25 NFF calculations for individual schools and academies. A 0.5% MFG in Bradford would effectively pass this floor through to delegated budgets in Bradford.

3.17 In this context, as well in the context of the pay award and inflationary cost pressures that all schools and academies currently face, we take the view that it is essential that we set the MFG at the maximum that is permitted by the Regulations, and at the level that has been funded by the DfE. **So, subject to final affordability (please see decision 6), we propose to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in 2024/25 at the maximum permitted level of positive 0.5%.** The impact of this is shown in Appendices 1a and 1b, illustratively, at individual school and academy level. Please note, however, that this illustrative modelling is still based on the October 2022 Census dataset. Whether schools and academies are funded on the MFG in

2024/25, as well as the value of MFG funding they receive, will be affected by the changes that are recorded in the October 2023 Census dataset.

Question 2 - Do you agree with the proposal, subject to final affordability, to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at the maximum permitted positive 0.5% in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Decision 4 – Whether we continue unchanged our existing local approaches to the factors that in 2024/25 are not yet covered by the NFF

3.18 **Business rates (NNDR)** will continue to be funded at actual cost. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) made a change at April 2022 to how payments to billing authorities from mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies for business rates (NNDR) can be managed. This change was optional. Bradford Local Authority has determined not to implement the amended approach at this time.

3.19 **We propose to continue to pass through the specific BSF DSG Affordability Gap values using our current method** (please see Appendix 2), continuing the adjustment to ensure that the amounts passed on to academies by the ESFA on an academic year basis are equivalent to the amounts that the Authority requires academies to pay back on a financial year basis.

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposal to continue to use our existing formula for the apportionment of BSF DSG Affordability Gap funding in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Decision 5 – Notional SEND Budget Definition

3.20 **We propose to slightly amend our definition of Notional SEND budgets within mainstream primary and secondary school and academy formula funding allocations in 2024/25.** This follows, and is in keeping with, the amendments that were made in 2023/24 and the explanation that we gave in our consultation this time last year, that we will continue to review and to incrementally amend our definition in the run up to the establishment of the hard National Funding Formula.

3.21 Local authorities are required to define for each primary and secondary school and academy the value of its mainstream formula funding that is 'notionally' allocated for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - for meeting the first £6,000 of the cost of the additional needs both of pupils with EHCPs and also of pupils without EHCPs. This not additional funding, but a definition of how much funding, that is already allocated, is available to support SEND. How Bradford now defines notional SEND (the %s of funding within each formula factor that make up this budget) is shown in the table below. We have also explained our current Notional SEND budget approach in Appendix 2. This reflects the amendments that we made to our definition in 2023/24, where we adjusted the %s as well as brought a % of Minimum Level of Funding (MFL) top-up into our definition for the first time. These changes were aimed at improving the fairness of our definition and bringing our definition closer into line with other similar authorities, which is felt to be especially important in the run up to the implementation of the hard National Funding Formula, where the DfE has stated that a consistent national SEND budget definition will be established.

3.22 The Section 251 Budget Statements for maintained schools, and the General Annual Grant (GAG) Statements for academies, show the calculation of Notional SEND budgets for individual schools / academies. We also publish on Bradford Schools Online, annually in February, the calculation of Notional SEND budgets for all primary and secondary schools and academies in Bradford for the following financial year.

3.23 Highlighting that there is still currently quite a bit of difference in how local authorities define Notional SEND budgets for schools and academies in their areas, and seeking to encourage movement towards greater consistency prior to the establishment of the hard National Funding Formula, the DfE has recently updated its published [guidance](#). Authorities continue in 2024/25 to have flexibility to define their own Notional SEND budgets. However, the DfE has asked that authorities in particular review the sufficiency of these budgets and has stated that the DfE may intervene (to require authorities to amend their definitions for the purpose of increasing Notional SEND budgets) where these budgets are assessed to be too low. The DfE also strongly encourages authorities to look at how their definitions compare with other authorities. It is in this context that

we have conducted further review of our definition and propose incremental amendments for 2024/25. We have updated our benchmarking based on 2023/24 data, looking at national median averages, but also looking at the median average of the 50 most similar High Needs Block funded local authorities. This benchmarking indicates that there has been some upward movement in these averages between 2022/23 and 2023/24 and that we should incrementally adjust our definition in response.

3.24 It is important to explain that, irrespective of whether we use the existing or amended definition, the overall total value of Notional SEND budgets is expected to increase in 2024/25, due to pupil numbers, other changes, including the merger of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, as well as due to the 2024/25 funding settlement. Irrespective of changes to the definition, individual schools and academies will see differences (both up and down) due to pupil numbers and pupil circumstances changes (differences between the October 2023 and the October 2022 Censuses).

3.25 We propose to slightly adjust our definition as follows:

Current 2023/24

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.5%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

Adjusted 2024/25

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	27.0%	27.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	27.0%	27.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.25%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

3.26 Illustrative modelling, showing the impact of these amendments on the Notional SEND budgets of individual schools and academies, is presented at Appendix 1c. We must stress that this modelling is illustrative. It is calculated on the same basis as the main Appendix 1a and 1b formula funding modelling. Please see section 4 for an explanation of this basis. Appendix 1c does not show what confirmed final 2024/25 Notional SEND budgets will be. In particular, these final budgets, which will be published in February 2024, will be influenced by the changes in data that are recorded in the October 2023 Census.

3.27 We will continue to annually review our Notional SEND definition in the lead up to the hard National Funding Formula, including in response to any further prescription from the DfE, and may consult on further incremental changes.

3.28 Please note that we intend to continue to add to Notional SEND budgets 6.0% of a mainstream school's or academy's allocation from the Early Years Single Funding Formula, for mainstream primary schools and academies that have early years entitlement provision.

3.29 Finally, we wish to highlight that our separate consultation on high needs formula funding discusses the continuation of the mainstream SEND Funding Floor in 2024/25. All schools and academies are strongly encouraged to access this consultation.

Question 4 - Do you agree with the proposal to adjust our definition of Notional SEND within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Decision 6 – How we would amend our mainstream primary and secondary funding formula, if necessary for affordability reasons, should the total cost of the formula substantially increase (and be unaffordable) when the October 2023 Census dataset is used.

3.30 Lag in the pupil-need data, such as Free School Meals %s and Low Prior Attainment %s, between that, which is required to be used to calculate individual school and academy formula funding allocations and that, which is used by the DfE to calculate Dedicated Schools Grant funding to local authorities, is a feature of the current formula funding system. For the current 2023/24 financial year, for example, schools and academies have been funded with reference to their October 2022 Census data. The Local Authority however, received Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), from which the cost of these school and academy allocations must be met, calculated using data recorded a year earlier in the October 2021 Census. For 2024/25, schools and academies will be funded with reference to their October 2023 Census data, whereas the Local Authority will receive DSG funding using the October 2022 Census dataset.

3.31 Where there are only relatively small data changes year on year, or where there are 'ups and downs' in different data streams, which generally cancel each other out, this lag does not cause overall affordability problems. By 'affordability problems', we mean that the cost of formula funding using the National Funding Formula mirroring approach (Decision 2) exceeds the value of Dedicated Schools Grant funding that the Authority has received from the DfE, to the extent that the Authority must adjust its proposals to reduce cost.

3.32 One of the problems in managing this situation is that, although we can identify and very indicatively estimate in advance potential areas of change, we do not know for certain whether our formula funding proposals are affordable until we receive the relevant October Census dataset from the DfE in December each year. It is difficult to model the impact for individual schools and academies with certainty in advance.

3.33 In our annual consultation documents, we have always highlighted this issue and we have stated that our proposals are subject to a final 'affordability check'. We have also always previously stated that, if we need to adjust our proposals, we will work closely with the Schools Forum. Prior to 2022/23, affordability was not really a big issue. Although there have been some changes in individual factors, the overall cost of formula funding using the final December dataset has either been as expected or has reduced rather than increased. Since 2022/23, however, there have been greater 'negative' swings in formula funding costs. Our 2022/23 funding formula, using the October 2021 Census dataset, cost £0.95m more than using the October 2020 Census dataset. Rather than adjust our formula funding proposals, we decided with the Schools Forum in January 2022 to use Schools Block budget headroom, which was created from a one-off reduction in Growth Fund costs, alongside a small value of Schools Block reserves. Our 2023/24 funding formula, using the October 2022 dataset, cost £1.07m more than using the October 2021 Census dataset. Again, rather than adjust our formula funding proposals, we decided with the Schools Forum in January 2023 to use Schools Block reserves. In total, we have used £1.79m of Schools Block reserves in 2023/24. We have warned that, should we have a similar value of data lag cost in 2024/25, we may not have sufficient reserves available to comfortably cover the cost, and we may need to discuss other options. Changes in data will have implications for the allocations received by individual schools and academies in 2024/25. Schools and academies need to be alert to this, and we give further warning in section 4. But changes also have implications for the affordability of our formula funding approach; in particular, full mirroring of the NFF, as proposed in Decision 2.

3.34 As such, we feel that it continues to be appropriate, and will continue to aid transparency, to set out in a little more detail the approaches that the Authority would take were we to find that the funding formula approach that we set out in this consultation document for 2024/25, in particular under Decisions 2 (mirroring of the NFF) and 3 (the MFG set at 0.5%), is not affordable when we use the October 2023 Census dataset provided by the DfE in December. We wish to give schools and academies the opportunity now to provide feedback. This feedback will help guide our continued discussions with the Schools Forum on this issue.

3.35 The 4 broad options that are available are:

- A. Use a value of brought forward balances (one off monies) either to afford our proposals without amendment or to reduce the size of amendments that might be applied.

- B. Reduce our funding formula factor values, moving away from exact mirroring of the NFF as proposed in Decision 2, so that the cost fits within the Dedicated Schools Grant budget available on a phase-specific basis. To comply with the DfE's tightening of the Regulations regarding the National Funding Formula in 2024/25, we would not be permitted to reduce our formula factor values by more than 2.5%.
- C. Re-introduce a ceiling, which would cap the year on year %increases in per pupil funding for individual schools and academies that, for example, see higher than average %per pupil increases.
- D. Reduce the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) from the 0.5% proposed in Decision 3. We would not be permitted to set an MFG at lower than 0%.

To be clear on a specific point - we would not be permitted to reduce the values of the Minimum Levels of Funding (MFLs), as these values are set by the DfE and are mandatory. Therefore, the minimum values of £4,655 (primary) and £6,050 (secondary) per pupil will be unaffected by any affordability adjustments that we may make.

3.36 It is the Authority's view that:

- Using brought forward balances (A) will be an initial management option. However, we must be careful to ensure that affordability can be managed on an on-going basis and that we have a sufficient value of reserve available to deploy. Balances can only be spent once and using these to support an on-going formula funding cost issue may potentially create affordability problems for 2025/26.
- Reducing the Minimum Funding Guarantee (D), from the 0.5% proposed, would be the last adjustment we would consider and, if we reduced it, we would only do so having first reduced formula factor values (B). This would be in recognition of the importance of the MFG for the primary-phase and also of the need to ensure that the DfE's funded minimum increase of 0.5% is passed through to schools and academies. Not providing an MFG at the maximum permitted 0.5%, whilst not making any other formula funding cost adjustments, would further widen the gap in the increases in funding received by schools and academies on the MFG versus those funded on the National Funding Formula.
- Re-introducing a ceiling (C) would be considered before adjusting the MFG but, again, only in combination with adjusting the formula factor values (B). We specifically recognise that we would need to consider very carefully the impact a ceiling would have on individual schools and academies. We would not wish the re-introduction of a ceiling to have a disproportionate impact on the funding received by a relatively small number of schools and academies, or for the funding that is allocated to support pupils with Additional Educational Needs (AEN), including pupils who share protected characteristics who strongly correlate with measures of AEN.
- The main 'go-to' option for reducing the overall cost of formula funding, after use of brought forward balances, but before a reduction in the MFG and before the re-introduction of a ceiling, would be to reduce the values of the factor variables (B). In doing this, the Authority would not adjust how each formula factor works, but would adjust the value of the variable used for that factor. We would make these adjustments on a phase-specific basis i.e. the adjustments for primary may be different than those for the secondary phase because the formula funding affordability position for the primary phase may be different. The values of the variables that are currently proposed for 2024/25 are shown in the table under Decision 2.

We propose that we would take a 'collective pro-rata' scaling style approach to adjusting variable values, meaning that we would reduce all factors by the same %, with the scaling % set at the value required to bring the cost of the total formula by phase back within the budget available. There are different approaches that could be taken here, but this kind of 'collective pro-rata' scaling approach ensures, firstly, that we would 'step away' from mirroring the National Funding Formula in an even way. This means, crucially, that this will create less turbulence when seeking to return to mirroring from April 2025,

when further DfE restrictions are likely to be introduced. Secondly, this approach means that adjustments would not have a disproportionate impact on individual Additional Educational Needs formula factors and the funding that schools and academies receive via these factors. We assess, for example, that there would be a significant disproportionate impact were we to offset any growth in the FSM factor cost only by reducing the values of the FSM variables.

Once we have the final affordability figures, and we know the % reduction that might be needed, we will look more closely with the Schools Forum at our approach before finalising this in January 2024.

3.37 We recognise that the discussion here is technical as well as a little abstract. Whilst we are not certain currently that such affordability adjustments will be necessary (or the scale of them if they are, or if the scale will be such that we would need to use more than one adjustment), we nonetheless think it is helpful to highlight this now as a potential issue. We welcome any views that you might have on how best to approach this, and we welcome any specific points that you wish the Authority and the Schools Forum to consider, including with reference to your own school or academy.

Question 5 - Do you have any views on how the Authority should adjust the 2024/25 funding formula, from that which is proposed in this consultation, should the total cost of the funding formula substantially increase (and be unaffordable) when the October 2023 Census dataset is used. We welcome any specific points that you would wish the Authority and the Schools Forum to consider.

Decision 7 – Whether we retain, with their existing criteria and methodologies, the funds currently managed centrally within the Schools Block

3.38 The DfE's National Funding Formula does not yet include a directed methodology, which prescribes exactly how Growth Funding should be allocated at individual school and academy level. Local authorities in 2024/25 retain the responsibility for determining arrangements locally, albeit within tighter Regulations. Local Authority compliance with these Regulations is checked annually by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA). **Our proposed Growth Fund arrangements and criteria for 2024/25 are set out in the documents embedded under paragraph 6. Although we have taken the opportunity to improve the clarity of these documents, our 2024/25 proposed Growth Fund arrangements are unchanged from current arrangements.**

3.39 We established back in 2019/20 a Falling Rolls Fund for our primary phase. **Our proposed Falling Rolls Fund arrangements and criteria for 2024/25 are set out in the document embedded under paragraph 7. As well as responding to the DfE's directed changes, we do propose to make some other changes to the trigger points for eligibility.** However, these changes are not assessed to be material to the actual allocation of Falling Rolls Funding to schools and academies in 2024/25. This is because we do not expect any schools or academies to be eligible for Falling Rolls Funding in 2024/25. This is explained further in paragraph 7.

3.40 This document also asks for feedback on the continuation for the 2024/25 financial year of funds de-delegated from maintained primary and secondary schools within the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. **Our proposed de-delegated fund arrangements and criteria for 2024/25 are set out in paragraph 5 and also in detail in Appendix 3. These are unchanged from current arrangements. However, we do provide early warning that we anticipate ceasing the primary phase maternity and paternity insurance scheme at the end of the 2024/25 academic year.**

Question 6 - Do you agree with the proposed criteria and methodology for the allocation of the Growth Fund to schools and academies in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Question 7 - Do you agree with the proposed criteria and methodology for the allocation of the Falling Rolls Fund to primary-phase schools and academies in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Question 8 – Should sums continue or cease to be de-delegated from maintained school budgets in 2024/25 for the purposes listed? Please explain the reasons why if you believe that these should cease or change.

4. Consultation Impact Modelling

4.1 As the set of formula funding decisions that are required to be taken for 2024/25 are relatively straightforward, the modelling attached with this document is relatively simple.

Appendix 1a is a single sheet model, which shows actual formula funding allocations, plus Mainstream Schools Additional Grant allocations, for each primary and secondary school and academy for the current 2023/24 financial year, compared against illustrative allocations for 2024/25 that are calculated on the Authority's proposals and using estimated October 2023 pupil numbers.

Appendix 1b is a ready reckoner, which provides a breakdown by factor of the totals (shown in columns 5 and 12 in Appendix 1a) for each school and academy.

Appendix 1c is a model, which shows the illustrative impact of the proposed amendment to the definition of Notional SEND budgets within primary and secondary mainstream formula funding allocations.

4.2 To clarify what Appendix 1a and Appendix 1b show:

- All modelling for academies uses the Authority's financial year figures not the academic year General Annual Grant (GAG) figures calculated by the EFSA (which the Authority does not see).
- This modelling is calculated on the proposals before any affordability adjustments would be made under Decision 6.
- The illustrative 2024/25 allocations include the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG), which has been merged into core formula funding. Mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies must now cease to budget for the MSAG as a separate additional allocation. All schools and academies should carefully check their 2024/25 budget scenarios (including any scenarios that are continued from existing ones) to ensure that they are not double counting the MSAG.
- The totals in Appendix 1a for 2023/24 (column 5) and for 2024/25 (column 12) are the core delegated formula funding allocations excluding business rates and PFI. These totals also exclude all additional High Needs place and EHCP top up funding, Growth Funding, Falling Rolls Funding, Early Years funding, Post 16 funding and all other additional separate grant streams (PPG, UIFSM etc).
- Apart from pupil numbers, all pupil-level data used to calculate the 2024/25 illustrative allocations shown in column 9 e.g. IDACI, FSM%, EAL%, Low Prior Attainment is sourced from the October 2022 Census (or with reference to the pupils that were recorded as on roll in the October 2022 Census) and is the same data that was used to calculate actual 2023/24 core formula funding allocations. **Schools and academies should remember that actual 2024/25 allocations will be calculated on updated data sourced from (or with reference to the pupils recorded on roll in) the October 2023 Census. Using updated October 2023 Census data may quite significantly change the value of formula funding received by an individual school or academy in 2024/25 from what is shown in Appendix 1. This is especially the case in schools and academies that are not already substantially funded via the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) or those that do not receive substantial uplifts to the DfE's minimum per pupil funding levels (MFLs).**
- The 2024/25 illustrative allocations are calculated **using an estimate of pupil numbers that will be recorded in the October 2023 Census**. This means that the cash differences between 2024/25 and 2023/24 allocations (Appendix 1a column 16) include the impact of the estimated growth or estimated reduction in pupil numbers between October 2023 and October 2022.
- The allocations received via the current split sites factor in 2023/24 (column 3) and via the new NFF split sites factor in 2024/25 (column 11) are specifically listed so that affected schools and academies can see the impact of this mandatory change.

4.3 The key at the bottom of Appendix 1a explains what is shown in each column. The modelling helps identify in particular:

- The scale of the growth or reduction in the numbers of funded pupils estimated between October 2023 and October 2022 (column 18).
- The range of % uplifts that may be received by individual schools and academies next year, in total cash (column 17) and per pupil terms (column 20), incorporating estimated changes in pupil numbers between October 2023 and October 2022, but before any further pupil-level data changes that may be recorded in the October 2023 Census are brought in. To aid analysis, column 21 shows the % change in per pupil funding when the 2024/25 allocations are calculated using the same total number of pupils that were funded in 2023/24. Column 21 therefore, shows the impact of formula funding proposals on a like-for-like pupil numbers basis.
- How formula funding proposals, combined with the estimated changes in pupil numbers, but before any further pupil-level data changes that may be recorded in the October 2023 Census are brought in, affect the total cash values of formula funding allocations that may be received by schools and academies in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24 (column 16).
- The schools and academies that were funded on the DfE's Minimum Levels of per pupil Funding (MFLs) in 2023/24 (column 8) and indicatively will be funded on the uplifted MFLs in 2024/25 (column 15). Schools and academies that are on the MFLs in both years will see a 2.4% per pupil increase in core formula funding in 2024/25, prior to the impact of the change in the split sites factor.

Schools and academies that were funded on the MFLs in 2023/24 have a positive figure in column 8. Schools and academies that are modelled at this time to remain on the MFLs in 2024/25 also have a positive figure in column 15.

Depending on their October 2023 Census datasets, and changes in pupil-level data, schools and academies currently modelled in Appendix 1 to be on the MFLs in 2024/25 may come off these to be funded at a per pupil funding value that is higher. This might happen especially in schools and academies that received only relatively small values of MFL funding in 2023/24. The opposite may also happen, again depending on changes in pupil-level data recorded in the October 2023 Census. Schools and academies that in 2023/24 were not funded on the MFLs may find that they come onto the MFLs in 2024/25. This might happen especially in schools and academies that are reasonably close already to the MFL values and that might see changes in pupil-level data from the October 2023 Census that reduce their per pupil funding.

To stress, as it is based on October 2022 Census data, the Appendix 1 modelling does not show the impact of October 2023 Census data changes on a school's or academy's position versus the MFL in 2024/25. This impact can only be modelled using the October 2023 Census dataset when this is provided in December.

- The schools and academies that were funded in 2023/24 on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and that may remain on the MFG in 2024/25 to receive the proposed minimum 0.5% per pupil increase. These schools and academies are highlighted in purple in Appendix 1a. The funding of these schools and academies will be directly affected by the final value of the MFG we set in 2024/25. For example, if under Decision 6, for affordability reasons, we were to set the MFG at lower than 0.5% (but not lower than 0%), these schools and academies would be directly affected.

Schools and academies that were funded on the MFG in 2023/24 have a positive figure in column 7. Schools and academies that are modelled at this time to remain on the MFG in 2024/25 also have a positive figure in column 14. If the figure in column 7 is zero, then the school or academy was not on the MFG in 2023/24. If the figure in column 14 is zero, then the school or academy is modelled at this stage to be off the MFG in 2024/25.

As with the warning given above about the MFLs, schools and academies must treat the MFG modelling with caution at this time. A school's or an academy's position versus the MFG in 2024/25 may change when the October 2023 Census dataset is used to calculate final allocations. For example, a reduction in Low Prior Attainment (LPA) funding may mean that a school or an academy comes onto the MFG in 2024/25,

when it was not funded on the MFG in 2023/24 and is not currently modelled to be on the MFG in 2024/25. This is because the reduction in LPA funding may mean that the school or academy would not receive a minimum 0.5% increase in per pupil funding through the application of the normal National Funding Formula and so must have its funding topped up to the 0.5% minimum.

Using an opposite example, an increase in FSM funding, because a school's or an academy's FSM% recorded in the October 2023 Census is higher than that recorded in October 2022, may mean that a school or academy comes off the MFG in 2024/25, when it was on the MFG in 2023/24 and is currently modelled to remain on the MFG in 2024/25. This is because the increase in FSM funding is substantial enough to result in a total per pupil funding uplift in 2024/25 that exceeds the 0.5% minimum that would be provided by the MFG.

Generally speaking, these sorts of position changes are more likely in schools and academies that receive only relatively small values of MFG funding. For schools and academies that receive quite large values of MFG funding, it will take more substantial changes in pupil-level data to alter their positions versus the MFG in 2024/25. These changes may take more than one year to have an impact.

However, to stress, because it is not based on October 2023 Census data, the current modelling in Appendix 1 does not yet show the impact of changes in pupil-level data on a school's or academy's position versus the MFG in 2024/25. This impact can only be modelled using the October 2022 Census dataset when this is provided in December.

- The schools and academies funded in 2023/24 on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) that may come off the MFG in 2024/25 because the size of uplifts received from our continued mirroring of the National Funding Formula is greater than the minimum 0.5% the MFG provides.

If the figure in column 7 is positive and the figure in column 14 is zero, then the school or academy is modelled on current October 2022 based data to come off the MFG in 2024/25 as a result of the NFF funding uplift. In the Appendix 1 modelling at this stage, these schools and academies may receive increases in 2024/25, which are above the 0.5% per pupil provided by the MFG but which are lower than the increases received by schools and academies that were not on the MFG in 2023/24. This position is created because the value of MFG protection previously allocated in 2023/24 is deducted from the school's or academy's total % gain in 2024/25.

Typically, schools and academies that received only small values of MFG funding in 2023/24, may come off the MFG in 2024/25, subject to what happens with their pupil-level data to be taken from October 2023 Census.

- The schools and academies that are not currently funded on either the Minimum Funding Guarantee or on the DfE's per pupil minimums (MFLs) i.e. they are funded purely on the National Funding Formula, and may remain so in 2024/25, depending on the impact of changes in their pupil-level data to be recorded in the October 2023 Census. These schools and academies have zeros in all columns 7, 8, 14, and 15. They may receive increases in funding per pupil that are more in line with, or may actually exceed, the overall 'headline' National Funding Formula uplift. However, the funding received by these schools and academies is more prone to being directly affected by year-on-year census data changes. Depending on their October 2023 Census data, the confirmed final values of their 2024/25 formula funding allocations could change more significantly, both up and down, from what is currently modelled in Appendix 1 than for schools and academies that are on the MFG or on the MFLs.

4.4 On the basis of the illustrative modelling in Appendix 1a, the formula funding landscape in Bradford in 2024/25 is as follows:

- Primary phase: 18 out of 156 schools / academies (12%), are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 0.50%). 25 schools / academies (16%) are funded at the £4,655 MFL value. All other schools / academies are funded above £4,655 per pupil.
- Secondary phase: 3 out of 31 schools / academies (10%) are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 0.50%). 1 academy is funded at the £6,050 MFL value. All other schools / academies are funded above £6,050 per pupil.

- All through academies: None of the 4 academies are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 0.50%) and all 4 academies are funded above the composite MFL value.
- In total, 21 out of 191 schools / academies (11%) are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 0.50%). 26 out of 191 schools / academies (14%) are funded at the MFL values.

4.5 If you would like to discuss the modelling in more detail or discuss the data on which indicative allocations are calculated, please contact Andrew Redding.

5. 2024/25 Schools Block De-Delegated Funds (Maintained Schools)

5.1 The Finance Regulations continue to significantly restrict the extent to which the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block can be retained and managed centrally. The Government's intention is to ensure maximum delegation of DSG funding to maintained schools and academies at the start of each financial year. The Regulations do allow funding for certain types of expenditure to be 'de-delegated' - passed back to the Local Authority - from maintained school budgets within the Schools Block. This only applies however, to schools maintained by the Local Authority, and the maintained schools members of the Schools Forum must agree to de-delegate on a phase-specific, fund-specific, basis.

5.2 Previously, the Schools Forum has established Schools Block de-delegated funds to:

- Take advantage of the economies of scale brought about by central management and bulk purchase e.g. Fischer Family Trust subscription.
- Provide services that schools would find difficult or less cost effective to replace on an individual basis e.g. trade union facilities time.
- Protect schools, especially smaller schools, against unpredictable expenditure e.g. maternity and paternity cover.
- Provide funds to be available to support schools in financial difficulty or those facing exceptional circumstances, allocated using agreed criteria.
- Cover the costs in schools of Authority-level re-organisation, including safeguarded salaries, and also the cost of deficit budgets of closing schools or deficits held by schools that convert to academy status under sponsored arrangements.
- To provide budget for the Local Authority's school improvement monitoring, intervention and brokering function (including statutory functions) in respect of maintained schools, following the cessation of the DfE's School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB).

5.3 Decisions to de-delegate funding must be taken annually.

5.4 The Schools Forum will discuss the position of de-delegated funds for 2024/25 over the autumn term and will take final decisions in January 2024. This document asks for your feedback so this can be considered as part of this process. This consultation asks for your views on whether funds should continue to be de-delegated.

5.5 Please be aware that, due to the timescale necessary for confirmation, the Schools Forum has already decided to (TBC) de-delegation in 2024/25 from maintained primary schools for the purposes of subscribing to Fischer Family Trust.

5.6 Maintained schools are reminded that:

- Schools Forum members representing maintained secondary schools agreed, in the 2017/18 DSG budget setting round, to cease de-delegation from the secondary phase for the Maternity / Paternity 'insurance' scheme, Fischer Family Trust, Exceptional Circumstances and School Staff Public Duties and Suspensions. It is assumed that the Schools Forum and maintained secondary schools will not wish to revisit this decision.

- Schools Forum members representing maintained primary schools agreed to cease de-delegation for behaviour support services at 1 September 2018. Maintained schools now have the choice to buy into these services directly. It is assumed that the Schools Forum and maintained primary schools will not wish to revisit this decision.
- The DfE operates a Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). The RPA is an alternative to commercial insurance. The DfE extended the RPA to maintained schools, who have been able to buy into this since 1 April 2020. Where agreed by the Schools Forum, the Local Authority is permitted to de-delegate for the purposes of accessing the RPA on behalf of all its maintained schools. However, we do not envisage de-delegating for this purpose in 2024/25.

5.7 The following 'de-delegated' funds are held in the current 2023/24 financial year:

- FSM Eligibility Assessments (primary and secondary).
- Fischer Family Trust – School Licences (primary only).
- School Maternity / Paternity 'insurance' (primary only).
- Trade Union Facilities Time (primary & secondary).
- Trade Union Health and Safety Representative Time (primary & secondary).
- School Staff Public Duties and Suspensions Fund (primary only).
- School Re-Organisation Costs (primary and secondary).
- Exceptional Costs & Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary only).
- School Improvement (primary & secondary).

5.8 Further information on each of these funds, including the values held in 2023/24 and the criteria by which they are allocated, is given in Appendix 3.

5.9 We do not propose any amendments for 2024/25 to the criteria that are used for the allocation of de-delegated funds.

5.10 If funding is not de-delegated in 2024/25, for the purposes listed in paragraph 5.7, then the funding that would have been top-sliced will remain within maintained school budgets for schools to meet the cost of replacement services, including by purchasing services, where available, through the Local Authority. The Authority is aware that the views of individual schools may be influenced by the extent of value they feel they specifically receive from accessing these funds currently. In taking final decisions, the Schools Forum will consider responses to this consultation, alongside assessing what represents the most cost-effective collective approach for maintained schools across the Bradford District.

5.11 Colleagues in maintained primary schools will be aware of the warnings that have been given previously about the viability of our current arrangements for supporting maternity / paternity costs. We have warned, as happened for the secondary phase, that we may be moving towards the position where existing arrangements are no longer financially efficient nor viable. This is due to the growth in salaries costs at the same time as the number of maintained primary schools continues to reduce year on year, affecting the 'critical mass' that is needed to deliver an effective cost-efficient scheme. There have been a significant number of primary phase academy conversions during 2022 and 2023, which has affected our view of the scheme.

The maternity / paternity scheme will continue in 2024/25, subject to agreement following this consultation. **However, to provide early warning and planning time, we wish to signal now that we anticipate that this scheme will cease at the end of the 2024/25 academic year, meaning that reimbursements for all existing and new claims will stop at 31 August 2025. Maintained schools should, therefore, now begin to plan on this basis, including by exploring alternative arrangements, including through external supply insurance.**

6. Schools Block Growth Fund 2024/25

6.1 We operate a Growth Fund within the Schools Block, which supports both maintained schools and academies that are expanding for basic-needs purposes at the request of the Local Authority to manage more effectively the financial pressures that are brought by expansion. This fund helps to maintain a stable financial platform for schools and academies across the District in support of raising standards.

