

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information



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

Appendices 1a, 1b and 1c show the indicative values of allocations to be delegated to individual primary and secondary maintained schools and academies within the Schools Block. Appendix 1d provides an analysis of the change in cost of Schools Block formula funding following the use of the data collected in / based on the October 2023 Census. Appendices 2a, 2b and 2c show the proposed indicative rates of funding for early years settings for the 2024/25 financial year. Appendix 3 provides a more detailed analysis of how the High Needs Block planned budget has been constructed at individual setting level. Appendices 4 and 5 show the draft Primary and Secondary and Early Years pro-formas, which summarise the Authority's proposed formula funding arrangements.

Date(s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

Indicative modelling for the Schools Block was most recently presented on 6 December.

Background / Context

The modelling presented for the Schools Block (Appendices 1 and 4) is calculated on the proposals that were set out for consultation and reported back to the Forum on 6 December (Document QO).

The modelling presented for the High Needs Block (Appendix 3) is calculated on the proposals that were set out for consultation and reported back to the Forum on 6 December (Document QQ).

The modelling presented for the Early Years Block (Appendices 2 and 5) is calculated on the proposals that are set out to the Forum for consultation in Document QW and that will now be consulted on.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Primary & Secondary Schools Block Modelling

The modelling, shown in Appendices 1a, 1b and 1c, provides Members with an updated view of mainstream Primary and Secondary school and academy indicative formula funding allocation totals for 2024/25 now using confirmed pupil numbers and the dataset provided by the DfE taken from the October 2023 Census. This modelling is calculated using the same formula funding assumptions and proposals as those used to construct the modelling, which accompanied the consultation document in the autumn term.

Please note that the allocations in Appendices 1a, 1b and 1c exclude early years, high needs and post 16 funding i.e. these show Reception – Year 11 primary and secondary mainstream formula funding. They are also calculated on the Authority's financial year 1 April to 31 March. The main factors that will influence final allocations for 2024/25, and variances for individual schools and academies, not yet built into the modelling (because the data is not yet available), are:

- Final Pupil Premium allocations, which are to be confirmed by the DfE.
- New Growth Fund allocations, which will be based on October 2024 census numbers.
- Any allocations that come from our Falling Rolls Fund, where it is agreed that one should continue for the primary phase in 2024/25.

Change in the Cost of Schools Block Formula Funding October 2023 Census

Appendix 1d presents the changes in the cost of our funding formulae when the October 2023 Census dataset is used rather than the October 2022 Census dataset. This modelling does not show the differences in costs that come from changes in pupil numbers. It shows the impact of the year on year change in other data (FSM%, IDACI, EAL, prior attainment etc). The changes in cost affect the headroom that is available within the Schools Block and this can potentially affect what we can afford to deliver in terms of uplift for schools. This analysis also highlights data trends across the District, which are useful for the Forum to understand as these that will affect the allocations received by individual schools and academies.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) – Hourly Rates

Modelling, which shows the impact of the Authority's EYSFF proposals on rates of funding for the delivery of the early years entitlements, is presented in Appendices 2a, 2b and 2c. Due to data sensitivity, averages by type of provider are presented for the PVI sector. All early years providers should note that our Early Years Single Funding Formula proposals for 2024/25 are still to be consulted on. The consultation will close on 5 February.

High Needs Planned Budget Modelling

Appendix 3 is presented to give the Forum a deeper understanding of how the 2024/25 High Needs Block planned budget is constructed at individual setting level. We would stress however, that this appendix does not show the values of allocations that high needs providers will actually receive in 2024/25. These will be calculated on the occupancy of settings recorded on a monthly basis during the year. This appendix should be viewed alongside Document QX (DSG summary) and Document RB Appendix 1 (commissioned places).

Pro-Formas

Appendix 4 gives the pro-forma, extracted from the ESFA's APT, which sets out our primary & secondary funding formula for 2024/25 as the Authority has proposed. If recommended by the Forum under agenda item 12, we will submit our APT to the ESFA on this basis.

Appendix 5 gives a pro-forma, which sets out the proposed Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2024/25. Our EYSFF pro-forma is still subject to the finalisation of our early years arrangements following our consultation with the early years sector. If agreed by Council, following this consultation, this pro-forma gives a summary of the formulae we will use to calculate EYSFF allocations in 2024/25.

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

This is an item for information. The implications for the DSG are set out in separate reports to this meeting (including Document QX).

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to note the information provided. This will inform decisions and recommendations to be made under agenda item 12.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

- Appendix 1a - Indicative Variances Analysis 2024/25 - Individual Primary School / Academy Modelling
- Appendix 1b - Indicative Variances Analysis 2024/25 - Individual Secondary School / Academy Modelling
- Appendix 1c - Indicative Variances Analysis 2024/25 - Individual All Through Schools Modelling
- Appendix 1d – Formula Funding Cost Change October 2023 Census
- Appendix 2a – EYSFF Maintained Nursery Schools
- Appendix 2bi / 2bii – EYSFF Nursery Classes
- Appendix 2c – EYSFF PVI Providers
- Appendix 3 – Breakdown of the High Needs Block planned budget at individual provider level
- Appendix 4 – Primary & Secondary Pro-forma
- Appendix 5 – EYSFF Pro-Forma

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