

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Stuart Matthews (Academy School Representative) (Chair)
Elizabeth Savage, Academy School Representative (Vice-Chair)
Jenny Baker, Special School Representative
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Stuart Bevan, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Caroline Johnson, Primary School Representative
Juanita Dunlop, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Trudi Sammons, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Tim Griffith, Academy School Representative
Debbie Smith, Academy School Representative
Grant Strudley, Academy School Representative
Gareth Croxon, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Katie Moore, Academy School Representative
Paul Tatum, Trades Union Representative



Also Invited:

Councillor Roy Bailey, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Thursday 16 November 2023, 4.30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Agenda

All councillors at this meeting have adopted the Mayor's Charter which fosters constructive and respectful debate.

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members. Reporting: Jamie Beardsmore	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting. Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days. Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting.	

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	Reporting: ALL	
3.	Minutes and Matters Arising	3 - 8
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 14 September. Reporting: ALL	
4.	College Hall Update	9 - 12
	To provide an update to Schools Forum on developments at College Hall, following the last report submitted on the 22 June. Reporting: Chris Kiernan, Interim Assistant Director: Education & Learning	
5.	The Schools Budget 2023-24 Budget Monitoring	13 - 24
	The purpose of this annual report is for the Schools Forum to receive an update on the 2023-24 forecast budget monitoring position for the Schools Budget, to be aware of key issues and management actions being taken and progress to date on the Education Capital Programme. Reporting: Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner	
6.	Update on 2024-25 School Budgets including outcomes from the October 2023 Financial Consultation with Schools	25 - 38
	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Schools Forum on a revision to the funding rates to be used by the Department of Education (DfE) for funding mainstream schools in the 2024-25 Financial Settlement. It also provides an update on responses from schools to the annual financial consultation. Reporting: Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner	
7.	Safety Valve Update	39 - 48
	This report summarises work undertaken to date following the invitation from the Department for Education for Bracknell Forest Council to participate in its Safety Valve programme, which is focused on resolving the highest deficits in Dedicated School Grant budgets. Reporting: Grainne Siggins, Executive Director People	
8.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 4.30pm on Thursday	

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Jamie Beardsmore, 01344 352044, jamie.beardsmore@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, so that any special arrangements can be made.

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**SCHOOLS FORUM
14 SEPTEMBER 2023
4.30 - 5.53 PM**

Present:

Elizabeth Savage, Academy School Representative (Vice-Chair)
Stuart Bevan, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Juanita Dunlop, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Trudi Sammons, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Grant Strudley, Academy School Representative
Paul Tatum, Trades Union Representative
Gareth Croxon, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Katie Moore, Kings Academy Binfield and Oakwood
Caroline Johnson, Primary School representative

Observer:

Councillor Roy Bailey, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning (Observer)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jenny Baker, Special School Representative
Tim Griffith, Academy School Representative
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Stuart Matthews, Headteacher at Edgbarrow be appointed Chair of Schools Forum for the academic year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Liz Savage, Headteacher at Jennett's Park Primary School be appointed Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum for the academic year.

3. Declarations of Interest

Caroline Johnson, Headteacher at St Michael's Easthampstead Primary School declared an interest in the St Michael's Easthampstead deficit which may be discussed during the meeting.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, the following points were noted:

- The DBV programme was to be used across primary and secondary settings. An additional teacher would be recruited to support staff training from January 2024.

- The Year 6 transition project was aimed at supporting children with SEN to transfer to a bigger environment. A senior officer to support the project was being recruited in October 2023, and the programme should be functional by January 2024.
- The outreach hub project had been intended to be in a secondary school, however there had been difficulty progressing the programme in its current form. Officers were revisiting the project scope and focus to potentially include some issues around Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).
- The College Hall Management Committee had recruited a new interim Headteacher, and further details could be provided at a future meeting.
(Action: Zoe Livingstone)

5. **Update on the Early Years Entitlements**

Cherry Hall provided an update on Early Years entitlements.

