

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 provides Members with an update on matters concerning school and academy budgets. This includes an update on the position of the conversion of maintained schools to academy status and on the general forecasted position of school and academy budgets over the 2024-2027 3-year period.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The Schools Forum received a similar report this time last year on 8 March 2023.

Background / Context

The Authority's financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. At the end of each financial year, maintained schools are required to 'closedown' their accounts and to finalise the values of balances held at this point. This information is forwarded to the DfE and is publicly published.

The Authority's Deficit Budget Protocol is in place to manage maintained schools that hold (or forecast to hold) deficit revenue balances. Maintained schools are permitted to carry forward surplus revenue balances. Currently, schools with revenue balances in excess of 4% (Secondary), or the greater of £60,000 or 6% (other schools), of funding must comply with the Authority's Surplus Balances Protocol, which requires schools to assign values of excess balances to spending on permitted schemes. Academies and Free Schools are responsible to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (the ESFA) for their financial reporting, on an academic year basis. The Local Authority does not have a direct view of academy financial positions. The ESFA sets monitoring and reporting requirements and has oversight of academy balances. A key 'intervention tool' used by the ESFA is the issuance of a 'Financial Notice to Improve'. These Notices are posted on the ESFA's website for public record and scrutiny.

Deficit budgets, on the closure of a maintained school, revert back to the Local Authority and may be charged to the DSG if de-delegated arrangements operate to enable this. Surplus balances are credited to the DSG, but with regulations in place governing the treatment of balances where schools close and amalgamate. Any claw back of surplus balances from maintained schools, through the Intended Use of Balances process, increases the amount of funding available for the Schools Budget in the DSG.

On the conversion of a maintained school to academy status:

- A surplus is typically transferred to the academy trust (so there is no benefit to the Local Authority nor to the DSG), although there is provision for the Authority to retain surpluses held by sponsored academies.
- A deficit of a maintained school that is a 'converter' academy is also transferred to the academy trust (so there is no liability on the Local Authority nor on the DSG).
- A deficit of a maintained school that is a 'sponsored' academy reverts back to the Local Authority and may be charged to the DSG, if de-delegated arrangements operate to enable this. We have de-delegated arrangements in place for the primary phase.

Forum Members are reminded:

- Within the recommendations that were made by the Schools Forum on 10 January 2024, and that are to be decided by Council on 7 March, is the continuation of the de-delegated fund for deficit provision for sponsored conversions in the primary phase. No new budget value has been retained in 2024/25 (but a balance is carried forward). A de-delegated fund for this purpose is not held in the secondary phase. As was reported to the Schools Forum on 22 May 2019 (Document KJ), 3 sponsored primary schools were determined to hold deficit balances totalling £252,432, with this value charged to the de-delegated fund in 2019/20. This is the only time a charge has been made against the DSG's primary-phase de-delegated funds relating to deficits from academy conversion. A charge of £0.650m was made in 2022/23 against an agreed historically held de-delegated fund relating to the conversion of a secondary school.
- Of the information that has previously been presented on how the Local Authority supports and challenges schools on their budget positions. The Authority also publishes a detailed guidance document for schools, which sets out expectations in preparation for financial close on academy conversion.
- That the deadline for the submission of governor approved budgets for 2024-2027 from maintained schools is 31 May 2024. It is these submissions that give the Authority a clearer view of the positions of school budgets going forward. A report on budget positions and balances held by maintained schools at the end of the 2023/24 financial year will be presented to the Schools Forum at the next meeting 22 May.