6.2 Local authorities continue to retain the responsibility for determining arrangements locally, albeit within tight Regulations. Compliance with these Regulations is checked annually by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For 2024/25, the DfE has clarified and updated its guidance on the operation of Growth Funds and has directed some new mandatory requirements. However, our assessment is that these directions and updates do not materially alter our local Growth Fund arrangements; we already fund above the now mandatory minimum value of funding per pupil and we already allocate Growth Funding in circumstances where the Local Authority asks a school or academy to provide an additional class (or classes) for basic needs purposes. We have taken the opportunity to re-draft our criteria, to make the wording of these clearer.

6.3 Our proposed Growth Fund arrangements and criteria for 2024/25 are set out in the documents embedded below. Please note that the values highlighted in red / yellow within the documents are indicative (subject to the finalisation of Decision 2).



Growth Funding
2024 - primary criteri.



Growth Funding
2024 - secondary criteri.

6.4 For reference, the total value of the Schools Block Growth Fund held in 2023/24, broken down between phases and between types of allocation, prior to the recovery through recoupment of the cost of allocations to academies for the period April – August 2023, is shown in the table below:

	Primary	Secondary	Total
Existing Known Expansions	£90,030	£357,177	£447,207
Existing Bulge Classes	£124,014	£0	£124,014
New Expansions	£0	£600,000	£600,000
Pre-Opening Costs	£0	£0	£0
Diseconomies of Scale	£0	£0	£0
Total Value 2023/24	£214,044	£957,177	£1,171,221

6.5 We will confirm the total value of the Schools Block Growth Fund held for 2024/25 as part of the DSG setting process, which will be concluded with the Schools Forum in January 2024.

7. Falling Rolls Fund 2023/24 (Primary Phase)

7.1 The Schools Forum first established a Falling Rolls Fund for the primary phase in 2019/20. Though it is not mandatory, local authorities are permitted to create a fund to support schools and academies with falling rolls and surplus capacity. This fund is intended to provide budget support only in circumstances where pupil numbers growth (to fill surplus capacity) is expected in the near future but where a school or academy currently has surplus places and faces an unmanageable financial position in the short term, where significant new action (redundancies) would be needed, and additional costs incurred, to contain spending within budget, but where these posts would soon need to be re-established.

7.2 Falling Rolls Fund is not a mechanism for supporting schools and academies that are forecasted to see more permanent / longer-term reductions in pupil numbers because of wider demographic trends. Following the DfE's National Funding Formula consultation in 2022, we anticipated that the DfE would permit greater flexibility in the use of falling rolls fund in 2024/25, enabling us to better support primary schools and academies that are currently facing significant reductions in pupil numbers. However, this is not the case for 2024/25. Whilst the forecast timeframe for the recovery of pupil numbers has been extended from 3 years to 3-5 years, other suggested flexibilities (including using funding to support the re-utilisation of space) have not been

implemented. The DfE has indicated that the development of both falling rolls and growth funding will be incremental over time. We may, therefore, see changes after 2024/25.

7.3 Whilst the Falling Rolls Fund remains very restrictive, the DfE has amended its guidance for the 2024/25 financial year. Local authorities continue to have discretion over whether to operate a Fund, but, where they do, they are only able to provide funding where school capacity data 2022 (SCAP return) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years. This SCAP requirement replaces the previous guidance, that funding may only be used where local planning data shows that surplus places will be needed within the next 3 financial years. The DfE has also removed the requirement that schools must be Ofsted rated good or outstanding to be eligible.

7.3 Because of its restrictive nature, to date, we have not allocated funding from our Falling Rolls Fund. This is because the cause of the reduction in pupil numbers in the primary phase in Bradford is medium to longer term demographic change, rather than admission 'blip'. The Authority's forecasting continues to very clearly indicate that surplus capacity in the vast majority of schools and academies will not be needed in the next 3 to 5 years. The removal of the requirement that schools must be Ofsted rated good or outstanding will make no material difference to our Fund. Based on our current modelling, we do not envisage that primary schools or primary academies will be eligible for funding either in 2023/24 or in 2024/25. As such, any adjustments that we make to our Falling Rolls Fund are not expected to materially impact on the funding of the primary phase in these financial years.

7.4 This being said, we do propose to continue to have a Falling Rolls Fund in place in 2024/25 for the primary phase. We have amended this, where required, in response to the DfE's revised mandatory conditions and guidance. We have taken the opportunity to clarify how our Fund works, including the triggers for eligibility. Following the example criteria that the DfE has given within its guidance, we have also taken the opportunity to review the 2 key criteria that trigger eligibility. In its examples, the DfE uses triggers of 5% (for the % by which a school's number on roll must have reduced year on year) and 85% (the % a school's total number on roll must be lower than in relation to its full capacity). We currently use triggers of 3% and 90%. Given that we expect that this fund, on the restrictive terms that are currently set by the DfE, should only ever support schools and academies in exceptional circumstances, and given that we may expect further direction from the DfE on the operation of falling rolls funding in the future run up to the National Funding Formula, we propose to amend our triggers to match the DfE's examples seeking to 'future-proof' these. These amendments will also help to support the management of the overall affordability of this fund from the Schools Block in the future, should our longer-term forecast change and should schools and academies begin to become eligible for funding.

7.5 The proposed Falling Rolls Fund for 2024/25 is presented in the embedded document below.



Falling Rolls Fund
2024-25

8. Consultation Responses

8.1 If you wish to discuss these proposals in more detail, or have any questions for clarification, before you submit a response, please contact Andrew Redding using the contact details shown in section 1.

8.2 A response form is included at Appendix 4. However, we have introduced a web-based questionnaire, which we encourage you to use to submit your response. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

8.3 Please ensure that your response is submitted (either using the Appendix 4 form or by using the web-based questionnaire) by the deadline of **Tuesday 28 November 2023**. Any responses received after this date may not be included in the analysis that will be presented to the Schools Forum.

9. Next Steps

9.1 Following consideration of the responses received to this consultation, and consideration of the final recommendations that will be made the Schools Forum, Council in February 2024 will set the funding formula

to be used to calculate budget shares to be allocated to individual mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, and the criteria for the allocation of Schools Block funds, for the 2024/25 financial year.

9.2 Discussions on the position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and the affordability of formula funding arrangements, for 2024/25 will continue with the Schools Forum between now and January. You are recommended to keep in touch with these discussions by visiting the Schools Forum webpage on the Council's Minutes website [here](#).

9.3 It is anticipated that the Schools Forum will make its final formal recommendations on 2024/25 DSG and formula funding arrangements on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

10. Equalities Impact Assessment 2024/25 Proposals

10.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Local Authority to give due regard to achieving the following objectives in exercising its functions:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2 We assess that our proposals for 2024/25 will have a positive impact on equalities. We have considered the impact on persons who share any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. We have focused on the protected characteristics for which the potential impact is largest, and which are most closely tied to the formula funding proposals we put forward. Where there is positive correlation with the measures that are used, schools and academies receive formula funding to support children and young people that share protected characteristics, related to SEND (disability) and race (ethnicity), through the Additional Educational Needs (AEN) factors that are contained within the schools' funding formula. The AEN factors are: Free School Meals (FSM), Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), English as an Additional Language (EAL), Low Prior Attainment (LPA) and Pupil Mobility. There is strong correlation between LPA and SEND. There is also strong correlation between race (ethnicity), EAL and Pupil Mobility. There are also correlations e.g. between SEND and measures of deprivation and between LPA and measures of deprivation. It is important therefore, that the Authority carefully considers, in particular, the equalities impact of any proposed changes to the AEN factors.

10.3 The arrangements that the Local Authority proposes in this consultation for the 2024/25 financial year retain a significant amount of continuity on current practice, Dedicated Schools Grant distribution and formula funding policy and methodology. At its centre, the Local Authority has previously determined, and continues to propose (Decision 2), to exactly mirror the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF) for the calculation of mainstream primary and secondary maintained school and academy delegated allocations in Bradford. As such, our equalities impact assessment of our guiding Schools Block formula funding policy for 2024/25 is neutral (representing no change on current positive practice) and continues to align with the DfE's in respect of its [National Formula Funding policy](#) and its already identified positive impact on the funding of children and young people that share protected characteristics.

10.4 Behind the guiding NFF mirroring policy, the values of all formula funding factors are proposed to be uplifted in 2024/25 (Decision 2). These uplifts are assessed to have a positive impact on the funding of all pupils. These uplifts will also have a positive impact on the funding of children and young people that share protected characteristics related to disability (SEND) and race (ethnicity), for which schools and academies receive additional funding through the Additional Educational Needs (AEN) formula factors that use measures that correlate with these protected characteristics. The uplifts proposed to be applied to the AEN factors are also assessed at this time not to have a disproportionate impact. In proposing to continue to mirror the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2024/25, on current data, the balance of base NFF funding allocated for all pupils, versus the NFF funding allocated for pupils with Additional Educational Needs, remains similar. As we show in section 2, and in the table under 'Decision 2', we propose to uplift the core £base amount per pupil and lump sum Schools Block formula funding factors by 2.4%, prior to the addition of the merged Mainstream Schools

Additional Grant. We propose to set a minimum 0.5% uplift in per pupil funding for all schools and academies, using the Minimum Funding Guarantee methodology. The DfE requires the Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) to increase by 2.4% (prior to the addition of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant). The factors that allocate funding on measures of Additional Education Needs (AEN) are proposed to increase between 1.8% and 3.0% (prior to the addition of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant).

10.5 The balance of the total final value of formula funding allocated in 2024/25, between base funding and AEN funding and between the different AEN funding factors, will adjust for the annual change in school data to be recorded in the October 2023 Census. Whilst we cannot yet complete accurate modelling, two changes we anticipate are that funding allocated through the FSM factors will continue to increase and funding allocated through the LPA factor will continue to decrease. As we explain in section 4, our modelling of the impact of formula uplift is currently based on existing school and academy data, which references the October 2022 Census. We have explained in section 4 of this document how the distribution of formula funding in 2024/25, and the values of allocations received by individual schools and academies, may be affected by the use of the updated October 2023 Census data. We have explained under 'Decision 6' how the Authority may be required to amend the uplifts that are applied to formula funding factors to ensure that our arrangements remain affordable. We have also set out under 'Decision 6' how the Authority will take steps to ensure that any necessary amendments do not have a disproportionate impact, including on the funding of children and young people that share protected characteristics for which schools and academies received formula funding through the Additional Educational Needs factors.

10.6 The Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) are increasing by 2.4%. This is a mandatory uplift, not for local determination. The DfE has assessed that this uplift will have a positive impact on equalities. Continuing the minimum per pupil funding levels will generally benefit the lower £per pupil funded schools and academies, that do not otherwise attract these levels of funding through the application of the normal National Funding Formula i.e. these schools and academies do not attract significant levels of funding via the Additional Educational Needs factors. These schools and academies tend to have lower than average proportions of groups with protected characteristics. However, they still tend to have some groups with protected characteristics.

10.7 We propose to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for primary and secondary schools / academies at + 0.5% (Decision 3). The MFG at this level will provide the maximum permitted uplift to formula funding, both for schools and academies that have previously been on the MFG and remain on it in 2024/25 and for the schools and academies that are placed on the MFG for the first time in 2024/25 as a result of October 2023 Census data changes. The MFG uplift will be available for these schools and academies to use in support of all pupils, including those that share protected characteristics. Our proposed approach to the MFG is especially important for the primary phase, where a quarter (28%) of schools and academies were funded on the MFG in 2023/24. The MFG continues to provide essential protection for schools and academies against year- on-year funding turbulence, in support of stable provision.

10.8 We assess that proposing (under Decisions 4 and 7) to continue our other current local approaches not yet covered by the National Funding Formula, including to Growth Funding and Falling Rolls Funding, in 2024/25 is impact neutral on equalities (representing no change on current positive practice).

10.9 We assess that proposing (under Decision 5) to incrementally amend our definition of Notional SEND budgets within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding allocations, as encouraged by the DfE in the lead up to the hard National Funding Formula, continues to support schools and academies to make effective provision for pupils with additional educational needs and with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It is important to stress that an adjustment of the Notional SEND definition does not materially change the value of formula funding that an individual school or academy receives.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1a – Summary Financial Overview (Modelling)

Appendix 1b – By Factor Breakdown (Ready Reckoner)

Appendix 1c – Notional SEND Modelling

Appendix 2 – Technical Annex

Appendix 3 – Schools Block De-Delegated Funds (Maintained Schools)

Appendix 4 – Responses Questionnaire

Appendix 2 – Technical Annex (Current 2023/24 Formulae)

This appendix contains, for reference, more technical detail on the definitions and calculations of factors that are contained within Bradford Local Authority's current 2023/24 financial year primary and secondary school and academy mainstream funding model.

Notional SEND (Mainstream Schools Block Primary & Secondary)

Local authorities are required to define for each primary and secondary school and academy the value of mainstream formula funding that is 'notionally' allocated for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (for meeting the first £6,000 of needs both for pupils with EHCPs and the needs of pupils without EHCPs). How Bradford currently (in 2023/24) defines notional SEND (the %s of funding within each formula factor that make up this budget) is shown in the table below.

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.5%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

In addition, 6.0% of a mainstream school's or academy's allocation from the Early Years Single Funding Formula, for mainstream primary schools and academies that have early years entitlement provision, is also defined to be available for supporting SEND in early years.

SEND Funding Floor (Mainstream Primary & Secondary)

The SEND Funding Floor formula is aimed at ensuring that no mainstream primary or secondary maintained school or academy will have to manage, from their own delegated mainstream formula funding, an above phase-average cost pressure in respect of their commitment to meet the cost of Element 2 (£6,000) for their EHCPs. As well as supporting provision for pupils with EHCPs, this approach will help to protect the funding used by schools and academies to support their wider Additional Educational Needs, SEND and Alternative Provision activities. It will directly financially support schools and academies that have higher proportions of pupils with EHCPs, in support of inclusion, combining also to support schools and academies that may have lower levels of Additional Education Needs formula funding (because they have e.g. lower levels of deprivation) but higher numbers of EHCPs, and also that may be smaller in size. It will also support schools and academies that may have some turbulence in formula funding as a result of in year pupil numbers changes.

Funding allocated using the Floor is re-calculated monthly for changes in the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) on roll.

The formula for 2023/24 is as follows:

Where Part A is greater than Part B, a school / academy receives a top-up for the difference between Part A and Part B.

A = is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of EHCPs on roll at a mainstream school / academy, excluding early years and post 16 students that have EHCPs, multiplied by £6,000 (which is the value of Element 2). Part A is re-calculated monthly for changes in the number Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) on roll.

B = is the percentage of a school's / academy's Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding that is required to be put to the Element 2 (£6,000) cost of a school's / academy's EHCPs, before the SEND Funding Floor will provide additional financial support. There are 2 elements to the Part B calculation, the 'percentage' and what is meant by 'Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding'. Unlike Part A, both elements of Part B are fixed at the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year and will not change.

- The 'percentage' is the phase median average percentage of Additional Educational Needs formula funding that schools / academies contribute to Element 2 £6,000 costs in respect of their EHCPs. The phase average is rounded plus 2%. Separate percentages are used for primary and for secondary phases. The averages that are used in 2023/24 are 13.0% for the primary phase and 10.5% for the secondary phase.
- 'Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding' is calculated by taking the following funding factors that are included within the delegated formula funding allocations received by mainstream schools / academies. For academies, this funding / these factors are within General Annual Grant (GAG) funding. For maintained schools, this funding / these factors are within the Section 251 formula funding.

100% of the English as an Additional Language factor
 100% of the Free School Meals factors
 100% of the Prior Attainment factor
 100% of the Minimum Funding Level factor
 100% of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factor
 80% of Minimum Funding Guarantee factor

Split Sites (Mainstream Primary & Secondary)

Our locally determined split sites factor operates in 2023/24 as follows:

a) The criteria used to define a split site are as follows:

- *Essential* - two or more distinctly separate campuses where there is no single continuous boundary and where the campuses are split by a through road.
- Additional criteria (for weighting of funding):
 - Category A* - where it is impossible not to move a proportion (either 25% or 50%) of total school / academy pupils between the campuses within the school day.
 - Category B* - where the campuses are more than 400 metres apart.

b) The criteria used to allocate funding to a school / academy operating across a split site based on the categories defined above, are as follows:

Category	Primary Lump	Primary APP	Secondary Lump	Secondary APP
<i>Essential</i>	£9,620.10	0.00	£11,052.56	0
<i>A</i>	0	£121.71	0	£128.43
<i>B</i>	£20,818.00	£10.34	£23,227.74	£14.44

- Split sites funding is paid to all individual schools and individual academies that meet the above criteria.
- Split sites funding is only allocated where the provision on the additional site does not itself qualify for an individual budget share through the DSG. Federated maintained schools, and schools / academies sharing facilities, are not eligible for split sites funding. Schools / academies with remote sixth forms or remote early years provision are also not eligible. Split sites funding also does not apply to co-located or offsite SEND resourced provisions or AP centres.
- The criteria include where a school or academy has remote playing fields, which the school is financially responsible for maintaining and which are also more than 1 mile in distance away from the main school site.
- Where two or more schools have amalgamated and the new school is operating across a split site, the school will not be eligible for split sites funding where this materially increases the school's allocation above the MFG whilst it is in receipt of the additional lump sum.
- Funding is only applicable for Reception to Year 11 mainstream provision.

PFI DSG affordability Gap Funding (Building Schools for the Future)

Our Private Finance Initiative (PFI) / BSF formula factor (mainstream secondary) simply apportions the DSG's contribution to the affordability gap of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme across applicable secondary schools and academies.

The formula for splitting the total contribution between BSF schools / academies is as follows: (Total affordability gap to be funded by the DSG / Total cost of school unitary charges) x Individual school's unitary charge as a % of the total unitary charge.

As a result of discussions with the ESFA (during 2017), the financial year values of the PFI formula allocations for academies only is adjusted so that, when the ESFA converts these allocations into academic year values within academy's General Annual Grant funding, the values the academies receive on an April to March financial year basis is equivalent to the value that the academy is required to repay to the Authority through the PFI contract on an April to March financial year basis.

Other Technical Matters

The following guiding aspects of the current mainstream primary and secondary formula funding framework remain in place in 2024/25:

- DSG sourced formula funding allocations for mainstream primary (reception to year 6) and mainstream secondary (pre-16) will be calculated on the October 2023 Census.
- The Pupil Premium Grant for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies will continue to be allocated on the October rather than the January Census.
- Local authorities must allocate at least 80% of the delegated schools block funding through the pupil-led factors, which include the base amount per pupil, deprivation (FSM and IDACI), low prior attainment, English as an additional language and pupil mobility factors. We allocated 92.25% of the delegated schools block funding via these pupil-led factors in 2023/24, and the modelling included in this consultation indicates that we continue at around this % in 2024/25.
- The existing framework for the funding of High Needs pupils continues. A High Needs pupil is still defined in 2024/25, for financial purposes, as one whose education costs more than £10,000 per year. The first elements of funding (Element 1 and Element 2) for High Needs pupils continue to be already delegated within school and academy budget shares. A top up (Element 3) is then allocated separately, monthly, for the cost of additional support above the £6,000 threshold as defined within agreed Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Top up funding arrangements are set out in more detail on our separate consultation on high needs funding.
- Allocations for academies and free schools continue to be paid directly by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The ESFA will use the pro-forma submitted by the Authority in January 2024 to calculate individual academy allocations for the 2024/25 academic year.
- The Local Authority has opted to continue to manage school and academy Business Rates (NNDR) payments according to the approach that was in place in 2021/22, rather than adopt the ESFA's amended process from April 2022. This remains the Authority's approach for 2024/25.

Appendix 3: Purposes of Schools Block De-Delegated Funds Retained in 2023/24

1. FSM Eligibility Assessments:

This fund covers the work the Local Authority's Benefits Team does in relation to assessing Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility for pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools. It covers staffing and ICT costs associated with:

- The processing of all applications for FSM for all maintained schools
- Checking & verifying claims, notifying parents of successful and unsuccessful claims
- Notifying schools of successful claims and changes to existing claims
- Assisting schools with eligibility, take up and administrative issues & providing guidance
- Promoting maximum take up of FSM eligibility, including cross checking pupil FSM data with other Authority benefits systems

The Local Authority makes use of a nationwide FSM checking system, which means that paper evidence does not have to be supplied by parents. Applications for all children who attend Bradford schools can be processed quickly via the Council's website, telephone, personal visit or in writing. Currently, schools do not have direct access to this checking system.

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, schools will either need to undertake FSM assessment themselves or purchase services. The Local Authority offers a traded service to academies.

2. Fischer Family Trust – Primary School Licences:

This fund pays for maintained primary schools' subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust (FFT). FFT provides a unique service to schools and the local authorities. This service analyses previous national end of key stage data and the contextual data of schools and uses this to provide estimates of outcomes at pupil level for the next key stage result. These pupil level results are aggregated at school and at local authority level. Over time, these estimates have come to be held in high regard and the work of the FFT is valued by schools and local authorities. The purchasing of the data through the Local Authority has previously offered significant savings.

De-delegation for this purpose ceased from the secondary phase at 31 March 2017.

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, maintained primary schools will need to purchase their own licences to access FFT data, on an individual basis or as a cluster of schools. **Please be aware that due to the timescale necessary for confirmation, the Schools Forum has already decided TBC de-delegation in 2023/24 from maintained primary schools for the purposes of subscribing to Fischer Family Trust.**

3. Primary School Maternity / Paternity 'insurance':

This fund has historically acted as an 'insurance' pot, where maintained primary schools are reimbursed for the costs of the salaries of staff on maternity / paternity leave, so that the cost of cover / supply arrangements can be afforded from the school's budget. The Schools Forum has previously discussed the delegation of this pot to schools on a number of occasions and has always concluded that the protection this centrally managed fund offers, against the disproportionate and unpredictable nature of maternity / costs, is vital, especially to smaller schools.

De-delegation for this purpose ceased from the secondary phase during 2017/18.

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, maintained primary schools will not be reimbursed for the salary costs of staff on maternity / paternity leave and would have to make alternative arrangements to manage these

costs, for example, by including maternity cover within the school's supply insurance arrangements or by working in clusters to share the cost of staffing cover.

Colleagues in maintained primary schools will be aware of the warnings that have been given previously about the viability of our current arrangements for supporting maternity / paternity costs. We have warned, as happened for the secondary phase, that we may be moving towards the position where existing arrangements are no longer financially efficient nor viable. This is due to the growth in salaries costs at the same time as the number of maintained primary schools continues to reduce year on year, affecting the 'critical mass' that is needed to deliver an effective cost-efficient scheme. There have been a significant number of primary phase academy conversions during 2022 and 2023, which has affected our view of the scheme. The maternity / paternity scheme will continue in 2024/25, subject to agreement following this consultation. However, to provide early warning and planning time, we wish to signal now that we anticipate that this scheme will cease at the end of the 2024/25 academic year, meaning that reimbursements for all existing and new claims will stop at 31 August 2025. Maintained schools should, therefore, now begin to plan on this basis, including by exploring alternative arrangements, including through external supply insurance.

4. Trade Union Facilities Time & Health and Safety Facilities Time:

There is a legal obligation (under The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992) for an employer to provide facilities for recognised trade unions to function within the workplace, including an obligation to grant time off with pay. The recognised unions in schools are:

- Teacher Trade Unions - NEU, ATL, ASCL, NAHT, VOICE, and
- The Trade Unions representing support and other professional school staff – UNISON, GMB and UNITE

To meet this obligation, Bradford Council has agreed to release a number of staff for part or all of their time from their school duties to carry out their duties as elected lay officials. This applies to the recognised trade unions in schools with significant memberships. Historically the agreed ratio for facility time has been 1 day per 400 members, which has been used as a mutually acceptable, in principle, starting point for the joint management and trade union discussions. Current facility time arrangements with respect to school employees provide a total of 7.3 FTE as follows:

- NEU has 3.1 FTE lay officials (15.5 days per week)
- NASUWT has 1.8 FTE lay officials (9 days per week)
- NAHT has 0.4 FTE lay official (2 days per week)
- UNISON has 1.3 FTE lay officials (6.5 days per week)
- GMB has 0.6 FTE lay officials (3 days per week)
- ASCL has 0.1 FTE lay official (1 day a fortnight)

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, individual maintained primary and secondary schools will need to consider how they will meet their statutory obligations to allow trade unions to represent and consult with their members and with the school as the employer, as local branch trade union representatives would no longer be available without cost. For example, each trade union has the right to appoint a trade union representative within a school to carry out statutory functions and seek time off for these representatives to be trained to carry out these duties.

In order to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Health and Safety Regulations, Bradford Council and the Trade Union Health and Safety Lay Representatives in Bradford made a Health and Safety Agreement in 1989. Nominated accredited Trade Union and lay Health and Safety representatives continue to carry out Health and Safety inspections in schools, with the aim being to inspect each school once a year. These representatives are released for all or part of their time from their school responsibilities to carry out these duties. Safety Representatives also carry out site management visits in relation to building work and work with the Council's Health and Well Being Team on occupational matters and undertake the role of investigating accidents, disease and other medical matters. A total of 6 days per week (1.2 FTE) of facilities time is currently funded within the DSG for these purposes.

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, individual maintained primary and secondary schools will need to consider how they will meet their employer statutory obligations around health and safety.

The Schools Forum has previously considered a detailed assessment of the Authority's current Trade Union Facilities Time arrangements and has concluded that these arrangements are effective and offer value for money.

5. School Staff Public Duties and Suspensions Fund:

This fund has historically acted on a similar basis to the maternity / paternity scheme as an 'insurance' type pot for maintained primary schools to be reimbursed for staffing costs associated with public duties (magistrates / court duties) and, more significantly, where an employee is suspended from duty following a Child Protection allegation and where the Police are undertaking an investigation. In the case of suspensions, schools are reimbursed for 50% of the cost of the salary of the member of staff suspended.

De-delegation for this purpose ceased from the secondary phase at 31 March 2017.

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, maintained primary schools will not be reimbursed for the salary cost of staff and would have to make alternative arrangements to manage this cost.

6. School Re-Organisation Costs:

This fund serves two purposes and the proposed criteria for allocating funding in 2024/25 are unchanged from 2023/24:

- School staff safeguarded salaries: funding is allocated based on the actual cost of agreed safeguards for individual staff in primary and secondary schools. Only safeguards that have been previously agreed are funded from the DSG. There is no 'eligibility' criteria as such, other than these safeguards must have been already established and agreed with the Authority following re-organisations. Every year, schools are asked to confirm whether or not safeguards for individual staff are still applicable e.g. where a member of staff has left, the safeguard ceases to be paid. The total cost of safeguards reduces year on year and is expected eventually to cease.
- Deficit of Closing Schools: where a maintained primary school closes with a deficit budget, or where a maintained primary school with a deficit budget converts to academy status under a sponsored agreement, the deficit returns to the Authority. The de-delegated fund is established to meet the cost of this from the DSG. Please note that there is no de-delegation from the secondary phase for this purpose. Please also note that the new de-delegation of additional budget for this purpose from the primary phase has been 'paused' since 2020/21 (as there were / are no calls on this budget).

If this de-delegated fund is not held in 2024/25, maintained primary schools will not be reimbursed for the additional salary cost of staff placed through re-organisation and the Authority would need to discuss with the Schools Forum how any deficits of maintained primary schools, that are not repaid by the school incurring the deficit, are alternatively managed.

7. Exceptional Costs & Schools in Financial Difficulty:

This fund is in place for maintained primary schools to enable additional financial support to be provided, in a transparent and controlled way, to specific schools that may face difficult circumstances and unreasonable cost pressures and to support schools that require immediate intervention around standards that may not be able to identify funds from their own budgets.

De-delegation for this purpose ceased from the secondary phase at 31 March 2017.

The purpose of this fund is to provide support for the budgets of maintained primary schools in the following circumstances:

- Exceptional growth in pupil numbers not picked up within the terms of the Growth Fund.
- 1 Form of Entry (or smaller) primary schools, where the cost of external HR investigations places the school in financial difficulty i.e. would reduce the forecasted carry forward balance below £20,000 *

- Priority 3 or 4 schools, where additional intervention / support is required and where the school's budget cannot meet the costs without placing the school in financial difficulty i.e. would reduce the forecasted carry forward balance below £20,000 *
- Local Authority statutory interventions e.g. costs of an Interim Executive Board (IEB).
- Any other circumstance, where the exceptional nature of this is agreed by the Schools Forum and where to not provide financial support would place the school in a financially difficult position that it is likely to have a detrimental impact on outcomes for children. *

* £20,000 is a reasonable safety net to apply to all schools i.e. a school with £20,000 holds adequate reserve to meet small value additional unexpected costs.

The financial impact of exceptional in-year pupil numbers growth has previously been the most common reason for schools requesting exceptional funding. The criteria for allocating funding in such circumstances in 2024/25 are unchanged from 2023/24 and are as follows:

- The main factor considered is the extent of additional cost pressure faced by a school. This is assessed on the information provided by the school on what action has been needed to meet a growth in pupil numbers.
- The extent of increase in numbers: actual numbers and % of roll (vs. the phase average).
- Whether the Local Authority has directed the additional pupils to the school.
- How the additional pupils are distributed across the school.
- Whether this is a one-off issue i.e. the potential extent for exceptional growth and further cost pressure in future years.
- In judging exceptional funding for children admitted on appeal, what the specific circumstances are at the school which require the school to make additional provision in the first year.
- The school's carry forward balances position.
- The change in the school's expenditure shown in the Start Budget vs. Q1 vs. Q2 vs. Q3 monitoring reports.
- The Priority category of the school (is the school in Priority 3 or 4?)
- Whether the school has received financial support or funding from elsewhere.

8. School Improvement

Since 2022/23, the Local Authority has retained, via de-delegation from both primary and secondary schools, funds to replace the monies that the Authority has previously received via the DfE's now ceased School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB). De-delegation for this purpose equated to a £4.29 per pupil contribution in both 2022/23 and in 2023/24.

The Local Authority has a programme of monitoring, intervention, and support for maintained schools. A large proportion of this programme allocates monies to reimburse Bradford schools that provide peer-to-peer school-led support to Bradford maintained schools. A good proportion of the programme also provides maintained schools with support for governance. Key activities are:

- Induction of new headteachers (support for each new headteacher of a maintained school from an experienced and success Headteacher Partner).
- Support for interim / acting headteachers (support for each new headteacher of a maintained school from an experienced and success Headteacher Partner).
- Curriculum support for middle leaders in primary schools and subject heads in secondary schools.
- Support to Schools Causing Concern, with the support model activities split between the Local Authority and a partner school.
- Leaders of Governance support schools where governance needs development, challenge, and modelling of good practice.
- Advice to governing bodies in difficulty.

Without the continuation of funds, the Authority will not have the resources on an on-going basis to continue to financially support school improvement in maintained schools. There would be no capacity to fund schools that offer their knowledge and expertise to support other schools. No funds would be available for backfill for

schools, to enable staff to be out of schools or for the cost of support that is delivered by the Authority's Advisers. The only mechanism that would be available would be to ask schools to support other schools, for altruistic reasons, which does not have a secure basis, and which also may have detrimental impact on the supporting school. In this context, whilst the decision on de-delegation is one for the Schools Forum, was the Forum not to approve the continuation of de-delegation in any form, it is very likely that the Authority would need to consider an approach to the Secretary of State. We anticipate however, that on-going discussions with the Forum will more focus on funding the right quantity and type of school improvement support and reviewing the impact and value for money of this support.

