

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 outlines the working principles that are being considered for the development of Bradford's formula funding arrangements for 2022/23.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

These principles have not yet been considered specifically for 2022/23 but follow from principles established in the Forum's previous formula funding recommendations and decision making.

Background / Context

This report follows from Documents NG and NH. These principles are considered prior to the finalisation of the Authority's formal proposals for formula funding arrangements for 2022/23. The Authority expects consultation reports to be presented to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, with these consultations being published immediately after. Following this timetable, responses to these consultations will be considered by the Forum at its December meeting. The Schools Forum will be required to make its final recommendations on 2022/23 DSG and formula funding arrangements at its January 2022 meeting. However, Members are asked to note that the consultation on early years entitlement funding arrangements may be delayed due to the timing of the announcement of the Early Years Block settlement and the publication of operational guidance.

As we set out in July 2021 (Document NE), we expect that our recent decisions will inform how we will respond to announcements concerning 2022/23 DSG and formula funding arrangements and changes.

Recently within the Schools Block we have:

- Moved to fully mirror the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF) for mainstream formula funding (we did this at April 2018). We would expect to continue to mirror NFF in 2022/23, subject to affordability.
- Identified how significant decisions about the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will be going forward for the formula allocations received by individual mainstream schools and academies, especially in the primary phase. This is again likely to be a key recommendation for the Forum to make for 2022/23. We set the MFG at the maximum positive 2.0% in 2021/22. Forum Members are reminded that a sum of £0.917m of primary-phase headroom is carried over from 2021/22 and we have indicatively discussed using this to include the Reception Uplift factor for the primary phase within our 2022/23 formula on a one off basis.
- Identified issues related to falling rolls and to under-subscription. We established a Falling Rolls Fund for the primary phase in 2019/20.
- Identified the funding of PFI (BSF) as an area to watch in the development of the Schools Block NFF.
- Not transferred monies from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block since 2019/20.

Recently within the Early Years Block:

- We began to reduce the proportion of our 3&4-year-old Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement, with the intention to reduce this down over 3 years from 9.5% to the average of our statistical neighbours, currently rounded at 6%, in support of maximising our Universal Base Rate. However, recognising the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not take the planned second step (to reduce from 8% to 7%) in 2021/22 and this is a matter for review for 2022/23.
- We have continued to allocate reserves (one off monies from brought forward balances) held within the Early Years Block to protect the value of the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate at its current year level of £4.25 per hour. We must continue to discuss how our EYSFF and Early Years Block arrangements can most effectively but sustainably support the early years sector in its delivery of the entitlements going forward, recognising that reserves can only be spent once and also recognising that demographic trends are forecasted to result in a reduction in early years numbers.
- We implemented at April 2019 an amended Early Years Inclusion Fund supporting emerging SEND.
- We have identified the critical significance of pending DfE decisions concerning the continuation of the Maintained Nursery School Supplement.
- We are currently exploring the introduction of a new single Bradford Provider Gateway for all providers to use to submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority. We aim to pilot this Gateway during 2021/22 with a view potentially to rolling this out for 2022/23. This new Gateway will allow us to consider whether, at an appropriate time, our early years entitlement counting arrangements should adjust to be more responsive to changes in numbers within each term.

Background / Context

Recently within the High Needs Block:

- At April 2020, we introduced a new Banded Model for the allocation of 'top up' funding for EHCPs. We also introduced a new Day Rate Model for the funding of the PRUs / Alternative Provision Academies for pupils permanently excluded. These models were consolidated and uplifted in 2021/22.
- For mainstream schools and academies, we introduced for 2021/22, in trial for one year pending review, an amended SEND Funding Floor. The operation of this Floor will be a specific point of review for 2022/23.
- Since the introduction of the National Funding Formula, we have chosen not to adjust our definition of Notional SEND, but we have identified that this definition does need closer attention, including with reference to changes that may be directed following the DfE's national SEND review.
- Linking to this, we have identified the critical significance, for the development of our financial models, of the pending DfE publications and consultations on the outcomes of the national SEND and Alternative Provision reviews.
- We have reviewed and re-shaped responsibilities, between the High Needs Block and mainstream schools and academies, in respect of the funding of alternative provision.
- We presented a DSG Management plan to the Schools Forum (13 January 2021) and we have identified within this how the sufficiency of the High Needs Block settlements going forward are crucial to the affordability of our continued development of high needs place capacity and of our funding models.