Additional funding would uplift the hourly rate from September, and the local authority had received money in the Early Years supplementary grant which was separate to the Early Years DSG. An in principal paper was submitted to Schools Forum in June, prior to the final guidance being received, no changes were required following receipt of the guidance.

It was not clear what the position would be from next April, and the Council had submitted a response to the consultation on funding from April 2024 when the extension to entitlement was due to start. It was also not yet clear what the sufficiency would be like from April, and officers were meeting with providers to discuss capacity building and Forum members were invited to book on to the session through Can-Do.

Cherry clarified that unlike the DSG which allowed a 5% retention by LAs all of the Early Years supplementary grant was being passed on to providers.

6. **2024-25 initial Budget Preparations for the Schools Budget**

Paul Clark presented the 2024-25 initial Budget preparations for the Schools' Budget and highlighted the following areas.

There was an overall 2.7% increase in per pupil funding to fund new year cost increases, however it was not yet clear to judge whether this was a good settlement. Paul commented on the unusual composition of school funding for 2024-25, where in addition to the general 2.7% increase for new year cost pressures, schools would also see the £3m additional grant funding had been allocated in 2023-24 through the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant added to general school budgets, plus continuation of the new separate grant for the teachers' pay award.

While these three changes aggregated to a 7.8% total increase in school budgets compared to the original budget, it is important to remember that only 2.7% of this was intended to meet increased costs rather than funding catch up from the previous year.

In accordance with the normal publication timeline, the provisional 2024-25 budget was expected to be ready in January 2024 and finalised in March 2024. No significant changes were anticipated.

A key change to the DfE funding framework was the way in which additional funding for low prior attainment pupils was calculated, due to the 2020/21 cancelled exam result cohort. Going forwards, the exam results of 2019 would be used in lieu of 2020, and 2022 results would be used in lieu of 2021 when calculating low prior attainment pupils.

There was a new funding scheme from the Department for Education to schools which had seen significant fall in pupil numbers, which was a national issue also affecting Bracknell Forest schools. The Department for Education measured changes in pupil numbers between October censuses, and if there was more than a 10% reduction £140k would be awarded in grant funding for the affected area. While Bracknell Forest experienced a number of budget issues affecting smaller schools, the general reduction in pupil numbers is indicated at a maximum 6.6%, so the grant funding was unlikely to be received in Bracknell Forest.

There was a 3% increase in per pupil funding into the High Needs Block, which was lower than the increase of 9% in previous years. The Department for Education had previously signposted a decrease to 3%, and this was already reflected in the council's medium term financial plan for the HNB.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- A 3% increase to the High Needs budget was below inflation, and Forum members raised concerns that this demonstrated further financial hardship to come when supporting children with SEN, with or without EHCPs. In response, it was noted that the Bank of England forecast inflation to be low next year, and that 3% would cover costs. It would not be clear until the next financial year whether a 3% increase was sufficient, but the concern had been factored into the medium-term forecast. Grainne Siggins and Councillor Bailey agreed to feed back Forum members' concerns and to lobby the Government on the issue. **(Action: Cllr Bailey / Grainne Siggins)**
- There was no further detail available at this time on the likely impact on individual school budgets arising from the change methodology to fund schools for low prior attainment.

There being no further questions, it was **RESOLVED** that subject to consideration of school responses to the annual financial consultation and general affordability, the approach to setting the 2024-25 budget should remain broadly the same as for 2023-24, and in particular:

1. That there should be no change to the current budget strategy of:
 - a. as far as possible, replicating the NFF;
 - b. setting minimum per pupil funding increases between financial years at the highest amount permitted by the DfE;
 - c. meeting the diseconomy costs at new and expanding schools in a measured way from a combination of Schools Budget reserves and funding allocated for the relevant year from the DfE.
2. That a centrally managed Growth Fund should be maintained for in-year allocation to qualifying schools (Table 2).

3. That work should be undertaken to consider potential options available to support schools facing the greatest financial impact from falling rolls;
4. On-going central retention by the Council of the existing Central School Services Block items (Annex 1).
5. To prevent over funding, that the DfE be requested to approve that the council continues to disapply the requirement for minimum per pupil funding increases where schools are funded on the Start-up and Diseconomy funding policy for new and expanding schools.