2023/24 Schools Block De-Delegated Funds: Values

The table below shows the cash budget values that were de-delegated in total from maintained school budgets in the current financial year. These figures are those at the start of the year before reductions have been made following the conversions of maintained schools to academy status during 2023/24.

Fund	Primary £	Secondary £	Total Value £
FSM Eligibility Assessments	£31,108	£6,900	£38,008
Fischer Family Trust – School Licences	£24,238	n/a	£24,238
School Maternity / Paternity 'insurance'	£552,523	n/a	£552,523
Trade Union Facilities Time	£90,561	£23,252	£113,813
Trade Union Health and Safety Rep Time	£13,839	£3,553	£17,392
School Staff Public Duties & Suspensions Fund	£19,466	n/a	£19,466
School Re-Organisation Costs – Safeguarded salaries	£13,818	£1,024	£14,842
School Re-Organisation Costs – Deficit Budgets *	£0	n/a	£0
Exceptional Costs & SIFD	£54,500	n/a	£54,500
School Improvement	£89,640	£23,016	£112,656
Totals	£889,692	£57,745	£947,437

* please note that de-delegation continued to be paused in 2023/24

The values in the above table were generated in 2023/24 by de-delegating, from individual maintained school budgets, on a flat amount per pupil basis, with the exception of FSM Eligibility Assessments fund, which has been de-delegated on an amount per Ever 6 FSM formula pupil, as follows:

Fund	Primary £app	Secondary £app
FSM Eligibility Assessments (per FSM6)	£5.80	£5.14
Fischer Family Trust – School Licences	£1.16	n/a
School Maternity / Paternity 'insurance'	£26.44	n/a
Trade Union Facilities Time	£4.33	£4.33
Trade Union Health and Safety Rep Time	£0.66	£0.66
School Staff Public Duties & Suspensions Fund	£0.93	n/a
School Re-Organisation Costs – Safeguarded salaries	£0.66	£0.19
School Re-Organisation Costs – Deficit Budgets *	£0.00	n/a
Exceptional Costs & SIFD	£2.61	n/a
School Improvement (SIMB)	£4.29	£4.29
Total Per Pupil	£41.09	£9.48
Total Per FSM (Ever 6)	£5.80	£5.14

* please note that de-delegation continued to be paused in 2023/24

Each maintained school has contributed from its 2023/24 delegated budget share the amounts per pupil (£app) shown above multiplied by its number of reception to year 11 pupils, or by its number of Ever 6 FSM formula pupils for FSM Eligibility Assessments.

APPENDIX 4: RESPONSES FORM

CONSULTATION PRIMARY & SECONDARY FUNDING FORMULAE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

This form can be used to submit your response. However, we encourage you to use the web-based questionnaire to submit your response, instead of using this paper form. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

Name _____ School / Academy _____

Please choose your phase below:

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THIS CONSULTATION IS TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Please send completed questionnaire responses to:

andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk

School Funding Team (FAO Andrew Redding)
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Britannia House (6th Floor)
Hall Ings
Bradford
BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432678

Please complete the questionnaire by marking the appropriate boxes. There is a space below each question for you to record comments.

Question 1 - Do you agree that our local formula in 2024/25 should fully mirror the DfE's 2024/25 National Funding Formula and that this formula should be used to calculate primary and secondary school and academy mainstream formula funding allocations? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree

On Balance Agree (some reservations)

Strongly Disagree

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 2 - Do you agree with the proposal, subject to final affordability, to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at the maximum permitted positive 0.5% in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposal to continue to use our existing formula for the apportionment of BSF DSG Affordability Gap funding in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 4 - Do you agree with the proposal to adjust our definition of Notional SEND within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 5 - Do you have any views on how the Authority should adjust the 2024/25 funding formula, from that which is proposed in this consultation, should the total cost of the funding formula substantially increase (and be unaffordable) when the October 2023 Census dataset is used. We welcome any specific points that you would wish the Authority and the Schools Forum to consider.

Please provide feedback here:

Question 6 - Do you agree with the proposed criteria and methodology for the allocation of the Growth Fund to schools and academies in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 7 - Do you agree with the proposed criteria and methodology for the allocation of the Falling Rolls Fund to primary-phase schools and academies in 2024/25? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 8 – Should sums continue or cease to be de-delegated from maintained school budgets in 2024/25 for the purposes listed? Please explain the reasons why if you believe that these should cease or change.

	YES - de-delegate	NO
School Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSM Eligibility Assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Maternity / Paternity 'insurance'	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Union Facilities Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Union Health and Safety Rep Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Staff Public Duties and Suspensions Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Re-Organisation Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exceptional Costs & Schools in Financial Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(please note that subscription to Fischer Family Trust is not listed as the decision has already been made by the Schools Forum)

Please provide any additional comments here:

Please use the space below to record any further comments you would like to make on the proposals, which you have not included in your other responses.

Please send completed questionnaire responses to Andrew Redding by Tuesday 28 November 2023:

E-mail: andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk

School Funding Team (FAO Andrew Redding)
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Britannia House (6th Floor)
Hall Ings
Bradford
BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432678

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school / acad is modelled to be on the MFG or MFL in 24/25		2023/24 Financial Year (Actual)								2024/25 Financial Year (Illustrative Model)												
Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Phase	School	Funded Pupil No.s	Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Split Sites Formula Funding	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	Total of Formula Funding and MSAG	Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG Allocation (at + 0.50%)	MFL (£4,405 prim; £5,715 sec)	Estimated Funded Pupil No.s Oct 2023	Illustrative Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Illustrative Split Sites Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG (at + 0.5%)	MFL (£4,655 prim; £6,050 sec)	Total £ Diff vs. 23/24	Total % Diff vs. 23/24	Diff in Pupil Numbers	£APP diff vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24 using same pupil no.s
All Through	Appleton Academy	1,222	7,683,259	0	284,564	7,967,824	6,520	0	0	1,253	8,416,061	0	8,416,061	6,717	0	0	448,238	5.63%	31	196	3.01%	2.38%
All Through	Bradford Academy	1,548	9,868,442	0	359,048	10,227,490	6,607	0	0	1,529	10,357,903	0	10,357,903	6,774	0	0	130,413	1.28%	-19	167	2.53%	2.39%
All Through	Bradford Girls Grammar (Free School)	1,019	5,793,906	0	204,986	5,998,892	5,887	0	0	1,044	6,330,138	0	6,330,138	6,063	0	0	331,246	5.52%	25	176	2.99%	2.39%
All Through	Dixons Allerton Academy	1,633	9,837,121	0	349,390	10,186,510	6,238	0	0	1,641	10,481,931	0	10,481,931	6,388	0	0	295,420	2.90%	8	150	2.40%	2.39%
Primary	Addingham Primary School	191	850,531	0	27,868	878,399	4,599	9,176	7,060	188	875,140	0	875,140	4,655	0	3,962	-3,259	-0.37%	-3	56	1.22%	1.22%
Primary	All Saints' CE Primary School (Bradford)	607	3,073,304	9,620	102,760	3,185,684	5,248	0	0	599	3,211,080	58,223	3,269,303	5,458	0	0	83,620	2.62%	-8	210	4.00%	3.91%
Primary	All Saints' CE Primary School (Ilkley)	351	1,546,155	0	48,263	1,594,418	4,543	0	156,210	342	1,592,010	0	1,592,010	4,655	0	153,557	-2,408	-0.15%	-9	112	2.48%	2.48%
Primary	Ashlands Primary School	328	1,451,217	0	46,982	1,498,198	4,568	6,377	93,734	296	1,377,880	0	1,377,880	4,655	0	72,614	-120,318	-8.03%	-32	87	1.91%	1.91%
Primary	Atlas School	176	988,255	0	31,283	1,019,538	5,793	0	0	170	1,013,085	0	1,013,085	5,959	0	0	-6,453	-0.63%	-6	166	2.87%	2.40%
Primary	Baildon CE Primary School	413	1,819,265	0	56,370	1,875,635	4,541	0	171,101	414	1,927,170	0	1,927,170	4,655	0	177,845	51,535	2.75%	1	114	2.50%	2.50%
Primary	Baildon Glen Primary School	164	898,686	0	32,039	930,725	5,675	0	0	158	923,127	0	923,127	5,843	0	0	-7,599	-0.82%	-6	167	2.95%	2.40%
Primary	Bankfoot Primary School	214	1,098,235	0	34,766	1,133,001	5,294	4,971	0	213	1,150,126	0	1,150,126	5,400	0	0	17,125	1.51%	-1	105	1.99%	1.93%
Primary	Barkerend Primary Leadership Academy	517	2,637,330	0	85,703	2,723,032	5,267	0	0	493	2,665,043	0	2,665,043	5,406	0	0	-57,989	-2.13%	-24	139	2.63%	2.39%
Primary	Beckfoot Allerton Primary Academy	388	1,915,821	0	63,172	1,978,993	5,100	0	0	370	1,938,689	0	1,938,689	5,240	0	0	-40,304	-2.04%	-18	139	2.73%	2.40%
Primary	Beckfoot Heaton Primary Academy	629	3,090,509	0	101,009	3,191,518	5,074	0	0	629	3,267,768	0	3,267,768	5,195	0	0	76,250	2.39%	0	121	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Beckfoot Nessfield Primary Academy	280	1,298,764	0	43,141	1,341,905	4,793	0	0	264	1,303,375	0	1,303,375	4,937	0	0	-38,530	-2.87%	-16	145	3.02%	2.40%
Primary	Beckfoot Priestthorpe Primary School	188	895,325	0	30,527	925,852	4,925	18,640	0	185	917,131	0	917,131	4,957	820	0	-8,721	-0.94%	-3	33	0.66%	0.43%
Primary	Ben Rhydding Primary School	188	832,076	0	28,135	860,211	4,576	2,910	0	186	870,033	0	870,033	4,678	0	0	9,822	1.14%	-2	102	2.23%	2.06%
Primary	Blakehill Primary School	417	1,842,692	0	59,967	1,902,658	4,563	5,807	21,302	417	1,941,135	0	1,941,135	4,655	0	20,555	38,477	2.02%	0	92	2.02%	2.02%
Primary	Bowling Park Primary School	604	3,245,182	32,090	106,875	3,384,147	5,603	0	0	570	3,246,978	81,414	3,328,391	5,839	0	0	-55,756	-1.65%	-34	236	4.22%	3.84%
Primary	Brackenhill Primary School	395	1,966,024	0	61,509	2,027,533	5,133	28,824	0	388	2,012,638	0	2,012,638	5,187	0	0	-14,895	-0.73%	-7	54	1.06%	0.94%
Primary	Burley & Woodhead CE Primary School	201	886,981	0	28,850	915,831	4,556	1,576	16,828	202	940,310	0	940,310	4,655	0	17,387	24,479	2.67%	1	99	2.16%	2.16%
Primary	Burley Oaks Primary School	403	1,775,215	0	54,452	1,829,667	4,540	0	161,710	390	1,815,450	0	1,815,450	4,655	0	158,097	-14,217	-0.78%	-13	115	2.53%	2.53%
Primary	Byron Primary Academy	615	3,071,990	0	99,031	3,171,021	5,156	0	0	612	3,231,844	0	3,231,844	5,281	0	0	60,824	1.92%	-3	125	2.42%	2.40%
Primary	Carlton Mills Primary School	289	1,512,965	0	48,477	1,561,442	5,403	0	0	245	1,376,223	0	1,376,223	5,617	0	0	-185,219	-11.86%	-44	214	3.97%	2.41%
Primary	Carrwood Primary School	257	1,514,392	0	51,637	1,566,030	6,094	39,760	0	253	1,550,808	0	1,550,808	6,130	10,244	0	-15,221	-0.97%	-4	36	0.59%	0.46%
Primary	Cavendish Primary School	414	2,138,769	0	74,380	2,213,149	5,346	0	0	412	2,255,897	0	2,255,897	5,475	0	0	42,748	1.93%	-2	130	2.43%	2.40%
Primary	Christ Church Primary Academy	175	987,852	0	36,157	1,024,009	5,851	0	0	173	1,038,040	0	1,038,040	6,000	0	0	14,031	1.37%	-2	149	2.54%	2.39%
Primary	Clayton St John's CE Primary Academy	364	1,734,280	0	59,692	1,793,972	4,928	0	0	350	1,771,586	0	1,771,586	5,062	0	0	-22,386	-1.25%	-14	133	2.70%	2.40%
Primary	Clayton Village Primary School	205	1,045,975	0	32,758	1,078,734	5,262	46,180	0	208	1,097,318	0	1,097,318	5,276	26,430	0	18,584	1.72%	3	13	0.26%	0.44%
Primary	Copthorne Primary Academy	421	2,131,269	0	66,060	2,197,328	5,219	0	0	421	2,250,094	0	2,250,094	5,345	0	0	52,766	2.40%	0	125	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Cottingley Village Primary School	416	1,832,480	0	60,472	1,892,952	4,550	0	60,976	417	1,941,135	0	1,941,135	4,655	0	61,152	48,183	2.55%	1	105	2.30%	2.30%
Primary	Crossflatts Primary School	428	1,885,340	0	61,796	1,947,136	4,549	0	89,633	428	1,992,340	0	1,992,340	4,655	0	90,146	45,204	2.32%	0	106	2.32%	2.32%
Primary	Crossley Hall Primary School	597	2,988,657	0	95,536	3,084,193	5,166	0	0	602	3,183,284	0	3,183,284	5,288	0	0	99,091	3.21%	5	122	2.36%	2.39%
Primary	Cullingworth Village Primary Academy	319	1,405,195	0	47,263	1,452,458	4,553	0	40,339	322	1,498,910	0	1,498,910	4,655	0	40,501	46,452	3.20%	3	102	2.24%	2.24%
Primary	Denholme Primary Academy	187	923,995	0	32,800	956,795	5,117	0	0	193	1,006,868	0	1,006,868	5,217	0	0	50,073	5.23%	6	100	1.96%	2.40%
Primary	Dixons Manningham Primary Academy	399	2,098,377	0	66,978	2,165,355	5,427	0	0	384	2,139,086	0	2,139,086	5,571	0	0	-26,269	-1.21%	-15	144	2.65%	2.40%
Primary	Dixons Marchbank Academy	419	2,152,618	0	64,053	2,216,671	5,290	164,382	0	419	2,227,076	0	2,227,076	5,315	125,663	0	10,405	0.47%	0	25	0.47%	0.47%
Primary	Dixons Music Primary	420	1,929,509	0	61,156	1,990,665	4,740	70,992	0	421	2,004,378	0	2,004,378	4,761	34,545	0	13,713	0.69%	1	21	0.45%	0.47%
Primary	East Morton CE Primary Academy	210	925,050	0	30,961	956,011	4,552	0	6,867	210	977,550	0	977,550	4,655	0	5,583	21,539	2.25%	0	103	2.25%	2.25%
Primary	Eastburn Junior and Infant School	206	914,509	0	31,109	945,618	4,590	1,605	0	206	966,732	0	966,732	4,693	0	0	21,114	2.23%	0	102	2.23%	2.23%
Primary	Eastwood Primary Academy	378	1,903,062	0	61,462	1,964,524	5,197	0	0	377	2,006,854	0	2,006,854	5,323	0	0	42,329	2.15%	-1	126	2.43%	2.41%
Primary	Eldwick Primary School	508	2,237,740	0	67,157	2,304,897	4,537	0	239,665	508	2,364,740	0	2,364,740	4,655	0	249,923	59,843	2.60%	0	118	2.60%	2.60%
Primary	Fagley Primary School	216	1,211,503	0	41,037	1,252,539	5,799	0	0	216	1,282,457	0	1,282,457	5,937	0	0	29,918	2.39%	0	139	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Farfield Primary	397	2,105,919	0	74,645	2,180,564	5,493	0	0	384	2,163,980	0	2,163,980	5,635	0	0	-16,584	-0.76%	-13	143	2.60%	2.39%
Primary	Farnham Primary Academy	416	2,117,868	9,620	66,193	2,193,681	5,273	0	0	416	2,236,522	0	2,236,522	5,376	0	0	42,841	1.95%	0	103	1.95%	1.95%
Primary	Fearnville Primary Academy	334	1,885,599	0	62,466	1,948,065	5,833	0	0	321	1,922,386	0	1,922,386	5,989	0	0	-25,679	-1.32%	-13	156	2.68%	2.40%
Primary	Feversham Primary Academy	410	2,064,102	0	65,999	2,130,101	5,195	0	0	412	2,191,066	0	2,191,066	5,318	0	0	60,965	2.86%	2	123	2.36%	2.39%
Primary	Foxhill Primary School	210	936,349																			

school / acad is modelled to be on the MFG or MFL in 24/25		2023/24 Financial Year (Actual)								2024/25 Financial Year (Illustrative Model)												
Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Phase	School	Funded Pupil No.s	Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Split Sites Formula Funding	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	Total of Formula Funding and MSAG	Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG Allocation (at + 0.50%)	MFL (£4,405 prim; £5,715 sec)	Estimated Funded Pupil No.s Oct 2023	Illustrative Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Illustrative Split Sites Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG (at + 0.5%)	MFL (£4,655 prim; £6,050 sec)	Total £ Diff vs. 23/24	Total % Diff vs. 23/24	Diff in Pupil Numbers	£APP diff vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24 using same pupil no.s
Primary	Holybrook Primary Academy	221	1,283,076	0	45,688	1,328,764	6,013	0	0	218	1,343,922	0	1,343,922	6,165	0	0	15,158	1.14%	-3	152	2.53%	2.39%
Primary	Holycroft Primary Academy	317	1,640,036	0	55,242	1,695,278	5,348	0	0	297	1,634,906	0	1,634,906	5,505	0	0	-60,372	-3.56%	-20	157	2.93%	2.39%
Primary	Home Farm Primary School	416	2,018,324	0	67,337	2,085,661	5,014	0	0	416	2,135,749	0	2,135,749	5,134	0	0	50,088	2.40%	0	120	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Horton Grange Primary Academy	622	3,224,319	9,620	101,216	3,335,156	5,362	0	0	623	3,410,747	0	3,410,747	5,475	0	0	75,591	2.27%	1	113	2.10%	2.11%
Primary	Horton Park Primary Academy	433	2,405,327	0	78,514	2,483,841	5,736	112,337	0	419	2,419,281	0	2,419,281	5,774	65,279	0	-64,560	-2.60%	-14	38	0.66%	0.47%
Primary	Hoyle Court Primary School	292	1,325,441	0	45,817	1,371,258	4,696	0	0	287	1,382,373	0	1,382,373	4,817	0	0	11,115	0.81%	-5	121	2.57%	2.39%
Primary	Idle CE Primary School	420	1,857,073	0	57,723	1,914,796	4,559	6,973	151,128	418	1,945,790	0	1,945,790	4,655	0	154,905	30,994	1.62%	-2	96	2.10%	2.10%
Primary	Ingrow Primary School	369	1,900,913	0	66,736	1,967,649	5,332	15,368	0	358	1,943,446	0	1,943,446	5,429	0	0	-24,203	-1.23%	-11	96	1.80%	1.59%
Primary	Iqra Primary Academy	625	2,951,094	0	90,860	3,041,953	4,867	52,278	0	613	3,005,044	0	3,005,044	4,902	0	0	-36,909	-1.21%	-12	35	0.72%	0.63%
Primary	Keelham Primary School	105	558,020	0	17,944	575,964	5,485	32,315	0	104	573,952	0	573,952	5,519	21,265	0	-2,013	-0.35%	-1	33	0.61%	0.38%
Primary	Keighley St Andrew's CE Primary School	324	1,721,011	0	52,330	1,773,342	5,473	0	0	306	1,722,643	0	1,722,643	5,630	0	0	-50,699	-2.86%	-18	156	2.86%	2.41%
Primary	Killinghall Primary School	626	3,013,683	0	94,307	3,107,990	4,965	0	0	626	3,182,394	0	3,182,394	5,084	0	0	74,404	2.39%	0	119	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Knowleswood Primary School	380	2,171,250	0	76,886	2,248,136	5,916	0	0	379	2,296,282	0	2,296,282	6,059	0	0	48,146	2.14%	-1	143	2.41%	2.40%
Primary	Lapage Primary School and Nursery	616	3,018,523	0	96,654	3,115,177	5,057	0	0	612	3,170,057	0	3,170,057	5,180	0	0	54,880	1.76%	-4	123	2.43%	2.40%
Primary	Laycock Primary Academy	91	592,839	0	18,566	611,405	6,719	48,160	0	92	619,037	0	619,037	6,729	37,492	0	7,632	1.25%	1	10	0.15%	0.39%
Primary	Lees Primary Academy	206	922,403	0	31,525	953,928	4,631	6,943	0	207	973,744	0	973,744	4,704	0	0	19,816	2.08%	1	73	1.58%	1.65%
Primary	Ley Top Primary School	391	2,067,159	0	71,331	2,138,489	5,469	0	0	381	2,137,190	0	2,137,190	5,609	0	0	-1,299	-0.06%	-10	140	2.56%	2.40%
Primary	Lidget Green Primary School	537	2,724,609	0	86,419	2,811,028	5,235	0	0	508	2,730,331	0	2,730,331	5,375	0	0	-80,697	-2.87%	-29	140	2.67%	2.40%
Primary	Lilycroft Primary School	408	2,056,144	0	66,489	2,122,633	5,203	0	0	408	2,173,655	0	2,173,655	5,328	0	0	51,022	2.40%	0	125	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Long Lee Primary School	346	1,653,550	0	57,133	1,710,683	4,944	0	0	331	1,681,687	0	1,681,687	5,081	0	0	-28,996	-1.69%	-15	136	2.76%	2.40%
Primary	Low Ash Primary School	443	1,951,415	0	65,350	2,016,765	4,553	0	4,777	445	2,071,475	0	2,071,475	4,655	0	2,595	54,710	2.71%	2	102	2.25%	2.25%
Primary	Low Moor CE Primary School	407	1,795,856	0	60,129	1,855,985	4,560	3,021	51,869	413	1,922,515	0	1,922,515	4,655	0	53,101	66,530	3.58%	6	95	2.08%	2.08%
Primary	Lower Fields Primary School	374	1,962,527	0	65,147	2,027,674	5,422	0	0	369	2,050,118	0	2,050,118	5,556	0	0	22,444	1.11%	-5	134	2.48%	2.39%
Primary	Margaret McMillan Primary School	569	2,764,960	0	87,523	2,852,483	5,013	0	0	561	2,881,796	0	2,881,796	5,137	0	0	29,313	1.03%	-8	124	2.47%	2.40%
Primary	Marshfield Primary School	403	1,993,345	0	63,085	2,056,430	5,103	0	0	404	2,110,532	0	2,110,532	5,224	0	0	54,102	2.63%	1	121	2.38%	2.39%
Primary	Menston Primary School	398	1,753,532	0	52,713	1,806,244	4,538	342	178,697	402	1,871,310	0	1,871,310	4,655	0	189,615	65,066	3.60%	4	117	2.57%	2.57%
Primary	Merlin Top Primary Academy	310	1,734,690	0	61,066	1,795,756	5,793	0	0	310	1,838,735	0	1,838,735	5,931	0	0	42,979	2.39%	0	139	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Miriam Lord Community Primary School	357	1,886,330	0	59,691	1,946,020	5,451	0	0	345	1,930,432	0	1,930,432	5,595	0	0	-15,588	-0.80%	-12	144	2.65%	2.41%
Primary	Myrtle Park Primary School	213	944,282	0	32,566	976,849	4,586	0	0	213	1,000,315	0	1,000,315	4,696	0	0	23,467	2.40%	0	110	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Newby Primary School	411	2,026,066	0	66,326	2,092,392	5,091	0	0	408	2,127,994	0	2,127,994	5,216	0	0	35,602	1.70%	-3	125	2.45%	2.40%
Primary	Newhall Park Primary School	385	1,908,404	0	64,791	1,973,196	5,125	0	0	374	1,966,693	0	1,966,693	5,259	0	0	-6,503	-0.33%	-11	133	2.60%	2.40%
Primary	Oakworth Primary Academy	393	1,738,940	0	55,342	1,794,282	4,566	7,775	114,535	393	1,829,415	0	1,829,415	4,655	0	117,316	35,133	1.96%	0	89	1.96%	1.96%
Primary	Oldfield Primary School	52	393,714	0	11,844	405,558	7,799	48,076	0	53	412,123	0	412,123	7,776	41,607	0	6,564	1.62%	1	-23	-0.30%	0.33%
Primary	Our Lady & St Brendan's Catholic Primary School	193	1,087,769	0	35,491	1,123,260	5,820	0	0	193	1,150,173	0	1,150,173	5,959	0	0	26,913	2.40%	0	139	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary Academy	213	1,106,296	0	33,606	1,139,903	5,352	0	0	212	1,162,427	0	1,162,427	5,483	0	0	22,524	1.98%	-1	131	2.46%	2.40%
Primary	Oxenhope CE Primary Academy	199	901,126	0	30,692	931,818	4,683	0	0	188	909,014	0	909,014	4,835	0	0	-22,804	-2.45%	-11	153	3.26%	2.41%
Primary	Parkwood Primary School	197	1,180,399	16,399	36,799	1,233,597	6,262	72,429	0	198	1,190,377	54,309	1,244,687	6,286	12,871	0	11,090	0.90%	1	24	0.39%	0.44%
Primary	Peel Park Primary School	544	2,695,857	0	91,309	2,787,166	5,123	0	0	523	2,749,141	0	2,749,141	5,256	0	0	-38,025	-1.36%	-21	133	2.60%	2.40%
Primary	Poplars Farm Primary School	345	1,685,662	0	55,974	1,741,636	5,048	0	0	374	1,921,834	0	1,921,834	5,139	0	0	180,198	10.35%	29	90	1.79%	2.39%
Primary	Rainbow Primary Leadership Academy	308	1,644,414	0	51,258	1,695,672	5,505	48,893	0	309	1,708,562	0	1,708,562	5,529	17,169	0	12,890	0.76%	1	24	0.43%	0.46%
Primary	Reevy Hill Primary School	205	1,184,584	0	42,432	1,227,016	5,985	0	0	205	1,256,393	0	1,256,393	6,129	0	0	29,377	2.39%	0	143	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Riddlesden St Mary's CE Primary	368	1,760,717	0	59,648	1,820,364	4,947	0	0	373	1,887,560	0	1,887,560	5,060	0	0	67,196	3.69%	5	114	2.30%	2.40%
Primary	Russell Hall Primary School	208	979,189	0	34,884	1,014,072	4,875	822	0	208	1,037,573	0	1,037,573	4,988	0	0	23,501	2.32%	0	113	2.32%	2.32%
Primary	Ryecroft Primary Academy	199	1,199,249	0	39,741	1,238,991	6,226	81,678	0	194	1,216,648	0	1,216,648	6,271	58,099	0	-22,343	-1.80%	-5	45	0.73%	0.45%
Primary	Saltaire Primary School	418	1,841,290	0	60,814	1,902,104	4,550	0	61,953	418	1,945,790	0	1,945,790	4,655	0	61,424	43,686	2.30%	0	105	2.30%	2.30%
Primary	Sandal Primary School and Nursery	414	1,823,670	0	58,465	1,882,135	4,546	0	106,155	411	1,913,205	0	1,913,205	4,655	0	106,775	31,070	1.65%	-3	109	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	Sandy Lane Primary School	312	1,487,638	0	49,758	1,537,396	4,928	0	0	312	1,574,264	0	1,574,264	5,046	0	0	36,868	2.40%	0	118	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	Shibden Head Primary Academy	405	1,784,025	0	59,059	1,843,084	4,551	0	17,364	410	1,908,550	0	1,908,550	4,655	0	17,550	65,466	3.55%	5	104	2.29%	2.29%
Primary	Shipleys CE Primary Academy	180	897,155	0	30,719	927,874	5,155	9,278	0	180	940,730	0	940,730	5,226	0	0	12,856	1.39%	0	71	1.39%	1.39%
Primary	Shirley Manor Primary Academy	185	1,029,269	0	36,203	1,065,472	5,759	8,489	0	178	1,046,422	0	1,046,422	5,879	0	0	-19,050	-1.79%	-7	119	2.07%	1.57%
Primary	Silsden Primary School	595	2,623,047	0	85,209	2,708,255	4,552	2,072	124,004	594	2,765,070	0	2,765,070	4,655	0	124,888	56,815	2.10%	-1	103	2.27%	2.27%
Primary	Southmere Primary Academy	334	1,900,806	0	63,402	1,964,208	5,881	0	0	308	1,865,261	0	1,865,261	6,056	0	0	-98,948	-5.04%	-26	175	2.98%	2.40%
Primary	St Anne's Catholic Primary Academy	211	1,097,879	0	33,888	1,131,768	5,364	0	0	209	1,149,344	0	1,149,344	5,499	0	0	17,576	1.55%	-2	135	2.52%	2.41%
Primary	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (Clayton)	205	1,001,021	0	32,654	1,033,675	5,042	0	0	205	1,058,459	0	1,058,459	5,163	0	0	24,784	2.40%	0	121	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (Shipleys)	124	672,155	0	22,806	694,961	5,605	17,064	0	115	656,964											