Each autumn the Local Authority, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, publishes 3 separate consultations on DSG management and formula funding arrangements for the following year:

- Schools Block – this consultation presents proposals for the formulae to be used to calculate budget shares for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, for the criteria to be applied in the allocation of the Growth Fund and the Falling Rolls Fund, and also asks for feedback from maintained schools on Schools Block de-delegated funds.
- Early Years Block – this consultation presents proposals for Bradford's Early Years Single Funding Formula, which is used to allocate funding for the delivery of the 2, 3 and 4-year-old entitlements.
- High Needs Block – this consultation presents proposals for Bradford's Place-Plus funding system to be used to allocate High Needs Block funding, including top-up funding, to schools, academies and to other providers.

As discussed in Documents NG and NH, the development of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for the Schools and High Needs Blocks is critical to our medium to longer term DSG financial planning as well as to how we shape our formula funding decisions for 2022/23.

The purposes of this report are to set out the thoughts and principles that are being developed for formula funding and DSG Block management for 2022/23, to check with the Schools Forum that 'we are on the right lines' and to allow Forum members to provide feedback and direction in advance of more formal consultation documents being presented.

Forum Members are invited to (remotely) attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session, on Tuesday 28 September (8am) or Wednesday 29 September (8am) or Tuesday 5 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 2022/23 for Bradford's Schools and High Needs Block formula funding arrangements that are anticipated will be set out for consultation in October.

The Authority is currently convening the Early Years Working Group to consider more closely our early years entitlement funding arrangements for 2022/23 in advance of the DfE's Early Years Block announcements. Interested Forum members are invited to attend this group.

The Authority will contact the District Achievement Partnership to arrange to discuss directly the proposals for the continuation of EHCP Banded Model (the special school funding formula) for 2022/23.

Early Years Block & the Early Years Single Funding Formula 2022/23

At the time of writing this report, the national Early Years Block settlement and formula funding arrangements for 2022/23, including the position of the funding of maintained nursery schools, are still to be announced. This means that we cannot begin yet to formulate final proposals for EYSFF arrangements. However, we can set out the principles we expect to follow, and we can identify specific points for review and discussion, which we will shortly begin to consider with the Early Years Working Group.

Details of the Item for Consideration

We are currently considering our approach for 2022/23 with reference to:

- We will need to closely consider the implications of the DfE's national SEND reviews on the early years sector and on entitlement funding arrangements, when the outcomes of these reviews are known. This however, is likely to have implications for April 2023 onwards rather than for 2022/23.
- Regarding our Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF), we anticipate that we will continue to apply in 2022/23 our current EYIF approach, with 2 year olds also continuing to be eligible, subject to any changes directed by the DfE in its operational guidance. We anticipate also proposing to retain our Disability Access Funding (DAF) at the increased rate of £1,000.
- We need to closely consider the forecast and impact of the reducing birth rate in Bradford and how the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) might support providers. This is also linked to COVID-19 pandemic educational and financial recovery strategies.
- Although we are currently exploring the introduction of a new single Bradford Provider Gateway for all providers (including schools and academies) to use to submit their entitlement delivery information, and although the introduction of this will provide opportunities for us to explore again the pros and cons of a counting arrangement that is more sensitive to the movement of children and fluctuations in numbers during the year, we anticipate that any changes in our EYSFF counting arrangements would be proposed at the earliest within our consultation for the 2023/24 financial year rather than for next year. We are likely to propose to continue our existing termly counting arrangement in 2022/23.
- Critically, we need to continue to closely consider how we maximise the values of the funding rates that providers receive, incorporating the continued use of one off balances (reserves). Given that the Schools Block and High Needs Block settlements for 2022/23 are similar to those of this current year, we might speculate that the Early Years Block settlement will also be similar. If correct, this would mean in the region of 1.3% to 1.5% increases in Early Years Block funding rates. These increases would not provide much flexibility for new investment or for substantial increases in provider funding rates in 2022/23.
- Critically, in this context, we also must consider how we can maximise the rates of funding received by providers whilst also ensuring that our EYSFF remains affordable. Within the 2021/22 planned budget, we are using an estimated £0.65m of reserves to meet the cost of our EYSFF arrangements. Although this position is based on estimates, it is indicative of an unsustainable position for the longer term.