Background / Context

- That the timing of a conversion is an important factor in the potential for liability related to deficit budgets of sponsored academies. For example, a school that has an in-year deficit budget in 2024/25, and converts on 1 September 2024, may respond to this in year, but savings from curriculum restructure may only be implemented at the start of the new academic year. So, although the school's budget will balance in the full year, it is the academy's budget post 1 September that will benefit from these savings. The maintained school's budget may fall into cumulative deficit if the value of the school's balance held at the end of 2023/24 is not sufficient to meet the value of overspending in the first half of the year.
- That an update on the position of academy conversions is a standing item on Schools Forum agendas.
- That the Forum, in 2016, did established "a formal 'Panel' of Forum Members with the remit to discuss in detail the financial implications of academy conversions and any requests for financial support from the DSG that may be made. Following an initial 'scoping' meeting, the Panel recommended criteria that should be used in the consideration of any requests that may be made to the Schools Forum for financial support related to academy conversion. The Forum agreed these criteria on 20 July 2016.
- Of the general warnings previously given, that the opportunity for liabilities to arise relating to deficit balances are greater when there are larger numbers of academy conversions.
- That the Authority has been allocated an additional £0.934m 'Schools in Financial Difficulty' DSG funding in respect of maintained schools. This sum will be fully carried over into 2024/25 within the balance of de-delegated funds. To inform the use of this funding, the Authority will collect 2024/25 and 3-year budget forecast information from maintained schools, which will be available in May / June. We then expect to report to the Forum on the use of this funding, in July or in early autumn 2024.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Summary Position - Academy Conversions

- At 1 March 2024, we have 62 maintained schools and 146 academies. Of the 62 maintained schools there are: 7 nursery schools, 51 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, 1 special school and 1 PRU.
- There have been 13 conversions to academy status between April 2023 and March 2024: 10 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 special school. All of the 13 conversions were 'converter' rather than 'sponsored'. The Local Authority has completed the necessary financial closes for 12 of the 13 conversions (1 conversion took place on 1 January 2024, so this financial close is in progress). Of the 12 conversions that have been completed, surplus balances were transferred to the academy trusts in 11 instances, with a £0 balance being determined for one conversion.
- We have immediate sight of 2 maintained schools that are planning to convert to academy status during the early part of the 2024/25 financial year. The position of conversions, however, is moving regularly, and there likely will be other conversions in the new financial year that are not yet identified. The 2 schools are 'converter' academies, meaning that the Authority would be reimbursed for any deficits that might be held by them on financial close (with these deficits transferring to the academy trusts to be repaid to the ESFA).
- In terms of the financial positions of currently maintained schools, more generally, 5 schools held deficit revenue balances at the end of 2022/23. Based on quarter 3 budget monitoring information, we currently forecast that in the region of 7 schools (out of 62) may hold revenue deficit balances at 31 March 2024. The Schools Forum will receive a full report on 2023/24 final year-end balances, deficits and surpluses, held by maintained schools at the next meeting 22 May.

School and Academy Budgets 2024-2025 – Changes and 'On the Horizon'

It is helpful to highlight some key matters, changes and developments that are new or that are 'on the horizon' and that are likely to have budget implications for both schools and academies over the 2024-2027 period. Whilst some of points listed below are currently uncertain, it will be helpful for schools and academies to consider these matters, as this will 'set the tone' for budgeting and forecasting at this time and will help schools / academies in their financial risk management. Schools / academies continue to need to take prudent budget decisions, understanding that there is significant uncertainty for the near future.