school / acad is modelled to be on the MFG or MFL in 24/25		2023/24 Financial Year (Actual)								2024/25 Financial Year (Illustrative Model)												
Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Phase	School	Funded Pupil No.s	Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Split Sites Formula Funding	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	Total of Formula Funding and MSAG	Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG Allocation (at + 0.50%)	MFL (£4,405 prim; £5,715 sec)	Estimated Funded Pupil No.s Oct 2023	Illustrative Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Illustrative Split Sites Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG (at + 0.5%)	MFL (£4,655 prim; £6,050 sec)	Total £ Diff vs. 23/24	Total % Diff vs. 23/24	Diff in Pupil Numbers	£APP diff vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24 using same pupil no.s
Primary	St John's CE Primary School	406	1,933,535	0	64,066	1,997,601	4,920	0	0	390	1,970,058	0	1,970,058	5,051	0	0	-27,543	-1.38%	-16	131	2.67%	2.39%
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Bingley)	188	852,647	0	28,551	881,198	4,687	0	0	186	894,187	0	894,187	4,807	0	0	12,989	1.47%	-2	120	2.57%	2.40%
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Bradford)	310	1,655,700	0	54,201	1,709,901	5,516	5,915	0	311	1,750,042	0	1,750,042	5,627	0	0	40,141	2.35%	1	111	2.02%	2.04%
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Keighley	300	1,444,830	0	48,122	1,492,952	4,977	0	0	307	1,561,164	0	1,561,164	5,085	0	0	68,212	4.57%	7	109	2.18%	2.39%
Primary	St Luke's CE Primary School	211	1,083,181	0	36,385	1,119,566	5,306	0	0	211	1,146,361	0	1,146,361	5,433	0	0	26,795	2.39%	0	127	2.39%	2.39%
Primary	St Mary's and St Peter's Catholic	201	1,133,136	0	37,067	1,170,203	5,822	0	0	201	1,198,300	0	1,198,300	5,962	0	0	28,096	2.40%	0	140	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	St Matthew's Catholic Primary School	202	1,078,695	0	34,378	1,113,073	5,510	0	0	202	1,139,740	0	1,139,740	5,642	0	0	26,667	2.40%	0	132	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	St Matthew's CE Primary School	372	1,874,135	0	61,996	1,936,131	5,205	0	0	363	1,937,820	0	1,937,820	5,338	0	0	1,688	0.09%	-9	134	2.57%	2.39%
Primary	St Oswald's CE Primary Academy	374	2,019,462	0	64,834	2,084,296	5,573	0	0	362	2,070,055	0	2,070,055	5,718	0	0	-14,241	-0.68%	-12	145	2.61%	2.39%
Primary	St Paul's CE Primary School	206	1,011,829	0	34,438	1,046,267	5,079	0	0	202	1,053,114	0	1,053,114	5,213	0	0	6,847	0.65%	-4	134	2.65%	2.39%
Primary	St Philip's CE Primary Academy	196	1,059,052	0	33,559	1,092,612	5,575	0	0	196	1,118,794	0	1,118,794	5,708	0	0	26,182	2.40%	0	134	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	St Stephen's CE Primary School	394	2,065,315	9,620	69,503	2,144,438	5,443	0	0	393	2,180,942	0	2,180,942	5,549	0	0	36,504	1.70%	-1	107	1.96%	1.94%
Primary	St Walburga's Catholic Primary School	211	950,983	0	32,016	982,999	4,659	0	0	211	1,006,590	0	1,006,590	4,771	0	0	23,591	2.40%	0	112	2.40%	2.40%
Primary	St William's Catholic Primary School	122	739,103	0	24,440	763,543	6,259	0	0	118	760,702	0	760,702	6,447	0	0	-2,841	-0.37%	-4	188	3.01%	2.40%
Primary	St Winefride's Catholic Primary	390	1,814,687	0	60,498	1,875,185	4,808	0	0	380	1,874,246	0	1,874,246	4,932	0	0	-939	-0.05%	-10	124	2.58%	2.39%
Primary	Stanbury Village School	103	552,766	0	17,914	570,680	5,541	35,944	0	101	564,367	0	564,367	5,588	24,781	0	-6,313	-1.11%	-2	47	0.85%	0.38%
Primary	Steeton Primary School	286	1,327,626	0	43,023	1,370,649	4,792	0	0	287	1,408,108	0	1,408,108	4,906	0	0	37,459	2.73%	1	114	2.37%	2.41%
Primary	Stocks Lane Primary School	205	975,187	0	32,654	1,007,842	4,916	43,790	0	205	1,012,202	0	1,012,202	4,938	25,013	0	4,361	0.43%	0	21	0.43%	0.43%
Primary	Swain House Primary School	423	2,069,987	0	71,603	2,141,590	5,063	0	0	421	2,183,153	0	2,183,153	5,186	0	0	41,563	1.94%	-2	123	2.43%	2.39%
Primary	Thackley Primary School	419	1,845,695	0	59,581	1,905,276	4,547	0	73,150	418	1,945,790	0	1,945,790	4,655	0	73,807	40,514	2.13%	-1	108	2.37%	2.37%
Primary	The Co-op Academy Parkland	197	1,131,799	0	40,127	1,171,926	5,949	11,483	0	190	1,150,828	0	1,150,828	6,057	0	0	-21,099	-1.80%	-7	108	1.82%	1.39%
Primary	The Co-op Academy Princeville	384	2,000,919	0	62,384	2,063,303	5,373	0	0	370	2,040,955	0	2,040,955	5,516	0	0	-22,349	-1.08%	-14	143	2.66%	2.41%
Primary	The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Academy	129	604,141	0	20,696	624,837	4,844	12,091	0	121	596,968	0	596,968	4,934	0	0	-27,870	-4.46%	-8	90	1.86%	0.42%
Primary	Thornbury Primary Leadership Academy	460	2,285,880	0	75,694	2,361,575	5,134	0	0	458	2,408,034	0	2,408,034	5,258	0	0	46,459	1.97%	-2	124	2.41%	2.39%
Primary	Thornton Primary School	483	2,238,593	0	76,767	2,315,361	4,794	0	0	468	2,301,295	0	2,301,295	4,917	0	0	-14,066	-0.61%	-15	124	2.58%	2.39%
Primary	Thorpe Primary School	195	1,031,794	0	37,081	1,068,875	5,481	0	0	201	1,123,936	0	1,123,936	5,592	0	0	55,061	5.15%	6	110	2.01%	2.39%
Primary	Trinity All Saints CE Primary School	207	999,761	0	36,013	1,035,774	5,004	0	0	177	926,593	0	926,593	5,235	0	0	-109,181	-10.54%	-30	231	4.62%	2.40%
Primary	Victoria Primary School	286	1,472,643	0	45,831	1,518,475	5,309	0	0	290	1,574,872	0	1,574,872	5,431	0	0	56,398	3.71%	4	121	2.28%	2.41%
Primary	Wellington Primary School	424	1,964,685	0	66,625	2,031,310	4,791	0	0	424	2,080,203	0	2,080,203	4,906	0	0	48,893	2.41%	0	115	2.41%	2.41%
Primary	Westbourne Primary School	387	2,021,534	0	64,301	2,085,835	5,390	0	0	381	2,104,969	0	2,104,969	5,525	0	0	19,134	0.92%	-6	135	2.51%	2.40%
Primary	Westminster CE Primary Academy	486	2,555,079	0	88,046	2,643,125	5,439	0	0	453	2,531,947	0	2,531,947	5,589	0	0	-111,178	-4.21%	-33	151	2.77%	2.40%
Primary	Whetley Primary Academy	458	2,459,564	0	77,433	2,536,997	5,539	0	0	433	2,463,663	0	2,463,663	5,690	0	0	-73,334	-2.89%	-25	150	2.72%	2.41%
Primary	Wibsey Primary School	624	2,914,421	29,901	100,102	3,044,424	4,879	0	0	627	3,100,908	54,309	3,155,217	5,032	0	0	110,793	3.64%	3	153	3.14%	3.17%
Primary	Wilsden Primary School	281	1,251,024	0	41,804	1,292,828	4,601	13,219	27,290	261	1,215,845	0	1,215,845	4,658	890	14,162	-76,982	-5.95%	-20	58	1.25%	1.18%
Primary	Woodlands Primary Academy	105	567,287	0	18,880	586,167	5,583	27,188	0	105	588,419	0	588,419	5,604	16,005	0	2,252	0.38%	0	21	0.38%	0.38%
Primary	Woodside Academy	381	1,986,874	0	69,412	2,056,286	5,397	0	0	379	2,095,250	0	2,095,250	5,528	0	0	38,965	1.89%	-2	131	2.43%	2.40%
Primary	Worth Valley Primary Academy	208	1,150,424	0	42,165	1,192,589	5,734	0	0	201	1,184,518	0	1,184,518	5,893	0	0	-8,071	-0.68%	-7	160	2.78%	2.39%
Primary	Worthinghead Primary School	213	1,051,081	0	35,583	1,086,664	5,102	9,081	0	211	1,094,262	0	1,094,262	5,186	0	0	7,598	0.70%	-2	84	1.65%	1.54%
Primary	Wycliffe CE Primary Academy	348	1,571,061	0	53,003	1,624,063	4,667	0	0	334	1,601,622	0	1,601,622	4,795	0	0	-22,442	-1.38%	-14	128	2.75%	2.40%
Secondary	Beckfoot Academy	1,361	7,902,608	0	278,653	8,181,261	6,011	0	0	1,363	8,392,364	0	8,392,364	6,157	0	0	211,103	2.58%	2	146	2.43%	2.39%
Secondary	Beckfoot Oakbank Academy	1,415	9,246,838	0	335,730	9,582,568	6,772	0	0	1,441	9,976,358	0	9,976,358	6,923	0	0	393,790	4.11%	26	151	2.23%	2.38%
Secondary	Beckfoot Thornton Academy	1,299	8,634,416	0	308,972	8,943,388	6,885	0	0	1,296	9,138,179	0	9,138,179	7,051	0	0	194,791	2.18%	-3	166	2.41%	2.39%
Secondary	Beckfoot Upper Heaton Academy	719	5,146,303	0	177,591	5,323,894	7,405	227,737	0	725	5,393,346	0	5,393,346	7,439	127,296	0	69,452	1.30%	6	35	0.47%	0.49%
Secondary	Belle Vue Girls' Academy	882	5,919,974	0	209,760	6,129,733	6,950	0	0	895	6,360,215	0	6,360,215	7,106	0	0	230,482	3.76%	13	157	2.25%	2.39%
Secondary	Bingley Grammar School	1,579	9,431,112	34,280	336,200	9,801,593	6,207	0	0	1,611	10,190,555	0	10,190,555	6,326	0	0	388,962	3.97%	32	118	1.90%	2.03%
Secondary	Bradford Forster Academy	997	7,108,533	0	256,778	7,365,311	7,387	0	0	1,020	7,714,384	0	7,714,384	7,563	0	0	349,073	4.74%	23	176	2.38%	2.38%
Secondary	Bronte Girls' Academy	660	4,286,294	0	155,505	4,441,799	6,734	0	0	720	4,978,599	0	4,978,599	6,915	0	0	536,801	12.09%	60	180	2.68%	2.36%
Secondary	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College Academy	1,460	9,920,989	0	364,429	10,285,418	7,045	0	0	1,464	10,547,655	0	10,547,655	7,205	0	0	262,238	2.55%	4	160	2.27%	2.39%
Secondary	Carlton Bolling College	1,629	10,942,729	0	390,909	11,333,638	6,957	0	0	1,640	11,688,779	0	11,688,779	7,127	0	0	355,140	3.13%	11	170	2.44%	2.38%
Secondary	Carlton Keighley Academy	707	4,871,969	0	165,515	5,037,484	7,125	106,444	0	759	5,424,321	0	5,424,321	7,147	15,788	0	386,837	7.68%	52	22	0.30%	0.49%
Secondary	Co-op Academy Grange	1,507	10,545,668	0	387,315	10,932,982	7,255	0	0	1,524	11,312,517	0	11,312,517	7,423	0	0	379,535	3.47%	17	168	2.32%	2.39%
Secondary	Dixons City Academy	904	5,754,870	0	202,917	5,957,787	6,590	0	0	913	6,168,083	0	6,168,083	6,756	0	0	210,296	3.53%	9	165	2.51%	2.40%
Secondary	Dixons Cottingley Academy	865	5,768,961	0	208,442	5,977,403	6,910	23,498	0	846	5,972,950	0	5,972,950	7,060	0	0	-4,452	-0.07%	-19	150	2.17%	1.99%
Secondary	Dixons Kings Academy	839	5,392,398	0	192,427	5,584,826	6,657	0	0	830	5,662,495	0	5,662,495	6,822	0	0	77,669	1.39%	-9	166	2.49%	2.40%
Secondary	Dixons McMillan Academy	644	4,152,408	0	150,902	4,303,311	6,682	0	0	658	4,507,600	0										

school / acad is modelled to be on the MFG or MFL in 24/25		2023/24 Financial Year (Actual)								2024/25 Financial Year (Illustrative Model)												
Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Phase	School	Funded Pupil No.s	Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Split Sites Formula Funding	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	Total of Formula Funding and MSAG	Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG Allocation (at + 0.50%)	MFL (£4,405 prim; £5,715 sec)	Estimated Funded Pupil No.s Oct 2023	Illustrative Formula Funding (ex. Rates, Split Sites & PFI)	Illustrative Split Sites Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Formula Funding	Illustrative Total Funding Per Pupil	MFG (at + 0.5%)	MFL (£4,655 prim; £6,050 sec)	Total £ Diff vs. 23/24	Total % Diff vs. 23/24	Diff in Pupil Numbers	£APP diff vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24	% Diff £APP vs. 23/24 using same pupil no.s
Secondary	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	880	6,322,746	0	223,882	6,546,628	7,439	0	0	888	6,762,330	0	6,762,330	7,615	0	0	215,703	3.29%	8	176	2.36%	2.39%
Secondary	Oasis Academy Lister Park	800	5,569,946	0	199,744	5,769,690	7,212	0	0	822	6,069,730	0	6,069,730	7,384	0	0	300,040	5.20%	22	172	2.38%	2.39%
Secondary	One In A Million (Free School)	376	2,747,664	0	97,442	2,845,106	7,567	0	0	377	2,921,520	0	2,921,520	7,749	0	0	76,414	2.69%	1	183	2.41%	2.39%
Secondary	Parkside School	1,044	6,271,348	0	225,917	6,497,264	6,223	0	0	1,056	6,723,176	0	6,723,176	6,367	0	0	225,912	3.48%	12	143	2.30%	2.39%
Secondary	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College	1,473	9,271,918	152,934	325,697	9,750,548	6,620	0	0	1,478	9,866,531	81,414	9,947,944	6,731	0	0	197,396	2.02%	5	111	1.68%	1.62%
Secondary	The Holy Family Catholic School	729	4,927,500	0	171,738	5,099,237	6,995	0	0	714	5,127,944	0	5,127,944	7,182	0	0	28,706	0.56%	-15	187	2.68%	2.39%
Secondary	Titus Salt School	1,269	7,919,112	0	282,644	8,201,755	6,463	0	0	1,266	8,380,649	0	8,380,649	6,620	0	0	178,894	2.18%	-3	157	2.42%	2.39%
Secondary	Tong Leadership Academy	806	5,717,244	0	208,486	5,925,729	7,352	0	0	803	6,030,367	0	6,030,367	7,510	0	0	104,637	1.77%	-3	158	2.15%	2.39%
Secondary	Trinity Academy Bradford	884	5,666,750	0	206,461	5,873,212	6,644	0	0	907	6,161,588	0	6,161,588	6,793	0	0	288,376	4.91%	23	149	2.25%	2.39%
		89,027	497,790,810	439,760	17,065,557	515,296,127	5,788	1,733,007	2,386,741	88,695	525,508,452	411,083	525,919,536	5,930	780,776	2,390,945	10,623,409	2.06%	-332	141	2.44%	2.19%

Key to Columns

1	The number of reception to year 11 pupils funded in 2023/24 taken from the October 2022 Census with adjustments made for x2 newly establishing academies.
2	The Local Authority's calculated 2023/24 financial year formula funding allocation excluding business rates, split sites and PFI funding. This total also does not include any high needs, early years, post 16 funding, Growth Fund or any other grants.
3	The value of split sites formula funding allocated for the 2023/24 financial year.
4	The additional Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) allocated by the DfE in 2023/24.
5	The school's / academy's 2023/24 total formula funding, plus split sites funding, plus MSAG (column 2 + column 3 + column 4).
6	The school's / academy's 2023/24 total funding per pupil (column 5 divided by column 1).
7	The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection within the school's / academy's 2023/24 formula funding allocation shown in column 2. The MFG was set at + 0.50%. A zero in this column = the school / academy was funded at or above the level of the MFG and did not require protection.
8	The top up to bring a school's / academy's 2023/24 formula funding per pupil up to the mandatory minimums of £4,405 (primary) and £5,715 (secondary). This funding is included in column 2. A zero in the column = no top up was required.
9	The number of reception to year 11 pupils estimated to be recorded in the October 2023 Census.
10	The Local Authority's illustrative 2024/25 financial year formula funding allocation, excluding business rates, split sites and PFI funding. This total also does not include any high needs, early years, post 16 funding, Growth Fund or any other grants. It is calculated on the pupil numbers shown in column 9, incorporating
11	The illustrative value of split sites formula funding allocated for the 2024/25 financial year using the new NFF method.
12	The school's / academy's 2024/25 illustrative total formula funding plus split sites funding (column 10 + column 11).
13	The school's / academy's illustrative 2024/25 total formula funding per pupil (column 12 divided by column 9).
14	The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection within the school's / academy's 2024/25 illustrative allocation shown in column 10, based on an MFG of + 0.50%. A zero in this column = the school / academy is funded at or above the level of the MFG and does not require protection.
15	The top up to bring a school's / academy's 2024/25 illustrative formula funding per pupil up to the new mandatory minimums of £4,655 (primary) and £6,050 (secondary). This funding is included in column 10. A zero in this column = no top up is required.
16	The difference between 2024/25 illustrative and 2023/24 actual allocations (column 12 minus column 5) i.e. the impact of proposed formula funding changes incorporating estimated changes in pupil numbers but before the impact of any change in data to be recorded in the October 2023 Census.
17	The column 16 difference shown in % terms (column 12 divided into column 5).
18	The difference in pupil numbers (column 9 minus column 1).
19	The change in per pupil funding (column 13 minus column 6).
20	The % change in per pupil funding (column 13 divided into column 6).
21	The % change in per pupil funding when the 2023/24 funded pupil numbers (shown in column 1), rather than the October 2023 estimates in column 9, are used to estimate 2024/25 allocations. This shows the £app funding difference delivered by the proposals without the distortion of pupil numbers growth or red

Please also see Section 4 in the main consultation document for further explanation of this modelling

Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Phase	School	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND Budget £	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND £Per Pupil	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using New Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using New Definition	Difference Between Columns 5 and 3	Difference Between Columns 6 and 4	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £6k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £3k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £1.5k per pupil (column 5)
All Through	Appleton Academy	1,124,985	921	1,218,941	973	1,247,441	996	28,500	23	208	416	832
All Through	Bradford Academy	1,505,120	972	1,559,902	1,020	1,594,404	1,043	34,502	23	266	531	1,063
All Through	Bradford Girls Grammar (Free School)	748,519	735	806,691	773	821,188	787	14,497	14	137	274	547
All Through	Dixons Allerton Academy	1,359,842	833	1,431,897	873	1,460,341	890	28,444	17	243	487	974
Primary	Addingham Primary School	97,453	510	98,452	524	96,917	516	-1,534	-8	16	32	65
Primary	All Saints' CE Primary School (Bradford)	481,023	792	497,635	831	502,939	840	5,304	9	84	168	335
Primary	All Saints' CE Primary School (Ilkley)	201,336	574	203,057	594	200,470	586	-2,587	-8	33	67	134
Primary	Ashlands Primary School	192,987	588	174,867	591	172,996	584	-1,872	-6	29	58	115
Primary	Atlas School	153,430	872	154,655	910	155,886	917	1,231	7	26	52	104
Primary	Baildon CE Primary School	254,435	616	266,325	643	263,595	637	-2,730	-7	44	88	176
Primary	Bankfoot Primary School	143,034	668	148,716	698	149,966	704	1,250	6	25	50	100
Primary	Barkerend Primary Leadership Academy	408,419	790	407,686	827	411,695	835	4,009	8	69	137	274
Primary	Beckfoot Allerton Primary Academy	315,286	813	314,061	849	316,648	856	2,586	7	53	106	211
Primary	Beckfoot Heaton Primary Academy	471,045	749	493,066	784	497,768	791	4,701	7	83	166	332
Primary	Beckfoot Priestthorpe Primary School	103,935	553	107,185	579	106,758	577	-427	-2	18	36	71
Primary	Ben Rhydding Primary School	87,382	465	90,396	486	89,047	479	-1,349	-7	15	30	59
Primary	Blakehill Primary School	263,920	633	274,654	659	273,787	657	-867	-2	46	91	183
Primary	Bowling Park Primary School	606,195	1,004	598,107	1,049	604,990	1,061	6,883	12	101	202	403
Primary	Brackenhill Primary School	324,575	822	332,269	856	333,846	860	1,578	4	56	111	223
Primary	Burley & Woodhead CE Primary School	106,795	531	111,745	553	110,043	545	-1,702	-8	18	37	73
Primary	Burley Oaks Primary School	264,761	657	265,086	680	262,074	672	-3,012	-8	44	87	175
Primary	Byron Primary Academy	510,327	830	530,630	867	534,698	874	4,069	7	89	178	356
Primary	Carrwood Primary School	268,467	1,045	276,966	1,095	281,722	1,114	4,756	19	47	94	188
Primary	Cavendish Primary School	386,028	932	402,177	976	406,885	988	4,708	11	68	136	271
Primary	Christ Church Primary Academy	149,616	855	155,629	900	158,077	914	2,448	14	26	53	105
Primary	Clayton St John's CE Primary Academy	285,069	783	286,603	819	287,635	822	1,032	3	48	96	192
Primary	Clayton Village Primary School	160,608	783	169,685	816	169,343	814	-343	-2	28	56	113
Primary	Copthorne Primary Academy	350,682	833	365,619	868	367,334	873	1,715	4	61	122	245
Primary	Cottingley Village Primary School	234,286	563	244,847	587	243,736	584	-1,111	-3	41	81	162
Primary	Crossflatts Primary School	284,904	666	296,203	692	294,156	687	-2,047	-5	49	98	196
Primary	Crossley Hall Primary School	565,592	947	594,361	987	597,858	993	3,497	6	100	199	399
Primary	Cullingworth Village Primary Academy	190,516	597	200,295	622	198,796	617	-1,499	-5	33	66	133
Primary	Denholme Primary Academy	130,332	697	140,979	730	141,364	732	385	2	24	47	94
Primary	Dixons Manningham Primary Academy	358,643	899	360,422	939	363,815	947	3,393	9	61	121	243
Primary	Dixons Marchbank Academy	290,876	694	303,817	725	305,095	728	1,278	3	51	102	203
Primary	Dixons Music Primary	248,447	592	260,169	618	260,331	618	162	0	43	87	174
Primary	East Morton CE Primary Academy	108,728	518	112,777	537	111,341	530	-1,436	-7	19	37	74
Primary	Eastburn Junior and Infant School	108,564	527	113,441	551	112,171	545	-1,269	-6	19	37	75
Primary	Eastwood Primary Academy	291,833	772	304,312	807	306,080	812	1,768	5	51	102	204
Primary	Eldwick Primary School	334,035	658	348,966	687	345,208	680	-3,758	-7	58	115	230
Primary	Fagley Primary School	206,673	957	216,229	1,001	218,830	1,013	2,601	12	36	73	146
Primary	Farfield Primary	372,752	939	378,108	985	383,737	999	5,629	15	64	128	256
Primary	Farnham Primary Academy	352,350	847	367,480	883	369,559	888	2,079	5	62	123	246
Primary	Fearnville Primary Academy	369,822	1,107	371,240	1,157	375,369	1,169	4,129	13	63	125	250
Primary	Feversham Primary Academy	323,229	788	339,308	824	341,790	830	2,482	6	57	114	228
Primary	Foxhill Primary School	97,903	466	102,579	488	101,539	484	-1,040	-5	17	34	68
Primary	Frizinghall Primary School	303,922	815	309,626	851	310,026	852	400	1	52	103	207
Primary	Girlington Primary School	378,994	911	395,817	951	398,688	958	2,871	7	66	133	266
Primary	Glenaire Primary School	135,529	826	137,015	867	138,305	875	1,289	8	23	46	92
Primary	Green Lane Primary School	458,538	870	461,398	910	466,101	919	4,703	9	78	155	311
Primary	Greengates Primary School	157,238	778	154,848	815	156,143	822	1,294	7	26	52	104
Primary	Grove House Primary School	283,829	733	292,196	767	293,193	770	997	3	49	98	195
Primary	Harden Primary Academy	99,550	483	102,923	502	101,795	497	-1,128	-6	17	34	68
Primary	Haworth Primary Academy	168,136	592	162,824	603	161,473	598	-1,352	-5	27	54	108
Primary	Heaton St Barnabas' CE Primary School	239,140	576	242,461	596	242,289	595	-172	0	40	81	162
Primary	High Craggs Primary Leadership Academy	259,697	746	259,189	785	262,559	796	3,370	10	44	88	175
Primary	Hill Top CE Primary School	137,604	655	143,787	685	144,133	686	346	2	24	48	96
Primary	Hollingwood Primary Academy	350,460	830	363,785	866	365,009	869	1,224	3	61	122	243
Primary	Holybrook Primary Academy	237,969	1,077	246,010	1,128	249,861	1,146	3,851	18	42	83	167
Primary	Holycroft Primary Academy	253,095	798	248,415	836	250,805	844	2,390	8	42	84	167
Primary	Home Farm Primary School	344,817	829	360,089	866	362,115	870	2,026	5	60	121	241
Primary	Horton Grange Primary Academy	606,892	976	633,720	1,017	637,651	1,024	3,931	6	106	213	425
Primary	Horton Park Primary Academy	387,029	894	392,563	937	398,047	950	5,484	13	66	133	265
Primary	Hoyle Court Primary School	175,564	601	180,732	630	180,690	630	-41	0	30	60	120
Primary	Idle CE Primary School	253,006	602	262,511	628	260,210	623	-2,300	-6	43	87	173
Primary	Ingrow Primary School	313,284	849	318,807	891	322,911	902	4,105	11	54	108	215
Primary	Iqra Primary Academy	382,907	613	392,569	640	394,344	643	1,775	3	66	131	263
Primary	Keelham Primary School	47,421	452	49,188	473	48,676	468	-512	-5	8	16	32
Primary	Keighley St Andrew's CE Primary School	323,540	999	317,838	1,039	319,244	1,043	1,406	5	53	106	213
Primary	Killinghall Primary School	523,010	835	544,807	870	547,654	875	2,847	5	91	183	365
Primary	Knowleswood Primary School	427,301	1,124	446,636	1,178	454,385	1,199	7,750	20	76	151	303
Primary	Lapage Primary School and Nursery	458,135	744	475,982	778	479,058	783	3,076	5	80	160	319
Primary	Laycock Primary Academy	65,974	725	69,887	760	70,776	769	890	10	12	24	47
Primary	Lees Primary Academy	99,809	485	105,050	507	104,166	503	-884	-4	17	35	69
Primary	Ley Top Primary School	348,191	891	355,713	934	360,634	947	4,921	13	60	120	240
Primary	Lidget Green Primary School	466,201	868	460,297	906	463,962	913	3,665	7	77	155	309
Primary	Lilycroft Primary School	331,457	812	346,329	849	348,741	855	2,412	6	58	116	232
Primary	Carlton Mills Primary School	242,109	838	214,351	875	215,598	880	1,247	5	36	72	144
Primary	Long Lee Primary School	262,040	757	262,323	793	263,678	797	1,355	4	44	88	176
Primary	Low Ash Primary School	292,129	659	305,214	686	304,685	685	-529	-1	51	102	203
Primary	Low Moor CE Primary School	234,042	575	248,065	601	247,488	599	-577	-1	41	82	165
Primary	Lower Fields Primary School	362,253	969	373,202	1,011	377,175	1,022	3,973	11	63	126	251
Primary	Margaret McMillan Primary School	462,308	812	475,396	847	477,019	850	1,622	3	80	159	318

