



**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS' FORUM**

December 1, 2022

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**Notice of Meeting – Schools' Forum**

A meeting of the Schools' Forum will be held on **December 8, 2022, at 5pm. This will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams, the link will be sent via email.** The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

AGENDA	
1.	Welcome and apologies <i>Chair</i>
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2022, including matters arising <i>Chair</i>
3.	Schools' Forum Membership Update <i>Chair</i>
4.	DSG Updates 2023/24 <i>Strategic Finance Business Partner</i>
5.	Consultation of Results of Inclusion Funding 2023-24 <i>DSG Interim Finance Business Partner</i>
6.	De-delegations 2023/24 <i>DSG Interim Finance Business Partner</i>
7.	DSG Budget Monitoring 2022-23 <i>DSG Interim Finance Business Partner</i>
8.	Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) Programme update <i>Interim Director of Children Services</i>
9.	Agenda items for next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final proposals for school funding formula for 2023/24</li> <li>● Growth Fund 2023/24</li> <li>● Budget Monitoring Summary 22/23</li> <li>● Update on Early Years Consultation with 2023-24 Budget</li> </ul>
10.	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procurement opportunities (Kelly Hallett and Kit Lam from BfC)</li> </ul>

Next Meeting: January 19, 2022, at 5pm – To be held virtually via Teams

## Minutes of Schools' Forum Meeting

13 October 2022

### Members Present

Justine McMinn – Head Teacher of EP Collier; Dave Dymond – Governor at Alfred Sutton; Richard Rolfe – Governor at Micklands (Chair); Dr S Uttley – Head Teacher of Blessed Hugh Faringdon; Howard Seymour – Head Teacher of Churchend Primary; Symon Cooke – Head Teacher of The Avenue; Jo Budge - Executive Head Teacher of Reading Early Years Schools Federation; Nikki McVeigh – Head Teacher of Christ The King; Karen Edwards – Head Teacher of The Heights; Annal Nayyar – Finance Director of Baylis Trust (Reading Girls); Dani Hall - Co-Chair of the Federation between Oxford Road Community School & Wilson School; Isabelle Sandy – Business Manager of Kendrick; Cathy Woodcock – Finance Director of Reading School; Ita McGullion – Manager of Kennet Day Nursery ; M Grantham – Deputy Head Teacher of Highdown (substitute for R Cave); Alison McNamara – NEU, Patrick Grant

### Apologies

### In attendance

Ann McDonnell – Business Manager of Blessed Hugh Faringdon; Clare Warren – School Support Lead; Steven Davies – Strategic Finance Business Partner; Brian Grady - Director of Education & Interim Executive Director of Children's Services; Ohaz Ikedionu – Interim DSG Business Partner; Kit Lam – Executive Director of Finance & Resources; Corinne Dishington – Service Manager Under 5s; Vanessa Hurdle – minute taker.

	Item	Notes
<b>1</b>	Welcome and apologies - Chair	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Steve Davies read out the protocol for the virtual meeting and confirmed that no votes were required for this meeting  Recording of the meeting commenced. The recording will be retained until the minutes have been approved.  Richard Rolfe confirmed that there had been several apologies for the meeting.
<b>2</b>	Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 - Chair	Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting from 16 June 2022.

		<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership – This will be discussed under item 3</li> <li>- SEND Strategy – To be discussed in item 8</li> <li>- Maintained Nursery School Places – SD will discuss some Early Years’ Consultation information</li> </ul>
3	Schools’ Forum Membership Update - Chair	<p>Richard explained that he had been in touch with all members that had reached the end of their term of office. Those who had confirmed that they wished to remain a member had now been updated for a further two years.</p> <p>RR had still not had responses from:</p> <p>Robert Howell – Head of Alfred Sutton Tonia Crossman – Head of Emmer Green David Littlemore – Head of Prospect</p> <p>It is assumed that these Heads wish to continue as members of the Forum. RR will, however, contact them again to make them aware of this.</p> <p>RR clarified that as Peter Kayes has now retired from the Forum, Dave Dymond will be taking his place as a Governor on the Forum.</p> <p>Steve suggested that a Vice-Chair should be elected at some point just in case they are ever required to stand in for RR. Members to contact RR if they do wish to stand as Vice-Chair.</p>
4	DSG Budget Setting for 22/23 – Strategic Finance Business Partner	<p>Steve Davies presented</p> <p>Steve introduced Ohaz Ikedionu as the Interim DSG Business Partner whilst Steph Heaps is still on maternity leave.</p> <p>The funding has now been announced for 23/24. This is draft funding.</p> <p>This is now the sixth year of the National Funding Formula (NFF). This is not quite at a ‘hard’ funding formula, but is getting to that stage. There is still some local involvement, which is why any changes are shared with the Schools’ Forum.</p> <p>There was a consultation for the National Formula Funding, which came out in July 2022 and closed in October 2022. Most of the suggested changes are for future years, but Steve will bring the results of the consultation to a future Schools’ Forum.</p> <p>The Schools’ Block Operational Guide for 23/24 was issued during the summer holidays. There were a few key changes,</p>

		<p>with one relating to the National Funding Formula Factors. For the last few years, Reading has tried to follow the National Formula Funding Factors, but this has been optional. For 2023/24, the majority of factors will become statutory.</p> <p>Local Authorities do not have to mirror the NFF, but they do need to be within 10% of it. Reading is already very close to the NFF. It has now been requested that LA's should be within 2.5% of the NFF values. Reading is very close to this and as such there is not a great deal that can be altered. Due to the changes, Steve does not feel that a School Funding Formula consultation is required.</p> <p>2022/23 Supplementary Grant – It needs to be confirmed if this will be part of the Schools' Formula in 23/24. There will not be a separate grant for it and it will be split between various formula rates.</p> <p>In previous years, the Government has stated that they would uplift the schools' formula by 2%-3%. This year, it has been split up and certain factors will have an increase in funding. The deprivation factors will increase by 4.3% and this appears to be the area that the Government is concentrating on. The AWPU will increase by 2.4%, whilst other factors will increase between 2.1% - 2.6%. There will also be another minimum funding level increase of 0.5% per pupil. The MFG, which was previously set at 0% - 2% will be a maximum of 0.5% for this year. This may have some impact on schools.</p> <p>Isabelle Sandy queried the Supplementary Grant as there is an element for Health &amp; Social Care Levy, which has now been scrapped. She wished to know if it would be clawed back. SD believed that as it had already been agreed that the Supplementary Grant would be included in the Formula, he would be surprised to see any clawback, However, he did feel that there was a possibility that this could mean that there would not be any extra funding in other areas.</p> <p><b>Central Block</b> – This area to increase by 5.8%, but the historic element will reduce by 20% as it has done in previous years. This will be a decrease of approximately £69K. This is a change of -2%.</p> <p><b>High Needs Block</b> – A transfer has been made over the last 3-4 years, regarding the Inclusion Fund. The 0.5% mechanism is used to transfer into the High Needs Block, but it is ring-fenced for Inclusion Funding. This means that if a school has a higher number of EHCPs above the average, then they are given a top-up to their SEN notional budget. A consultation will be sent out to explain what has happened in the last year</p>
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		<p>and to ask schools if they wish to continue with this method in 23/24.</p> <p><b>Early Years</b> – There is an Early Years’ consultation, relating to 23/24. Overall, the funding will increase and there will be more funding for Maintained Nurseries. Out-dated data is being looked at and the formula may change significantly. The Early Years’ Guidance has not yet been issued, but it is hoped that it will come out in time for the December Schools’ Forum.</p> <p>Ita McGullion pointed out that there was a big difference in the funding amounts for Early Years and that a lot of settings are struggling with staffing issues. Corinne Dishington confirmed that the DfE is hoping to get the results of the EY consultation out by the end of October.</p>
5	<p>Schools’ Formula 2023/24 Initial Proposals – Strategic Finance Business Partner</p>	<p>Steve Davies presented.</p> <p>As SD stated in item 4, Reading is very close to the NFF and he, therefore, does not propose to send out a consultation on this matter.</p> <p>It has been presumed that the transfer of the 0.5% from the Schools’ Block to the High Needs Block will continue and at the same rate as the previous year - £484k.</p> <p>Appendix 2 shows a table of the Formula Factors for the National Funding Formula and includes the Area Cost Adjustment. Reading receives slightly more than the national rate. The figures used for the table are based on October 21 figures, but will be updated with the October 22 figures as soon as possible. The lump sum will be reduced for the potential transfer of £484k.</p>
6	<p>DSG Budget Monitoring 2022/23 – Month 6 – Strategic Finance Business Partner</p>	<p>Steve Davies presented.</p> <p>The paper is based on budget monitoring until the end of September 2022. The current DSG deficit is £2.1m as at 31 March 2022. This deficit relates to the High Needs Block. The deficit for the High Needs Block is £3.4m, but has been reduced by ring-fenced money in the Schools’ Block in the Growth Fund.</p> <p>Every year in July, Reading receives an up-to-date DSG allocation, which mainly affects the Early Years’ Block from the January census. An import/export adjustment is also done</p>