- Pupil numbers in Bradford are reducing (numbers are currently increasing in secondary but are then expected to flatten out and then reduce). This is a result of demographic trends, which are more widely affecting primary schools / academies and nurseries. It is important that all schools / academies understand their medium term forecast of pupil numbers (reception and year 7 intakes, as well as nursery and post-16 numbers) and that schools / academies bring this information into their budget planning. Critically, schools / academies must not simply assume that their current value of formula funding will continue, unaffected by reductions in pupil numbers. It also continues to be important for primary schools / academies with early years entitlement provision to monitor the school's / academy's early years provision as a 'mini budget', so that schools / academies understand the extent to which the school's / academy's nursery provision is either subsidising, or is being subsidised by, the school's / academy's larger budget. The same principle is also true for secondary schools / academies with post-16 provision.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- Mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies are reminded that the [Mainstream Schools Additional Grant](#) (MSAG), which was allocated in the 2023/24 financial year, has now been transferred into the main core funding formula. Schools / academies must remove from their 2024-2027 budgets any separate grant allocations that may be brought forward within previous budget scenarios, otherwise this funding will be double counted. Schools / academies will not receive additional MSAG allocations after 2023/24.
- The time-limited [COVID-19 Recovery Premium](#) and [National Tutoring Programme Grant](#) both cease at the end of the 2023/24 academic year. Schools / academies should now adjust their 3-year budget forecasts to remove these funding streams and should also consider how the school's / academy's delegated budget will finance any agreed continuing support activity from September 2024. Schools / academies that are choosing not to use, or not to fully use, their National Tutoring Programme funding allocated for the 2023/24 academic year must ensure that they budget for the recoupment of this by the DfE. 2023/24 academic year allocations will be recouped in early 2025.
- The DfE introduced a new [Teacher Pay Grant](#) in support of the September 2023 teachers' pay award. Schools / academies have already received this Grant for the period September 2023 to March 2024 and will continue to receive this Grant going forward. This Grant funding in 2024/25 will be allocated in addition to main core formula funding (and should be added separately into funding forecasts). This funding will continue after 2024/25 on an on-going basis, but with the Grant expected to be merged into core formula funding at April 2025. Please note that there will not be an early years element of the Teacher Pay Grant in 2024/25; funding in respect of early years is already allocated through the Early Years Single Funding Formula. We expect there to continue to be a Post 16 element of this Grant, but the details are still to be published.
- The employer's contribution to teacher pensions is increasing 5% at 1 April 2024. The rate of on-going contribution will be 28.68%. This means that the cost to school / academy budgets of teacher salaries will increase from 1 April 2024 and schools / academies must adjust their salaries cost calculations for this. The DfE, however, has confirmed that a new Teacher Pensions Grant will be established to support the cost. This Grant will be allocated in 2024/25 in addition to main core formula funding (and should be added separately into funding forecasts). The rates of funding are still to be published. This funding will continue after 2024/25 on an on-going basis, but with the Grant expected to be merged into core formula funding at April 2025. Please note that there will not be an early years element of the Teacher Pensions Grant in 2024/25; funding in respect of early years is already allocated through the Early Years Single Funding Formula. We expect there to be a post 16 element, but the details are still to be published.
- The [Early Years Supplementary Grant](#) (EYSG), through which rates of funding for the delivery of the early years entitlements were enhanced for the period September 2023 to March 2024, has been merged into the Early Years Single Funding Formula in 2024/25. Schools / academies should now budget only on the basis of the rates of funding for their entitlement delivery that are shown in their [1st Draft Indicative Budgets](#). There will not be any increase in these funding rates during the year.
- The Government is extending the entitlements to early education and childcare. We highlight especially that the new 2-year-olds entitlement for eligible working parents begins at 1 April 2024 and the new Under 2s entitlement for eligible working parents begins at 1 September 2024. The Local Authority has calculated rates of funding (per child per hour) for all providers that currently deliver the 3&4-year-olds entitlements for all the entitlements, irrespective of whether they currently deliver or intend to deliver them all. We have taken the view that giving sight of rates of funding for all the entitlements will help providers in their decision making and planning.