	Column Reference (see key below)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Phase	School	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND Budget £	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND £Per Pupil	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using New Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using New Definition	Difference Between Columns 5 and 3	Difference Between Columns 6 and 4	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £6k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £3k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £1.5k per pupil (column 5)
Primary	Marshfield Primary School	290,113	720	303,874	752	305,785	757	1,911	5	51	102	204
Primary	Menston Primary School	258,082	648	272,784	679	269,451	670	-3,333	-8	45	90	180
Primary	Merlin Top Primary Academy	320,005	1,032	335,381	1,082	340,706	1,099	5,325	17	57	114	227
Primary	Miriam Lord Community Primary School	331,588	929	334,274	969	336,704	976	2,430	7	56	112	224
Primary	Myrtle Park Primary School	106,360	499	111,378	523	110,294	518	-1,084	-5	18	37	74
Primary	Beckfoot Nessfield Primary Academy	192,803	689	189,681	718	189,408	717	-273	-1	32	63	126
Primary	Newby Primary School	305,419	743	317,180	777	319,551	783	2,370	6	53	107	213
Primary	Newhall Park Primary School	304,969	792	310,136	829	312,461	835	2,325	6	52	104	208
Primary	Oakworth Primary Academy	244,955	623	255,147	649	253,094	644	-2,053	-5	42	84	169
Primary	Oldfield Primary School	39,182	754	41,654	786	41,573	784	-80	-2	7	14	28
Primary	Our Lady & St Brendan's Catholic Primary School	179,134	928	187,129	970	189,333	981	2,204	11	32	63	126
Primary	Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary Academy	181,952	854	188,229	888	188,755	890	525	2	31	63	126
Primary	Oxenhope CE Primary Academy	112,741	567	111,267	592	110,233	586	-1,035	-6	18	37	73
Primary	The Co-op Academy Parkland	196,881	999	199,082	1,048	202,037	1,063	2,955	16	34	67	135
Primary	Parkwood Primary School	183,977	934	193,324	976	195,285	986	1,961	10	33	65	130
Primary	Peel Park Primary School	440,510	810	443,536	848	447,300	855	3,764	7	75	149	298
Primary	Poplars Farm Primary School	254,347	737	288,361	771	290,239	776	1,878	5	48	97	193
Primary	The Co-op Academy Princeville	346,563	903	348,171	941	350,242	947	2,071	6	58	117	233
Primary	Rainbow Primary Leadership Academy	230,688	749	242,169	784	243,837	789	1,667	5	41	81	163
Primary	Reevy Hill Primary School	218,411	1,065	228,893	1,117	232,264	1,133	3,371	16	39	77	155
Primary	Riddlesden St Mary's CE Primary	275,071	747	291,618	782	292,364	784	746	2	49	97	195
Primary	Russell Hall Primary School	126,797	610	133,024	640	132,942	639	-82	0	22	44	89
Primary	Ryecroft Primary Academy	180,764	908	184,947	953	187,975	969	3,028	16	31	63	125
Primary	Saltaire Primary School	267,344	640	277,987	665	276,588	662	-1,399	-3	46	92	184
Primary	Sandal Primary School and Nursery	267,138	645	275,644	671	273,576	666	-2,068	-5	46	91	182
Primary	Sandy Lane Primary School	233,363	748	243,696	781	244,246	783	551	2	41	81	163
Primary	Shibden Head Primary Academy	278,501	688	293,645	716	292,344	713	-1,301	-3	49	97	195
Primary	Shingley CE Primary Academy	129,176	718	135,059	750	134,922	750	-138	-1	22	45	90
Primary	Shirley Manor Primary Academy	148,663	804	150,323	845	152,896	859	2,573	14	25	51	102
Primary	Silsden Primary School	438,079	736	454,574	765	452,031	761	-2,543	-4	75	151	301
Primary	Southmere Primary Academy	338,541	1,014	326,821	1,061	331,236	1,075	4,415	14	55	110	221
Primary	St Anne's Catholic Primary Academy	175,158	830	180,564	864	180,741	865	177	1	30	60	120
Primary	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (Clayton)	147,366	719	153,602	749	153,583	749	-20	0	26	51	102
Primary	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (Shingley)	70,616	569	68,820	598	69,326	603	507	4	12	23	46
Primary	St Clare's Catholic Primary School	193,633	935	191,329	976	193,054	985	1,725	9	32	64	129
Primary	St Columba's Catholic Primary School	297,534	899	306,670	941	310,301	952	3,631	11	52	103	207
Primary	St Cuthbert & the First Martyrs' Catholic Primary	150,384	716	156,184	747	156,655	750	471	2	26	52	104
Primary	St Francis' Catholic Primary School	149,172	710	155,806	738	155,082	735	-724	-3	26	52	103
Primary	St James Primary Academy	262,371	1,021	266,852	1,067	269,985	1,080	3,132	13	45	90	180
Primary	St John The Evangelist Catholic Primary	120,762	601	123,151	628	123,456	630	305	2	21	41	82
Primary	St John's CE Primary School	283,277	698	284,625	730	286,664	735	2,040	5	48	96	191
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Bingley)	96,255	512	99,482	535	98,478	529	-1,005	-5	16	33	66
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Bradford)	273,542	882	286,940	923	289,810	932	2,869	9	48	97	193
Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Keighley	209,024	697	223,658	729	225,025	733	1,366	4	38	75	150
Primary	St Luke's CE Primary School	161,667	766	169,049	801	170,203	807	1,154	5	28	57	113
Primary	St Mary's and St Peter's Catholic	189,146	941	197,626	983	199,348	992	1,723	9	33	66	133
Primary	St Matthew's Catholic Primary School	182,321	903	189,927	940	191,349	947	1,423	7	32	64	128
Primary	St Matthew's CE Primary School	316,325	850	322,469	888	324,986	895	2,517	7	54	108	217
Primary	St Oswald's CE Primary Academy	332,923	890	336,925	931	340,767	941	3,843	11	57	114	227
Primary	St Paul's CE Primary School	142,537	692	146,165	724	146,722	726	557	3	24	49	98
Primary	St Philip's CE Primary Academy	164,565	840	171,640	876	172,442	880	803	4	29	57	115
Primary	St Stephen's CE Primary School	349,125	886	364,596	928	368,404	937	3,809	10	61	123	246
Primary	St Walburga's Catholic Primary School	106,781	506	111,703	529	110,882	526	-821	-4	18	37	74
Primary	St William's Catholic Primary School	115,725	949	116,975	991	118,006	1,000	1,031	9	20	39	79
Primary	St Winefride's Catholic Primary	266,486	683	271,426	714	272,587	717	1,162	3	45	91	182
Primary	Stanbury Village School	49,750	483	51,081	506	50,520	500	-561	-6	8	17	34
Primary	Steeton Primary School	193,494	677	202,444	705	201,666	703	-778	-3	34	67	134
Primary	Stocks Lane Primary School	104,461	510	109,623	535	109,043	532	-579	-3	18	36	73
Primary	Swain House Primary School	348,253	823	362,773	862	365,756	869	2,983	7	61	122	244
Primary	Thackley Primary School	272,599	651	282,879	677	281,160	673	-1,719	-4	47	94	187
Primary	The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Academy	44,104	342	43,543	360	42,644	352	-899	-7	7	14	28
Primary	Thornbury Primary Leadership Academy	339,993	739	354,582	774	358,380	782	3,799	8	60	119	239
Primary	Thornton Primary School	359,203	744	363,998	778	365,658	781	1,660	4	61	122	244
Primary	Thorpe Primary School	152,045	780	164,630	819	166,718	829	2,088	10	28	56	111
Primary	Trinity All Saints CE Primary School	128,004	618	115,061	650	115,284	651	223	1	19	38	77
Primary	Victoria Primary School	249,703	873	263,687	909	264,465	912	778	3	44	88	176
Primary	Wellington Primary School	318,593	751	332,885	785	333,127	786	242	1	56	111	222
Primary	Westbourne Primary School	326,878	845	336,240	883	339,349	891	3,109	8	57	113	226
Primary	Westminster CE Primary Academy	445,797	917	435,495	961	440,334	972	4,839	11	73	147	294
Primary	Whetley Primary Academy	431,980	943	426,409	985	429,737	992	3,328	8	72	143	286
Primary	Wibsey Primary School	506,999	812	532,510	849	535,090	853	2,580	4	89	178	357
Primary	Wilsden Primary School	161,710	575	151,246	579	150,037	575	-1,209	-5	25	50	100
Primary	Woodlands Primary Academy	56,500	538	59,213	564	58,879	561	-334	-3	10	20	39
Primary	Woodside Academy	355,023	932	369,879	976	374,462	988	4,583	12	62	125	250
Primary	Worth Valley Primary Academy	185,473	892	188,398	937	191,431	952	3,033	15	32	64	128
Primary	Worthinghead Primary School	143,908	676	149,181	707	149,885	710	703	3	25	50	100
Primary	Wycliffe CE Primary Academy	225,965	649	226,643	679	226,295	678	-348	-1	38	75	151
Secondary	Beckfoot Academy	851,823	626	891,541	654	901,504	661	9,963	7	150	301	601
Secondary	Beckfoot Oakbank Academy	1,272,994	900	1,357,577	942	1,387,387	963	29,810	21	231	462	925
Secondary	Beckfoot Thornton Academy	1,268,543	977	1,323,658	1,021	1,350,977	1,042	27,319	21	225	450	901
Secondary	Beckfoot Upper Heaton Academy	702,496	977	742,262	1,024	759,078	1,047	16,815	23	127	253	506
Secondary	Belle Vue Girls' Academy	788,022	893	837,271	935	856,527	957	19,256	22	143	286	571
Secondary	Bingley Grammar School	1,070,065	678	1,142,162	709	1,159,672	720	17,510	11	193	387	773
Secondary	Bradford Forster Academy	1,106,180	1,110	1,185,495	1,162	1,216,407	1,193	30,912	30	203	405	811
Secondary	Bronte Girls' Academy	470,749	714	540,192	750	556,097	772	15,904	22	93	185	371
Secondary	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College Academy	1,483,168	1,016	1,558,166	1,064	1,593,974	1,089	35,808	24	266	531	1,063

Column Reference (see key below)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Phase	School	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND Budget £	2023/24 Actual Notional SEND £Per Pupil	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using Current Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £ Using New Definition	2024/25 Illustrative Notional SEND £Per Pupil Using New Definition	Difference Between Columns 5 and 3	Difference Between Columns 6 and 4	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £6k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £3k per pupil (column 5)	Notional No. of Pupils Supported at £1.5k per pupil (column 5)
Secondary	Carlton Bolling College	1,559,016	957	1,643,562	1,002	1,681,975	1,026	38,413	23	280	561	1,121
Secondary	Carlton Keighley Academy	689,699	976	773,052	1,019	787,878	1,038	14,826	20	131	263	525
Secondary	Co-op Academy Grange	1,520,688	1,009	1,614,737	1,060	1,657,234	1,087	42,497	28	276	552	1,105
Secondary	Dixons City Academy	633,613	701	671,946	736	688,851	754	16,905	19	115	230	459
Secondary	Dixons Cottingley Academy	771,641	892	791,441	936	808,296	955	16,855	20	135	269	539
Secondary	Dixons Kings Academy	597,316	712	620,997	748	637,481	768	16,484	20	106	212	425
Secondary	Dixons McMillan Academy	460,763	715	495,565	753	508,847	773	13,281	20	85	170	339
Secondary	Dixons Trinity Academy	462,942	726	496,400	763	509,328	782	12,928	20	85	170	340
Secondary	Eden Boys Leadership Academy	451,114	817	513,994	854	525,304	873	11,310	19	88	175	350
Secondary	Feversham College	424,285	690	449,809	724	461,956	744	12,147	20	77	154	308
Secondary	Hanson School	1,392,598	1,003	1,477,441	1,052	1,511,604	1,077	34,163	24	252	504	1,008
Secondary	Ilkley Grammar School	948,168	604	1,017,295	631	1,020,715	634	3,420	2	170	340	680
Secondary	Immanuel College Academy	1,110,137	767	1,189,353	803	1,212,108	818	22,755	15	202	404	808
Secondary	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	937,900	1,066	991,394	1,116	1,014,426	1,142	23,032	26	169	338	676
Secondary	Oasis Academy Lister Park	848,785	1,061	912,725	1,110	933,277	1,135	20,553	25	156	311	622
Secondary	One In A Million (Free School)	415,336	1,105	435,701	1,156	445,613	1,182	9,912	26	74	149	297
Secondary	Parkside School	743,079	712	786,153	744	796,789	755	10,636	10	133	266	531
Secondary	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College	1,114,821	757	1,171,336	793	1,197,058	810	25,722	17	200	399	798
Secondary	The Holy Family Catholic School	734,844	1,008	751,688	1,053	765,851	1,073	14,163	20	128	255	511
Secondary	Titus Salt School	1,020,670	804	1,064,925	841	1,083,395	856	18,470	15	181	361	722
Secondary	Tong Leadership Academy	882,289	1,095	920,390	1,146	942,402	1,174	22,012	27	157	314	628
Secondary	Trinity Academy Bradford	750,335	849	806,245	889	821,338	906	15,093	17	137	274	548
		72,131,209		75,171,841		76,099,350		927,508				

Key to Columns

1	The actual 2023/24 financial year Notional SEND Budget, as published by the Authority in February 2023.
2	The actual 2023/24 financial year Notional SEND Budget, as published by the Authority in February 2023, expressed as an amount per pupil.
3	Illustratively, what the 2024/25 Notional SEND would be if we continued to use the current definition. This is calculated using the same information as used to produce Appendix 1a.
4	Illustratively, what the 2024/25 Notional SEND Budget would be if we continued to use the current definition, expressed as an amount per pupil.
5	Illustratively, what the 2024/25 Notional SEND Budget would be if we use the proposed new definition. This is calculated using the same information as used to produce Appendix 1a.
6	Illustratively, what the 2024/25 Notional SEND Budget would be if we used the proposed new definition, expressed as an amount per pupil.
7	The difference between columns 5 and 3 i.e. the difference in cash budget between using the new vs. current definition.
8	The difference between columns 6 and 4 i.e. the difference in per pupil funding between using the new vs. current definition.
9	For illustration, how many pupils the new definition illustratively would support (column 5) if every pupil that required additional support cost £6,000.
10	For illustration, how many pupils the new definition illustratively would support (column 5) if every pupil that required additional support cost £3,000.
11	For illustration, how many pupils the new definition illustratively would support (column 5) if every pupil that required additional support cost £1,500.

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SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report asks the Forum to consider the consultation document, which outlines the formula approach that the Authority proposes to use to delegate High Needs Block funding to high needs providers, mainstream schools and academies and other settings in the 2024/25 financial year April 2024 to March 2025.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

A report outlining the developing proposals for 2024/25 funding arrangements was presented to the Schools Forum on 13 September.

Background / Context

Please see Appendix 1 (the consultation document itself).

Details of the Item for Consideration

Each autumn the Local Authority, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, publishes three separate consultations on DSG management and formula funding arrangements for the following year.

Appendix 1 represents the formal consultation document on arrangements for the formula approach that Bradford Council proposes to use to delegate Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block funding to high needs providers, mainstream schools and academies and other settings in the 2024/25 financial year April 2024 to March 2025. This is known, and referred to, as our 'Place-Plus' system.

Forum Members are not asked to give their final views (final recommendations) for 2024/25 at this meeting. Members are asked to approve the publication of the documentation for consultation. The Forum will be asked to review responses to this consultation in December prior to making final recommendations on 10 January 2024.

The proposed approach to the uplifting of the values allocated by the Banded Model will be discussed with District Achievement Partnership.

The consultation document includes a draft indicative list of places planned to be commissioned by the Authority in 2024/25 in Bradford-located settings. The annual sufficiency report will be presented to the Forum at the next meeting in December.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

As set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to agree that the consultation document (Document QK Appendix 1) is published.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – High Needs Funding 2024/25 Consultation

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Dawn Haigh, Principal Finance Officer (Schools)
01274 433775
dawn.haigh@bradford.gov.uk

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DOCUMENT QK APP 1 - INFORMATION & CONSULTATION ON THE FORMULA FUNDING OF HIGH NEEDS PROVISION FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. Introduction & Summary

1.1 This consultation document is written to set out, and to collect views on, the formula approach that Bradford Council proposes to use to delegate Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block funding to high needs providers, mainstream schools and academies and to other settings in the 2024/25 financial year April 2024 to March 2025. This is known, and referred to, as our 'Place-Plus' system and has two parts: a) core (or place-element) funding and b) top-up (or plus) funding.

1.2 In response to its national Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision Review, which was commissioned in September 2019, the Department for Education (DfE) published in March 2022 an outcomes and consultation document. This document can be found [here](#). The DfE has then, most recently, published in March 2023 [an improvement plan](#), which provides a [roadmap](#) and details on the timescales for changes, setting out the review, pilot working and implementation that will take place between 2023 and the end of 2025. Whilst the DfE has indicated that this represents a longer-term programme of change, the Review will be significant to the future of high needs provision and high needs funding. Further national consultation is expected, especially on changes to high needs funding mechanisms in future years. The DfE's High Needs Block operational guidance for the 2024/25 financial year, however, has confirmed that the values of place-element funding (£10,000 and £6,000), and the positions of the main 'levers' of the high needs place-plus funding system, remain unchanged. Local authorities continue to hold responsibility for calculating and allocating top-up funding. We would like to emphasise though that our high needs formula funding arrangements must now operate in the context of the national Review. Although the details of the future changes in funding systems, that are indicated by the Review's publications so far, are still to be known, the Review does strongly indicate, for example, an increased focus on early intervention and on mainstream inclusion, as well as the introduction of a national system of banding for the allocation of EHCP top-up funding. As such, we must ensure that our funding systems continue to support further movement in this direction, and schools, academies and other settings must begin to consider the consequences of the Review and begin to plan their provisions and budgets accordingly.

1.3 We would like to remind settings that our high needs formula funding arrangements continue to operate in the local context of recent and continuing wider changes in Bradford, especially the continued significant growth in the numbers of pupils with EHCPs (including in mainstream settings), the continued creation of additional specialist places, and the development and expansion of resourced provisions in mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.

1.4 In introducing our consultation on our proposals for 2024/25 financial year high needs formula funding arrangements, we would like to remind all settings that Bradford Council introduced, at April 2020, a new Banded Model for the allocation of 'top-up' funding for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). This model replaced our previous 'Ranges Model' and significantly uplifted the funding that is allocated for EHCPs across all settings. EHCP top-up funding has been uplifted in each year since. The Banded Model continues to include protections, which ensure that no EHCP that was in place on 1 April 2020 has reduced in value as a result of funding model change. We also introduced at April 2020 a new Day Rate Model for the funding of alternative provision for pupils permanently excluded. Funding allocated via this Day Rate Model has been uplifted in each year since.

1.5 It is our intention to continue to use these two established funding models to allocate top-up funding to settings in Bradford in 2024/25. In quick summary, overall, we propose the following for 2024/25. To:

- Continue to allocate top-up funding using our existing EHCP Banded Model and Day Rate Model, uplifting the values of the top-up funding allocated by these two models. Please see sections 6 and 8.

- Continue the setting-led need factors as are currently applied in 2023/24 in the funding of specialist provisions. Please see section 7.
- Continue to pass through to special schools, special school academies, PRUs and alternative provision academies, the additional “3.4% place-element” funding that was allocated in 2023/24, as required by the DfE and the 2024/25 DSG Conditions of Grant. Please see paragraph 4.13. We will discuss the allocation of this additional funding directly with the receiving settings (including via the District Achievement Partnership).
- Continue to allocate the former Teacher Pay and Pension Grants, separately from top-up funding, using the method and values we used in 2023/24. Please see section 9.
- Slightly amend our definition of Notional SEND budgets for mainstream schools and academies in 2024/25. Please see Section 10.
- Continue our existing SEND Funding Floor mechanism in support of Element 2 funding for SEND and EHCPs in mainstream primary and secondary settings. Please see section 11.

1.6 In presenting the values of uplifts that are proposed to rates of funding, we must add the caveat that these uplifts are still subject to a final affordability check, which will take place following the closure of this consultation and prior to asking the Schools Forum to give its final formal feedback in January 2024. As such, although we set out here the rates of funding that we anticipate will be used in 2024/25, subject to the responses to this consultation, settings should view these rates as indicative and subject to change.

1.7 Special schools, special school academies, PRUs and Alternative Provision academies will be aware that the DfE has established a new [Teacher Pay Grant](#), which is allocated to support the September 2023 teachers’ pay award. The Pay Grant will continue in the 2024/25 financial year as an additional funding stream, which will be allocated according to the methodology that the Authority will agree via separate consultation with the District Achievement Partnership and the other receiving settings, as is required by the DfE. This grant funding will be entirely separate from, and additional to, the High Needs Block formula funded allocations that are set out for consultation in this document.

1.8 The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Tuesday 28 November 2023**. Please address all questions and responses to Dawn Haigh 01274 433775 dawn.haigh@bradford.gov.uk. A response form is included at Appendix 6. However, we encourage you to use the web-based questionnaire to submit your response. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

2. Background - High Needs Block and National Funding Formula

2.1 All local authorities are following a direction of travel set by the Department for Education (DfE) towards National Funding Formula (NFF). Significant changes to the way high needs provision is funded were implemented by the DfE in the 2013/14 financial year. These changes, now well established, affected activities funded by the High Needs Block (HNB), which is a specific block of monies within the Dedicated Schools Grant (the DSG) that amounts in 2024/25 to about 17% of the overall DSG resources that will be available to Bradford Council.

2.2 Unlike for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, that are funded within the Schools Block of the DSG, the DfE’s National Funding Formula reforms have not so far introduced a provider-level national formula for High Needs Block funded settings. Local authorities continue in 2024/25 to have full responsibilities for determining their own High Needs Block formula funding matters. Authorities are required however, to comply with Regulations and with the DSG’s Conditions of Grant.

2.3 The high needs funding system supports provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), in line with the Children and Families Act 2014. High Needs Block DSG funding is also allocated to support good quality Alternative Provision for pre-16 pupils who cannot receive education in schools. The Children and Families Act 2014 extended the statutory duties local authorities hold relating to SEND across the 0 to 25 age range. Therefore, Bradford Council has a key role in determining the funding that is given to schools, academies and other providers to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. Schools, academies and other providers also have duties under the Act, in

particular a duty to co-operate with their local authorities on arrangements for children and young people with SEND.

2.4 On current estimates, our High Needs Block allocation in 2024/25 is £122.10m, which is £5.20m higher than received in 2023/24. This represents an increase of 4.5% in cash terms and 5.0% in per pupil terms. This % increase is lower than received in recent years but does align with our previous forecasting, which was informed by the DfE's messaging that the current 3-year national school funding settlement has been heavily weighted towards 2022/23 and 2023/24, with reduced increases to be allocated in 2024/25.

2.5 The annual growth in High Needs Block funding is allocated across four main pressures, a) growth in the cost of provision (as a result of inflation and increases in salaries costs), b) growth in the number of EHCPs and in the needs of pupils with EHCPs reflected in their placement costs, c) continued expansion of high needs specialist places capacity (special school and resourced provision places), and d) expansion of central support SEND services capacity in response to increased demand. How the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant will be allocated across these pressures will be further discussed with the Schools Forum in the autumn and early spring terms.

2.6 Of the £122.10m of High Needs Block funding that we estimate we will receive in 2024/25, 93% of this is estimated to be delegated or devolved to support the following:

- Children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) educated in mainstream schools and academies.
- Maintained Special Schools and Special School Academies.
- Enhanced Specialist Provisions (resourced provisions) attached to maintained nursery schools.
- School-led resourced provisions within mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.
- Local Authority-led resourced provisions within mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.
- Young people aged 16 to 25 in Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges and placed with independent or other specialist learning providers.
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Alternative Provision Academies.
- Children and young people placed in independent provisions and in non-maintained special schools.

2.7 High Needs Block funding is allocated in Bradford also to support Local Authority centrally managed services relating to SEND and to Alternative Provision, as permitted by the Finance Regulations. This includes SEND teaching support services, that are accessed by schools, academies and other settings, and tuition for children and young people that are unable to attend school for medical reasons. Local authorities are permitted to separately fund additional outreach and support services that may be managed centrally or may be devolved to providers under service level agreements.

3. Continuation in 2024/25 of the Existing DfE-Led National High Needs Funding System

3.1 The existing national high needs funding system remains in place in 2024/25. Regarding the most prominent elements of this system:

- Place-element funding for specialist provisions (special schools, special school academies, PRUs and alternative provision academies) continues to be set at £10,000.
- Element 2 funding (including the value of place-element funding for places in resourced provisions that are occupied in the October 2023 Census) continues to be set at £6,000.
- Mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies continue to have responsibility for meeting from their delegated budgets the first £6,000 of the cost the additional needs of high needs children.

- Local authorities continue to hold responsibility for calculating and allocating top-up funding.
- Independent and non-maintained special schools continue to remain outside the national Place-Plus system.
- The DfE has confirmed that local authorities continue to be required to allocate the former Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant monies to specialist settings in 2024/25, separately from place-element and top-up funding.
- The DfE has also confirmed that local authorities must continue to pass through the additional “3.4% place-element” funding that special schools, special school academies, PRUs and Alternative Provision academies received in 2023/24 following the introduction of the Schools Supplementary Grant.

4. Place-Element (or Core) Funding

4.1 The national high needs funding approach in 2024/25 continues to be based on the financial definition of a ‘High Needs’ child or young person being one whose education, incorporating all additional support, costs more than £10,000 per annum. This threshold lays the foundation of the current national ‘Place Plus’ framework and is the basis of the definition of the financial responsibility that schools, academies and other settings have for meeting the needs of children and young people from their already delegated formula funding-based budgets.

4.2 High needs funding has two parts a) core (or place-element) funding and b) top-up (or plus) funding. The grid at Appendix 1 sets out in summary how this system operates, and how these two parts work together, for each main type of provider.

4.3 Core (or place-element) funding for Bradford’s stand-alone maintained special schools and special school academies, and for PRUs and Alternative Provision (AP) academies, is set at the national annual value of £10,000 for all pre-16 aged placements. The value for post-16 placements in special schools and special school academies is slightly enhanced by the higher value of Element 1 funding in the post-16 national funding formula. Place-element funding is allocated on the agreed number of places commissioned both by Bradford Council and by other local authorities. A Bradford-located institution is allocated place-element funding by Bradford Council for its total number of high needs places, irrespective of where the pupil resides. This place-element funding is allocated to support the institution’s core costs (Element 1) and also to contribute to the additional costs associated with meeting the additional needs of the child or young person (Element 2). However, it is not ‘pupil specific’. Place-element funding is set before the start of the financial year and isn’t withdrawn if an individual place is not occupied. It is up to the institution to decide how best to apportion their total allocated place-element funding across the actual number of places commissioned by the Local Authority. Additional place-element funding, where an institution’s number on roll exceeds the number of places during the year, is allocated by Bradford Council. An end of year reconciliation is actioned however, where any additional place-element funding allocated to an institution will be removed if the institution has been allocated too much additional place-element funding when its actual annual composite occupancy is calculated based on the recorded occupancy each month.

4.4 Place-element funding for Bradford’s School-led resourced provisions, Early Years Enhanced Provisions (EYESPs), and for post-16 placements in Further Education Colleges, operates on the basis set out in paragraph 4.3, but is set at the national annual value of £6,000. The value is not £10,000 because these institutions, unlike special schools and PRUs, already receive mainstream formula funding, which allocates the first part of place-element funding (known as Element 1). To explain then, how place-element funding is split into 2 parts in the national system:

- Element 1: a basic £4,000 for children and young people aged pre-16, which is the notionally defined value of funding that all pupils attract, and which has already been allocated to cover an institution’s core costs, either by the Local Authority’s pre-16 funding formula or by the Authority’s Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). These formula allocations are derived from either the annual October Census (pre-16 formula) or from 3 termly censuses (EYSFF). For post-16 students, this Element 1 is derived from the national post-16 funding formula and typically is more than £4,000 (notionally defined at £5,600 for the 2023/24 academic year). Element 1 across the post-16 sector is funded with a year’s lag in pupil

numbers. The total allocation of Element 1 for the 2024/25 academic year will be based on the number of students recruited in 2023/24.

- Element 2: a further £6,000 for additional needs, which is not already allocated:
 1. Within the formula funding received by Bradford's mainstream schools and academies that have School-led resourced provisions where the Local Authority commissions high needs places.
 2. Within the formula funding received by Bradford's maintained nursery schools that have resourced provisions where the Local Authority commissions high needs places. £6,000 is the value for 1 FTE place. Therefore, a 15-hour place = 0.6 FTE (£3,600) and a 30-hour place = 1.2 FTE (£7,200).
 3. Within the formula funding received by Bradford's Further Education Colleges where the Local Authority commissions high needs places post-16.

4.5 The national funding system includes an additional complexity in the calculation of place-element funding for School-led resourced provisions in mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies. As explained above, the value of a place is set at £6,000, where that place was occupied at the time the October Census in the previous year was taken. Where a place is not occupied at this census however, local authorities are required to fund this place at £10,000 in the following year. This is because the school or academy will not receive Element 1 funding specifically for this place in the following financial year via its normal delegated formula funding. Following a similar principle, for maintained nursery schools, an adjustment is made to the funding allocated via the EYSFF to add Element 1 funding for the resourced places that are not occupied in the 3 termly censuses.

4.6 Place-element funding for Bradford's Local Authority-led resourced provisions operates on the same basic principles as for School-led provisions, but with a couple of technical differences relating to the fact that the Local Authority retains Element 2 funding, whereas, for School-led provisions, Element 2 funding is retained by the school or academy. These technical differences are highlighted in Appendix 1.

4.7 The physical payment by Bradford Council of place-element funding, where this is delegated and where it is the Council's responsibility to pay it (rather than the Education Skills and Funding Agency's responsibility), takes place on a monthly basis and is combined with the monthly payment of top-up funding, which is described further in sections 6, 7 and 8. Bradford Council publishes monthly funding and payment statements for settings to access on [Bradford Schools Online](#). For some institutions, such as for academies and for Further Education Colleges, place-element funding is not directly paid by Bradford Council. Instead, the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) deducts place-element funding from the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant to pay this across to these settings directly.

4.8 Apart from when placed in resourced provisions that have been established by the Local Authority, mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies do not receive additional place-element funding for children and young people on roll that have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The national high needs funding system works on the basis that mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies have sufficient funding already within their delegated formula funding allocations to enable them to meet the additional costs of the SEND needs of their pupils, up to the threshold of £6,000. Local authorities are required to define for each primary and secondary school and academy the value of their formula funding that is 'notionally' allocated for SEND, which is to be used to meet the first £6,000 of needs of pupils with EHCPs, as well as the needs of pupils without EHCPs. The value of each maintained school's notional SEND budget is set out in the annual S251 budget statements that are published by Bradford Council. A separate statement, showing the notional SEND allocations for all maintained primary and secondary schools, as well as for all academies, is published annually on Bradford Schools Online. Please see Appendix 3 for more technical information regarding our current 2023/24 definition of notional SEND. Further discussion on notional SEND for 2024/25 is presented in section 10.

4.9 In 2021/22, we amended our separate additional 'SEND Funding Floor' mechanism, which applies to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, initially for year in trial pending review. We have continued this new Floor mechanism in 2022/23 and in 2023/24. How the Floor has operated in 2023/24 is explained in more detail in Appendix 3. The SEND Funding Floor is re-calculated on a monthly basis for changes in the numbers of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) on roll. The SEND Funding Floor is

currently aimed at ensuring that no mainstream primary or secondary school or academy will have to manage, from their own mainstream delegated formula funding, an above phase-average cost pressure in respect of their commitment to meet the cost of Element 2 £6,000 for their EHCPs. As well as supporting provision for pupils with EHCPs, a purpose of the Floor is to help protect the funding used by schools and academies to support their wider Additional Educational Needs, SEND and Alternative Provision activities. Further discussion on SEND Floor for 2024/25 is presented in section 11.

4.10 For providers delivering the entitlements to early education to 2, 3 and 4 year olds (maintained nursery schools, nursery classes in primary schools and academies, and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers), Bradford Council allocates Element 1 funding using our Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), which is funded by our Early Years Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. Element 2 however, is not allocated within the EYSFF. As a consequence, all early years children that have EHCPs, that are not placed in the EYSPs within maintained nursery schools, are allocated Element 2 funding in addition to the top-up funding provided by the EHCP Banded Model. Bradford Council also has in place an Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF), funded by the Early Years Block, which enables Element 2 funding to be allocated to support children in early years settings who have low level emerging SEND and who do not have EHCPs. In addition to EYIF, all early years providers of the 3&4-year-old entitlement are entitled to receive a one-off payment for children eligible for the Disability Access Fund (DAF). Further details on the SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF) and on the Disability Access Fund (DAF) can be found in our Early Years Technical Statement [here](#).

4.11 Place-element funding for education in hospital provision, nationally, has still to be brought into the Place-Plus methodology. Currently, local authorities are required to maintain prior-year place funding values. Bradford's hospital provisions closed as separate PRUs on 31 August 2019 and Tracks closed as a separate entity on 31 August 2020. Provision is continuing as a single Local-Authority service. Funding of this centrally managed service now operates outside the Place-Plus mechanism, working within the discrete allocation provided by the DfE within our High Needs Block.

4.12 The funding of independent schools has not yet been brought into the national Place-Plus funding system. The basis of funding of placements in these settings, therefore, is not 'formularised'. Placement costs will be influenced by a number of factors, including the needs of the child and the availability of places.

4.13 In the DSG settlement for 2023/24, that was announced on 16 December 2022, an additional £400m of High Needs Block funding was allocated to local authorities and an additional DSG Condition of Grant was established by the DfE. The purpose of the Condition was to require local authorities to pass through to Special Schools, Special School Academies, PRUs and Alternative Provision Academies an additional + 3.4% in funding per place in 2023/24. The increase was set at 3.4%, as this is the average additional % increase in funding that mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies have received via the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG). The DfE set the methodology that was required to be used, with this being slightly different for special schools than for PRUs / AP Academies. However, the purpose was the same: to allocate an additional 3.4% funding per place, in addition to 'normal' core place and top-up funding. 2023/24 allocations can be viewed on [Bradford Schools Online](#). The 2024/25 DSG Conditions of Grant now require local authorities to pass through this funding to settings at the same funding per place in 2024/25 as they received in 2023/24, calculated on 2023/24 academic year commissioned places. The DfE has provided updated figures for local authorities to use in respect of PRUs / AP Academies. We will comply with the 2024/25 conditions and will discuss the allocation of this additional funding directly with receiving settings, including via the District Achievement Partnership.

5. Commissioned High Needs Places in Bradford-located Settings

5.1 It is helpful to provide sight of the number of high needs places that are currently being commissioned in specialist settings by Bradford Council and that are planned to be commissioned in 2024/25. It is also helpful to show the distribution of these places across different types of settings. A draft schedule of places is presented in Appendix 4.

5.2 Whilst understanding that places commissioning work is still taking place, and that the numbers presented in Appendix 4 for 2024/25 are subject to change, the draft place numbers do take account of:

- The continuation and full year impact of places that have been recently created and that are planned to be created during 2024/25.

- Additional adjustments to individual settings for changes in places capacity that are already confirmed.
- The numbers of post-16 places brought forward from the 2023/24 academic year that will be the starting point for commissioning from the Further Education Colleges for the 2023/24 academic year. The 2024/25 numbers are currently still being discussed and finalised with the Colleges themselves.
- The consolidation and expansion of provision for pupils permanently excluded in alternative provisions.
- The amalgamation of the hospital education and Tracks services within a single Local-Authority managed service, meaning that the places presented in Appendix 4 are now 'notional'.