		<p>for High Needs placements. For 22/23, Reading received an additional £786k for Early Years, but had £282k take off from the High Needs funding.</p> <p><b>Schools Block</b> – Most of this is comprised of the Formula so does not change. For 22/23, there was a contingency budget for secondary bulge classes. This growth fund has been underspent but it may be a possibility that it can be used for falling rolls or even infant class-size funding. This will be discussed at the January meeting.</p> <p><b>Central Block</b> – This is on target.</p> <p><b>Early Years’ Block</b> – Again this is on target but only because the Autumn census figures are not yet known. The overall funding will not be known until the January 2023 census.</p> <p><b>High Needs Block</b> – The deficit started at £3.4m, and has now risen by just over £1m. This includes the £282k for the updated import/export adjustment as well as an overspend on the top-up funding. A contingency of £500k has been included in case the top-ups are increased in-year.</p> <p>SD explained that all authorities are dealing with this type of overspending. The DfE has created a Delivering Better Value Programme. Reading has signed up to this and it will hopefully start in January 2023. It is expected that this will provide guidance and support on how to recover in the High Needs area without the support being offered to pupils being too greatly affected.</p> <p>Table 4 shows the increasing number of EHCPs in Reading since January 2016 and according to type. The cost of independent places has increased significantly.</p> <p>A Deficit Recovery Plan has not yet been added as more work is required to get an ‘official’ plan in place</p>
7	<p>Maintained Schools’ Forecasted Outturn 2022/23 – Schools’ Finance Business Partner</p>	<p>Clare Warren presented</p> <p>Schools were asked to submit a forecast in September 2022 based on their April – August 22 actuals.</p> <p>Overall school balances are now predicted to increase by £190k to £726K. This compares to 2021 when the increase was £455k.</p>

		<p>The main reason as to why the increase is not so large this year is due to the proposed pay increases for teachers and support staff, which are much higher than was anticipated in the budget. This has been off-set by the increase in income as there have been increases in both the Main School Grant as well as additional grants for Recovery Premium and School-led tutoring. However, it should be noted that these grants are ring-fenced and will lead to increases in expenditure.</p> <p>It is predicted that 13 schools are forecasting a deficit balance, an increase of two schools. Finances in all schools continue to be challenging, with the School Support Team continuing to offer help to schools.</p>
8	<p>Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) Programme and SEND Strategy 2022 – 2027 – Director of Education &amp; Interim Executive Director of Children’s Services</p>	<p>Brian Grady presented</p> <p>Brian explained that he presented a report to the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board, which is an update to the SEND strategy. There are two positive factors in place in Reading. Reading had a very successful CQC and Ofsted joint inspection of SEND arrangements in June 2021. This inspection confirmed that Reading had good arrangements in place and that it was one of the top authorities in the country in terms of the way that young people are supported. BG believes that Reading shows the most inclusive practice anywhere and has been speaking to the DfE, regarding attention being focused on the practice. He believes that it is a model which deserves investment.</p> <p>It should be noted that Reading’s practice does have its challenges. There is an increased demand for EHCPs as well as the provision of placements, which cause budget pressures. Reading is increasingly seeing more vulnerable pupils unable to access a special school place or be well-supported in a mainstream school.</p> <p>The second strength that Reading offers is the strength of co-production. BG encouraged the SF to look at his meeting with the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board, which has been recorded. He presented alongside parents and leaders from Health</p> <p>However, the key challenge for the SF is to continue to manage how SEND pupils can be effectively supported. The Association of Directors of Children Services believes that there are insufficient resources put into the DSG by Central Government. There has been additional investment into the DSG over the last couple of years but it has not been enough. This is clear from the number of LAs with deficits.</p>

		<p>BG welcomed the Delivering Better Value Programme, which he believes will add and enhance. He also feels that this programme will provide Reading with a great opportunity as there will be immediate investment in analysis. This will mean that the needs of Reading pupils with SEND will be better understood. It will also help to benchmark and evidence best practice.</p> <p><b>Refreshed Deficit Recovery Plan</b> – The refreshed plan will have three critical elements to it. The aim is that Reading can maximise how many children can be maintained in mainstream provision. Currently there is not enough SEND provision locally, so more specialist school places are required. The Oak Tree Academy Specialist School will be opening in 2023. The planned opening for this DfE project had to be delayed a year, but it is anticipated that Reading should have places in the school from September 2023. Brian is currently working with Reading to put in a bid this month for an additional specialist school in the area.</p> <p>The third element is the EHCPs. It is predicted that there will not be a decline in the number of EHCPs due to the rising need within the population. It is hoped, however, that through the Better Value Programme, it will be possible to maximise how effective and efficient future plans will be, so that resources are used to the best advantage.</p> <p>RR asked if the Oak Tree Academy would have much of an impact on the High Needs deficit. He queried whether those pupils who are in out of borough placements would be transferred to the Oak Tree. BG confirmed that it would not be in the interests of those pupils to move them from a placement where they are already established.</p> <p>He confirmed that the Oak Tree would allow Reading to meet the needs of more of its pupils than at present. He also explained that the Refreshed Recovery Plan would set out how the current situation should be managed over the next 3-4 years, but immediate and significant savings would be unlikely. When the Oak Tree opens, it will probably just have a couple of year groups and will gradually build up the number of pupils. From December's Schools' Forum, the High Needs Deficit Recovery Plan will be tracked so that it is clear where the financial impact lies.</p> <p>BG also revealed that the DfE is looking to set up a new wave of Specialist Schools. The application for this ends on 21 October 2022. Competition for this is extremely high. There will also be a Formal Place Planning Strategy in 2023, which will set</p>
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		out the approach, the numbers and the demand. The Schools' Forum will be consulted on this.
<b>9</b>	Agenda Items for Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting will be held on <b>8 December 2022 at 5pm</b> as a virtual meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Proposals for School Funding Formula for 2023/24</li> <li>• Agree Growth Fund for 2023/24</li> <li>• Agree Falling Rolls Fund for 2023/24</li> <li>• Agree De-Delegations for 2023/24</li> <li>• Budget Monitoring Summary for 2022/23</li> </ul> <p>BG mentioned that if the Agenda is too full for this meeting, then a Progress Report could be delivered at January's meeting.</p>
<b>10</b>	Any Other Business	<p>There were no other items. RR thanked all attendees.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 5.58pm.</p>

## Summary of Actions Outstanding

SF Date & Item no.	Action Required	Responsible Person
13/10/22 – Item 3	Membership – contact Heads in yellow to confirm that they have retained their place on the Forum	Richard Rolfe
13/10/22 – Item 3	Appointment of Vice-Chair	Richard Rolfe

## Agenda Item 3

SCHOOLS' FORUM MEMBERSHIP						Dec-22			
Group / Sub Group	Votes	Position	Name	School	First elected / appointed to SF	Last elected / appointed to SF	Period of office as member	Due for re-election / appointment	
<b>School Members:</b>									
Nursery (2)	1	Head teacher	Jo Budge	Reading EY Schools Federation	Jan-17	Jun-22	3 yrs	Jun-25	
	2	Governor	Julia Cottee	Reading EY Schools Federation	Mar-20	Mar-20	3 yrs	Mar-23	
Maintained Primary (7)	3	Head teacher	Robert Howell	Alfred Sutton	Mar-19	Mar-19	3 yrs	Mar-22	
	4	Head teacher	Justine McMinn	EP Collier	Nov-13	Jun-22	3 yrs	Jun-25	
	5	Head teacher	Nikki McVeigh	Christ the King	Jul-21	Jul-21	3 yrs	Jul-24	
	6	Head teacher	Sophie Greenaway	Thameside	Dec-22	Dec-22	3 yrs	Dec-25	
	7	Governor	Dave Dymond	Alfred Sutton	Dec-22	Dec-22	3 yrs	Dec-25	
	8	<b>Governor *</b>	Richard Rolfe	Micklands	Dec-16	Dec-22	3 yrs	Dec-25	
	9	Governor	Dani Hall	Oxford Road and Wilson	Mar-20	Mar-20	3 yrs	Mar-23	
		Observer/Substitute	Sarah Bernto	St Anne's					
Maintained Secondary (1)	10	Head teacher	Simon Utley	Blessed Hugh Faringdon	Jan-17	Jan-22	3 yrs	Jan-25	
Academy Primary (2)	11	Academy Member	Karen Edwards	The Heights	Jul-18	Jul-21	3 Yrs	Jul-24	
	12	Academy Member	Howard Seymour	Churchend	Mar-20	Mar-20	3 yrs	Mar-23	
Academy Secondary (5)	13	Academy Member	Isabelle Sandy	Kendrick	Feb-12	Jun-22	3 Yrs	Jun-25	
	14	Academy Member	David Littlemore	Prospect	Feb-12	Mar-19	3 Yrs	Mar-22	
	15	Academy Member	Rachel Cave	Highdown	Feb-12	Jun-22	3 Yrs	Jun-25	
	16	Academy Member	Annal Nayyar	Reading Girls	Dec-17	Jun-22	3 Yrs	Jun-25	
	17	Academy Member	Andy Johnson	Maiden Erleigh School	Sep-21	Sep-21	3 Yrs	Sep-24	
		Observer/Substitute	Louise Baker	John Madjeski					
		Observer/Substitute	Jonathan Nicholls	UTC					
		Observer/Substitute	John Salberg	The Wren					
Maintained Special (1)	18	Head teacher	Lee Smith	Holy Brook			On-going	n/a	
Academy Special (1)	19	Academy Member	Symon Cooke	The Avenue	Mar-18	Mar-21	3 Yrs	Mar-24	
Alternative Provision (1)	20	Head teacher	Ceri Burns	Cranbury College			On-going	n/a	
<b>Non-School Members:</b>									
Early Year's PVI (1)	21	PVIs	Ita McGullion	Kennet Day Nursery	Oct-17	Oct-21	3 yrs	Oct-24	
Trades Unions (1)	22	Trades Unions	Ali McNamara	NEU			On-going	n/a	
16 - 19 Provision (1)	23	FE College	Charlotte Morgan	Reading College (Activate Learning)	Oct-20	Oct-20	3 yrs	Oct-23	

### Non Members

Observer	-	RBC	Cllr Lead Member for Education					
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\* Chair

Elected October 2020

\*\* Vice chair

TBC

TBC



# Reading Schools' Forum

December 8, 2022

Agenda Item 4

DSG Update 23/24

For decision

For discussion

For information

## SUMMARY

This report sets out the information we know so far about DSG funding for 2023/24

## AUTHOR

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## VERSION

Version number 1

## DATE

December 1, 2022

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## Background

- 1) School Funding is received through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and is split into four blocks, each with its own formula to calculate the funding to be distributed to each local authority.
  - Schools Block
  - High Needs
  - Early Years
  - Central Schools Services Block
- 2) The DSG must be deployed in accordance with the conditions of grant and the latest School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Detailed guidance is contained within various operational guidance documents issued by the Education Funding & Skills Agency (EFSA).
- 3) Transfers of funding between blocks are allowed, but a transfer out of the school's block must be consulted with all schools and agreed by the Schools' Forum.