- As we signalled in the consultation on early years funding arrangements, published in January, to ensure consistency of approach, it is the Authority's intention to require schools and academies to sign the 'Funding Agreement' with the Local Authority for their delivery of all the entitlements from 1 April 2024. PVI providers already do this. This Funding Agreement sets out the terms and conditions and the local procedures for the administration of entitlement funding, including provisions for the 'fining' of providers or for the charging of an administration fee where the Authority has to intervene either to collect or to clarify the delivery data that a provider is required to submit and in circumstances where required information is submitted after deadlines.
- A matter of significant uncertainty in recent years has been the settlement for maintained nursery schools. Bradford receives a discrete sum (a 'supplement'), which is used to protect our seven nursery schools at 'historic' funding levels. Without this supplement, these schools would each lose in the region of a third of their 3&4-year-olds entitlements funding. The DfE has confirmed the continuation of this supplement for the 2024/25 financial year. The DfE has also stated that it remains committed to supporting nursery schools going forward. What this commitment materially means for funding after 2024/25, however, is not yet clear.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- The DfE has published guidance on the development of the national wraparound childcare programme. All schools and academies should now consider their responses to this within their 3-year budget planning. The Government's aim is for all parents of primary school children who need it to be able to access childcare in their local area from 8am to 6pm. Parents should expect to see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from September 2024, with every parent who needs it able to access term-time wrap-around childcare by September 2026. Parents will still be expected to pay to access this provision (the DfE's programme aims to increase the availability of childcare, rather than subsidise the cost of it). This programme (and the additional revenue and capital funding allocated by DfE to support it) will be delivered through the Local Authority. The Local Authority is expected to work with primary schools, academies and PVI early years providers, including childminders, to introduce or to expand wraparound childcare provision in their area, to "test flexible ways of providing childcare and to gather evidence of what works". The Authority will be communicating further on this.
- The Government's intention is to implement a 'hard' National Funding Formula for mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies. Further transition has been directed for the 2024/25 financial year, and more direction is expected for 2025/26 and 2026/27. Alongside wider changes to the National Funding Formula itself, Growth and Falling Rolls Fund arrangements are expected to continue to incrementally develop, as is the approach to the determination of notional SEND budgets. We will address any DfE directed changes for 2025/26 within our consultation on formula funding arrangements, which will be published in autumn term 2024. The DfE's stated aim is for the 'hard' National Funding Formula (NFF) to be fully implemented by 2027/28, at the latest. 'Hard' NFF will mean that Bradford Council will no longer decide locally how the mainstream primary and secondary funding formula operates. Further transition, over the next couple of years, may have implications for how much funding individual primary and secondary schools and academies receive. More than ever, it is important that schools / academies understand how they are funded by the current formula at 'factor level', so that schools / academies can understand the changes and the risks to their budgets. Schools / academies are advised to discuss in their Governing Boards a comparison at factor level (FSM, IDACI, EAL, Low Prior Attainment etc) of 2024/25 formula funding vs. 2023/24. Within this comparison, it is important for primary and secondary schools and academies to identify specifically whether they are funded via either of the two protection mechanisms - the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and the Minimum Level of Funding (MFL).
- A matter of significant uncertainty at this time is that we do not have any information regarding the national schools formula funding and grant settlements after 2024/25. The settlement for 2024/25, which is the final year that is covered by the current 3-year spending period, has been much tighter, with % increases in funding per pupil being much more modest than they were over the period 2020-2024. It is not clear when further information for 2025/26 onwards will be available, and the national settlements may also be affected by the outcomes of the general election (we may be able to glean some early information on this from party manifestos). At this time, we feel that it is reasonable / prudent for schools and academies to assume in their 3-year budget planning that the financial settlements for 2025/26 and 2026/27 will be tight, with increases in funding per pupil continuing close to a 1% average, and with pay awards for teachers and support staff / officers continuing to increase salaries expenditure potentially at a rate that is higher than this. All other aspects being the same, this would result in the erosion of school / academy spending power year-on-year. We advise that this is a prudent way of approaching budget forecasting at this time, pending further information. With the level of uncertainty regarding funding (as well as pay awards), it remains important for schools and academies to continue to regularly model different budget scenarios going forward, modelling different assumptions for year-on-year funding as well as salaries costs increases.