6. Top-Up Funding for EHCPs 2024/25: Pupil-Led Need

6.1 Top-up funding (also known as Element 3 or 'Plus' funding) is the funding required by an institution, over and above place-element funding, to enable a child or young person with high needs to participate in education and learning. Top-up funding is expected to reflect the cost of additional support an institution incurs related to the individual needs of the child or young person. In this document this is called 'Pupil-Led Need' and this is discussed further in this section. Top-up funding can also reflect costs (and differences in costs) related to the setting that the child or young person is placed at. In this document this is called 'Setting-Led Need' and this is discussed further in section 7. How top-up funding is allocated to PRUs and to Alternative Provision Academies, for provision for pupils permanently excluded rather than specifically for children and young people with EHCPs, is discussed in section 8.

6.2 Across all local authorities, most children and young people receiving high needs top-up funding will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), resulting from the statutory assessment process. Local authorities do have the flexibility to allocate high needs funding outside the statutory assessment process for children and young people up to the age of 19. An example of this might be where a local authority provides funding from their High Needs Block to support schools, or clusters of schools, to commission alternative provision for pupils that remain on the schools' rolls. With Bradford's Schools Forum, Bradford Council has previously agreed for the High Needs Block in Bradford to 'step back' from supporting the cost of placements for children and young people that are placed by schools (rather than by the Local Authority) in alternative provisions. In these instances, the schools commissioning the alternative provision places (including through the Behaviour Attendance Collaborative in the secondary phase) are expected to meet the placement costs fully using their delegated formula funding allocations. This position is retained for the 2024/25 financial year. How this position may develop for future years, as a result of the changes to the approach to alternative provision funding that are proposed in the DfE's national SEND and AP Review, will be considered more closely as further details are published.

6.3 Top-up funding for children and young people with EHCPs is paid by the placing local authority. Bradford Council is responsible for paying the top-up for children and young people with EHCPs that are resident in Bradford and that we place either in Bradford-located settings or elsewhere. Institutions in Bradford should directly recover the top-up for their pupils with EHCPs that are placed with them by other local authorities.

6.4 As stated in section 1, we introduced at April 2020 a new Banded Model for the allocation of our top-up funding for EHCPs. This model replaced our previous 'Ranges Model' and significantly uplifted the funding of EHCPs across all settings. The Model continues to include protections, which have ensured (and which will continue to ensure) that no EHCP in place on 1 April 2020 will reduce in value as a result of this funding model change.

6.5 We do not propose to make any technical changes to our EHCP Banded Model for the 2024/25 financial year. We propose simply to continue to allocate top-up funding using this existing EHCP Banded Model, uplifting the values that this model allocates. How the Banded Model works, how it is applied currently, and how it is proposed to work and be applied in 2024/25, are set out in more detailed in Appendix 2.

6.6 The total value of top-up funding owed to an institution by Bradford Council, calculated using the EHCP Banded Model, will continue in 2024/25 to be calculated and paid as now, on a monthly basis. The calculation will be based on the institution's occupancy recorded on the 10th day of each month. Where a child or young person is admitted after the 10th, top-up funding begins from the next month. In addition:

- Retrospective adjustments will be made in the subsequent month's calculations for any inaccuracies in the data for a single month, or where the position has been estimated due to the most up to date data not being available (for example, at September, picking up all changes for the new academic year). How the Local Authority publishes EHCP information and then manages data checking, queries and inaccuracies that might be identified is explained [here](#).
- Funding for August will repeat the position recorded for July, except for Further Education placements, where August's funding is based on the new academic year's position.
- A ready reckoner will continue to be available, which will help settings predict the impact on top-up funding of movements in pupil numbers / bands on a monthly basis.
- Bradford Council will also continue to publish on Bradford Schools Online monthly funding and payment statements for providers to access. These statements are published [here](#).

6.7 The process for placing children and young people with EHCPs into the Banded Model will continue to be led by Bradford Council via the established SEND Panel and using the application and assessment processes this Panel manages. Appeals (or disputes) will be managed by the Panel through its resolution procedure. Information, guidance and documentation on EHCP Panel processes and on SEND assessment is available on Bradford Schools Online [here](#).

6.8 The table below shows the actual top-up rates that were funded in 2019/20 (under our previous Ranges Model), in 2020/21 (in the first year of our new Banded Model), in 2021/22, 2022/23 and that are funded now in the current 2023/24 financial year. The table also then shows, in the right-hand column, the rates that are proposed for 2024/25. These rates would be used from 1 April 2024, subject to the outcomes of this consultation and the final affordability check.

	£ Top-up Value 2019/20	£ Top-up Value 2020/21	£ Top-up Value 2021/22	£ Top-up Value 2022/23	£ Top-up Value 2023/24	£ Top-up Value 2024/25
Band 3L	£952	£1,670	£1,900	£2,236	£2,318	£2,401
Band 3M	£3,000	£3,347	£3,626	£4,036	£4,136	£4,237
Band 3H	£4,597	£4,974	£5,302	£5,783	£5,900	£6,019
Band 4L	£7,160	£7,747	£8,435	£9,218	£9,411	£9,605
Band 4M	£10,440	£11,296	£12,235	£13,270	£13,524	£13,780
Band 4H	£13,910	£15,051	£16,148	£17,377	£17,678	£17,983
Protected 7	£22,857	£24,732	£26,534	£28,553	£29,048	£29,548

6.9 The table below shows the % uplifts in values between 2020/21 and 2024/25 and, in the right-hand column, the cash uplifts between 2024/25 and 2023/24, as proposed.

	% Increase Top-up 2020/21 vs. 2019/20	% Increase Top-up 2021/22 vs. 2020/21	% Increase Top-up 2022/23 vs. 2021/22	% Increase Top-up 2023/24 vs. 2022/23	% Increase Top-up 2024/25 vs. 2023/24	£ Increase Top-up 2024/25 vs. 2023/24
Band 3L	+ 75.4%	+ 13.8%	+ 17.7%	+ 3.7%	+ 3.6%	+ £83
Band 3M	+ 11.6%	+ 8.4%	+ 11.3%	+ 2.5%	+ 2.5%	+ £101
Band 3H	+ 8.2%	+ 6.6%	+ 9.1%	+ 2.0%	+ 2.0%	+ £119
Band 4L	+ 8.2%	+ 8.9%	+ 9.3%	+ 2.1%	+ 2.1%	+ £194
Band 4M	+ 8.2%	+ 8.3%	+ 8.5%	+ 1.9%	+ 1.9%	+ £256
Band 4H	+ 8.2%	+ 7.3%	+ 7.6%	+ 1.7%	+ 1.7%	+ £304
Protected 7	+ 8.2%	+ 7.3%	+ 7.6%	+ 1.7%	+ 1.7%	+ £500

6.10 The table below shows the proposed % uplifts in 2024/25 values on 2023/24 values when Element 2 (£6,000) and Element 1 (£10,000) are included.

	(1) % Increase in Top-up Only	(2) % Increase in Top-up plus £6,000	(3) % Increase in Top-up plus £10,000
Band 3L	+ 3.6%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 3M	+ 2.5%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 3H	+ 2.0%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 4L	+ 2.1%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.0%
Band 4M	+ 1.9%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.1%
Band 4H	+ 1.7%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.1%
Protected 7	+ 1.7%	+ 1.4%	+ 1.3%

6.11 To explain what these tables present:

- The total value of funding that is allocated to support an individual EHCP is derived by adding Element 2 (at a fixed value of £6,000 per 1 FTE pupil) to the value of the top-up that is allocated through the Banded Model.
- The total value of support for each of the three steps in Band 3 (Band 3L, 3M and 3H), when Element 2 £6,000 is added to the top-up value, is proposed to be uplifted by 1.0%. This 1.0% uplift is demonstrated in column (2) in the table in paragraph 6.10.
- The total value of support for the three steps in Band 4 (Band 4L, 4M and 4H), when Element 2 £6,000 is added to the top-up value, is proposed to be uplifted between 1.3% (Band 4L) and 1.4% (Band 4H). These uplifts are demonstrated in column (2) in the table in paragraph 6.10. The uplift of Band 4 values is guided by two additional considerations:

Firstly, the desire to follow as closely as possible the existing ratio between the top-up value allocated by Band 3H versus the value allocated by Band 4L, so that the transition between Band 3 and Band 4, as currently applied following the guiding calculations that our model was originally established on, is retained.

Secondly, that it is important to set the uplifts to Band 4 top-up values with reference to the full £10,000 place-element value, not just to the Element 2 £6,000 value. This is so that we consider the total funding available per occupied place in specialist settings. The vast majority of children and young people with EHCPs assessed at Band 4 are placed in special schools, in special school academies and in resourced provisions. These settings receive £10,000 per occupied place. We propose to uplift the top-up value at the bottom of Band 4, at Band 4L, so that, when this top-up is added to the £10,000 place-element figure, the total value of funding allocated per occupied place increases by 1.0% on 2023/24. This ensures that the total value of funding that is allocated per occupied place at Band 4L increases in line with the 1.0% of the Band 3 Model. The 1.0% uplift per occupied place at Band 4L is demonstrated in column (3) in the table in paragraph 6.10. The calculations within the model, that form the basis of the Band 4 values, then adjust from the Band 4L reference point to provide slightly higher increases at Band 4M and Band 4H.

- We have approached the uplifting values in 2024/25 in the same way as we have since the new model was introduced at April 2020. One of the key features of this approach is adjusting for the lack of movement in the value of Element 2, which remains at £6,000, and the value of the place-element for specialist settings, which remains at £10,000. As a consequence of this lack of movement, the values of the top-ups allocated through the Banded Model must increase by greater percentages in order to achieve the total overall increases in available funding that we propose.

This is the reason why the % increases in top-up, as shown in the table in paragraph 6.10 column (1), are higher. This is also a primary reason why the % increases in top-up in the different steps in the model are not the same; the Element 2 value of £6,000 as a proportion of the total cost of provision decreases as the steps get higher. Therefore, the extent to which the top-up has to compensate for Element 2 not increasing in value also decreases as the steps get higher. Recognising this feature, it would not be appropriate for us simply to provide a blanket % increase in top-up funding across all steps. Column (2) in the table in paragraph 6.10 gives the true real position of the increase in total funding available at each step – Element 2 plus top-up - to support the cost of EHCP provision. Column (3) shows the true real position of the increase in total funding per occupied place in specialist settings.

- The Banded Model retains a transitional ‘Protected 7’ step, which will continue to fund EHCPs that were graded at Range 7 under the old model in place on 1 April 2020. We have guaranteed that the value of Protected 7 will be uplifted each year by the same % that is applied to Band 4H. The tables above evidence this.

6.12 As we stated in section 2, the annual growth in High Needs Block funding that the Authority has received from the DfE in 2024/25 is reduced on recent years - an estimated increase of £5.20m, which is an increase of 4.5% in cash terms. Our current 2024/25 modelling indicates very clearly that our growth in high needs spending in 2024/25 will substantially exceed our growth in funding. Therefore, within our 2024/25 budget, we must prioritise meeting the substantial additional costs that have come from the recent growth, and continuing growth, in the numbers of EHCPs in Bradford and from the essential continued expansion of high needs specialist places capacity. As a consequence, we need to exercise ‘restraint’ in how we uplift top-up funding rates, and a proposed 1.0% increase in 2024/25 is reflective of this. We wish to emphasise, as shown in the table in paragraph 6.9, that top-up funding rates have been substantially increased by Bradford Council since April 2020. We would ask that settings view the 1.0% increase in this wider context. 1.0% is greater than the 0.5% increase in the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) that the DfE is providing within the Schools Block (mainstream primary and secondary school and academy) National Funding Formula. 1.0% also delivers a higher than minimum level of increase that is encouraged by the DfE through the Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee.

6.13 We have explained in this section how we propose to approach uplifting the EHCP Banded Model in 2024/25. More details of the Model itself are presented in Appendix 2. As final point, our approach to uplifting values in 2024/25 does not intrinsically adjust the quantity of support that is funded by each step. We have deliberately not sought to alter this, as we wish the Model to continue to work alongside our published [SEND provision matrices and SEND Panel guidance](#). The Banded Model itself essentially simply provides a ‘toolbox’ for the SEND Panel to use to find the best funding fit for meeting the needs of children and young people with EHCPs. We will keep this Model under review, and we may look to adjust the provision mapping assumptions on which it is based. The DfE’s national SEND Review may also (is very likely to) have implications for the workings of our Banded Model at a point in the future - the DfE has stated within its SEND Review documentation, in order to improvement consistency, that work will be done to develop a national banding framework for defining top-up funding. The timescales for this however, are currently unclear.

Question 1 – Do you agree with the approach that is proposed for uplifting the values of the EHCP Banded Model in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

Question 2 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the EHCP Banded Model you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

7. Top-Up Funding for EHCPs 2024/25: Setting-Led Need in Specialist Settings

7.1 Top-up funding can be allocated also to reflect costs (and differences in costs) related to the specialist setting that a high needs child or young person with an EHCP is placed at. In this document this is called ‘Setting-Led Need’.

7.2 Place-element funding is expected to meet a specialist setting’s basic core costs. However, our current high needs funding model for specialist settings recognises that there are certain differences in a setting’s cost base that are influenced by the features of the setting. Two simple examples are that the setting is small and requires additional funding to meet core costs of a fixed nature, and that the setting operates across a split-site and therefore, has certain duplicated and additional costs.

7.3 Appendix 3 sets out in more technical detail the setting-led need factors that are included within Bradford Council’s proposed funding approach for 2023/24, and how and where they are applied.

7.4 These factors, in summary, are:

- Maintained special schools and special school academies: split sites; post-16 Element 1 enhancement; new services delegation; small setting protection; 3% cash budget protection.

- School-Led Resourced Provisions attached to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies: small setting protection; 3% cash budget protection.
- Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions attached to maintained nursery schools: small setting protection.

7.5 For 2024/25, we do not propose to make changes to these factors. All setting-led need factors are proposed to be calculated in 2024/25 using the same formulae and same factor values as used in 2023/24. Please note, therefore, that we are not proposing to uplift the values of these factors in 2024/25.

7.6 Setting-Led Need top-up is calculated and re-calculated alongside Pupil-Led Need top-up on a monthly basis following the same timetable set out in paragraph 6.6.

Question 3 – Do you agree with the approach to setting-led need factors in 2024/25 that is proposed? If not, please can you explain why not.

Question 4 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the setting-led need factors you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

8. PRUs and Alternative Provision Academies 2024/25 – Day Rate Top-up Funding Model

8.1 This section sets out the proposed approach to the continuation of the Authority's calculation of top-up funding to support the cost of provision for pupils permanently excluded and placed by the Authority in Park Aspire and in Bradford Alternative Provision Academy Central (BAPA). The methodology and principles set out here also extend to the Authority's funding of top-up for pupils permanently excluded that may be placed in other provisions, where such extension is appropriate.

8.2 Park Aspire and BAPA both receive place-element funding from the High Needs Block, at £10,000 a place, as explained in section 4. These settings then also then receive top-up funding from the Authority for places that are occupied, following the placement of pupils permanently excluded. We introduced at April 2020 a Day Rate Model for the calculation of this top-up. A formulaic basis, such as this, follows the DfE's current expectation that, as top-up funding for alternative provision institutions is not usually related to an assessment of SEND, a standard predictable top-up rate can be set, which reflects the overall budget needed by the institution. This budget should be built up with the understanding that a level of capacity is needed to be retained during the year, recognising that numbers on roll in PRUs and in alternative provision academies can fluctuate.

8.3 Using our Day Rate Model, top-up funding is allocated on an agreed £value per day, multiplied by the number of days of provision expected to be delivered weekly / monthly / termly / annually. The total number of annual days is 195. The value of the day rate adjusts according to the PRU's / AP academy's overall occupancy to ensure that a minimum level of funding is allocated to enable the PRU / AP academy to meet fixed costs (largely related to the setting) and to retain sufficient staffing capacity for the Authority to use. The model is informed by annual review, which includes checking actual against expected occupancy. In situations where there are significant differences in occupancy, which are more permanent, the number of places to be commissioned by the Authority will be reviewed for the following year.

8.4 We propose to uplift the value of the day rate in 2024/25 in line with the uplifts that are proposed to the Band 4 values allocated by the EHCP Banded Model. The day rate in 2023/24 was £79.13. We propose to uplift this, subject to the warnings given in section 1, to £80.49. This is the 2023/24 rate plus 1.71%, which uses the mean average Band 4 increase proposed for the EHCP Banded Model of 1.85%, but reduced to recognise that the small setting protection factor within the calculation is not uplifted. The calculation of the day rate is set out further in the table below. Together with the fixed £10,000 per place, a 1.71% increase in the day rate results in an overall 1.04% increase in funding per pupil for each occupied place (the total annual per pupil funding in 2024/25 will be £10,000 + (195 days x £80.49) = £25,696 compared with £10,000 + (195 days x £79.13) = £25,430 in 2023/24).

8.5 The £80.49 is made up of the following factors and values. These factors are the same as used in 2023/24. All factors but the small setting protection have been uplifted by 1.85%. The small setting protection factor is retained at the 2023/24 value, as is the case for all other parts of high needs formula funding that

include a small setting protection factor, because this factor protects place-element funding and place-element funding is not uplifted in value in 2024/25.

Factor	£Day Rate Value
Main pupil-need led provision	£67.26
Small Setting Protection	£5.55
Business Rates	£2.02
New Services Delegation	£2.45
Pupil Mobility	£3.21
Total	£80.49

8.6 The equivalent annual per pupil value, based on 195 days, is as follows:

Factor	£Day Rate Value
Main pupil-need led provision *	£13,115
Small Setting Protection	£1,082
Business Rates	£394
New Services Delegation	£478
Pupil Mobility	£627
Total	£15,696

* this element is the equivalent of the top-up funding allocated to EHCPs through the Banded Model. This value sits between bands 4L and 4M.

8.7 We propose to continue to apply the Day Rate Model, as we applied it in 2023/24, with the calculation of a minimum top-up funding value based on each setting's agreed commissioned places number. In this way, the funding model continues to support both Park Aspire and BAPA to retain their unique capacities to deliver the number of places the Authority plans to commission.

- Where Park Aspire and BAPA are close to full occupancy throughout the year, they will be funded at £80.49 per day per pupil / £15,696 per year per pupil.
- The basic day rate value of £80.49 will be adjusted however, where necessary should occupancy fluctuate, to ensure a minimum level of funding to enable capacity retention, meaning that Park Aspire and BAPA will not receive an annual cash total value of top-up funding lower than:
 - $(£1,082 + £394 + £478 + £627) \times \text{no. of places (for setting-based costs), plus}$
 - $88\% \text{ of } £13,115 \times \text{no. of places (for main pupil-led need provision)}$

8.8 We will continue the following two technical features, which relate to the application 'in year' of the Day Rate Model in 2024/25:

- We will continue to use the 10th of the month census to count (and re-count) occupancy, which is the process followed for the re-calculation of Banded Model funding for EHCPs. We will continue to re-calculate the funding of Park Aspire and BAPA on a monthly basis as now, taking the 10th of the month census as the actual occupancy for that month. We will keep this approach under review for future years. The DfE has signalled, in the national SEND and Alternative Provision Review, that there will be a move towards 'fixed' budgets for PRUs and alternative provision academies, where funding allocations will not be affected by 'in year' occupancy. Whilst we await further details, and the timing of any directed changes, we propose to continue our current arrangements. We would emphasise that we already employ a factor, as explained above, which does guarantee settings a minimum level of top-up funding, based on the number of commissioned places, without reference to actual occupancy during the year.
- We will continue to calculate and profile top-up funding across 12 months. In previous consultations, we have indicated that we could be more specific about the number of days delivered and funded each month, taking account of the profile of holidays. We indicated that this would be a more significant matter to consider if the numbers on roll in the PRU / AP academy are significantly different at different times of the year. Again, in the context of the national SEND and Alternative Provision review, it does not make

sense for us now pursue review work, which would take our approach to funding further away from the 'fixed' budget approach that the DfE has proposed for the future.

Question 5 – Do you agree with the Day Rate mechanism that the Authority proposes to use to fund the PRU and Alternative Provision Academy in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

Question 6 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the proposed Day-Rate mechanism you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

9. Continued Replication of the Former Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants 2024/25

9.1 Since April 2021 we have been required to add into our formula funding arrangements for specialist settings the allocation of the former Teacher Pay Grant (TPG) and the Teacher Pension Grant (TPECG). This change was required, in response to these grants, that are allocated in respect of special schools, special school academies, PRUs, alternative provision academies and mainstream primary and secondary pre-16 provisions, being transferred into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Please can we emphasise that these grants are not the same as the new pay grant, which has been introduced to support the September 2023 teacher pay award. Please see section 1. These grants have existed since 2019 and were transferred into the DSG for the 2021/22 financial year. They need to be continued within our formula funding arrangements for 2024/25. The new pay grant, however, will continue to be allocated separately from the DSG in 2024/25 and is not included in what is said below.

9.2 We allocated these former TPG and TPECG monies in 2023/24, separately from both place-element and top-up funding, as follows:

- To maintained special schools and special school academies, Park Aspire and BAPA: a minimum fixed value of £733 per place, with place numbers fixed at the original agreed commissioned number for the 2023/24 financial year. These commissioned numbers included the planned expansion of provisions. Where a setting, prior April 2021, received an amount per place that was higher than the minimum value, and where their amount per place, uplifted by 5% in 2021/22 and by 5.8% in 2022/23, was still higher than the minimum £733 for 2023/24, the setting has been allocated their uplifted pre-April 2021 amount per place. This 'protection' was applied to 4 of 10 settings. Payment has been split so that 5/12ths of the annual value was paid in a lump sum in April 2023 and 7/12ths was paid in a lump sum in September 2023.
- To school-led resourced provisions and Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions: based on place numbers fixed at the original agreed commissioned number for the 2023/24 financial year, a fixed value of £733 per place, where a place was not occupied in the October 2022 Census, and either a value of £548 (primary) or £460 (secondary) where a place was occupied in the October 2022 Census. The values of £548 (primary) and £460 (secondary) were derived from the differences between the £733 and the value of TPG and TPECG monies that have been transferred to be allocated already through the mainstream primary and secondary funding formula. All places in the EYESPs were recorded as unoccupied for the purposes of this calculation. Commissioned places numbers for all resourced provisions included planned expansion during 2023/24. Payment has been split so that 5/12ths of the annual value was paid in a lump sum in April 2023 and 7/12ths was paid in a lump sum in September 2023.

9.3 We propose to continue to allocate these former grant monies in 2024/25 following the same approach as we used in 2023/24, and using the same values, as follows:

- Funding will be calculated and fixed on the original agreed commissioned places number for each setting for the 2024/25 financial year, with these numbers incorporating the planned expansion of provisions. This funding will not be adjusted for over or under occupancy during the year.
- The basic rate of funding per place for 2024/25 is proposed to be retained at £733.
- The protection of pre-April 2021 per place funding values for individual special schools, special school academies and PRUs / Alternative Provision academies, will continue to be applied, as this was in 2023/24. We expect this to continue for 4 out of 10 settings, where these settings will be allocated the greater of £733 or their 2023/24 protected per place value.

- School-led resourced provisions will continue to be allocated a fixed value of £733 per place, where a place was not occupied in the October 2023 Census, and either a value of £548 (primary) or £460 (secondary) where a place was occupied in the October 2023 Census.
- All places in the EYESPs will continue to be recorded as unoccupied for the purposes of the resourced provision calculation.
- Payment will be split so that 5/12ths of the annual value will be paid in a lump sum in April 2024 and 7/12ths will be paid in a lump sum in September 2024.

Question 7 – Do you agree with the methodology that the Authority proposes to use to allocate the Teacher Pay Grant and Teacher Pensions Grant in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

10. Notional SEND Budget Definition for Mainstream Primary & Secondary 2024/25

10.1 We propose to slightly amend our definition of Notional SEND budgets within mainstream primary and secondary school and academy formula funding allocations in 2024/25. This follows, and is in keeping with, the amendments that were made in 2023/24 and the explanation that we gave in our consultation this time last year, that we will continue to review and to incrementally amend our definition in the run up to the establishment of the hard National Funding Formula.

10.2 Local authorities are required to define for each primary and secondary school and academy the value of its mainstream formula funding that is 'notionally' allocated for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - for meeting the first £6,000 of the cost of the additional needs both of pupils with EHCPs and also of pupils without EHCPs. This not additional funding, but a definition of how much funding, that is already allocated, is available to support SEND. How Bradford now defines notional SEND (the %s of funding within each formula factor that make up this budget) is shown in the table below. We have also explained our current Notional SEND budget approach in Appendix 3. This reflects the amendments that we made to our definition in 2023/24, where we adjusted the %s as well as brought a % of Minimum Level of Funding (MFL) top-up into our definition for the first time. These changes were aimed at improving the fairness of our definition and bringing our definition closer into line with other similar authorities, which is felt to be especially important in the run up to the implementation of the hard National Funding Formula, where the DfE has stated that a consistent national SEND budget definition will be established.

10.3 The Section 251 Budget Statements for maintained schools, and the General Annual Grant (GAG) Statements for academies, show the calculation of Notional SEND budgets for individual schools / academies. We also publish on Bradford Schools Online, annually in February, the calculation of Notional SEND budgets for all primary and secondary schools and academies in Bradford for the following financial year.

10.4 Highlighting that there is still currently quite a bit of difference in how local authorities define Notional SEND budgets for schools and academies in their areas, and seeking to encourage movement towards greater consistency prior to the establishment of the hard National Funding Formula, the DfE has recently updated its published [guidance](#). Authorities continue in 2024/25 to have flexibility to define their own Notional SEND budgets. However, the DfE has asked that authorities in particular review the sufficiency of these budgets and has stated that the DfE may intervene (to require authorities to amend their definitions for the purpose of increasing Notional SEND budgets) where these budgets are assessed to be too low. The DfE also strongly encourages authorities to look at how their definitions compare with other authorities. It is in this context that we have conducted further review of our definition and propose incremental amendments for 2024/25. We have updated our benchmarking based on 2023/24 data, looking at national median averages, but also looking at the median average of the 50 most similar High Needs Block funded local authorities. This benchmarking indicates that there has been some upward movement in these averages between 2022/23 and 2023/24 and that we should incrementally adjust our definition in response.

10.5 It is important to explain that, irrespective of whether we use the existing or amended definition, the overall total value of Notional SEND budgets is expected to increase in 2024/25, due to pupil numbers, other changes, including the merger of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, as well as due to the 2024/25 funding settlement. Irrespective of changes to the definition, individual schools and academies will see

differences (both up and down) due to pupil numbers and pupil circumstances changes (differences between the October 2023 and the October 2022 Censuses).

10.6 We propose to slightly adjust our definition as follows:

Current 2023/24

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.5%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

Adjusted 2024/25

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	27.0%	27.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	27.0%	27.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.25%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

10.7 Illustrative modelling, showing the impact of these amendments on the Notional SEND budgets of individual schools and academies, is presented at Appendix 5. Please note that Appendix 5 does not show what confirmed final 2024/25 Notional SEND budgets will be. In particular, these final budgets, which will be published in February 2024, will be influenced by the changes in data that are recorded in the October 2023 Census.

10.8 We will continue to annually review our Notional SEND definition in the lead up to the hard National Funding Formula, including in response to any further prescription from the DfE, and may consult on further incremental changes.

10.9 Please note that we intend to continue to add to Notional SEND budgets 6.0% of a mainstream school's or academy's allocation from the Early Years Single Funding Formula, for mainstream primary schools and academies that have early years entitlement provision.

10.10 Finally, we wish to highlight that our separate consultation on Schools Block formula funding also discusses this change in Notional SEND budget definition in 2024/25. What is said in the two consultation documents is the same. All primary and secondary schools and academies are strongly encouraged to access this consultation.

Question 8 - Do you agree with the proposal to adjust our definition of Notional SEND within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding? If not, please explain the reasons why not.

11. The SEND Funding Floor Mechanism for Mainstream Primary & Secondary in 2024/25

11.1 Our SEND Funding Floor is an additional targeted SEND funding mechanism. How this mechanism works currently is explained in Appendix 3.

11.2 Our EHCP Banded Model (and the national high needs funding system) works on the basis that mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies are required to contribute £6,000 (Element 2) from their already delegated formula funding derived budgets to the cost of support for pupils with EHCPs on their rolls. Mainstream schools and academies must also use these delegated budgets to support the wider SEND and alternative provision needs of all their pupils on roll. Targeted SEND funding mechanism are intended / permitted to be used where a school's or an academy's level of SEND is 'disproportionate' (compared with other schools and academies) and where their already delegated formula funding is evidenced to be insufficient to meet their additional costs. The DfE's guidance states that, "Local authorities

should have a formula or other method, based on their experience of distributing additional funding to their maintained schools and academies...In all cases, the distribution methodology should be simple and transparent, and devised so that additional funds are targeted only to a minority of schools which have particular challenges because of their disproportionate number of pupils with SEND or high needs, or their characteristics.”

11.3 When we initially introduced the current version of our Floor, at April 2021, we stated that this was for a year in trial, pending further review. We decided to continue this Floor in 2022/23, unchanged. In deciding to continue the Floor in 2023/24, as we set out in our consultation this time last year, we adjusted the eligibility trigger with the aim of incrementally controlling growth in cost and seeking to keep the scope of the mechanism as originally intended (including trying not to move further away from the DfE’s 2023/24 guidance of funding “a minority of schools with particular challenges”). Whilst we consulted on increasing this to rounded + 3%, ultimately, in 2023/24 we increased the phase averages that are used in the calculation of ‘part B’ from rounded + 1% to rounded + 2%.

11.4 In our consultation documents, that have been published in the last 3 years, we have discussed the increased financial pressure on mainstream school and academy delegated budgets, as the numbers of pupils in Bradford with SEND (and EHCPs) that are educated in mainstream settings continues to grow. We have also discussed additional targeted funding mechanisms to support this pressure, in the context the DfE’s national SEND Review, which we anticipate will further prescribe how such mechanisms operate in the future. As stated in section 1, the DfE’s national Review focuses very strongly on supporting the inclusion of children and young people with additional needs in mainstream settings, and on universal provision / early intervention to support their needs. The Review aims to reduce the use of / reliance on Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), as well and on specialist places (when needs can be appropriately met in mainstream). In driving this, and in seeking greater consistency, there will be clearer guidance on what settings must do (what responsibilities they have within universal provision) and when and in what circumstances to use the EHCP and alternative provision routes of support. This review work is likely to have implications for the continuation of our SEND Funding Floor. Certainly, in the context of the national SEND Review, we should begin to consider the fact that our SEND Funding Floor calculates additional funding with reference to the number of EHCPs a school / academy has on roll. Whilst this is valid, as the outcomes of the SEND Review are implemented (with a movement away from a reliance on EHCPs), using a school’s / academy’s number of EHCPs to allocate additional targeted SEND funding will need review. It can also be argued that some ‘perverse incentive’ (and some movement in the opposite direction to reducing reliance on EHCPs) is present, where we use the number of EHCPs to assess the need for additional Floor Funding. However, whilst we do wish to look at these aspects more closely, we do not propose to amend the basis for the calculation of our SEND Funding Floor in 2024/25 being the number of EHCPs on roll.