There are a number of linking matters to consider in respect of this situation:

Firstly, we must re-assess how the cost of the early years centrally managed SEND and high needs activities, that was transferred from the Early Years Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22 on a one off basis, is now apportioned on an on-going basis between these two blocks. Whilst we anticipate that the vast majority of the Early Years Block will continue to be spent on funding that is passed out to providers, we need to ensure that early years SEND support costs are appropriately charged.

Secondly, we need to review the proportion of our 3&4-year-old Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement. One of the reasons for the £0.65m estimated overspending this year is that the Deprivation and SEND funding rates that providers receive in Bradford, in addition to the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate, are on average higher than the rates found in other authorities. We currently spend 8% of our EYSFF on deprivation, whereas, for example, the average of our statistical neighbour authorities is 6%. In 2020, we agreed to reduce our deprivation spending from 9.5% to 6.0% in 3 steps over 3 years. We took the first of these steps in 2020/21, reducing spend from 9.5% to 8.0%. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not reduce from 8% to 7% in 2021/22 as originally planned; we retained spending at 8%. A 1% reduction is roughly worth £0.40m. Given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are minded to be very cautious about reducing at this time funding allocated to support children from more deprived backgrounds. However, if it is agreed that deprivation spending should not be reduced further at this time, then it is likely that adjustments will be needed in other parts of the EYSFF to compensate e.g. the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate may not be increased by as much as it would otherwise have been. This 'interplay' between the different elements of the EYSFF will be considered in more detail with the Early Years Working Group.

Thirdly, we need to look closely at the cost of our 2-year-old entitlement funding arrangements. Since the beginning of the 2-year-old entitlement, we have fully passed through to providers the rate of funding we receive from the DfE for the 2-year-old entitlement. In 2021/22, we received £5.36 per hour and we fund providers for delivery at £5.36 per hour. However, due to the profile of numbers, the 2-year-old entitlement is increasingly costing us more than the funding we receive from the DfE. We also give eligible 2 year olds access to the Early Years Inclusion Fund without charging the cost of this to the 2-year-old entitlement funding we receive from the DfE. This has been a deliberate policy. Essentially, funding we receive from

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the DfE for the 3&4-year-old entitlement is beginning to more significantly subsidise the cost of the 2-year-old entitlement. We need to consider this position in more detail, either accepting that there is a subsidy or, alternatively, taking steps to control / reduce this subsidy e.g. by adjusting the 2-year-old funding rates to help pay for EYIF access. In any event, we do expect in 2022/23 to continue to fund the 2-year-old entitlement on a single flat rate per hour without any additional supplements.

Fourthly, given the competing pressures here between existing EYSFF elements, as concluded in recent years, we do not anticipate proposing to introduce any further funding supplements (such as for flexibility) into our 3 & 4-year-old EYSFF in 2022/23. New supplements would only dilute further both the Universal Base Rate and the Deprivation & SEND rates at a time when we see our priority to be to maximise the values of these existing rates.