## Schools Block Operational Guide 2023/24

- 4) As stated in October 2022 Schools Forum, updated guidance was announced in the summer, that included agreed funding increases by factor and instructions on LAs that are still along way from the National Funding Formula.
  - All LAs need to move 10% closer to the national funding formula (NFF) or,
  - stay within 2.5% of the NFF factor values.
- 5) Reading is directly mirroring the formula and will have to stay within 2.5% of the values.
- 6) Due to this, Reading have made the decision to continue with last years agreement and fully fund each factor value at the national funding rate except the lump sum factor that will potentially be used to fund the block transfer.
- 7) Growth and Falling Rolls funding will be presented at January 2023 Schools Forum as this is separate funding to the NFF.
- 8) Inclusion Funding Consultation will be presented today, and Schools Forum will need to decide on continuing the block transfer, as this will form part of the January formula process.
- 9) It is expected that a final position to be clear by January Schools Forum on the amount of funding to be provided to schools via the NFF. The late announcement of additional schools funding is unlikely to be distributed via the main formula.
- 10) As in previous years we would expect schools to receive additional funds via some form of supplementary grant, which would be rolled into the NFF for 2024/25. How this might be distributed remains to be seen.
- 11) As in previous years, the LA is expecting an updated 2023/24 funding allocation, based on the October 2022 census. The details provided in Table 1 and within October's Schools Forum were based on October 2021 Census.

**Table 1: DSG Allocations 2022/23 and 2023/24**

	2022/23 ACTUAL		2023/24 ESTIMATE		YEAR ON YEAR CHANGE		
		Funding £'000		Funding £'000	£'000	%	Notes
<b>Schools Block (SB):</b>							
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	£4,632		£4,882				Now includes Supplementary Grant
<i>Primary Pupil numbers &amp; funding</i>	13,092	£60,638	13,092	£63,909	+£3,271	+5.4%	Will be based on Oct 22 census
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)	£6,077		£6,428				Now includes Supplementary Grant
<i>Secondary Pupil numbers &amp; funding</i>	7,488	£45,502	7,488	£48,126	+£2,624	+5.8%	Will be based on Oct 22 census
Premises		£1,300		£1,300			
Schools Supplementary Grant (22/23)		£3,196		£0	(£3,196)	(100%)	Merged into formula
<b>Total Schools Block</b>		<b>£110,636</b>		<b>£113,336</b>	<b>+2,699</b>	<b>+2.4%</b>	
Growth Funding Factor		£933		TBA			Not yet known
<b>Schools Supplementary Grant (23/24)</b>		<b>N/A</b>		<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	

## Early Years Funding 2023/24

- 11) The results of the DfE Early Years Funding consultation have not yet been announced. The working assumption is that providers will only receive a 1% uplift on 2022-23 funding factors for 3-4 year olds. The implications of the Autumn Statement are unknown.
- 12) Planning budgets within the Early Years sector is tricky at the best of times and delays in supplying details only hinder the situation. As reported in October Schools Forum, The Early Years block will receive increases of no less than 1% but no more than 4.5%
- 13) We aim to confirm the Early Years rates in January 2023 to help settings manage their funding.

## Risks / Uncertainties

- 14) There are a considerable number of uncertainties about the 2023-24 budget at this point, in particular:
  - The final DSG announcements for 2023-24.
  - The way in which the additional funding announce in the Autumn Statement will be delivered
  - The final pupil data from the October (schools) and January (early years) censuses.
  - Level of school wage settlements and consequential costs for 2023/2024
- 15) There are unusual levels of uncertainties surrounding the 2023-24. It is however clear that there will be challenging financial decisions that need to be made across all DSG blocks

## Appendix 1 - Timetable 2023/2024

TASK	DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC inform all schools on proposals for 2023/24 school formula, and to consult with all schools on the transfer of funding from the school's block to high needs block</li> </ul>	Send to schools 21 October 2022. Comments due back by 18 November 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC complete High Needs Place Review</li> </ul>	Submission due to ESFA 11 November 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Confirm school formula for 2023/24 with any known updates,</b></li> <li><b>Agree transfer of funding from Schools Block to High Needs Block.</b></li> <li><b>Approve de-delegations</b></li> </ul>	<b>8 December 2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC work on Schools formula and central school services budgets</li> </ul>	December 2022 – January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final funding allocations received from ESFA for schools, high needs (part), central services block and Early Years. Final data received from ESFA for school formula based on October 2022 census.</li> </ul>	Due from ESFA mid December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC finalise the school formula based on final funding allocation</li> </ul>	Early January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools' Forum informed on final school formula,</li> <li>Approval of central school services budget.</li> <li>Agree growth and falling rolls funding for 2023/24</li> <li>Early Years Hourly rates 2023/24</li> </ul>	19 January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authority agrees school formula for 2023/24 and BfFC submits APT to ESFA</li> </ul>	Submission Due to ESFA by 20 January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC Inform mainstream maintained schools of their budget shares for 2023/24</li> </ul>	By 28 February 2023 (statutory date) BfFC likely to send out by end of January 2023)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BfFC work on final high needs and early years budgets</li> </ul>	January to end of February 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools' Forum review/agree final budgets for high needs and early years</li> </ul>	9 March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESFA confirm to academies their general annual grant (budget shares) for 2023/24</li> </ul>	31 March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Needs place numbers at institution level published by ESFA</li> </ul>	31 March 2023



# Reading Schools' Forum

December 8, 2022

Agenda Item 5

Consultation of Results of  
Inclusion Funding 2023-24

For decision

For discussion

For information

## SUMMARY

This report sets out the consultation response from the Inclusion Fund (School Block movement) for 2023/24

## AUTHOR

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## VERSION

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## DATE

December 1, 2022

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## Background

- 1) Transfers of funding between blocks are allowed, but a transfer out of the school's block must be consulted with all schools and agreed by the Schools' Forum.
- 2) Consultation was agreed to be sent out within October 2022 Schools Forum and this report shows the details on the response to assist the school Forum decision in Decembers 2022 Schools Forum.

## Request to Transfer Funding from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block

- 3) A transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is subject to a maximum of 0.5% of the total schools' block allocation with Schools' Forum approval and following a consultation with all schools. The maximum transfer permissible in 2023/24 based on current allocation forecast totals £526k; the current amount being transferred is £484k and specifically funds the inclusion fund – additional funding for schools with a disproportionate number of pupils with EHCPs.
- 4) All schools have been consulted on the continuation of this fund and the transfer of funding to support this. The consultation document sent to schools is in Appendix 1. 38% of mainstream schools responded (16 primary, 3 secondary). The responses are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Responses to Consultation**

Do you agree to transferring funding from the schools block to the high needs block in order to provide additional funding to schools with a high percentage of EHCPs?	Primary	Secondary	Total	%
<i>Option: 1 Yes - I agree to the transfer of funding in 2023/24 at the same level of funding as in 2022/23: transfer of £484k.</i>	6	3	9	47%
<i>Option: 2 Yes - I agree to the transfer of funding in 2023/24 at an increased level of funding and transfer £526k (current estimate based on the maximum 0.5% of Schools Block).</i>	9	0	9	47%
<i>Option: 3 No - I do not agree to transfer any funding from the schools' block to the high needs block and schools with a high percentage of EHCPs will not be financially supported in 2023/24 by this method.</i>	1	0	1	5%
	16	3	19	38%

- 5) There was a tie in an equal split decision of schools preferring both option 1&2. Given the growing number of pupils with EHCP's in mainstream schools, it is therefore recommended that £526k is transferred in 2023/24.
- 6) Forum members will now have time to discuss the paper and response to then vote (all members) for which option to approve.

## Appendix 1 - Consultation Document on Transfer of Funding

# Consultation on the Transfer of Funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2023/24

## 1. Introduction

- 3) Funding for schools is met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is split into four funding blocks – schools, central school services, high needs, and early years. The schools block provides the funding for the primary and secondary school funding formula. Transfers of funding are allowed between blocks but transfers out of the schools' block are limited to 0.5%, require all schools to be consulted, and need the agreement of Schools' Forum. This decision is for one year only.
- 4) Transfers from the schools' block to the high needs block have taken place every year, and the amounts transferred each year since Schools' Forum approval has been required are as follows:
  - 2018/19 - £434,000
  - 2019/20 - £447,000
  - 2020/21 - £350,000
  - 2021/22 - £484,000
  - 2022/23 - £484,000
- 5) This paper sets out the reasons why a transfer of funds from the schools' block to the high needs block is requested for 2023/24.