7. **Safety Valve Briefing**

Grainne Siggins, Executive Director: People joined the meeting to give an update on the Safety Valve programme.

The Department for Education had invited Bracknell Forest to join the Safety Valve programme, and on 31 August 2023 the Local Authority had agreed. The Safety Valve programme supports LAs with the most challenging High Needs Block Budget difficulties. The first meeting with the Department for Education was scheduled for 2 October 2023, which would give more details on the plans. The Council had been asked to submit the latest financial forecasts in a DSG management plan in preparation for this meeting.

Following the SEND inspection in 2021, a Written Statement of Action had been co-produced in 2022 with 113 actions to undertake. The SEND strategy had been agreed by Executive in June 2023.

The Council had already been invited to join the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value programme. A number of local authorities were already in the Safety Valve programme, and Bracknell Forest and an additional 5 local authorities had now been invited to join the programme. The Council would work with the other additional local authorities to share learning. The programme would work with local authorities to further develop DSG management plan and to look at actions. Once the Safety Valve management plan had been created, formal sign off would be sought through the Council's democratic processes and Grainne stressed that the involvement of School's Forum would be vital to develop the detailed plan with the Department for Education.

Paul Clark presented the Bracknell Forest position with the DSG in total, including forecast deficits of nearly £43m without mitigation. The Safety Valve programme aimed to help the local authority to break even in line with DSG grant funding, and where an agreement is reached, additional DSG funding can be allocated by the DfE to aid financing the accumulated deficit.

Members were reminded of the change in position over time with regard to increase in High Needs Block, total expenditure of which had increased by 95% over the past 4 years. This increase was primarily linked to the increase in number of children needing support, but also by price changes.

To address the DSG deficit, local area funding could look to use Council reserves, set aside funding in future Council years' budgets, or a top-slice to school funding, These were the options available, with no decisions having been made on the approach to take. at.

Members were reminded of the key milestones which were the start-up meeting on 2 October 2023 following which Schools Forum would be engaged on the collective requirement, and if agreed, a formal agreement would be confirmed with the Department for Education in March 2024.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Schools Forum expressed concern that the deficit would be met by a transfer of money from schools, particularly in light of ongoing SEN needs supported by fewer Educational Health Care Plans.
- It was clarified that a decision had not yet been taken, and there would be further clarity following the start-up meeting with the DfE.
- The Department for Education had seen an opportunity for Bracknell Forest to achieve £1.3m savings through the Delivering Better Value programme, and the change of programme suggested that they felt a different approach was now needed.
- It was clarified that there was no further detail in terms of the funding arrangement of the Safety Valve programme at this time, and further detail would be shared with Schools Forum members when available.
- It was commented that while the top-slice would have a small benefit on the DSG deficit, the impact and additional pressure on school budgets would be significant.
- Members expressed concerns at the short timescales for gathering views of their groups and asked Grainne to make representation to the Department for Education for more time to gather views from school colleagues.
- Councillor Bailey commented that government funding was lacking, and the Council had been put in an impossible position. He agreed to lobby and work with the local MPs for additional school funding.
- Members requested graphs from Paul to illustrate the scenarios of 95% funding, and for if the 9% increase had been granted instead of 3%. **(Action: Paul Clark)**

Grainne Siggins agreed to engage with the Schools Forum Chair and Vice-Chair after the start-up meeting on 2 October 2023.

Members who were interested in joining the SEN Subgroup were to let Chair or Vice Chair know. **(Action: all school forum members)**

8. **2023-24 Arrangements for additional financial support to schools**

Paul Clark presented the 2023-24 arrangements for additional financial support to schools.

LAs could support schools in financial difficulties via licenced deficits, which had an agreed set of procedures on how to deal with requests from schools and help financial deficits to be managed in a measured approach. Only one new licenced deficit had been received this year, and four Bracknell Forest schools already had licensed deficits. The total aggregate deficit increase if agreed was £815k. Paul commented that the issues often related to the smallest schools experiencing a fall in numbers on roll, and a further plan to address this would be investigated.