- The funding of maintained nursery schools is still subject to critical announcements to come from the DfE about the continuation of the specific supplement funding, which authorities currently receive in recognition that maintained nursery schools have a higher cost base and have historically received higher levels of funding. The position is only clear up to the end of March 2022. This is a critical issue, not just for the maintained nursery schools themselves, but also for the commitment on the reserves held within the Early Years Block (which might be needed to support protection and / or transition rather than being available for other purposes). If the DfE confirms the continuation of the existing supplement for 2022/23, and also confirms that authorities have continuing flexibility to allocate this, we anticipate proposing to extend our existing nursery school funding arrangements into 2022/23. If the DfE announces “something else” however, then we would need to consider options more closely and we will discuss these directly with the maintained nursery school sector in advance of forming final proposals for wider consultation.

High Needs Block and Place-Plus Funding

Whilst we still await the publication of the outcomes of the national SEND and Alternative Provision reviews, which are likely to have implications from April 2023, the High Needs Block settlement for 2022/23, as well as the DfE’s High Needs Block operational guidance for local authorities, have been published.

The High Needs Block operational guidance confirms the continuation of the existing technical funding system, and confirms that the value of place-led funding (£10,000) and that the positions of the other main ‘levers’ of the high needs place-plus funding system, including the £6,000 threshold and notional SEND arrangements, remain unchanged in 2022/23.

On current estimates, our High Needs Block allocation in 2022/23 is £101.18m, which is £8.75m higher than received in 2021/22 (an increase of 9.5% in cash terms). This represents a continued (3rd year of) substantial increase in the funding available to us to meet high needs pressures. This growth in funding, as in 2021/22, will 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 as well as of central support services capacity in response to increased demand. How the increase will be allocated across these pressures will be further discussed with the Schools Forum across the autumn and early spring terms.

Authorities continue to be permitted to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2022/23 with the approval of the Schools Forum. We have not put forward a proposal for transfer since 2019/20 and, in the context of our settlement, we do not anticipate proposing a transfer in 2022/23.

We are developing our high needs funding formula approach for 2022/23 on the basis that:

- We do not anticipate making application or technical construction changes to our existing EHCP Banded Model, nor to our existing PRU Day Rate Funding Model, other than to uplift the top up funding values these models allocate. Whilst we still need to determine the values of uplift to be proposed, we expect to follow the same technical approach to uplifting values as we took in 2021/22 (with reference to the fixed £6,000 contribution, meaning that bands increase by different percentages).
- The former Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants will continue to be allocated to high needs providers separately from place element and from top up funding, on a fixed place-led basis using values uplifted from 2021/22.
- We expect to continue unchanged the setting needs-led factors within our specialist setting model e.g. small setting protection and split sites, with the values of these uplifted on 2021/22 where appropriate.

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- We do not anticipate at this time proposing to amend our definition of notional SEND for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in 2022/23. We still do expect that the DfE will provide further guidance and possible prescription for this definition at a point in the future. The benchmarking of APT data (see Document NH) continues to evidence how disparate local authority definitions of notional SEND currently are. We still do not see merit in adjusting our definition now when it is highly likely that the DfE may soon either prescribe one or may introduce an 'alternative mechanism'.
- We anticipate continuing for a further year our amended SEND Funding Floor mechanism, in support of the funding of SEND and EHCPs in mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies. We may propose some tweaks to this Floor, including to the threshold percentages that are used. As with notional SEND, we still expect that the DfE's national reviews will say something about this kind of additional targeted SEND funding arrangement and this may affect the continuation of our SEND Funding Floor after 2022/23.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

We estimate that our CSSB allocation in 2022/23 will increase by c. 2.8% in cash terms (+ £0.1m) to £3.51m. This is based on a calculation, which estimates that the total number of pupils in primary and secondary schools and academies, that will be recorded in the October 2021 Census, will be slightly reduced on the number recorded in October 2020.