## 2. Proposal

- 2.1 The High Needs Block of the DSG funds places in special schools, resource units and alternative provision, and top up funding for pupils with EHCPs in all settings. Due to historic under funding in this block (funding not keeping up with the increase in numbers/levels/costs of pupils with EHCPs) this block is in deficit. The local authority is required to have in place a deficit recovery plan, and this is shared with the Schools' Forum with updates provided at each meeting in the budget monitoring report<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 In 2022/23 funding in this block increased by £3.2m and it is expected that an increase of 5% is due for 2023/24.
- 2.3 Schools have played their part in keeping increases in costs down as the top up rates for pupils with EHCPs remained static for many years. In September 2020, top up rates were increased for the first time since 2013. It is expected that a banding review will be carried out in the future along-side assistance with the DFE Delivering Better Value Project.

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<sup>1</sup> Reports can be viewed on the Schools' Forum Webpage: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/council/policies-finance-and-legal-information/education-budgets-and-funding/schools-forum-meeting-papers/>

- 2.4 Due to the overall continuing growing numbers of pupils with EHCPs and the lack of local specialist places to keep up with this demand, many mainstream schools have seen an increase in their EHCPs over the last few years. The top up funding covers the costs greater than £6k and this funding follows the pupil. But where schools have a high **percentage** of pupils with an EHCP compared to the average, the demand on their budget is greater. This is because the first £6k of costs need to be met from their budget yet the school formula does not recognise the number of pupils with high needs. The proxy factors of deprivation and low prior attainment do not necessarily capture all the pupil's requiring additional support, and these factors are irrelevant if the school is on the minimum per pupil funding level or minimum funding guarantee.
- 2.5 In order to address this funding shortfall in some schools, since September 2018, we have been paying schools additional funding from the high needs block to pay the first £6k where a school's percentage of pupils with EHCPs is above the local authority statistical neighbour average. Unlike top up funding, this is not a statutory requirement, and is supporting spend which should come from a school's individual budget.
- 2.6 In order to fund this, schools agreed in 2022/23 to transfer the funding from the schools' block to the high needs block. This non statutory cost therefore does not impact on the high needs block deficit. We are consulting on whether to continue with this arrangement in 2023/24 and to top slice funding from the schools' block funding allocation to pay for this.
- 2.7 The Local Authority statistical neighbour average will be the starting point but will not remain static in calculating funding to schools. For Summer 2022 we increased the statistical average by 0.5%. Please refer to paragraph 2.9.
- 2.8 This transfer can either be £484k to continue with the current allocation or the estimated maximum permitted of 567K, which would increase the funding to existing beneficiaries. 567K is based on an initial estimate of 0.5% of potential schools block budget but will change when we receive our actual allocation.
- 2.9 Based on current data and trends it is predicted that more EHCPs are going into mainstream however this budget will be capped at the agreed transfer amount and not allow an overspend. It may also result in the actual % used being increased in order to remain within budget.
- 2.10 Appendix 1 shows an illustration of the 2022/23 data and percentages used to allocate the agreed £484k to schools. Note that this is illustrative only, and actual allocations would be based on the latest census data for each term and percentages adjusted accordingly. This table also shows for information how much the notional SEN budget is within the school formula funding in 2022/23 for each school.
- 2.11 The proposal in summary:

- To pool funding (by a top slice of the schools' block DSG) from all primary and secondary schools, to pay towards the costs incurred by those schools with a higher percentage of EHCPs.
- If the transfer of funding is not agreed, this arrangement will come to an end in March 2023 (end of Spring term) and these schools will no longer be financially supported. This would possibly have an impact on the level of support these pupils would receive and/or impact on these school's budgets.
- Any funding transferred is ringfenced for this specific purpose and will not be used to offset the high needs block deficit. Any underspend will be carried forward to the following year.
- The decision is for one year only. Future requests are subject to the deficit position on the high needs block and affordability within this block.

Consultation question

Do you agree to transferring funding from the schools block to the high needs block in order to provide additional funding to schools with a high percentage of EHCPs?

Please respond to the consultation by choosing one of these options.

**Option 1: Yes - I agree to the transfer of funding in 2023/24 at the same level of funding as in 2021/22 & 2022/23: transfer of £484k.**

**Option 2: Yes - I agree to the transfer of funding in 2023/24 at an increased level of funding and transfer the maximum allowed (current estimate based on the maximum 0.5% of Schools Block, £567k).**

**Option 3: No - I do not agree to transfer any funding from the schools' block to the high needs block and schools with a high percentage of EHCPs will not be financially supported in 2023/24 by this method.**



# Reading Schools' Forum

December 08, 2022

Agenda Item 7

De-Delegations 2023-24

For decision

For discussion

For information

## SUMMARY

This report sets out information on the services to be offered to maintained schools for de-delegation in 2023/24.

## AUTHOR

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## VERSION

Version number 1

## DATE

December 08, 2022

## REVIEW DATE

None

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## Recommendations

- 1) Primary maintained representatives to agree the de-delegation of Behaviour Services, School Improvement, Union Duties, and General Duties.
- 2) Secondary maintained representatives to agree the de-delegation of School Improvement and General Duties.

## Background

- 3) There continues to be a limited number of central services that maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools can opt to de-delegate from their formula budget allocation. This decision is made by the relevant members on Schools Forum for their school phase. It is not the same as a buy back which is an individual school decision. Thus, the decisions made will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase. This is an annual decision, and decisions made for 2023/24 will be for that year only.
- 4) There is no change to the services being offered for de-delegation in 2023/24 which are as follows:
  - Behaviour Support Services.
  - School Improvement.
  - Union Duties.
  - General Duties.
- 5) This report sets out what each service covers, the cost, and how this will be de-delegated from each school's budget. This must be a fixed contribution for each service so that funding can be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued.

## Behaviour Support Services

- 6) The Behaviour support service is run by Cranbury College. Although now academized and part of a Multi Academy Trust, this service will continue to be provided by Cranbury in 2023/24. Appendix 1 sets out the service offered to primary schools. Secondary schools and academies have the option to purchase support through an individual service level agreement.
- 7) The cost of the core service in 2022-23 totalled £182k and in 2023-24 a new offer has been presented as follow:

<b>Posts</b>	<b>2022-23 (£)</b>	<b>2023-24 (£)</b>
Staff HLTA x 3	£97,377	£97,377
Staff specialist x 2	£85,291	£75,251
New staff member HLTA x 1		£31,494
New SEN Outreach worker x 2		£62,988
<b>Total</b>	<b>£182,668</b>	<b>£286,150</b>
Primary De-delegation Per FSM	<b>£90.96</b>	<b>£143.00</b>

More details can be found within Appendix 1

## School Improvement

- 8) Schools Forum agreed to support School Improvement in raising standards in maintained schools requiring support. Appendix 2 has more information on the type of spend this de-delegation will be used for as well as what the additional central school's services element will be paying for. For many years, there has been a separate school improvement grant which covers monitoring of performance and statutory intervention of maintained schools (in the 2022/23 academic year the initial grant allocation ceased at a cost of 120k. We are asking Schools Forum to help the service cover 50% of the shortfall.
- 9) The total amount to be met from maintained schools through de-delegation is £188,000. This will equate to a de-delegation of £18.40 per pupil for both primary and secondary.
- 10) The Director of Education will undertake regular monitoring of this service.

## Union Duties

- 11) Successive governments have recognised the importance of good industrial relations and have legislated to provide a statutory basis for facilities time. These provisions are contained within the Employment Relations Act 1999, the Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the Safety representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1997.
- 12) Pooled funding is the most effective and efficient arrangement to help the local authority and all schools to meet their statutory obligations on trade union facilities time. It helps maintain a coherent industrial relations environment where issues and concerns, whether individual or collective, can be dealt with efficiently. It provides funding for union representatives to accompany workers to disciplinary or grievance hearings, attend union training, carry out union duties and relevant learning activities, and to carry out health and safety functions.
- 13) To cover each of these as the need arises, without the arrangements made possible through a central funding arrangement, would be considerably more costly for schools. This service is also available to academies and free schools via a service level agreement.
- 14) The cost of the service is broken down as follows:

Salary costs of representatives	£59,000
Other costs (e.g., supply costs for reps to attend courses)	£3,000
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>£62,000</b>
Less: estimated income from other schools	-£15,000
<b>Total to be met by maintained primary schools</b>	<b>£47,000</b>

- 15) The net cost of centrally employing union representatives is estimated at £47,000. This will equate to a primary de-delegation of £5.03 per pupil.

## General Duties

- 16) This funding goes towards paying for the statutory duties carried out on behalf of maintained schools that were previously funded by the Education Services Grant. This grant was removed in 2017/18 with the expectation that all maintained schools would now pay for these services from their delegated budgets. The grant was also removed from academy schools, so brings all schools onto the same financial basis.
- 17) The services this funding cover includes:
- Central budgeting & accounting functions relating to maintained schools.
  - Financing of maintained schools.
  - Monitoring of compliance with the scheme for financing schools.
  - Functions in relation to schools who do not have financial delegation.
  - Consistent financial reporting.
  - Provision of statutory information to the DfE.
  - Education welfare e.g., monitoring attendance.
- 18) This is not all the statutory services previously funded by the grant, and some are now charged direct to schools through a traded service.
- 19) The de-delegation in 2022/23 was for £80,000 and pay inflation change is proposed for 2023/24 totalling £84,000. This equates to a de-delegation of £8.22 per pupil.