- During the spring / summer term 2024, the DfE will make what will be financially significant decisions about the teachers' pay award at September 2024. The [DfE's December 2023 remit letter](#) to the STRB lists a number of matters for the STRB to consider, though this letter does not give much insight into the likely level of award, other than indicating that the STRB should consider the 2023 award to be 'historic' and should consider the affordability of the 2024 award, reflecting on the cost pressures that schools / academies already face. The DfE will present its evidence and recommendations to the STRB shortly, which should give more concrete information on which to plan. The STRB will make its recommendations back to DfE, expected in May, with the DfE's decisions coming in July. The DfE has recently published information regarding a rapid review of teacher performance-related-pay and of measures to reduce [teacher workload](#), both of which may have implications for staffing resource deployment and school budgets alongside the STRB's pay award recommendations.
- At the time of writing this report, we do not have any information regarding the support staff / officer (the NJC) pay award for April 2024. Decisions on this will be significant for the position of school and academies budgets. This pay award is not directly funded through formula funding (in the way that higher than estimated teacher pay awards typically are supported by additional grant funding). This is an aspect that requires close monitoring and assessment.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- Given the potential for there to be significant differences between estimates of, and actual, teaching and non-teaching salaries costs in schools / academies, which will only likely become clear after budgets for 2024/25 have been initially agreed by Governing Boards in May 2024, it is essential that all schools and academies regularly and robustly review both their 2024/25 budgets and their 3-year forecasts during the year. We suggest that the most appropriate time for a full budget and forecast review in maintained schools is at the end of quarter 2 in October 2024.
- All schools and academies are now expected to bring [Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning \(ICFP\)](#) into their budget setting and forecasting processes. In the context of changes in salaries costs, as well as changes in pupil numbers from demographic trends, ICFP is very relevant to schools / academies in Bradford. For schools / academies that have not previously used ICFP, this will alter how they construct and assess their budgets, especially their salaries costs, and their deployment of staff.
- Following the publication of the [SEND Green Paper](#) in March 2022, the DfE published in March 2023 an '[improvement plan](#)'. This plan set out a direction of travel for the development of Alternative Provision, for the strengthening of SEND inclusion and for the introduction of a set of national consistent standards regarding EHCP access and funding. However, the plan does not provide substantial information, which enables local authorities at this time to closely assess the financial impact of the changes or the impact on school / academy budgets. We anticipate that changes will have financial consequences, both for the Authority's Dedicated Schools Grant and for individual schools / academies. Whilst we are a pilot local authority for the national reforms, the changes, and the timescales for their impact, are currently unclear. The reforms have the potential to significantly alter systems and the financial responsibilities that are placed on schools / academies. They may have implications for elements such as: the £10,000 place-element value for specialist settings, the £6,000 SEND threshold, notional SEND budget definition, EHCP top-up funding and the use of banded models, the continuation of the SEND Funding Floor, and responsibilities for alternative provision. In constructing 2024/25 budgets, schools and academies should ensure that they continue to have a good understanding of the following:
 - The school's / academy's notional SEND budget figure and how this is calculated (mainstream).
 - How much of the notional SEND budget the school / academy is currently spending and where this is being spent (mainstream).
 - Whether the school / academy receives additional 'SEND Funding Floor' monies (mainstream).
 - How much funding per occupied high needs place the school / academy currently receives (special schools, PRUs and mainstream schools and nursery schools with resourced provisions).
 - How much funding the school / academy receives for each Education Health and Care Plan, allocated via the Authority's EHCP Banded Model (all schools / academies).
 - How much the school / academy spends on behaviour support and alternative provision (mainstream).
 - How many children the school / academy has excluded, either on a permanent or on a fixed term basis over the last 12-18 months (mainstream).
- IFRS 16 leases is due to be implemented for maintained schools on 1 April 2024 (delayed from April 2022). Once IFRS 16 is adopted, the distinction between operating and finance leases will end and, in effect, all leases will be classed as finance leases. Schools currently require permission from the Secretary of State to enter into finance leases, as this is a form of borrowing. We await final updated guidance from the DfE, which is likely to include directed revision to the Scheme for Financing Schools for 1 April 2024. This guidance / Scheme revision is expected to set out a new (simplified) process for the approval of leases.