For 2022/23, we anticipate:

- Having further discussions with the Schools Forum regarding the sufficiency of the CSSB budget for the Pupil Admissions service, with a view potentially to increasing this budget in response to service pressure.
- Continuing other existing CSSB budgets, with uplift, where appropriate and affordable, for pay award and inflation. Forum Members should note that the increase in cost to the CSSB relating to copyright licences will be set by the DfE and is expected to be confirmed in December. We anticipate continuing to apportion the copyright licencing cost for early years and high needs providers to their respective blocks, as we did in 2021/22, so that the CSSB only picks up the cost related to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.
- Apportioning the former Teacher Pension Grant monies relating to centrally employed teachers across the relevant CSSB budgets and then continuing to transfer to the High Needs Block the £0.16m balance that actually relates to centrally employed teachers funded within this Block.
- Continuing our policy of either adding any net overall under-spending, or subtracting any net overall over-spending, in CSSB budgets to / from the brought forward balance retained within the Schools Block at the end of the financial year. The total value of subtraction is limited to a maximum of the cumulative remaining balance of surplus that has been previously added to the Schools Block from the CSSB. The current position is that we have previously transferred from the CSSB to the Schools Block a total of £0.156m (£0.005m of surplus balance at the end of 2018/19 and £0.151m at the end of 2019/20) and we have subtracted from the Schools Block a total of £0.078m (for the overspend in the CSSB at the end of 2020/21). This leaves a remaining surplus balance of £0.078m within the Schools Block.

Schools Block – Mainstream Primary and Secondary Formula Funding

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.

In July 2021, the DfE launched a new first-stage of consultation, to gather initial views on how to complete the transition to the hard National Funding Formula over the medium term. This consultation is presented in Document NG.

The DfE proposes at this time a direction of travel towards the completion of the NFF reforms, starting from April 2023 at the earliest. As such, what is being proposed does not directly affect our 2022/23 financial year formula funding decision making. However, we will wish to ensure that we continue to take an approach in 2022/23 that will minimise any turbulence that might be caused by the final stages of the transition.

The movement towards hard NFF began at April 2018. To give context to our proposals that will come forward for next year, it is helpful to summarise briefly the key decisions that we have taken at and since this date:

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- In 2018/19, we replaced our local formula with the DfE's NFF, 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. The DfE established a new pupil mobility NFF factor in 2020/21, which, following a year of transition, we have now fully adopted for both primary and secondary phases.
- We set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (protecting / ensuring a minimum increase in individual maintained school and academy per pupil funding year on year):
 - a. 2018/19 at positive 0.4% per pupil
 - b. 2019/20 at 0% per pupil
 - c. 2020/21 at positive 2.34% per pupil
 - d. 2021/22 at positive 2.0% 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 did not transfer monies from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2018/19. This was primarily because we transferred a significant amount (£5.7m) in 2017/18, which was then 'locked in' to our Dedicated Schools Grant block allocation going forward. We did transfer £2m (0.48%) in 2019/20 but we have not transferred any monies in 2020/21 nor in 2021/22. In setting the Minimum Funding Guarantee at positive 2.34% in 2020/21, which was 0.5% higher than permitted under the normal regulations, our intention was to 'give back' to mainstream schools and academies the money we transferred in 2019/20.
- We have retained our local approaches in the areas of formula funding that the DfE's NFF does not yet cover. These are:
 - e. Business rates (actual cost).
 - f. Split sites.
 - g. PFI (Building Schools for the Future).
 - h. Growth Funding (at individual school level).
 - i. Falling Rolls Funding.
 - j. Notional SEND definition.
- We established a Falling Rolls Fund for the primary phase in 2019/20 and have continued to have this in place in 2020/21 and in 2021/22, although no schools nor academies have yet qualified for funding.
- We have not adjusted our definition of Notional SEND, which has continued to be defined in 2021/22 in the same way as it was in 2017/18.

The combination of a number of factors since 2017/18 - our 2017/18 transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, our mirroring of the DfE's NFF, year on year changes for individual schools and academies in the data recorded in / sourced with reference to the pupils recorded in the annual October censuses, the DfE's mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels - has created the following landscape in Bradford in 2021/22:

- Primary phase: 99 out of 156 schools and academies (64%) were funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 40 schools and academies were funded at the £4,180 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies (11%) were funded on the National Funding Formula and above £4,180 per pupil.
- Secondary phase: 9 out of 31 schools and academies (29%) were funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. 3 schools and academies were funded at the £5,415 minimum per pupil level. All other schools and academies (61%) were funded on the National Funding Formula and above £5,415 per pupil.
- All through academies: 1 out of the 4 academies (25%) was funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee. All 4 of these academies were funded above their composite minimum per pupil funding levels.