## Overall De-Delegations for 2022/23

- 20) An overall summary of the de-delegations proposed for 2023/24 (alongside the equivalent amounts for 2022/23) are set out in Table 1, with a breakdown per school provided in Appendix 3. Maintained school representatives are required to take a decision for their own school phase on each service on whether to de-delegate.

**Table 1: Actual De-delegations in 2022/23 and Proposal for 2023/24**

Service	Primary 2022/23	Secondary 2022/23	Primary 2023/24	Secondary 2023/24
Behaviour Support	£182,000 £90.96 per FSM pupil	-	£286,150 £143 per FSM pupil	-
Union duties	£43,200 £4.62 per pupil	-	£47,000 £5.03 per pupil	-
School Improvement	£117,600 £12.53 per pupil	£10,400 £12.53 per pupil	£172,076 £18.40 per pupil	£15,971 £18.40 per pupil
General Duties formerly met by the Education Services Grant	£73,600 £7.83 per pupil	£6,400 £7.83 per pupil	£76,873 £8.22 per pupil	£7,135 £8.22 per pupil



- 21) Any unspent de-delegated funding remaining at year-end will be reported to the Schools' Forum as part of the year-end report. This funding can be carried forward and used specifically for de-delegated services. Schools' Forum is required to approve any overspend, which would be met from the following year's schools budget allocation.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Behaviour Support Services 2023/24

Appendix 2 – School Improvement Service 2023/24

Appendix 3 – Proposed De-delegations per School 2023/24

## Appendix 1 – Behaviour Support Services 2023/24

It was decided at the schools Forum meeting in January 2017 to fund the Behaviour Support Services provision by de-delegation.

The school's Forum is being asked to continue with these funding arrangements for Behaviour support for the next financial year.

The de-delegation of funding provides for Behaviour Support for all Primary Schools in RBC who are maintained by the local authority. Academies can purchase provision from Cranbury College through an individual service level agreement. This de-delegated fund will continue to allow Cranbury College to deliver a core behaviour support team offer. This core offer is currently for Therapeutic Support plans and HLTA support in the classroom supporting young people and staff.

### Outreach work at Cranbury- overview from **Sept – October**

Schools in Schools forum = 27

Schools accessed – specialist	19
Number of students seen- specialist support	79
Hours used by schools – Specialist support	87.5 hours
Schools accessed – HLTA Support	2
Hours used by schools – HLTA Support	374 hours

#### **Current staffing**

Staff HLTA	£97,377
Staff specialist	£85,291
Total	£182,668

#### **Suggested new model:**

Staff HLTA x 3	£97,377
Staff specialist x 2	£75,251
New staff member HLTA x 1	£31,494
New SEN Outreach worker x 2	£62,988
Total	<b>£286,150</b>

#### **Rationale:**

- Primary schools are desperate for more support – we can grow our outreach team to support this, however we will need additional funding to do so.
- Primary schools like and value the HLTA support, so increasing 1 staff member in this area will help.
- Adding 2 SEN Support Workers will support in the crisis area of SEN. Many of the students who are at risk of PEX in primary schools have EHCP's. Most of whom require specialist placements which we ultimately do not have. I would be happy to work with the LA in developing what this role may look like.

Ceri Burns  
HT (Cranbury College)  
December 2022

## Appendix 2 – School Improvement Service 2023/24 -

### Funding for School Improvement Projects

	Notes from 2021-22	Notes 2022-23	De-delegation £ Maintained Schools	Central Budget All Schools
<b>IEB's</b>  <b>Support for governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported governing bodies - Governance reviews</li> <li>NLG intervention and support to strengthen governance</li> <li>Provided support for Headteachers regarding governance</li> <li>Contributed senior team time to evening Governor services sessions</li> <li>Provided workshops and or bespoke training for Governors in Schools across all phases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance reviews for schools causing concern</li> <li>NLG intervention and support</li> <li>Contingency for IEB if a school falls into special measures or has other significant weaknesses</li> </ul>	£10,000	
<b>Therapeutic thinking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for schools and on demand</li> <li>Funded the Y6 transition project for schools to support vulnerable pupils for third year</li> <li>Funded therapeutic refresher courses, drop ins and network meetings for schools requiring advice</li> <li>Funded purchase of licenced video training</li> <li>On-going programme of clinics, drop ins, training and network meetings supported by senior standards officer, Senior EP and Senior PMHW</li> <li>Ongoing bespoke support, training and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Therapeutic Thinking Approach</li> <li>Keeping up to date with new initiatives and research</li> <li>Training for leaders and school staff</li> <li>Support for outreach work for therapeutic thinking</li> <li>Transition project with Cranbury College</li> </ul>		£15,000

	<p>advice provided for schools across all phases on demand and at no further cost to schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30+ school consultations</li> </ul>			
<b>Establish SEN resource provisions</b>	<p>Ongoing focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource bases</li> <li>• Satellite classes</li> <li>• Lead practitioner training from AET</li> <li>• Annual subscription</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual AET Hub Subscription to the Lead Practitioner training</li> <li>• Support for new resource bases</li> <li>• Other training needed by schools</li> </ul>		£15,000
<b>Curriculum – instructional coaching project with Tom Sherrington</b>	<p>Instructional coaching project with Tom Sherrington started in Sept 2022</p> <p>46 schools taking part</p> <p>Support included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for leaders</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Research focused work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with Tom Sherrington to develop instructional coaching in our schools. Aim to improve teaching and learning and implementation of the curriculum</li> <li>• Training for leaders and staff</li> <li>• Part funding</li> </ul>		£15,000
<b>Curriculum - reading</b>	<p>Support included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for leaders</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading curriculum support for teachers</li> <li>• Development of leadership in reading</li> </ul>		£6,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research focused work</li> <li>• Developing the curriculum for reading so it is well-sequenced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other training for leaders and staff</li> <li>• Consultancy support for curriculum development (targeted)</li> </ul>		
<b>Curriculum - writing</b>	New focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support subject leaders to develop the curriculum for writing</li> <li>• Training for teachers and leaders</li> <li>• Consultancy support for schools with low attainment</li> <li>• T&amp;L/curriculum reviews</li> </ul>		£10,000
<b>Leadership Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All maintained schools have received support for Ofsted and curriculum development including bespoke training for subject leaders as part of the enhanced offer of teaching and learning reviews</li> <li>• Safeguarding checks for schools expecting Ofsted</li> <li>• On demand support and whole school CPD (including recorded content)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle leadership programme</li> <li>• Developing School to School Support</li> <li>• Keeping up to date with new initiatives and research</li> <li>• Training for leaders and school staff</li> <li>• Ofsted preparation</li> <li>• Leadership and development of the curriculum</li> </ul>	£38,000	
<b>Curriculum-climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lead practitioner has developed curriculum resources for primary and secondary and shared with schools</li> <li>• Support for staff training</li> <li>• Network meetings with climate change ambassadors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-launch/embed the training programme</li> <li>• Funding for release time for lead practitioner</li> <li>• Funding for ongoing training and networks</li> </ul>	£5,000	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable energy resources have been purchased and a loan system set up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources to support curriculum implementation</li> </ul>		
<b>Curriculum – support schools to develop and Anti-Racist Curriculum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and support for the lead practitioners to develop expertise in this area</li> <li>Support from Amjad Ali (BAMEd)</li> <li>Central training led by lead practitioners – subsidised</li> <li>Developed strategy and resources to support schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsidised training</li> <li>Release time for lead practitioners</li> <li>Curriculum development – resources</li> <li>Development work from the strategy</li> <li>Recruitment strategy with HR</li> </ul>	£15,000	
<b>Active participation programme</b>	<p>New initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead practitioner appointed</li> <li>Resources shared with schools</li> <li>Links with Get Berkshire Active developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get Berkshire Active – sports premium reviews</li> <li>Resources to support schools</li> <li>Target 12 schools</li> </ul>	£5,000	
<b>Schools in Special Measures (some commissioned role)</b>	<p>Contingency in place for 1 school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to support leadership capacity as identified</li> <li>Funding to meet interventions to support rapid improvement</li> </ul>	£40,000	
<b>Schools in Category 3 (RI schools)</b>	<p>Work to support schools included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional SSO visits to develop leaders</li> <li>Subject leader support/development</li> <li>Curriculum development training</li> <li>T&amp;L reviews</li> <li>Training for governors</li> <li>Specialist advisor support for weak teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional support to move schools to GOOD</li> <li>Training for leaders and staff – to support rapid improvement</li> <li>Advisor support for struggling teachers</li> <li>Commissioning support for curriculum development (SLE support)</li> </ul>	£20,000	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 RI school moved to good</li> </ul>			
<b>Schools at Risk -Rapid Improvement groups</b>	Additional support given to 5 schools at risk of dropping an Ofsted grade (as above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional support provided through advisors and SSOs</li> <li>Targeting 4 schools</li> </ul>	£50,000	
<b>Safeguarding checks</b>	<p>Ongoing focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding checks carried out in 20 schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that robust safeguarding processes are in place</li> <li>Preparation for Ofsted discussions on safeguarding</li> </ul>		£10,000
<b>EYFS support</b>	<p>New initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for EYFS leaders on the new framework</li> <li>Commissioned support from Early Excellence to support schools with weaker EYFS provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission support – curriculum development</li> <li>Training –EYFS framework/use of development matters, adult interventions</li> <li>Improvement work</li> </ul>	£5,000	
<b>Support for New Heads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentor support for new headteachers (in first or second year of headship)</li> <li>Part funding of induction training and programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HT induction programme</li> <li>Headteacher mentors</li> </ul>		£5,000

<b>Secure portal to access data and reports</b>	All Schools – subscription for Perspective Lite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of Perspective, Broadcast and Pendulum to allow all schools to access data and reports (including Notes of Visits and Dashboards) from a one sign in facility</li> </ul>		£12,000
	SUB TOTAL		£188,000	£88,000
	TOTAL		£276,000	

Due to academy conversions, future Ofsted inspections and turnover of Head Teachers, schools will be added or removed and may create different spending patterns.