11.5 We propose to continue to use our SEND Funding Floor mechanism in 2024/25, as described in Appendix 3, again for a further year and pending further review. Depending on the estimated cost of the Funding Floor, which will be calculated in February 2024 using data that will only be available at that this time, we are minded to uplift the trigger from rounded + 2% to rounded + 3%, in line with how we consulted this time last year.

11.6 We would like to emphasise that:

- The 2 elements of the ‘part B’ in the calculation (as explained in Appendix 3) will be updated for 2024/25 formula funding allocations and also for updated median phase spending averages. These will both be confirmed and fixed in February 2024.
- We will continue to protect the previous SEND Funding Floor allocations (allocations that were received in 2020/21) for the specific identified and named small primary schools and academies, as we have done for the current 2023/24 financial year.
- The SEND Funding Floor will continue not to apply to early years providers. This is because Element 2 funding is allocated in addition to top-up funding for children with EHCPs in early years settings. There is, therefore, no additional pressure placed on early years providers in respect specifically of having to fund £6,000 to contribute to the cost of an EHCP.
- The SEND Floor also will continue not apply to post-16 EHCPs (and Further Education high needs provision). This is because Element 2 funding is already allocated on an agreed lagged basis.

- Further review, incorporating the implications of the DfE's national Review, will determine the position of the SEND Funding Floor after 2024/25. We are only proposing at this stage to extend our existing arrangement for a further financial year.

Question 9 – Do you agree with the continuation of our SEND Funding Floor mechanism in 2024/25, as proposed? If not, please can you explain why not.

Question 10 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the SEND Funding Floor mechanism you would like the Authority to consider?

Question 11 - Are there any changes that you would wish to see made to the funding models in 2024/25 that have not been proposed? Please give details.

Question 12 – Do you have any other comments on the funding model or the proposals that you have not recorded elsewhere?

12. Consultation Responses

12.1 If you wish to discuss these proposals in more detail, or have any questions for clarification, before you submit a response, please contact Dawn Haigh using the contact details shown in section 1.

12.2 A response form is included at Appendix 6. However, this year we have introduced a web-based questionnaire, which we encourage you to use to submit your response. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

12.3 Please ensure that your response is submitted (either using the Appendix 6 form or by using the web-based questionnaire) by the deadline of **Tuesday 28 November 2023**. Any responses received after this date may not be included in the analysis that will be presented to the Schools Forum.

13. Next Steps

13.1 Following consideration of the responses to this consultation, and of the final formal view of the Schools Forum, our high needs funding approach will be agreed by Council in February 2024.

13.2 It is anticipated that the Schools Forum will give the Authority its final formal view on 2024/25 arrangements on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

13.3 Discussions on the Dedicated Schools Grant funding position, high needs funding matters for 2024/25, and the development and sufficiency of specialist places, will continue with the Schools Forum between now and January 2024. You are recommended to keep in touch with these discussions by visiting the Schools Forum webpage on the Council's Minutes site [here](#).

14. Equalities Impact Assessment

14.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Local Authority to give due regard to achieving the following objectives in exercising its functions:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

14.2 We assess that our high needs funding proposals for 2024/25 will have a positive impact on equalities. We have considered the impact on persons who share any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex,

sexual orientation. We have focused on the protected characteristics for which the potential impact is largest, and which are most closely tied to the formula funding proposals we put forward.

14.3 The arrangements that the Local Authority proposes in this consultation for the 2024/25 financial year retain a significant amount of continuity on current practice, Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block distribution and formula funding policy and methodology. As such, our equalities impact assessment of our guiding High Needs Block formula funding policy for 2024/25 is neutral (representing no change on current positive practice).

14.4 The Authority proposes the continued application of the EHCP Banded Model, which was first introduced at April 2020. The impact of this model, on the funding of schools, academies and on other providers for all children and young people with EHCPs, is assessed to continue to be entirely positive. The Banded Model, as explained in Appendix 2, continues to improve the way schools and providers in Bradford are funded for children and young people with SEND with EHCPs. Although it cannot be evidenced at this stage that our change in funding model at April 2020 has directly advanced equality of opportunity for children and young people that share a protected characteristic, it is expected that this model will support this.

14.5 The Authority proposes to further uplift in 2024/25 the values of top-up funding allocated by the EHCP Banded Model and by the Day Rate Model, as set out in section 6. This means that the funding of all high needs children and young people, who are supported by these models, will increase on current values. A minimum 1.0% increase in all top-up funding rates (when place-element / Element 2 funding is included) is greater than the floor increase of 0.5% that the DfE has funded for mainstream schools and academies through the Schools Block settlement. Under our proposals, the funding received by special schools and special school academies will exceed the requirements of the DfE's Minimum Funding Guarantee. The proposed uplifts in 2024/25 should also be viewed in the context of the very significant increases that were applied to these models in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The uplifts should also be viewed in the context of the Authority's prioritisation of the £5.20m increase in High Needs Block funding in 2024/25, towards the further expansion of specialist places capacity (securing appropriate provision for high needs pupils) and of meeting the cost of the growth in the numbers of children and young people in Bradford with EHCPs via the allocation of additional top-up funding.

14.6 The Authority proposes to continue, unchanged, the additional setting-led needs factors for specialist settings and the additional separate former Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant funding. This represents no change on current positive practice.

14.7 We assess that incrementally amending our definition of Notional SEND budgets within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding allocations (section 10), as encouraged by the DfE and to bring us more in line with the common national picture in the lead up to the hard National Funding Formula, continues to support schools and academies to make effective provision for pupils with additional educational needs and with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It is important to stress that an adjustment of the Notional SEND definition does not materially change the value of formula funding that an individual school or academy receives.

14.8 The Authority proposes to continue the amended SEND Funding Floor mechanism. This Floor represents a substantial SEND funding support mechanism for the mainstream sector. As well as continuing to support provision for pupils with EHCPs, this approach will continue to protect the funding used by mainstream schools and academies to support their wider Additional Educational Needs (AEN), SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) activities. The Floor financially supports mainstream schools and academies that have higher proportions of pupils with EHCPs, in support of inclusion, combining also to support schools and academies that may have lower levels of AEN formula funding and that may be smaller in size. It supports schools and academies that may have some turbulence in formula funding as a result of in year pupil numbers changes. The impact of the Floor is assessed to continue to be positive. With the substantial growth in the number of pupils with EHCPs in mainstream settings, in addition to the Floor, more high needs funding is already being allocated (and will continue to be allocated) to the mainstream sector in support of high needs pupils, in the form of additional top-up funding.

15. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Summary of the Place-Plus system and how this works for different providers
- Appendix 2 Banded Model for Pupil-Led Need Top-up Funding
- Appendix 3 Technical Annex 2023/24 Approach (including Setting-Led Need factors)
- Appendix 4 Draft Planned Commissioned Places 2024/25 (Bradford-located settings)
- Appendix 5 Notional SEND Modelling (presented in a separate file)
- Appendix 6 Consultation Responses Form.

Appendix 1 – High level Summary of Place-Plus and how this works for different providers in Bradford

	Pre-16	Pre-16	Post-16	Post-16		
Type of Provision	Place (Core) Funding	Top-Up Funding (Pupil-Led Need)	Place Funding	Top-Up Funding (Pupil-Led Need)	Setting-Led Need Factors	Additional Support Measures
Mainstream primary & secondary (maintained schools, academies and free schools)	<p>Element 1 is included within the per-pupil funding allocated through the local school funding formula (NFF-based).</p> <p>Element 2 - the first £6,000 of additional support cost – is also already delegated with the school’s formula funding allocation.</p> <p>Notional SEND defines the value of funding already allocated (see section 10).</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	None.	SEND Funding Floor supports Element 2 cost in pre-16 provisions (see section 11).
Mainstream early years (nursery schools, classes and PVI providers)	<p>Element 1 is included within the per-pupil funding allocated through the local EYSFF.</p> <p>Early Years SEND Inclusion Grant allocates Element 2 (£6,000) for eligible low level emerging</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p>	n/a	n/a	None.	<p>Early Years SEND Inclusion Grant (EYIF).</p> <p>DAF Grant.</p>

	<p>SEND (non-EHCP) as agreed by Panel.</p> <p>Element 2 is allocated to early years EHCPs in addition to top-up.</p>	<p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school or provider.</p>				
<p>School-led Resourced Provisions (mainstream primary & secondary)</p>	<p>Elements 1 & 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £6,000 per place for places occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year and £10,000 per place for the remainder of places agreed to be commissioned.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>3% Cash Budget Protection.</p> <p>See appendix 3.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>

	<p>the year.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p> <p>Element 1 is set at a minimum of £4,000 per agreed place.</p>					
<p>Local Authority-led Sensory Need Resourced Provisions (mainstream primary & secondary).</p>	<p>Elements 1 & 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £6,000 per place for those occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year and £10,000 per place for the remainder of places agreed to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1, set at a minimum of £4,000 per agreed place.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council. This currently requires host schools to repay Element 2 back to the Council.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council. This currently requires host schools to repay Element 2 back to the Council.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p> <p>See appendix 3.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>

	Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.					
Local Authority-led Resourced Provisions (mainstream primary & secondary).	<p>Element 1 is allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £4,000 (or the higher MFL value) for places agreed to be commissioned but not occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1, set at a minimum of £4,000 (or the higher MFL value) per agreed place.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p> <p>See appendix 3.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>

	calculated at £6,000 per commissioned place and is retained by Bradford Council.					
Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions (maintained nursery schools)	<p>Elements 1 & 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local EYSFF plus £6,000 per FTE commissioned place.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p> <p>Additional Element 1 funding is paid using EYSFF rates for any FTE places not occupied in the EYSFF termly censuses.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2). All EYESP places funded at a minimum Band 4L (assessment places).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	n/a	n/a	Small Setting Protection. See appendix 3.	Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants

	occupancy across the year.					
Maintained Special Schools & Special School Academies	<p>Elements 1 and 2 are combined in a fixed £10,000 per place, based on an agreed number of places to be commissioned. Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.</p> <p>Retained by the school.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>£10,000 per place based on an agreed number of places.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for actual total composite occupancy across the year.</p> <p>Retained by the school.</p>	Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).	<p>Split Sites.</p> <p>Post 16 Element 1 enhancement.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p> <p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>3% Cash Budget Protection.</p> <p>See appendix 3.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants.</p> <p>Additional "3.4% Place-Element" Funding required by DfE (DSG Conditions of Grant).</p>
PRUs & AP Academies (funding provision for pupils permanently excluded).	<p>Elements 1 and 2 are combined in a fixed £10,000 per place, based on an agreed number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>Retained by the PRU / AP Academy.</p> <p>Additional place-</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Day Rate Model (see section 8)</p>	n/a	n/a	No specific additional factors – setting-led need costs are to be covered within the calculation of the Day Rate.	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants.</p> <p>Additional "3.4% Place-Element" Funding required by DfE (DSG Conditions of Grant).</p>

	funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.	The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the PRU / AP Academy.				
Hospital Education, Tracks and Medical Home Tuition.	The funding of the centrally managed services operates outside the Place-Plus mechanism, working within the discrete allocation provided for this service within our HNB. This will be subject to annual review to incorporate any changes in the DfE's funding methodology and requirements.	n/a	n/a	n/a	None.	Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants
Further Education Institutions, special institutions and ILPs (post 16)	n/a	n/a	Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be funded.	Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority. Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for	None.	None.

			<p>Additional place-funding (element 2 only) can be allocated in year where occupancy exceeds agreed places, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the institution.</p>	<p>starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model (see appendix 2).</p> <p>Typically, values are funded at 60% for most placements (adjusted for the additional 40 hours). Higher cost placements (low incidence high need) are typically funded on an actual cost basis.</p>		
Independent Schools	The place funding system doesn't operate in independent schools.	Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.	The place funding system doesn't operate in independent schools.	Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.	None.	

Appendix 2

The EHCP Banded Model for Funding Pupil-Led Need Top-up 2024/25

Introduction

1.1 Top-up funding (also known as Element 3 or 'Plus' funding) is the funding required by an institution, over and above place funding, to enable a child or young person with high needs to participate in education and learning. Top-up funding is expected to reflect the cost of additional support an institution incurs related to the individual needs of the child or young person.

1.2 As with many authorities, Bradford allocates top-up funding using a band model. This model is used to assign Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) into bands of need for funding purposes. Each band has an applicable level of funding and every EHCP assigned to a band is allocated a set value of funding.

1.3 At April 2020, for the 2020/21 financial year, we introduced a new Banded Model. This model replaced our previous 'Ranges Model' and quite significantly uplifted the funding of EHCPs in all settings. This model includes protections, which have ensured, and will continue to ensure, that no EHCP in place on 1 April 2020 reduces in value as a result of funding model change. We substantially uplifted the values allocated by the Banded Model in 2021/22, and uplifted again in 2022/23, and in 2023/24 as set out in our consultation published this time last year.

1.4 A band system is more responsive to the needs of an individual child or young person than a blanket lump sum style approach but is not quite as sensitive as an approach where the cost of the needs of a child or young person is calculated on an exact basis. Blanket, band, and individually costed systems all have pros and cons. The main positive features of band models, and of our Banded Model, are that these help promote consistency and transparency, reduce complication, support the quick assessment and release of funds, whilst also enabling the SEND Panel to find a 'close fit' for funding the needs of an individual child or young person with an EHCP.

1.5 In continuing to use our Banded Model in 2024/25, the Council's intention is still to retain a uniform framework for calculating top-up funding for EHCPs. The Council's expectation continues to be that this framework will enable a close fit to be found for the funding of the vast majority of EHCPs and will ensure consistency of approach in the funding of high needs across mainstream and specialist settings both pre and post 16. It is accepted that there will be a small number of children or young people that will sit outside this banded framework, most of whom will be placed in specialist independent provisions.

1.6 We are not proposing technical changes to our Banded Model in 2024/25. We do propose however, to uplift the rates of top-up funding that this model allocates. Please see section 6 for explanation of the uplifted values that are proposed. Below is a summary of how the Banded Model operates.

The Banded Model 2024/25

2.1 The Banded Model uses at its base the [Bradford Matrix of Need](#), which outlines waves of intervention:

- Band 1 (Quality First Teaching)
- Band 2 (SEND Support)
- Band 3 (EHCP) – typically mainstream - this is the band at which Element 3 EHCP funding begins
- Band 4 (EHCP Plus) – typically specialist provision

This Matrix identifies the responsibilities of schools and providers in their use of already delegated funds in meeting the cost of support up to Band 3. It then identifies the point at which top-up funding will begin in our model, which is EHCP Band 3.

2.2 The Banded Model has 6 bands and 6 funding steps, with values for 1 April 2024 proposed as set out in the table below (subject to the warnings given in section 1). This table shows the proposed value of top-up by band and the value of Element 2 contributions, which schools and providers will add to the top-up from their budgets to produce the total value of funding available for supporting the costs of an EHCP.

In all steps within the model the school / provider, with the exception of EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (in pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, is expected to contribute Element 2 funding, currently at a value of £6,000 per 1 FTE, to the cost of the additional needs set out in the EHCP. For EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (in pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, that are only funded through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), because the EYSFF does not allocate Element 2 funding, Element 2 is allocated on an FTE basis in addition to the top-up value for these EHCPs until these children enter reception year. This addition does not apply to early years children that are placed in special schools or in resourced provisions as these provisions are funded on a place-led basis, which includes Element 2.

	Proposed Indicative Top-up Value at April 2024	Element 2 Value FTE the school / provider adds	Total Value of Funding to support the EHCP
Band 3 Low (3L)	£2,401	£6,000	£8,401
Band 3 Medium (3M)	£4,237	£6,000	£10,237
Band 3 High (3H)	£6,019	£6,000	£12,019
Band 4 Low (4L)	£9,605	£6,000	£15,605
Band 4 Medium (4M)	£13,780	£6,000	£19,780
Band 4 High (4H)	£17,983	£6,000	£23,983
Protected 7	£29,548	£6,000	£35,548

The model is calculated on a provision-mapping approach. The additional educational needs of a child with an EHCP typically will be met through additional adult contact time. Typically, this will be delivered in a combination of individual time and time in smaller groups. The overall volume of time will increase as needs increase and the proportion of this time that is delivered on a more bespoke basis will also increase as needs increase. The values of the bands have been built up on assumptions about the proportion of additional support given to an EHCP, with this support split between bespoke time and time in smaller groups. This is a model for the SEND Panel to use to determine the volume and type of support required to closely meet the needs of an individual EHCP.

2.3 Band 3 (EHCP) typically will support the cost of EHCPs placed in mainstream provisions. Band 4 (EHCP plus) typically will support the cost of EHCPs placed in specialist provisions. However, this is not an absolute position, and the SEND Panel will use the model flexibly to closely meet need.

The Band 3 values are calculated on assumptions on additional ‘support assistant’ time (where bespoke means 1:1 and group time is in groups of 1:3). The cost per hour assumption within the indicative

2024/25 financial year model, on a term time only basis and incorporating assumptions about on-costs, is £17.12. This represents a 1.00% increase on the £16.95 that was used in the 2023/24 model.

The Band 4 values are calculated on assumptions on both support assistant time (where bespoke means 1:1 and group time is in groups of 1:2) and teacher time in group sizes of 1:12, 1:8 and 1:6. The cost per hour assumption for support assistant time within the indicative 2024/25 financial year model is £17.12 as in Band 3. The indicative cost per hour assumption for teacher time in the model is £50.30. This represents a 1.8% increase on the £49.42 that was used in the 2023/24 model.

2.4 Each EHCP will be funded at the band value that provides the closest fit for meeting the cost of the needs of the child or young person. In the model, the closest fit may also be found by combining ('stacking') more than one band value. The facility to combine values means that the SEND Panel can use the model in a flexible way to find a very close fit for the funding especially of children and young people with significant secondary needs as well as those that require additional functional support both within and outside of the standard taught school day where this is not already funded within a single band value.

2.5 It is helpful to continue to highlight the main differences between our current Banded Model and our previous Ranges Model that was used up to 31 March 2020:

- The Banded Model does not have a 7th step (the equivalent of the previous Range 7). It is expected that stacking will deliver a level of support higher than the single band 4H, where this is necessary. Specific transition arrangements are in place for Range 7 EHCPs that existed at 1 April 2020.
- The Panel can 'stack' values (meaning an EHCP can be allocated more than one value) in order to find a close fit.
- The Banded Model does not use primary need as a marker for the placement of an EHCP into a band. Placement is based on assessed level of need.
- Whereas the previous Ranges Model defined need in terms of 1:1 hours of support, the Banded Model uses a provision mapping approach and a combination of bespoke time and time in smaller groups.
- The values allocated by the Banded Model are significantly increased on those allocated by the Ranges Model. These increases are the result of two main adjustments between 2020 and 2023; a) refreshing the assumptions about the salaries of support assistants and teachers; b) allowing the top-up model to compensate for the fixed £6,000 Element 2. Please see section 6 for explanation of this.
- The Banded Model works alongside a clarified / amended approach to the sharing of the cost of specialist equipment.

2.6 To highlight how the Banded Model continues to be the same or similar to the previous Ranges Model:

- Decisions on the application of the Banded Model – which of the 6 bands an EHCP is placed in and whether an EHCP is given more than one band value - continue to be taken by Bradford Council's SEND Panel with reference to the evidence submitted through the EHCP assessment process. Appeals and disputes also continue to be resolved through the Panel process.

- In all steps within the model, the school / provider, with the exception of EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 years olds (pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, is expected to contribute Element 2 funding currently at a value of £6,000 to the cost of additional needs.
- The bottom ‘threshold’ for the 1st step of Band 3 (3 Low) is the same as the Ranges Model. The Banded Model itself has not changed the threshold at which EHCP funding can initiate nor has it changed the points of access to an EHCP. It simply has changed the options that are available to the SEND Panel to use to ensure that an EHCP is appropriately and accurately funded.
- For the top-up funding of post 16 high needs students with EHCPs in the Further Education sector, it has been agreed previously with the relevant providers that, as, on average, colleges deliver around 60% of the hours delivered by schools, colleges are funded for the vast majority of students at 60% of the Banded Model value for the primary need of the student. The exceptions are students with the primary need of sensory impairment (Hearing / Visual), where funding continues to be allocated on an actual cost basis. Due to the specific support needs of these students in Further Education, and the diverse nature of their curriculum choices, it is not possible to formularise this funding element. This approach is continued in the application Banded Model in 2024/25, adjusted for funding, as appropriate, for the delivery of the additional 40 post-16 study hours, which is part of the 2023/24 post-16 financial settlement and part of the Government’s COVID-19 pandemic support response.
- The ‘technical framework’ is the same for the operation of the Banded Model during the year e.g. the monthly re-calculation of EHCP funding from the census of EHCPs on roll on 10th of each month.
- An assessment place (which was Range 4D) has become Band 4L. This funds EHCPs placed in specialist provisions until a final determination of band from the Panel is received. Funding is changed at this point if this is different from 4L. Band 4L also continues to be used to more permanently fund placements in the Early Years ESPs that are attached to maintained nursery schools.

A reminder of the transition from the previous Ranges Model

3.1 It is helpful to remind providers of how we moved from the Ranges Model to the now established Banded Model and what protections continue to be in place. All EHCPs in place at 1 April 2020 were automatically transferred on to the new Banded Model system at 1 April 2020 as follows:

Range		Band
Range 4A	became	Band 3L
Range 4B	became	Band 3M
Range 4C	became	Band 3H
Range 4D	became	Band 4L
Range 5	became	Band 4M
Range 6	became	Band 4H
Range 7	became	Protected 7

3.2 Most existing EHCPs on an on-going basis will remain within the band they were transferred to. The SEND Panel will continue to review, through the annual review process, individual EHCPs where the banding may be disputed, where there are obvious existing inaccuracies or where the needs of the child or young person have changed.

3.3 The Banded Model operates under the guarantee that, for EHCPs in place at 1 April 2020, the EHCP will not ever drop to a lower valued band unless the SEND Panel agrees that the needs of the child or

young person are reduced when compared against the needs presented to the Panel in the original EHCP determination. This guarantee remains until the pupil reaches the end of year 11. This guarantee does not extend to assessment places that were funded at 1 April 2020 (as these pupils did not yet have EHCPs).

3.4 The Banded Model retains a transitional 'Protected 7' band, which will continue to fund EHCPs that we graded at Range 7 under the old model. These Range 7 pupils will stay funded by the Protected 7 band unless an annual review gives them a higher level of funding using the new model (via stacking), when the pupil would be transferred onto the new model at this point, or where the pupil's needs are agreed to have reduced when compared against the needs presented to the Panel in the original EHCP Range 7 determination. This guarantee remains in place until the pupil reaches the end of year 11. The value of Protected 7 will be uplifted each year by the same % that is applied to Band 4H.

Appendix 3 – Technical Annex 2023/24 Approach

This appendix contains more technical detail on the definitions and calculations of factors that are contained within Bradford Council's current 2023/24 financial year EHCP high needs funding model.

Notional SEND Budgets (Mainstream Schools Block Primary & Secondary)

Local authorities are required to define for each primary and secondary school and academy the value of mainstream formula funding that is 'notionally' allocated for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (for meeting the first £6,000 of needs both for pupils with EHCPs and the needs of pupils without EHCPs). How Bradford currently (in 2023/24) defines notional SEND (the %s of funding within each formula factor that make up this budget) is shown in the table below.

Formula Factor	% Primary	% Secondary
Prior Low Attainment Factor	100%	100%
Free School Meals Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Factor	25.0%	25.0%
Base £APP funding (AWPU)	6.5%	4.0%
Minimum Level of Funding top-up (MFL)	48.0%	48.0%

In addition, 6.0% of a mainstream school's or academy's allocation from the Early Years Single Funding Formula, for mainstream primary schools and academies that have early years entitlement provision, is also defined to be available for supporting SEND in early years.

SEND Funding Floor (Mainstream Primary & Secondary)

The SEND Funding Floor formula is aimed at ensuring that no mainstream primary or secondary maintained school or academy will have to manage, from their own delegated mainstream formula funding, an above phase-average cost pressure in respect of their commitment to meet the cost of Element 2 (£6,000) for their EHCPs. As well as supporting provision for pupils with EHCPs, this approach will help to protect the funding used by schools and academies to support their wider Additional Educational Needs, SEND and Alternative Provision activities. It will directly financially support schools and academies that have higher proportions of pupils with EHCPs, in support of inclusion, combining also to support schools and academies that may have lower levels of Additional Education Needs formula funding (because they have e.g. lower levels of deprivation) but higher numbers of EHCPs, and also that may be smaller in size. It will also support schools and academies that may have some turbulence in formula funding as a result of in year pupil numbers changes.

Funding allocated using the Floor is re-calculated monthly for changes in the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) on roll.

The formula for 2023/24 is as follows:

Where Part A is greater than Part B, a school / academy receives a top-up for the difference between Part A and Part B.

A = is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of EHCPs on roll at a mainstream school / academy, excluding early years and post 16 students that have EHCPs, multiplied by £6,000 (which is the value of Element 2). Part A is re-calculated monthly for changes in the number Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) on roll.

B = is the percentage of a school's / academy's Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding that is required to be put to the Element 2 (£6,000) cost of a school's / academy's EHCPs, before the SEND Funding Floor will provide additional financial support. There are 2 elements to the Part B calculation, the 'percentage' and what is meant by 'Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding'. Unlike Part A, both elements of Part B are fixed at the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year and will not change.

- The ‘percentage’ is the phase median average percentage of Additional Educational Needs formula funding that schools / academies contribute to Element 2 £6,000 costs in respect of their EHCPs. The phase average is rounded plus 2%. Separate percentages are used for primary and for secondary phases. The averages that are used in 2023/24 are 13.0% for the primary phase and 10.5% for the secondary phase.
- ‘Additional Educational Needs delegated formula funding’ is calculated by taking the following funding factors that are included within the delegated formula funding allocations received by mainstream schools / academies. For academies, this funding / these factors are within General Annual Grant (GAG) funding. For maintained schools, this funding / these factors are within the Section 251 formula funding.

- 100% of the English as an Additional Language factor
- 100% of the Free School Meals factors
- 100% of the Prior Attainment factor
- 100% of the Minimum Funding Level factor
- 100% of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) factor
- 80% of Minimum Funding Guarantee factor

Setting-Led Needs Factors – Maintained Special Schools & Special School Academies

- New Services Delegation – an additional amount per pupil to reflect that stand alone special schools and special school academies cannot access de-delegated and centrally managed services without charge – set at a flat £449.88 per pupil in 2023/24. So a setting with 100 pupils receives 100 x £449.88 = £44,988 funding.
- Small Setting Protection – an additional sum, for stand-alone settings with fewer than 75 places, to ensure a minimum level of funding for fixed costs. The formula is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &A \quad (75 \times \text{£}10,000 \times 20\%) \\
 &B \quad (\text{setting's place funding} \times 20\%) \\
 &= \text{top-up to the value of A where B is less than A}
 \end{aligned}$$

As all special schools and special school academies are now larger than 75, this is not a factor that is currently employed.

- Split Sites – an additional sum for special schools and special school academies that operate across split / satellite sites. The full year value of this lump sum is £226,740 in 2023/24.
- Post-16 Places – an additional sum per Post-16 place, to allocate an additional £1,600 per place. This ensures that special schools with post-16 places receive the nationally set DfE value of element 1 for post-16 pupils, which is £5,600 for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years.
- 3% Cash Budget Protection – an additional total cash budget safety net protection, which ensures that at no point during 2023/24 will the total ‘Place Plus’ calculated budget for an individual special school be more than 3% lower than the 2022/23 total level of funding. As most special schools are / have been increasing places, together with the uplifted Banded Model funding rates, this is not a factor that was needed in 2023/24 but remains in place to ensure a safety net.

Setting-Led Needs Factors – School-Led Resourced Provisions Mainstream Primary & Secondary Schools and Academies

- Small Setting Protection – an additional sum for provisions with fewer than 24 FTE places, to ensure a minimum level of funding for fixed costs. The formula is:

- A (24 FTE x £10,000 x 20%)
- B (setting's place funding (where each place is worth £10,000) x 20%)
- = top-up to the value of A where B is less than A

- 3% Cash Budget Protection – as special schools above.

Setting-Led Needs Factors – Local Authority-Led Resourced Provisions Mainstream Primary & Secondary Schools and Academies (both Sensory and SEMH)

Please note that the Local Authority retains this top-up funding.

- Small Setting Protection – an additional sum for provisions with fewer than 24 FTE places, to ensure a minimum level of funding for fixed costs. The formula is:

- A (24 FTE x £10,000 x 20%)
- B (setting's place funding (where each place is worth £10,000) x 20%)
- = top-up to the value of A where B is less than A

- New Services Delegation – as special schools above. This is allocated because the Authority's centrally managed services do not access services and funds that are otherwise funded for school-led resourced provisions through de-delegation within the Schools Block.

Setting-Led Needs Factors – Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions

- Small Setting Protection – as School-Led Resourced Provisions above.