Paul Clark and Chris Kiernan would provide more complete monitoring arrangements to support one two-form entry school whose deficit was widening. There was the expectation that the one-off sale of Council accommodation would help this deficit position by approximately £250k, but the underlying deficit would need to be addressed.

It was clarified that there were no redundancies planned as a result of the deficit plans.

RESOLVED that subject to the school governors confirming the relevant financing schedule and compliance with the associated terms and conditions of the deficit scheme the Schools Forum AGREES the following deficit limits for 2023-24:

- i. Ascot Heath Primary School £0.500m;
- ii. Cranbourne Primary School £0.080m;
- iii. The Pines Primary Schools £0.035m;
- iv. Winkfield St Mary's Primary School £0.160m;
- v. St Michael's Easthampstead Primary School £0.040m

9. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Forum members were reminded of the upcoming meeting dates on 16 November 2023, 7 December 2023, 11 January 24, and 7 March 24.

CHAIRMAN

To: **Schools Forum**
16 November 2023

College Hall Update **Executive Director: People**

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide an update to Schools Forum on developments at College Hall, following the last report submitted on the 22 June.

2 Supporting information

- 2.1 College Hall is a Pupil Referral Unit serving Bracknell Forest and the surrounding area. It is a local authority maintained provision providing 56 full time places for young people in key stages 3 and 4 who have experienced difficulty in maintaining a place in mainstream education. The school is based across two campuses with a range of provision to meet different needs, including:
- a) Permanently excluded from a mainstream school.
 - b) 'At risk' of permanent exclusion from a mainstream school and requiring a short-term intervention.
 - c) Medically unable to attend a mainstream school due to SEMH concerns.
- 2.2 Bracknell Forest has a Service Level Agreement in place with College Hall to provide these 56 places.

3 Ofsted inspection 11-12 July 2023

- 3.1 College Hall was subject to an Ofsted inspection on the 11th and 12th July. As forecast, the outcome of this graded inspection was that College Hall was judged to be inadequate in all areas and requiring special measures.
- 3.2 The Local Authority has produced, with the involvement of the school, a Post-Inspection Action Plan that includes actions, success criteria, timescales and targets with regard to:
- Ensuring that safeguarding is effective.
 - Ensuring that there is a clear plan for the school's vision and admission arrangements, and that leaders are effective in driving forward improvements.
 - Improving the assessment and teaching of reading, particularly for weaker readers.
 - Improving the curriculum so that it meets the needs of College Hall learners and prepares them well for the next stages in their lives.
 - Developing a cohesive enrichment programme to support College Hall pupils with their character development, life and employability skills.
 - Improving attendance, including supporting families to improve the amount of time pupils attend school.

4 Leadership arrangements

- 4.1 The Management Committee continues to demonstrate the capacity to deliver the necessary improvements at College Hall.
- 4.2 Since their appointment, the Management Committee has reconstituted, increasing to 14 members to allow representation from every secondary school in Bracknell Forest in the community governor category, and currently has 3 vacancies due to recent leavers. The Management Committee now consists of:

- a) One parent governor
 - b) Two LA governors
 - c) One staff governor
 - d) One headteacher
 - e) Nine community governors (7 from BFC secondary schools)
- 4.3 The current instrument of governance complies with The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) which came into force in 2013 and includes PRUs; The Pupil Referral Units (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 1 September 2012, The Pupil Referral Units (Miscellaneous Amendments) (N0.2) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 1 April 2013 and Alternative Provision statutory guidance for local authorities dated January 2013.
- 4.4 The Ofsted inspection report noted that the Management Committee has begun to make effective decisions for the school.
- 4.5 Following the unexpected resignation of the Interim Headteacher in July, the local authority worked in partnership with the Management Committee to recruit a new full time Interim Headteacher to begin during the summer holidays. The new Interim Headteacher has been appointed to work full time on site at College Hall. He is highly experienced with a proven track record of securing improvements in similar settings.