## Appendix 3 – Proposed De-delegations per School 2023/24 (based off October 21 details)

	NOR	FSM	Union Duties	School Improvement	Behaviour Support	Sub-Total	Stat/Reg/Duty	Total
<b>Budget Required</b>			<b>47,000</b>	<b>188,000</b>	<b>286,150</b>	<b>521,150</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>605,150</b>
<b>Method</b>			<b>Per Pupil</b>	<b>Per Pupil</b>	<b>FSM</b>		<b>Per Pupil</b>	
<b>Unit Rate - Rounded</b>			<b>£5.03</b>	<b>£18.40</b>	<b>£143.00</b>		<b>£8.22</b>	
Alfred Sutton Primary School	627	122	£3,153.81	£11,536.80	£17,446.00	£32,136.61	£5,153.94	£37,290.55
Caversham Primary School	415	16	£2,087.45	£7,636.00	£2,288.00	£12,011.45	£3,411.30	£15,422.75
Coley Primary School	196	49	£985.88	£3,606.40	£7,007.00	£11,599.28	£1,611.12	£13,210.40
E P Collier Primary School	305	67	£1,534.15	£5,612.00	£9,581.00	£16,727.15	£2,507.10	£19,234.25
Geoffrey Field Junior School	356	114	£1,790.68	£6,550.40	£16,302.00	£24,643.08	£2,926.32	£27,569.40
Geoffrey Field Infant School	267	86	£1,343.01	£4,912.80	£12,298.00	£18,553.81	£2,194.74	£20,748.55
Oxford Road Community School	211	53	£1,061.33	£3,882.40	£7,579.00	£12,522.73	£1,734.42	£14,257.15
Redlands Primary School	207	35	£1,041.21	£3,808.80	£5,005.00	£9,855.01	£1,701.54	£11,556.55
The Hill Primary School	396	19	£1,991.88	£7,286.40	£2,717.00	£11,995.28	£3,255.12	£15,250.40
The Ridgeway Primary School	419	133	£2,107.57	£7,709.60	£19,019.00	£28,836.17	£3,444.18	£32,280.35
Park Lane Primary School	404	86	£2,032.12	£7,433.60	£12,298.00	£21,763.72	£3,320.88	£25,084.60
Wilson Primary School	412	76	£2,072.36	£7,580.80	£10,868.00	£20,521.16	£3,386.64	£23,907.80
Emmer Green Primary School	411	11	£2,067.33	£7,562.40	£1,573.00	£11,202.73	£3,378.42	£14,581.15
Southcote Primary School	600	78	£3,018.00	£11,040.00	£11,154.00	£25,212.00	£4,932.00	£30,144.00
St Michael's Primary School	397	123	£1,996.91	£7,304.80	£17,589.00	£26,890.71	£3,263.34	£30,154.05
Moorlands Primary School	335	158	£1,685.05	£6,164.00	£22,594.00	£30,443.05	£2,753.70	£33,196.75
Thameside Primary School	390	88	£1,961.70	£7,176.00	£12,584.00	£21,721.70	£3,205.80	£24,927.50
Katesgrove Primary School	605	85	£3,043.15	£11,132.00	£12,155.00	£26,330.15	£4,973.10	£31,303.25
Caversham Park Primary School	148	16	£744.44	£2,723.20	£2,288.00	£5,755.64	£1,216.56	£6,972.20
Micklands Primary School	376	68	£1,891.28	£6,918.40	£9,724.00	£18,533.68	£3,090.72	£21,624.40
Manor Primary School	252	104	£1,267.56	£4,636.80	£14,872.00	£20,776.36	£2,071.44	£22,847.80
All Saints Church of England Aided Infant School	60	3	£301.80	£1,104.00	£429.00	£1,834.80	£493.20	£2,328.00
St Anne's Catholic Primary School	181	37	£910.43	£3,330.40	£5,291.00	£9,531.83	£1,487.82	£11,019.65
English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School	402	71	£2,022.06	£7,396.80	£10,153.00	£19,571.86	£3,304.44	£22,876.30
Christ The King Catholic Primary School	297	85	£1,493.91	£5,464.80	£12,155.00	£19,113.71	£2,441.34	£21,555.05
St Martin's Catholic Primary School	154	11	£774.62	£2,833.60	£1,573.00	£5,181.22	£1,265.88	£6,447.10
Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School	529	207	£2,660.87	£9,733.60	£29,601.00	£41,995.47	£4,348.38	£46,343.85
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	868	121		£15,971.20		£15,971.20	£7,134.96	£23,106.16
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>9352</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>£47,040.56</b>	<b>£172,076.80</b>	<b>£286,143.00</b>	<b>£505,260.36</b>	<b>£76,873.44</b>	<b>£582,133.80</b>
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£15,971.20</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£15,971.20</b>	<b>£7,134.96</b>	<b>£23,106.16</b>
<b>Total All</b>	<b>10220</b>	<b>2122</b>	<b>£47,040.56</b>	<b>£188,048.00</b>	<b>£286,143.00</b>	<b>£521,231.56</b>	<b>£84,008.40</b>	<b>£605,239.96</b>



# Reading Schools' Forum

December 8<sup>th</sup> 2022

Agenda Item 7

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)  
Budget Monitoring 2022/23

For decision

For discussion

For information

## SUMMARY

This report sets out the current position (month 8) of the DSG budget for 2022/23 and outlines the variances.

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## VERSION

Version 1

**DATE: December 8 2022**

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## Recommendations

- NOTE: The current overall DSG allocation and budget position for 2022/23.
- NOTE: The current position within each funding block and impact on the deficit recovery plan.

## Background

1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced specific grant and can only be used in support of the schools' budget and spent on school/pupil activity as defined by the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations (2020).
2. The DSG is split between four different funding blocks - schools, central school services, early years, and high needs. Each Council's allocation is largely based upon actual pupil numbers from the October pupil count proceeding the actual financial year. Although separate allocations are received for each block, transfers are allowed between blocks but subject to certain restrictions.
3. Overspends on the DSG are carried forward and are a first call on the following year's allocation of DSG. Underspends on the DSG are carried forward to support the future year's school's budget.
4. The Authority must ensure that DSG is correctly spent and has to report the outturn position to inform the impact upon the following year's budget position. The budget monitoring of the Authority distinguishes between how services are funded, namely by DSG or by the Local Authority.
5. The LA receives its DSG allocation gross (including allocations relating to academies and post 16 provision), and then the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) recoups the actual budget for these settings to pay them direct, leaving a net or LA allocation.

## DSG Budget 2022/23 Month 8 Overall Position

6. Appendix 2 contains the 2022/23 budget and current (month 8) forecasts. This is split between the four funding blocks, broken down by the main reporting lines for the DSG. Appendix 3 contains brief notes on what is included in each line of the budget report.
7. Table 2 summarises the current budget and forecast per block. Note that the DSG allocation includes the deficit as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 as this deficit includes ringfenced surpluses brought forward from 2021/22 and being utilised in 2022/23 and 2023/24 (for growth fund and early years).
8. Deficit Recovery Plan can be found in appendix 1. This is a draft plan to show the possible outcome in the next 5 years if Reading do not implement new strategies and this will inform the Delivering Better Value (DfE) on the current situation facing Reading SEN Placements.

**Table 2: Summary Budget and Forecast 2022/23**

	CURRENT BUDGET (£m)	2021-2022 C/Fwd (£m)	TOTAL SPENDING POWER (£m)	FORECAST as at MONTH 8 (£m)	IN YEAR VARIANCE as at MONTH 8 (£m)	TOTAL VARIANCE as at MONTH 8 (£m)
	A	B	A+B=C	D	D-A	D-C
Schools Block	50.037	1.069	51.106	49.587	(0.450)	(1.520)
Central Schools Block	1.134	0.006	1.140	1.140	0.006	0
Early Years Block	12.272	0.172	12.444	12.444	0.172	0
High Needs Block	23.429	(3.412)	20.017	25.046	1.617	5.029
<b>Total – Net Expenditure</b>	<b>86.872</b>	<b>(2.165)</b>	<b>84.707</b>	<b>88.217</b>	<b>1.345</b>	<b>3.509</b>
DSG Allocation	(86.872)	2.165	(84.707)	(86.872)	0	
<b>Balance Over/(Under) Allocated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.345</b>	<b>1.345</b>	

9. The deficit forecast for the end of the financial year has Increased in year by £1.345m to £3.509m
10. The main concern is over the High Needs Block where the starting deficit totalled **£3.412m** and this has arisen to **£5.029m**.
11. The variances relating to the High Needs Block are summarised as follows:

High Needs Deficit as at the 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	£3,412,000
Updated Import and export – July 2022	£282,000
Top Up funding - overspend	£793,500
Placement – Base funding	£10,000
Central Budgets (Inclusion Activities)	£31,500
<b>Contingency – Unknown top-ups/change of placements</b>	<b>£500,000</b>
<b>Forecasted High Needs Deficit as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>£5,029,000</b>

## Variations, Current Risks & Emerging Issues

12. **Schools Block** - The Growth Fund budget will underspend (partly planned), with the surplus funding currently estimated at £1.520m required to be carried forward towards paying for New secondary school and possible bulge classes in 2023/24 and beyond. The current budget allowed for bulge classes in 2022/23 has not been required this year.
13. **Central Schools Services Block** - Most of the central school services budgets are agreed contributions towards the full cost of a service and the majority will not usually have a variance.
14. **Early Years Block** - The majority of Early Years Funding (95%) is relating to the free early year's entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The budget is based on the hours funded in the previous financial year at the set hourly rates. The DSG funding which we would normally expect to receive would be based on an average of the January 2022 and 2023 census

numbers, so in theory, as expenditure is based on the actual uptake of entitlement for each term, any increase or decrease in numbers during the year should be funded if the January census represents the average for the year. Funding is increased or clawed back (by the ESFA) in the following year if there has been an under or over allocation.