Appendix 4 - 2024/25 Draft Commissioned Places

Setting	Type (AP or SEND)	23/24 Initial Planned Budget AY Places (FTE)	24/25 AY Current Planned Places (FTE)
Bradford Alternative Provision Academy	AP	65.0	75.0
Park Aspire	AP	90.0	90.0
Other Alternative Provision	AP	5.0	10.0
Centrally Managed EinH, Tracks and Medical Home Tuition Service "notional" places	AP	49.0	49.0
Early Years Resourced Provision - Abbey Green Nursery School	SEND	6.0	6.0
Early Years Resourced Provision - Canterbury Nursery School and Children's Centre	SEND	16.8	16.8
Early Years Resourced Provision - Hirst Wood Nursery School	SEND	6.0	6.0
Early Years Resourced Provision - Midland Road Nursery School	SEND	6.0	6.0
Early Years Resourced Provision - St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre	SEND	19.8	19.8
Early Years Resourced Provision - Strong Close Nursery School	SEND	18.0	18.0
Early Years Resourced Provision - Balance of places (flex inc. for 30 hours provision)	SEND	5.4	5.4
Resourced Provision LA Led - Girlington Primary School	SEND	20.0	20.0
Resourced Provision LA Led - Swain House Primary School	SEND	20.0	20.0
Resourced Provision LA Led - Grove House Primary School	SEND	12.0	12.0
Resourced Provision LA Led – Hanson School	SEND	48.0	48.0
Special – Beechcliffe School	SEND	248.0	248.0
Special – Chellow Heights School	SEND	250.8	250.8
Special – Co-op Academy Delius	SEND	171.0	171.0
Special – Beckfoot Hazelbeck Academy	SEND	144.0	144.0
Special – High Park School	SEND	130.0	130.0
Special – Beckfoot Phoenix Primary Special School	SEND	102.0	102.0
Special – Co-op Academy Southfield	SEND	360.0	360.0
Special – Oastler School	SEND	134.0	134.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Carrwood Primary School	SEND	12.0	12.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Denholme Primary School	SEND	8.0	8.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Green Lane Primary School	SEND	24.0	24.0
Resourced Provision School Led – High Craggs Primary Academy	SEND	6.0	6.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Crossflatts Primary School	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Beckfoot Academy	SEND	6.0	6.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Oasis Academy (Lister Park)	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Co-op Academy Grange	SEND	24.0	24.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Parkside School	SEND	14.0	24.0
Resourced Provision School Led – The Holy Family Catholic School	SEND	20.0	20.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Beckfoot Thornton Academy	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Titus Salt School	SEND	30.0	30.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Bradford Academy	SEND	27.0	27.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Bradford Forster Academy	SEND	2.0	2.0
Resourced Provision School Led – Haworth Primary Academy	SEND	12.0	12.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Crossley Hall Primary School	SEND	24.0	24.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Long Lee Primary School	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Worth Valley Primary Academy	SEND	8.0	8.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Parkwood Primary Academy	SEND	12.0	12.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Cottingley Village Primary School	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Horton Park Primary Academy	SEND	12.0	12.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Ilkley Grammar School	SEND	24.0	24.0
Resourced Provision School Led - Holybrook Primary School	SEND	16.0	16.0
Resourced Provisions LA Led - Primary Phase	SEND	104.0	98.0
Resourced Provisions LA Led - Secondary Phase	SEND	68.0	68.0
Further Education - Bradford College (subject to further review)	SEND	288.0	288.0
Further Education - Shipley College (subject to further review)	SEND	164.0	164.0
Further Education - Other (subject to further review)	SEND	36.0	36.0
SEND - Additional Places Under Development (still to go through Statutory Process)	SEND	180.0	182.0
Grand Totals		3,127.8	3,148.8
Sub Totals SEND		2,918.8	2,924.8
<i>Early Years Resourced Provision</i>		78.0	78.0
<i>Local Authority Led Resourced Provisions - Sensory</i>		100.0	100.0
<i>Maintained Special Schools and Special Academies</i>		1,539.8	1,539.8
<i>School Led Resourced Provisions</i>		361.0	371.0
<i>Local Authority Led Resourced Provisions</i>		172.0	166.0
<i>Further Education (Post 16)</i>		488.0	488.0
<i>Additional SEND Places not yet allocated</i>		180.0	182.0
Sub Totals Alternative Provision		209.0	224.0
<i>PRUs & Alternative Providers</i>		160.0	175.0
<i>Education in Hospital, Tracks (notional places)</i>		49.0	49.0

Appendix 6 - RESPONSES FORM

Consultation on Funding High Needs Provision 2024/25

This form can be used to submit your response. However, this year we have introduced a web-based questionnaire, which we encourage you to use to submit your response, instead of using this paper form. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

Name _____ Setting Name _____

THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THIS CONSULTATION IS TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Please send completed questionnaire responses to:

School Funding Team
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
6th Floor, Britannia House,
Hall Ings
Bradford
BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 433775

Email: dawn.haigh@bradford.gov.uk

Please complete the questionnaire by marking the appropriate boxes. There is a space below each question for you to record comments.

Question 1 – Do you agree with the approach that is proposed for uplifting the values of the EHCP Banded Model in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree On Balance Agree (some reservations) Strongly Disagree

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 2 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the EHCP Banded Model you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

Question 3 – Do you agree with the approach to setting-led need factors in 2024/25 that is proposed? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 4 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the setting-led need factors you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

Question 5 – Do you agree with the Day Rate mechanism that the Authority proposes to use to fund the PRU / Alternative Provision Academy in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 6 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the proposed Day-Rate mechanism you would like the Authority to consider for 2024/25?

Question 7 – Do you agree with the methodology that the Authority proposes to use to allocate the Teacher Pay Grant and Teacher Pensions Grant in 2024/25? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 8 – Do you agree with proposal to adjust our definition of Notional SEND within mainstream primary and secondary formula funding? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 9 – Do you agree with the continuation of our SEND Funding Floor mechanism in 2024/25, as proposed? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 10 – Do you have any comments (including technical comments) on the SEND Funding Floor mechanism you would like the Authority to consider?

Question 11: Are there any changes that you would wish to see made to the funding models in 2024/25 that have not been proposed? Please give details.

Question 12 – Do you have any other comments on the funding models or on the proposals that you have not recorded elsewhere?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the user to provide their comments on funding models or proposals.

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SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report asks the Schools Forum to review the position of Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block and Early Years Block central funds and de-delegated items for the 2024/25 financial year.

Members representing Maintained Primary Schools are asked to decide on de-delegation in 2024/25 for the purposes of purchasing subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

A final report on centrally managed funds to be held across the Schools, Central Schools Services and Early Years Blocks in the 2023/24 financial year was presented to the Forum on 11 January 2023.

The Schools Forum, in a separate report to this meeting, is asked to agree the publication of the primary and secondary consultation document, which asks for feedback on the continuation in 2024/25 of Schools Block de-delegated funds. This consultation also asks for feedback on the Growth Fund and on the Falling Rolls Fund. Feedback from the consultation will be considered by the Forum at the next meeting in December.

In making recommendations, back in 2017/18, secondary phase representatives agreed the cessation of de-delegation for the Maternity / Paternity 'insurance' scheme, Fischer Family Trust, Exceptional Circumstances and School Staff Public Duties and Suspensions from the secondary phase. Members are reminded that the de-delegated fund for Minority Ethnic School Support ceased on 1 May 2016 and the DSG's Contribution to School Improvement (our 'historic commitment') ceased at 1 September 2017. De-delegation from the primary phase for behaviour support ceased at 1 September 2018.

Background / Context

Forum Members are reminded that the Central Schools Services Block was established within the DSG framework at April 2018. Some centrally managed funds, previously held within the Schools Block, are transferred into this Block. As such, these funds should no longer be seen as 'top-slices' from primary and secondary formula funding. They are allocations via a national DSG formula to support the statutory functions authorities hold for all schools and academies. The table below summarises the centrally managed funds that were agreed from the 2023/24 DSG (excluding monies allocated from brought forward balances and funds held initially and then delegated during the year within the Early Years Block e.g. EYPP and EYIF).

Fund	Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	Early Years Block	Total
Copyright Licences	n/a	£406,355	£36,468	£442,823
Growth Fund (net of recoupment)	£796,884	n/a	n/a	£796,884
Falling Rolls Fund (Primary)	£0	n/a	n/a	£0
Schools Forum costs	n/a	£11,700	n/a	£11,700
Pupil Admissions	n/a	£987,000	n/a	£987,000
Statutory & Regulatory Duties	n/a	£1,559,300	n/a	£1,559,300
Education Access Officers	n/a	£500,000	n/a	£500,000
Education Planning & Early Years	n/a	£148,000	£530,000	£678,000
Early Years PVI Area SENCOs & Portage	n/a	n/a	£582,000	£582,000
DD - FSM Eligibility Assessments	£38,007	n/a	n/a	£38,007
DD - Fischer Family Trust	£24,238	n/a	n/a	£24,238
DD – School Improvement	£112,655	n/a	n/a	£112,655
DD - School Maternity / Paternity	£552,523	n/a	£97,477	£650,000
DD - Trade Union Facilities Time	£113,813	n/a	£15,977	£129,790
DD - Trade Union Health and Safety	£17,392	n/a	£2,441	£19,833
DD - Public Duties & Suspensions	£19,466	n/a	£3,434	£22,900
DD - Re-Org: Safeguarded salaries	£14,842	n/a	n/a	£14,842
DD – Re-Org: Deficit Budgets	£0	n/a	n/a	£0
DD - Exceptional Costs & SIFD	£54,500	n/a	n/a	£54,500
Totals	£1,744,320	£3,612,355	£1,267,797	£6,624,472

Background / Context (continued)

The table below summarises the per pupil contributions from the Early Years Block and from maintained schools within the Schools Block to the funds marked as 'de-delegated' ('DD') in the previous table.

2023/24 De-delegated Funds	Early Years £app	Primary £app	Secondary £app
Fischer Family Trust	n/a	£1.16	n/a
Schools Improvement	n/a	£4.29	£4.29
School Maternity / Paternity	£26.44	£26.44	n/a
Trade Union Facilities Time	£4.33	£4.33	£4.33
Trade Union Health and Safety	£0.66	£0.66	£0.66
Public Duties & Suspensions	£0.93	£0.93	n/a
Re-Org: Safeguarded salaries	n/a	£0.66	£0.19
Re-Org: Deficit Budgets (paused)	n/a	£0.00	n/a
Exceptional Costs & Schools In Financial Difficulty	n/a	£2.61	n/a
Total £app maintained schools	£32.37	41.09	£9.48
FSM Eligibility Assessments (Per FSM Ever 6)	n/a	£5.80	£5.14

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the comparison of our funds versus those held by other local authorities in the 2023/24 financial year, based on Section 251 Budget reporting.

Details of the Item for Consideration

The information contained in this report is presented to initiate the School Forum's annual review of centrally managed and de-delegated funds that are held within the Central Schools Services, Schools and Early Years Blocks. Forum will be required to make its recommendations and take its decisions on 2024/25 financial year funds on 10 January 2024. An update to this report will be presented to the Forum in December. **In particular, at this stage, Forum Members are asked to consider whether / what further information is needed. Owing to timescales set by Fischer Family Trust, it is necessary to ask Members representing Maintained Primary Schools to decide at this meeting on de-delegation in the 2024/25 financial year for the purposes of purchasing subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust.**

General Parameters and Expectations for 2024/25 Financial Year Funds

It is anticipated that:

- Forum will not wish to revisit decisions that have been taken in previous years to cease specific centrally held and de-delegated funds.
- Excepting the specific decision on Fischer Family Trust, Forum will wish to continue the general framework of de-delegation from maintained schools, as is currently agreed, whilst further considering the values of these funds that are held in 2024/25.
- Forum will continue to agree to the apportionment, across the blocks on the basis of pupil numbers, of the DfE-set copyright licences cost.
- Forum will agree to continue the 'pass back' of funds already allocated to the Authority within the Central Schools Services Block, as a result of Forum decisions that have been taken in previous years.
- Forum will agree to uplift, for pay award / inflation, Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funds and centrally managed funds within the High Needs Block (HNB) and Early Years Block (EYB).
- Forum will support continuing to charge a proportion of the cost of centrally managed high needs services, relating to early years aged children, to the Early Years Block, whilst further considering the value of this charge in 2024/25.
- The Schools Block Growth Fund for 2024/25 will be set at a value sufficient to cover anticipated costs. It is anticipated that no new budget will be taken for the cost of new growth at September 2024 in the primary phase, with a ring-fenced Schools Block brought forward surplus balance still being available.
- The primary phase Falling Rolls Fund will continue within the Schools Block but will be financed from the ring-fenced brought forward balance, rather than by taking new budget from the 2024/25 DSG allocation.
- The remaining costs of safeguarded salaries, incurred by the re-organisation of maintained schools, will continue to be funded via de-delegation within the Schools Block on an actual reducing costs basis.
- The Authority's Trade Unions Facilities Time arrangements will continue. It is anticipated that, due to strong buy in, the rate of per pupil contribution can be reduced in 2024/25 (by a further estimated 5%).
- Forum will continue to support the retention of a de-delegated fund to meet any cost of deficit balances held by maintained primary schools that convert to academy status under sponsored arrangements.
- Forum will continue to support the retention of the de-delegated fund to replace the now ceased School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB).

Details of the Item for Consideration (continued)

- The Forum will not wish to newly de-delegate from the Schools Block for the purposes of subscribing all maintained primary and secondary schools to the DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement.
- The surplus balance of de-delegated funds that is carried forward will continue to be ring-fenced and will be deployed in support of managing the annual costs of these funds, as well as in reducing the value of the on-going (new year) contributions that are required from maintained schools. A total balance of £0.942m across the Schools and Early Years Blocks was carried forward from 2022/23. The total balance forecasted to be held at the end of 2023/24 will be presented to the Forum in December.

Central Schools Services Block 2024/25

The Authority's Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) allocation is increasing by 3.0% per pupil in 2024/25. Our historic commitments lump sum, however, is reduced from £180,115 to £144,091. The total of our CSSB allocation for 2024/25 is currently estimated to be £3.617m, subject to October 2023 pupil numbers, compared with £3.559m in 2023/24. This relatively small cash increase should be viewed in the context of the CSSB also having to absorb a 10.6% increase in the cost of the nationally set copyright licences charge in 2023/24. Due to: the limited 2023/24 and 2024/25 settlements, the increase in the cost of copyright licences, the continuing reduction in historic commitments funding, and the impact on CSSB income of reducing numbers of pupils in mainstream schools and academies, our CSSB is under greater and increasing financial pressure.

The table below shows the values of the commitments that are present within the CSSB, as a result of decisions that have been taken previously by the Forum, and that are carried forward into 2024/25. The table shows the 2023/24 budget values, and we would expect to uplift these commitments appropriately for pay award / inflation in 2024/25, using available CSSB headroom.

Commitment Heading	2023/24
Copyright Licences	£406,355
Schools Forum costs	£11,700
Pupil Admissions	£987,000
Statutory & Regulatory Duties	£1,559,300
Education Access Officers	£500,000
Education Services Planning	£148,000
Total Central Schools Services Block 2024/25	£3,612,355

As a reminder, there were no structural changes to CSSB budgets in 2023/24; existing budgets were simply increased for pay award / inflation. We set a planned CSSB budget, which overspent the 2023/24 CSSB allocation by £0.054m, with this overspend to be met from the CSSB carry forward surplus balance (£0.232m at March 2023).

The Authority anticipates that, for 2024/25, the Forum will agree to continue the 'pass back' of the funds that are set out above and that are already allocated to the Authority. The Authority proposes that the full value of the CSSB settlement continues to be allocated to CSSB activity. Prior to 2022/23, we transferred a small value of CSSB funding to the High Needs Block, in support of pressures within this Block. However, our CSSB is under increasing financial pressure and this transfer is no longer possible. Subject to the CSSB's actual spending position in 2023/24, we are likely to propose that a proportion of the CSSB carry forward surplus balance is again allocated in support of the 2024/25 CSSB budget. We are also currently concerned about impending national decisions, regarding the increase in the employer's contribution to teacher pensions at April 2024. Our concern is whether the CSSB can afford to uplift budgets to meet this cost. We will discuss this further with the Schools Forum in the autumn and early spring as further announcements are made (including on whether or not additional support funding will be available to the CSSB for higher pensions costs).

Maintained Schools De-Delegated Funds - Introduction

De-delegation is a mechanism through which contributions, for centrally managed funds and services, can be collected from all maintained schools within a specific phase. The cessation of de-delegation would not itself prevent the existence of centrally managed services. Where buy in by academies remains strong, and would be strong from maintained schools, some services could continue on a traded services model.

Members are reminded that the Schools Forum has previously established the principle that the values of contributions per pupil to some de-delegated funds will not be increased in value on the previous year simply to compensate for the loss in budget resulting from the conversion of maintained schools to academy status i.e. all things being the same, as schools convert to academies, the cash values of de-delegated funds will reduce, with any gap in funding as a result of this reduction being recovered through the trading of services. This principle affects the following funds that are currently de-delegated from primary & secondary phases: Trade Union Facilities Time, Trade Union Health and Safety Rep Time and FSM Eligibility Assessments.

Details of the Item for Consideration (continued)

We have previously highlighted to the Schools Forum that the rate of conversion in Bradford of maintained schools to academy status may be such that consideration may need to be given, at an appropriate time, to whether de-delegation remains effective and efficient. The Authority would generally expect, and recommend, the Forum to continue de-delegation in 2024/25 where there is still evidenced value for money, critical mass (a sufficient number of maintained schools) and / or where the framework is already in place for academies to buy into centrally managed arrangements, such as for FSM eligibility assessments and for trade union facilities time. For the 2024/25 financial year, de-delegation cannot be applied to a school that has converted to academy before 2 April 2024. In addition, de-delegation must cease, from 1 September 2024, for any school that converts between 2 April and 1 September 2024. So, there is both a year on year impact as well as an in year impact on the values that can be taken to continue to support the cost of de-delegated funds.

Colleagues in maintained primary schools will be aware specifically of the warnings that have been given previously about the viability of our current arrangements for supporting maternity / paternity costs. We have warned, as happened for the secondary phase, that we may be moving towards the position where existing arrangements are no longer financially efficient nor viable. This is due to the growth in salaries costs at the same time as the number of maintained primary schools continues to reduce year on year, affecting the 'critical mass' that is needed to deliver an effective cost-efficient scheme. There has been a significant number of primary phase academy conversions during 2022 and 2023, which has affected our view of the scheme. The maternity / paternity scheme is expected to continue in 2024/25, subject to agreement following our wider consultation and Schools Forum discussion. However, to provide early warning and planning time, we wish to signal now that we expect that this scheme will cease at the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

In terms of the Authority's recommendations to the Schools Forum for the 2024/25 financial year:

De-Delegation: FSM Eligibility Assessment

The Local Authority recommends that de-delegation is continued from both the primary and secondary phases for Free School Meals (FSM) Eligibility Assessment, at the existing 2023/24 per FSM values, with contributions continuing to be taken using FSM Ever 6 data.

De-Delegation: Trade Unions Facilities Time

The Forum previously reviewed in some detail (in 2018) the Authority's collective Trade Unions Facilities Time arrangements. Buy into these arrangements from academies remains strong. As such, the Authority recommends that de-delegation continues from all phases in 2024/25. The per pupil cost of these arrangements in 2022/23 was reduced by 5%, from £5.26 in total (for both facilities and health and safety time) to £5.00. Depending on updated buy in data for the 2023/24 financial year, which is still being collected, we anticipate that the rate of per pupil contribution could be reduced in 2024/25 (by a further estimated 5%; reduced to £4.75). We will provide an updated view on this in December.

De-Delegation: Maternity / Paternity 'Insurance' Scheme & Suspensions / Public Duties

The Local Authority recommends that the de-delegated fund for maternity / paternity insurance is continued for maintained nursery schools and for the primary phase in 2024/25, with contributions set at a value to meet anticipated costs. Further work is taking place, but it is currently estimated that the price of the scheme will be in the region of £30.63 per pupil (compared with £26.44 in 2023/24). This price is after the release of £0.10m of carry forward balance and will provide a total estimated budget of £0.75m. The cost of this scheme is estimated and will be substantially affected by both the pay awards as well as by the number of claims, which is difficult to predict. The cost will also be affected by the anticipated increase in the employer's contribution to teacher pensions at April 2024.

The Authority recommends that de-delegation continues in 2024/25 from maintained nursery and maintained primary schools for the suspensions / public duties fund, at the current per pupil value of £0.93.

De-Delegation: Exceptional Circumstances, SIFD and Academy conversion (deficit budgets)

De-delegation continued in 2023/24 to provide a fund to support maintained primary schools that may face exceptional circumstances. This fund is allocated according to criteria that are agreed with the Schools Forum. The Authority recommends that de-delegation for this purpose continues for the primary phase in 2024/25. This will be necessary, in particular, where the Authority / Schools Forum wishes to use the existing criteria to support maintained primary schools that are resolving exceptional budget issues related to under-subscription.

Primary maintained members established in 2017/18 a de-delegated fund to be available specifically to meet the cost of any deficit balances held by maintained primary schools that convert to academy status under sponsored arrangements. The first (and only) allocations against this fund were presented to the Forum in May 2019. The Authority has subsequently recommended, since 2020/21, that the de-delegation of additional funds for this purpose be paused. This continues to be the Authority's recommendation for 2024/25. The ring-fenced de-delegated fund carry forward balance would be used, if necessary, to meet any deficit costs.

Details of the Item for Consideration (continued)

De-Delegation: Fischer Family Trust Subscription (FFT)

Owing to timescales that are set by Fischer Family Trust, it is necessary to ask Members representing Maintained Primary Schools to decide now on de-delegation in 2024/25 for the purposes of purchasing subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust on behalf of all maintained primary schools.

In 2023/24, the Authority has continued to facilitate the subscription of the primary phase to FFT. The secondary phase, and other phases, are already required to subscribe to FFT directly, rather than purchasing through the Authority. Maintained primary schools have been charged £1.16 per pupil via de-delegation. Primary academies have also been able to subscribe to FFT via the Authority, on an individual optional basis, charged by invoice at the same £1.16 per pupil, albeit that only a small number of academies have chosen to subscribe via the Local Authority.

De-delegation for the purposes of subscribing all maintained primary schools to the FFT software was established previously in recognition of the value of this software and of the significant savings (and value for money) that collective purchasing has delivered when engagement with the software was high. There are, however, two factors that must be considered: a) the number of maintained primary schools that are accessing the FFT software and b) that FFT has adjusted its pricing model for 2024/25. We have sent relevant members, prior to this meeting, some further information to help them take their decision. Please note that some of this is commercially sensitive and is not therefore, set out in this report.

The Authority's recommendation is that de-delegation ceases. This means that schools and academies that wish to subscribe to FFT would do so directly, and, where this is decided, the Authority will ensure that all schools and academies are made aware of this.

School Improvement

Prior to April 2023, local authorities received from the DfE a School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB), to support their "core" school improvement activities, with the amount received calculated to be proportionate to each authority's number of maintained schools. The DfE ceased this grant at March 2023, having already reduced the 2022/23 allocation by 50%. Alongside this, the DSG Regulations have been adjusted to permit local authorities to fund all improvement activities, including the core improvement activities previously funded by the SIMB Grant, via de-delegation of funds from maintained schools' budget shares, with the agreement of their Schools Forum or with the agreement of the Secretary of State, in instances where the Schools Forum does not agree. Effectively, local authorities are required now to charge maintained schools for their school improvement support, with the DfE's view being that this approach brings maintained schools in line with the academies sector.

With the agreement of the Schools Forum, we initially de-delegated a sum of £133,000 from maintained primary and secondary schools for the 2022/23 financial year, with contributions taken at £4.29 per pupil. Following further discussion and the presentation of more information, in December 2023, the Forum agreed to continue de-delegation at the same £4.29 per pupil. The Authority recommends that de-delegation continues in 2024/25 from maintained primary and secondary schools at the current per pupil value of £4.29.

As we have presented to the Schools Forum, the Local Authority has in place a programme of monitoring, intervention and support. Without the continuation of funds via de-delegation, the Authority will not have the resources on an on-going basis to continue to financially support school improvement in maintained schools, as it does currently. In this context, whilst the decision on de-delegation is one for the Schools Forum, was the Forum to not approve any de-delegation, it is very likely that the Authority would need to consider an approach to the Secretary of State. We anticipate however, that the discussion with the Forum will more focus on funding the right quantity and type of school improvement support, and reviewing the impact and value for money of this support.

Early Years Block - Central Funds

The following funds were retained centrally within the Early Years Block in 2023/24

Fund	Early Years Block
Copyright Licences	£36,468
Early Years Central Support	£530,000
Early Years PVI Area SENCOS & Portage	£582,000
De-delegated Funds	£119,329
Totals	£1,267,797

This equated to 3.7% of our estimated 2023/24 DfE core funding for the delivery of the 3&4-year-old entitlements. Members will be aware that, currently, the Regulations require that a minimum of 95% of 3&4

Details of the Item for Consideration (continued)

entitlement funding is allocated to providers, meaning that a maximum of 5% can be retained centrally, be spent on the 2 -year-old entitlement or be transferred to another DSG block. Members are reminded that we increased the value of the Early Years Central Support budget in 2023/24, following continued review of national benchmarking information and for the purpose of more appropriately supporting the cost to the Council of providing support services for early years providers and for delivering early years functions.

In response to the extension of the entitlements across 2024/25 and 2025/26, the Authority wishes to review the sufficiency of the capacities that are available, funded by the Early Years Block, to support delivery. This is in the light of the significant increase in the number of children that will access the entitlements for which providers will be funded. The increase in the number of entitlement children will have implications for the capacities that are required: to support sufficiency, sustainability, quality and compliance within the early years sector, to support the administration and calculation of entitlement funding, to support PVI providers with SEND (Area SENCOS) and to support the effective delivery of our Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF). The Authority expects to present to the Forum in December a proposal for centrally managed funds for 2024/25 in the light of the extension of the entitlements and the Authority's updated capacity requirements.

This proposal will need to work within the restrictions that are set by the DfE. Within the consultation that was published in July and closed on 8 September, the DfE stated that local authorities will continue to be permitted to retain funds within the Early Years Block to fund centrally managed support services. However, the DfE proposed that the current restriction (of retention of not more than 5%) be reduced to 3% after the roll out of the extended entitlements is complete and that the 3% restriction will apply individually to each of the 3 entitlement streams (under 2s, 2-year-olds and 3&4-year-olds). Assuming that this proposal is taken forward, this means that the budgets that we retain centrally within the Early Years Block, from April 2024, will need to be appropriately apportioned between the 3 entitlement streams (rather than, as now, just being charged against 3&4-year-old entitlement funding) and that we will need to have a care to ensure that we delegate to providers at least 97% of funding for the delivery of each of the entitlement streams. Although we anticipate that the reduction from 5% to 3% retention won't take place before the 2026/27 financial year, it makes sense for us now to seek to 'futureproof' ourselves so that we do not have to make significant changes that may cause turbulence in future years. This does not necessarily mean that we would only retain a maximum of 3% in 2024/25. The Early Years Block will be a substantially larger budget as a result of the entitlement extensions, meaning that there will be greater efficiencies of scale to permit larger values of central budgets with a lower % contributions. However, these efficiencies will not be fully realised until 2026/27, when the new entitlements will be in place for a full financial year. Alongside this, we are very conscious of the need to balance central retention with maximising the rates of funding that are paid to providers for entitlement delivery. In this respect, benchmarking data will continue to be important.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

Recommendations will have direct implications for the distribution of the Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block and Early Years Block in 2024/25.

Recommendations

- (1) The Forum is asked to review the position of Central Schools Services Block, Schools Block and Early Years Block central funds and de-delegated items, to indicate what further consideration should be given / review work should take place, in advance of making final recommendations for 2024/25 at the January 2024 meeting.**
- (2) Members representing Maintained Primary Schools are asked to decide on de-delegation in 2024/25 for the purposes of purchasing subscriptions to Fischer Family Trust.**

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – Benchmarking of Funds

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Andrew Redding, Business Advisor (Schools),
01274 432678
andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk

Figures are based on 2023/24 S251 Budget returns to the DfE & Benchmarking Tables published 28 September 2023

Type	Net Per Pupil Spend 2023/24 (Median Averages)						negative = Bfd is lower				Comments
	Bradford 2023/24 DSG Budget	Bradford Eapp (rounded)	England National Median (rounded)	Statistical Neighbours Median (rounded)	Met Districts Median (rounded)	Yorks & Humberside Median (rounded)	Bfd Cash Difference to National	Bfd Cash Difference to Stat Neigh	Bfd Cash Difference to Met Dist	Bfd Cash Difference to Y&H	
1.1.1 Contingencies (exceptional circumstances & SIFD)	£69,342	£2.00	£2.00	£0.00	£4.00	£8.00	£0	£70,196	-£70,196	-£210,588	De-delegation from primary phase only
1.1.2 Behaviour Support Services	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We ceased de-delegation at September 2018
1.1.3 Support for UPEG and Bilingual Learners	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We ceased de-delegation at April 2016
1.1.4 FSM Eligibility Assessment	£38,007	£1.00	£0.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£35,098	£0	£0	£0	De-delegation from both primary & secondary phases
1.1.5 Insurance	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We have never de-delegated
1.1.6 Museums / Libraries	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We have never de-delegated
1.1.7 Licences / Subscriptions	£24,238	£1.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£35,098	£35,098	£35,098	£35,098	FFT Subscription from the primary phase only
1.1.8 Staff Costs Supply Cover - excluding Facilities Time	£571,989	£16.00	£0.00	£17.00	£2.00	£0.00	£561,568	-£35,098	£491,372	£561,568	Maternity 'Insurance' Scheme for primary; proposed cessation Sept 25
1.1.9 Staff Costs - Supply Cover for Facilities Time	£131,205	£4.00	£2.00	£4.00	£4.00	£3.00	£70,196	£0	£0	£35,098	5% reduction in charge 21-22; both prim & sec
1.3.1 Central Expenditure on Children Under 5	£649,330	£5.00	£13.00	£12.00	£13.00	£11.00	-£1,140,952	-£998,333	-£1,140,952	-£855,714	Excludes EYB contributions recorded on SEND S251 lines (1.2->)
1.4.1 Contribution to Combined Budgets (all phases)	£0	£0.00	£2.00	£0.00	£2.00	£1.00	-£207,146	£0	-£207,146	-£103,573	We ceased budget provision at September 2017
1.4.2 Pupil Admissions (all phases)	£987,000	£10.00	£8.00	£10.00	£7.00	£7.00	£207,146	£0	£310,719	£310,719	We increased the CSSB budget in 2022/23
1.4.3 Servicing of Schools Forums (all phases)	£11,700	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	Contribution to cost of running the Forum
1.4.4 Termination of Employment Costs	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£1.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	-£103,573	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We introduced for primary phase April 2019 (no new budget 23/24)
1.4.6 Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA)	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.7 Prudential Borrowing Costs	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.8 Fees to Independent Schools without SEND	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.9 Equal Back Pay	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.10 Schools Block Growth Fund (primary, secondary)	£796,883	£8.00	£12.00	£18.00	£13.00	£11.00	-£414,292	-£1,035,730	-£517,865	-£310,719	As per our Growth Fund arrangements
1.4.11 SEND Transport	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by the Secretary of State	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.13 Infant Class Sizes	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose
1.4.14 Copyright Licences	£520,967	£5.00	£6.00	£6.00	£7.00	£6.00	-£103,573	-£103,573	-£207,146	-£103,573	Copyright Licences are charged by DfE model
1.5.1 - 1.5.3 Regulatory and Statutory Functions (all phases)	£2,207,300	£21.00	£15.00	£14.00	£16.00	£16.00	£621,438	£725,011	£517,865	£517,865	CSSB spend relationship with lines 1.3.1; 1.4.1; 1.4.2; 1.4.3; 1.4.14; PFI
1.6.1 - 1.6.6 De-delegation to replace ESG (Maintained Schools)	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We have not so far 'de-delegated' for this purpose
1.6.7 School Improvement	£112,655	£3.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£105,294	£105,294	£105,294	£105,294	Replacement of SIMB; not an accurate comparison due to rounding
1.7.1 Other Specific Grants	£0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	£0	£0	£0	We do not take budget for this purpose

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1.6.7 School Improvement	84

No. of Authorities that De-Delegate (2023/24)				
England National *	Statistical Neighbours	Met Districts	Yorks & Humberside	
84	5	24	11	
47	4	13	6	
43	3	17	5	
68	7	18	9	
17	3	4	1	
8	1	4	3	
31	2	7	3	
58	6	18	7	
107	9	32	13	
49	3	10	3	
84	6	23	10	

% of Authorities that De-Delegate (2023/24)				
England National	Statistical Neighbours	Met Districts	Yorks & Humberside	
55%	45%	67%	73%	
31%	36%	36%	40%	
28%	27%	47%	33%	
44%	64%	50%	60%	
11%	27%	11%	7%	
5%	9%	11%	20%	
20%	18%	19%	20%	
38%	55%	50%	47%	
70%	82%	89%	87%	
32%	27%	28%	20%	
55%	55%	64%	67%	
(out of 153)	(out of 11)	(out of 36)	(out of 15)	

= 50%+ of authorities de-delegate

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