In total, 109 out of 191 schools and academies (57%) were funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2021/22. This was reduced from 133 (70%) in 2020/21.

From these summary statistics, it is easy to see how important decisions regarding the Minimum Funding Guarantee are for 2022/23, especially for the primary phase.

Apart from changes in the data sources, in response to missing or incomplete pupil mobility and low prior attainment data following the COVID-19 pandemic, there is significant technical continuity in the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2022/23:

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- The factors that were not included in NFF are still not included in 2022/23 e.g. split sites, PFI.
- There are no further transfers of currently separate grants into the NFF (the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants were transferred in 2021/22).
- The construct of the NFF is basically the same as it was in 2021/22, incorporating the same core factors and how these are applied.
- The majority of the core NFF formula funding factor variables are increasing by a 'headline' 3.0%. In reality however, due to the DfE's rounding of values to the nearest £5, adjustments to continue existing spending proportions by factor at a national level, as well as the specific policy to uplift the flat Free Schools Meals factor by 2.0% rather than by 3.0%, core NFF variables are increasing between roughly 2.2% and 3.8%.
- The Minimum Levels of Per Pupil Funding (MFLs) are increased by 2.0% from £4,180 to £4,265 (primary) and by 2.0% from £5,415 to £5,525 (secondary). These minimums continue to be mandatory.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) can be set between positive 0.5% and positive 2.0%.
- Local authorities continue to have the flexibility to set their own Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund mechanisms but must still comply with DfE guidance and Regulatory restrictions.
- The existing framework for the de-delegation of funding from maintained schools continues unchanged.

So there are 5, probably rather straightforward, core decisions that we need to take on Bradford's 2022/23 Schools Block mainstream primary and secondary funding formula arrangements. These are:

1. Whether we continue to closely mirror the DfE's NFF, as we have done since April 2018. (Yes).
2. Whether we continue our existing local approaches to the factors not yet covered by the NFF. (Yes).
3. Whether we transfer budget from Schools Block to the High Needs Block and, if we do, the value of this transfer. (*We do not anticipate proposing a transfer in 2022/23*).
4. The value of Minimum Funding Guarantee. (*We would seek to set this at the highest value that is possible and affordable (likely 2.0%)*).
5. Whether we retain, with their existing criteria and methodologies, the funds currently managed centrally within the Schools Block. (Yes).
 - a. Growth Fund
 - b. Falling Rolls Fund (primary phase)
 - c. Funds de-delegated from maintained primary and secondary schools

There are then 2 additional decisions / considerations:

6. Whether we use one off monies (brought forward balances) to apply the Reception Uplift factor in the primary phase on a one off basis in 2022/23. This has indicatively been presented to the Forum earlier this year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as an option for the spending of a proportion of the £0.917m of primary phase £GUF funding this is held within the Schools Block balance brought forward from 2021/22.
7. How we will adjust from an agreed full 'mirroring of NFF' approach in 2022/23 if this cannot be afforded by our Schools Block allocation when we use the October 2021 Census dataset, which will be made available in December. We will wish to consider further with the Schools Forum the options that will be available, and to give warning to schools and academies about these options within our published Schools Block consultation document.

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

As set out in the report (this is an item for information)

Recommendations

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to comment on the working principles.
- (2) Members are invited to attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session.
- (3) Members are invited to attend the Early Years Working Group.
- (4) The Authority will discuss the proposals for the continuation of the EHCP Banded Model (the special school funding formula) for 2022/23 directly with the District Achievement Partnership.
- (5) Members are asked for feedback on how best to communicate as early as possible this term with schools and other providers about arrangements for 2022/23 (in advance of more formal consultation beginning in October).

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

None

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