15. High Needs Block - Approximately 86% (83% in 21-22) of the high needs block budget is payments for statutory top up fees for pupils/students with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). ***This is the area of highest risk due to the unpredictability of the number and level (cost) of plans.*** It is the continued growth in both the number and cost of these plans that has led to the DSG deficit. Recent investment in Non-maintained Special School places to accommodate high need pupils has occurred this term and has increased the pressure on the High Needs Block.
16. This does not yet consider the increases in top up fees to be paid to Reading schools within 2022-23 financial year. Due to external contributing factors (inflation, funding, and possible government decisions in November) the decision on rate increase has been delayed until April 2023 that will be introduced alongside a new banding system.

## Draft Deficit Recovery Plan for 2022/23

17. The DSG deficit is now totally separate from local authority funding and reserves. This means that the deficit must not be funded by the local authority's general reserves and that DSG deficits will over time be recovered from DSG allocations. The carry forward of a deficit no longer requires the consent of Schools' Forum.
18. The local authority must however be able to present a plan to the DfE for managing their future DSG spend. The plan should be shown to the local Schools' Forum and should be kept regularly updated throughout the year to reflect the most recent forecast position and be viewed as an on-going live document.
19. The DfE has introduced a new programme, called Delivering Better Value in SEND, to provide dedicated support and funding to help local authorities reform their high needs systems. Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Borough Council have been invited to participate in this programme, with a planned commencement date of January 2023.
20. The current (November 2022) budget monitoring forecast shows the deficit will increase by £1.617m by the end of 2022/23 with £5.029m to be carried forward at the end of the current financial year.
21. The assumptions made in estimating the budgets for next year and the following three years are as follows:
  - The annual increase in the HNB DSG allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25 is at 5%.
  - £484k transfer from the schools' block to the high needs block for inclusion funding continues until the deficit is repaid.
  - All other funding blocks balance in year or carry forward their balances; under spends in other blocks will not offset the high needs deficit.
  - All centrally retained costs in the high needs block remain static beyond 2022/23.

- The number of places to be funded for new resources and the new special school are factored in.
- Average costs of top ups inflated annually by 5% in 23-24 and then 2% thereafter.
- The number of top ups overall continue to increase year on year at current trend/known changes in each type of provision and at the average cost for each type of provision.

22. The draft deficit recovery plan is only draft, but it shows the huge task ahead of us and nationally. Further updates on SEN strategy and Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme will be reports in the new year.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Deficit Recovery Plan (Draft) as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Appendix 2 – Summary DSG Budget and Forecast 2022/23 as at 30 November 2022

Appendix 3 – Additional Information per Service for Appendix 2 table

# Appendix 1 : DSG Deficit Recovery Plan Summary 22/23 with Mitigation and Growth items

Financial Year	Actuals			Forecast				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>DSG Income</b>	<b>(£76,990,760)</b>	<b>(£79,001,846)</b>	<b>(£82,366,413)</b>	<b>(£86,873,817)</b>	<b>(£89,465,054)</b>	<b>(£92,313,959)</b>	<b>(£95,266,799)</b>	<b>(£98,328,000)</b>
Schools Block	(£44,496,700)	(£45,923,814)	(£48,778,358)	(£50,037,849)	(£50,554,606)	(£51,565,698)	(£52,597,012)	(£53,648,952)
Central Block	(£1,330,000)	(£1,257,110)	(£1,167,002)	(£1,134,503)	(£1,110,950)	(£1,133,169)	(£1,155,832)	(£1,178,949)
Early Years Block	(£12,842,060)	(£12,905,309)	(£11,957,999)	(£12,272,538)	(£12,517,989)	(£12,768,349)	(£13,023,716)	(£13,284,190)
High Needs Block (excluding Schools Block Transfer)	(£18,322,000)	(£18,915,613)	(£20,463,054)	(£23,428,927)	(£25,281,509)	(£26,846,743)	(£28,490,239)	(£30,215,909)
<b>DSG Expenditure</b>	<b>£76,513,978</b>	<b>£78,589,291</b>	<b>£83,175,124</b>	<b>£88,218,337</b>	<b>£92,408,399</b>	<b>£94,257,649</b>	<b>£97,603,144</b>	<b>£101,046,636</b>
Schools Block	£44,593,880	£45,302,134	£47,846,913	£49,587,439	£52,074,719	£51,565,698	£52,597,012	£53,648,952
Central Block	£1,290,736	£1,257,064	£1,160,467	£1,140,503	£1,110,950	£1,133,169	£1,155,832	£1,178,949
Early Years Block	£12,462,006	£12,750,981	£11,940,330	£12,444,538	£12,517,989	£12,768,349	£13,023,716	£13,284,190
High Needs Block (excluding Schools Block Transfer)	£18,167,356	£19,279,112	£22,227,414	£25,045,857	£26,704,741	£28,790,434	£30,826,584	£32,934,545
<b>Annual Unmitigated Forecast Under/ (Over) Spend</b>	<b>£476,782</b>	<b>£412,555</b>	<b>(£808,711)</b>	<b>(£1,344,520)</b>	<b>(£2,943,345)</b>	<b>(£1,943,691)</b>	<b>(£2,336,346)</b>	<b>(£2,718,636)</b>
<b>Brought forward deficit</b>	<b>(£2,245,003)</b>	<b>(£1,768,221)</b>	<b>(£1,355,669)</b>	<b>(£2,164,380)</b>	<b>(£3,508,901)</b>	<b>(£6,452,246)</b>	<b>(£8,395,936)</b>	<b>(£10,732,282)</b>
<b>Cumulative (Deficit)/ Surplus (unmitigated)</b>	<b>(£1,768,221)</b>	<b>(£1,355,666)</b>	<b>(£2,164,380)</b>	<b>(£3,508,901)</b>	<b>(£6,452,246)</b>	<b>(£8,395,936)</b>	<b>(£10,732,282)</b>	<b>(£13,450,918)</b>
<b>High Needs Deficit Element</b>	<b>(£2,090,361)</b>	<b>(£2,131,721)</b>	<b>(£3,412,080)</b>	<b>(£5,029,010)</b>	<b>(£6,452,243)</b>	<b>(£8,395,933)</b>	<b>(£10,732,279)</b>	<b>(£13,450,915)</b>

## Improving Sufficiency of Places

Increasing Avenue placements (Hubs)				£300,000	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000
Odyssey INMSS				£187,500	£625,000	£625,000	£625,000
Progress INMSS				£104,000	£416,000	£416,000	£416,000
Ranikhet Academy Specialist Provison				TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Free School Special Bid				TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Additionally Resourced Provision Units in Primary Alternative Provision Expanding Local specialist provision		£100,000 TBC TBC	£200,000 TBC TBC	£300,000 TBC TBC	£400,000 TBC TBC
<b>Total Sufficiency of Place Items</b>	<b>£291,500</b>	<b>£1,441,000</b>	<b>£1,541,000</b>	<b>£1,641,000</b>	<b>£1,741,000</b>
<b>Mitigating Items</b>					
<b>Managing Demand</b>					
<b>Review and ceasing of EHC Plans</b> <i>Following annual reviews considering if children have met their outcomes and if an EHCP is needed going forwards</i>		(£270,000)	(£540,000)	(£810,000)	(£810,000)
<b>Improving Quality of local state maintained provision</b> Young People being placed in appropriate placements once available		(£200,000)	(£400,000)	(£600,000)	(£800,000)
<b>Identification of additional needs in early years leading to reduced requirement for EHCPs</b>		(£50,000)	(£150,000)	(£250,000)	(£500,000)
<b>Development of specialist staffing support for mainstream schools</b>		(£100,000)	(£200,000)	(£500,000)	(£500,000)
<b>Financial Management</b>					
<b>Reviewing RBC Banding costs and criteria</b>		£0	(£100,000)	(£200,000)	(£300,000)
<b>Reviewing High Needs Non- placement/Top-up budgets</b>		(£100,000)	(£100,000)	(£100,000)	(£100,000)
<b>Commissioning Function (not including Cost Avoidance)</b>		(£250,000)	(£350,000)	(£450,000)	(£550,000)
<b>Health Funding (E.g. CHC)</b>		(£250,000)	(£500,000)	(£750,000)	(£1,000,000)
<b>Support services roles and contribution</b>		tbk	tbk	tbk	tbk
<b>Total Mitigating Items</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£1,220,000)</b>	<b>(£2,340,000)</b>	<b>(£3,660,000)</b>	<b>(£4,560,000)</b>
<b>In-year forecast (Deficit)/Surplus for High Needs Block</b>	<b>(£5,320,510)</b>	<b>(£6,673,243)</b>	<b>(£7,596,933)</b>	<b>(£8,713,279)</b>	<b>(£10,631,915)</b>