2024-27 Estimated Financial & Budget Climate and Context

Looking across the 2024-2027 period, it is important that schools / academies continue to manage their budgets prudently with an understanding of the uncertainties, risks and opportunities.

Current levels of per pupil funding in schools / academies, across all sectors (mainstream, high needs and early years), has been consolidated, and increased in places, in 2024/25. To summarise the main features of this for Bradford:

- The additional funding from the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG), which was allocated in 2023/24, has been added as a permanent on-going funding stream within the Schools Block National Funding Formula and within high needs funding.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- The Teacher Pay Grant, which supports the additional 3.0% cost of the 6.5% teachers' pay award at September 2024, continues. A new Teacher Pensions Grant is established to support the 5% increase in the employer's contribution to teacher pensions at 1 April 2024 in schools / academies. The early years element of both these grants is continued in the Early Years Single Funding Formula.
- The increases in funding to support the existing early years entitlements that were delivered by the Early Years Supplementary Grant are consolidated. The Early Years Block settlement for 2024/25 is a better settlement. The historic higher funding levels of maintained nursery schools are secured for 2024/25 via the DfE's continuation of the Supplement within the Early Years Block.
- Mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies, that are now funded on the DfE's mandatory minimums (MFL), have seen significant growth in their funding levels since 2019/20. These schools / academies will see a further 1.4% increase in their per pupil funding in 2024/25, which is improved on the 0.5% increase that they received in 2023/24.
- 80% of mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in Bradford are now funded in 2024/25 above the level of the 0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee. Following the collection of updated pupil circumstances data from the October 2023 Census, funding for individual schools and academies has increased by a further £1.7m in 2024/25 in support of increased pupil-led need. Pupil Premium Grant allocations will also increase in response to this, and the DfE has increased Pupil Premium Grant factor values by 1.5% in 2024/25.
- Through our Banded Model, we continue to increase the values of top-up funding that are allocated to schools / academies in support of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We continue to apply our strengthened SEND Funding Floor arrangement, which supports mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies to meet their responsibilities for the first £6,000 of the cost of the additional needs of all pupils. The funding received by special schools in Bradford will exceed the requirements of the DfE's Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2024/25. Special schools and PRUs will also continue to receive the '3.4% place-element' funding, in addition to top-up funding increases.

However, the scale of the growth in costs that schools / academies in Bradford are absorbing – from demand-led growth (SEND and pupil-led need), pupil numbers reductions, inflation and pay awards – has created a very challenging financial environment, which is expected to continue in 2024/25. It is expected that the increases in funding received in 2024/25 will be predominantly used by schools / academies to meet the increased cost of current activities, rather than permitting schools / academies to allocate new sums to brand new activities. Schools / academies may be required to make savings, depending on their circumstances. Individual schools and academies must continue to assess the sufficiency of their increases in formula funding against their increases in costs, especially in salaries costs. The health of the budgets of individual schools and academies will be additionally affected by variable factors. In terms of general, as well as specific variable, pressure points for Bradford in 2024/25, we highlight that:

- The Government's early years funding settlement for Bradford does not explicitly recognise the growth of SEND in early years, the costs of which must be met within this settlement. Whilst the overall early years funding settlement is improved in 2024/25, this must especially be seen in the context of further significant increases in salaries costs.
- Mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, that are funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), will see only a 0.5% increase in their core formula funding per pupil. This level of growth is very unlikely to keep pace with the salaries, and other inflationary cost, increases that these schools will need to meet in 2024/25.
- Locally, school / academy budgets are still required to absorb the impact of pay awards, incorporating the teacher pay award, the officer (NJC) pay award, the increase in the National Living Wage and employer contributions to staff pension costs. Salaries increases in 2024/25 will need to be met, in addition to school / academy budgets having already absorbed a substantial teacher pay award at September 2023, and substantial officer (NJC) pay awards at both April 2022 and April 2023. National decisions on pay awards to come will have direct impact on the health of school / academy budgets in 2024/25 and going forward.
- General inflation, though reduced on this time last year, is still relatively high and there hasn't been 'deflation', meaning that recent very large cost increases are consolidated.
- Demographic trends are reducing the numbers of early years children and primary-phase pupils across the District. The cash funding that some primary and nursery schools receive will reduce, which will require structural spending adjustments at the same time as increased costs are absorbed.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- The COVID-19 pandemic grants – the Recovery Premium and the National Tutoring Programme – cease at the end of the 2023/24 academic year. Schools / academies will need to absorb within their own delegated budgets the cost of support programmes that are continued.
- Growth in the number of children and young people requiring higher needs support, and being put forward for assessment for EHCPs, is expected to continue, with both the Local Authority's and school / academy budgets needing to continue to respond to this. Bradford's 2024/25 High Needs settlement from Government is substantially lower in cash and % terms than has been received in each of the last 4 years. Our £5.5m increase in High Needs Block funding in 2024/25 does not match the expected growth in demand and growth in the numbers of EHCPs.
- Schools / academies, in their management of their delegated funds, continue to need to take prudent decisions understanding that there is significant uncertainty for the near future. This includes uncertainty regarding funding increases from April 2025, pay awards in 2024/25, and the financial implications of the major national SEND and Alternative Provision reviews.

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

This is a report for information.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided in the report.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

None

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