## Appendix 2 – Summary DSG Budget and Forecast 2022/23

Line Ref.	Description	Current Budget (£m)	2021-2022 C/Fwd (£m)	Total Spending Power (£m)	Forecast (£m)	In Year Variance (£m)	Total Variance (£m)
<b>Schools Block</b>							
1	Individual Schools Budget - Maintained	47.376	0.000	47.376	47.376	0.000	0.000
2	Growth Fund	0.845	1.069	1.914	0.285	-0.560	-1.629
	Business Rates	0.900	0.000	0.900	1.010	0.110	0.110
3	Behaviour Support Services	0.182	0.000	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000
4	Staff costs supply cover	0.043	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000
5	School Improvement	0.128	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000
6	Statutory/regulatory Duties (ESG)	0.080	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000
7	Inclusion Fund	0.484	0.000	0.484	0.484	0.000	0.000
<b>7</b>	<b>Total Schools Block Net Expenditure</b>	<b>50.038</b>	<b>1.069</b>	<b>51.107</b>	<b>49.587</b>	<b>-0.450</b>	<b>-1.519</b>
8	Schools Block DSG Allocation	50.038	1.069	51.107			
<b>9</b>	<b>Balance Over / (Under) Allocated</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>							
10	Contribution to combined budgets	0.316	0.000	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000
11	School admissions	0.229	0.000	0.229	0.229	0.000	0.000
12	Servicing of schools forum	0.020	0.000	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.000
13	Prudential borrowing costs	0.032	0.000	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000
14	Other Items (copyright licences)	0.120	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000
15	Statutory/regulatory Duties (ESG)	0.417	0.006	0.423	0.423	0.006	0.000
<b>16</b>	<b>Total Central School Services Block Net Expenditure</b>	<b>1.134</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>1.140</b>	<b>1.140</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.000</b>
17	Central School Services Block DSG Allocation	1.134	0.006	1.140			
<b>18</b>	<b>Balance Over / (Under) Allocated</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>Early Years Block</b>							
19	Early Years Funding (free entitlement)	11.554	0.172	11.726	11.726	0.172	0.000
20	Support for inclusion	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000
21	SEN support services (Portage/Dingley)	0.251	0.000	0.251	0.251	0.000	0.000
22	Central expenditure on early years	0.418	0.000	0.418	0.418	0.000	0.000
<b>23</b>	<b>Total Early Years Block Net Expenditure</b>	<b>12.273</b>	<b>0.172</b>	<b>12.445</b>	<b>12.445</b>	<b>0.172</b>	<b>0.000</b>
24	Early Years Block DSG Allocation	12.273	0.172	12.445			
<b>25</b>	<b>Balance Over / (Under) Allocated</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>High Needs Block</b>							
26	SEN placements - Maintained Schools	1.564	0.000	1.564	1.574	0.010	0.010
27	Top up funding - Special Schools	9.730	0.000	9.730	9.695	-0.035	-0.035
28	Top up funding - Resource Units	0.842	0.000	0.842	0.807	-0.035	-0.035
29	Top up funding - Mainstream	3.194	0.000	3.194	3.154	-0.040	-0.040
30	Top up funding - Nursery	0.111	0.000	0.111	0.043	-0.067	-0.067
31	Top up funding - FE Colleges	1.217	0.000	1.217	1.338	0.120	0.120
32	Top up funding - Alternative Provision	1.291	0.000	1.291	1.390	0.099	0.099
33	Top up and other funding - non maintained & independent schools	3.412	0.000	3.412	4.164	0.752	0.752
34	Top up Contingency (new placements)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500
35	SEN support services	0.726	0.000	0.726	0.726	0.000	0.000
36	Hospital education services	0.203	0.000	0.203	0.170	-0.033	-0.033
37	Support for Inclusion	0.523	0.000	0.523	0.555	0.032	0.032
38	Therapies and other health related services	0.520	0.000	0.520	0.520	0.000	0.000
39	SEN Transport	0.100	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000
40	Teachers pay & pension grants	0.311	0.000	0.311	0.311	0.000	0.000
41	DSG deficit from previous year	-0.315	-3.412	-3.727	0.000	0.315	3.727
<b>42</b>	<b>Total High Needs Block Net Expenditure</b>	<b>23.429</b>	<b>-3.412</b>	<b>20.017</b>	<b>25.046</b>	<b>1.617</b>	<b>5.029</b>
43	High Needs Block DSG Allocation	23.429	-3.412	20.017			
<b>44</b>	<b>Balance Over / (Under) Allocated</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>45</b>	<b>Total All Blocks Net Expenditure</b>	<b>86.874</b>	<b>-2.165</b>	<b>84.709</b>	<b>88.218</b>	<b>1.345</b>	<b>3.510</b>

## Appendix 3 – Additional Information for Appendix 2 Table

### **SCHOOLS BLOCK**

Line 1 - Individual School Budget – Schools formula budget for maintained Primary's and Secondary's.

Line 2 - Growth fund - The growth fund budget is for new/growing schools or bulge classes in response to basic need and is allocated to schools from the autumn term based on the criteria set by Schools' Forum. This also includes the newly agreed Falling Roles fund.

*DE-DELEGATIONS – Maintained Primary or/and Secondary Schools Only:*

Line 3 - Behaviour Support Services – Passported to Cranbury College to supply this service.

Line 4 - Staff Costs to Supply Union Cover – Pays for Union support and supply cover for staff engaging in union duties.

Line 5 - School Improvement – To fund staff and Projects within the service.

Line 6 – Statutory/regulatory duties - formally known as the Education Services Grant, for statutory duties carried out by the LA on behalf of all maintained schools such as internal audit, year-end accounts, central reporting, monitoring compliance with scheme for financing schools.

### **CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK**

Line 10 - Combined Budgets - covers contribution towards Commissioning, school improvement advisors, MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Early Help – children action teams that covers family workers, Welfare, CAMHs and Education Psychology.

Line 11 - School Admissions – contribution towards the statutory admissions service for all Reading Schools.

Line 12 - Servicing of Schools Forum – contribution towards officer time for preparation of reports and attendance at meetings; cost of room hire; arranging meetings, minute taking, web site.

Line 13 - Prudential Borrowing costs – Borrowing costs for schools capital programme has historically been and will be funded by borrowing over many years. This is a small contribution to the overall borrowing costs.

Line 14 – Other Items – Copyright licences – national contract, purchased on behalf of all schools.

Line 15 – Statutory/regulatory duties - formally known as the Education Services Grant, for duties carried out by the LA for all schools, including academies. Includes DSG budgets, school funding formula, payments to schools, statutory returns, education welfare.

### **EARLY YEARS BLOCK**

Line 19 - Early Years formula funding – 2, 3 & 4 year old free entitlement funding including deprivation and early Years pupil premium and other early years grants relating to maintained nurseries and disability.

Line 20 - Support for Inclusion – Early Years Cluster funding and central staffing in Education department. Supports inclusion of children in early year's settings, supporting inclusive practices and resources that enable young children with SEND to have their needs met in these settings. There is also a contribution from the high needs block (in line 37).

Line 21 - SEN Support Services – portage and contribution to Dingley.

Line 22 - Central Expenditure on Children under 5 – Early Years Team Staff including compliance, data, sufficiency and performance.

### **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

Line 26 - SEN Placements – Place funding for pre 16 maintained Resource units (first £6k), maintained special Schools (first £10k), and Cranbury College up to the date they became an academy.

Line 27 to 30 - Top-up funding for schools - EHCP top-ups for nursery, primary, secondary, special and alternative provisions within any LA that has a Reading financial responsibility for the EHCP. This also includes Pupils without EHCPs in Pupil referral units

Line 31 - Top-up funding for FE Colleges - EHCP top-ups for students in further education colleges.

Line 32 - 33 - Top-up funding and other funding – non maintained and Independents - EHCP Top-ups for Independent and non-maintained special schools, and placements in other alternative private provision for pupils with or without a EHCP.

Line 34 – Top up - Contingency – When the growth within the budget for top-ups have been met before the end of the year, then adding in contingency for new EHCPs and placements will sit here and reviewed monthly.

Line 35 - SEN Support Services – This includes Sensory Consortium (joint arrangement with other Berkshire LAs), virtual school, and ASD Outreach commissioned to Christ the King School.

Line 36 - Hospital Education Services – This includes Hospital Education unit at Royal Berkshire Hospital and Education for Pupils in Tier 4 CAMHS specialist independent mental health hospital provision which is commissioned by NHS England

Line 37 - Support for Inclusion – Funding for hard to place pupils (through Inclusion panel & Therapeutic Thinking approach), and central staffing (2 posts) in Education department, one for statutory functions including monitoring exclusions and one for ASD advisory support. The final year's payment to Manor School for the inclusion project, a contribution to the early years inclusion panel, plus early years place funding at Snowflakes.

Line 38 - Therapies and other Health Related services – Contribution towards Speech and Language, Occupational and Physio therapy. Jointly funded with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Line 39 - SEN Transport – Contributions to SEN School Travel

Line 40 – Teachers Pay and Pension grants to special schools/PRU

Line 41 - deficit – All of the 2021/22 deficit related to the high needs block