5 Improvements to date

- 5.1 As a result of the joint working between the local authority and College Hall, a number of improvements were secured prior to the Ofsted inspection taking place. These were in relation to a number of safeguarding processes, school finance and securing support for pupils from wider partner organisations and agencies. The inspection also noted some strengths that were relatively recent developments, including effective careers education and independent academic and careers guidance.
- 5.2 Since the inspection in July, the following changes have been implemented:
- The appointment of the new Interim Headteacher.
 - The appointment of an external consultant for 3 days per week to support with the development of teaching, the curriculum and assessment.
 - Clearly defined roles for all staff to improve accountability.
 - A revised admissions policy.
 - Changes to the timetable to maximise learning time and reduce movement around the school.
 - The introduction of a robust programme of baseline and diagnostic assessments to identify the interventions pupils need, particularly in reading.
 - Phonics training has been implemented for all staff, and age appropriate accessible reading material in place.
 - The implementation of a more practical curriculum. Initial improvements have been made to the school's offer to increase access to subjects such as PE, cooking and art.
 - The creation of a new multi-sensory space.
 - The opening of a new nurture provision at a satellite site.
 - Implementation of a new behaviour policy.
 - Reduction in suspensions.
 - Improved systems and processes for monitoring and recording attendance.

- Improved attendance, particularly for more vulnerable pupils.
- Significant improvements to the physical environment, including new equipment in the outdoor space, improved classroom technology, relaunch of the library, and improved whole school displays.
- The introduction of a school dress code/uniform in order to support pupils' reintegration back to mainstream school and create a sense of belonging at College Hall.
- The decision to appoint a site controller, and a part time chef to provide hot meals at lunchtime for pupils at College Hall. The recruitment process for both of these posts is underway.

6 Academy order

- 6.1 As a school causing concern, College Hall is subject to an academy order as set out in the DfE's statutory guidance. The local authority is supporting the Management Committee, liaising with the Department for Education's (DfE) regional director (RD) to secure a sponsor for College Hall.
- 6.2 The selection of an appropriate sponsor is delegated to the regional director by the secretary of state for education, although the order transferring College Hall into an academy trust is usually signed by a DfE minister. However, the RD's officials have been working closely with LA officers about trusts being considered, and the good relations the council has with her office means that there will be full and meaningful consultation before a decision is made.

7 Equalities impact assessment

- 7.1 The need for an EIA is not considered necessary from this update report.

8 Strategic risk management issues

- 8.1 There is a risk that the sponsor will:
- not prove able to improve College Hall;
 - dispute top-up (per pupil) funding through the new funding system;
 - not commission to standards required by the council; and / or
 - be resistant to any proposed changes desired by the council and / or local schools and academies.
- 8.2 While all these potential issues can be addressed, it is harder and slower to do so where a trust runs the alternative provision (currently College Hall PRU), as the trust is accountable to the secretary of state for education.

Background papers

None.

Contact for further information

Chris Kiernan, Interim Assistant Director: E and L 01344 351492

Zoe Livingstone, Head of Standards 01344 354192

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TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 16 November 2023

The Schools Budget: 2023-24 Budget Monitoring Executive Director: People / Resources

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this annual report is for the Schools Forum to receive an update on the 2023-24 forecast budget monitoring position for the Schools Budget, to be aware of key issues and management actions being taken and progress to date on the Education Capital Programme.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Monitoring information on the revenue budget available at the end of September forecasts a significant year end over spending on the Schools Budget of £8.654m which mainly arises from the previously highlighted increase in the number of children and young people needing support through the High Needs Block (HNB) budget and a reliance on high cost external placements. This compares to a £7.166m forecast deficit for the year when the budget was set.
- 2.2 Taking account of the pre-existing £15.477m deficit held in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Adjustment Account, a £24.131m cumulative deficit is currently being forecast for 31 March 2024.
- 2.3 This presents a significant financial risk to the council due to the expectation that the current 3-year period of change to DSG conditions that currently confirm that no liability for a deficit will fall onto an LAs General Fund will end at 31 March 2026. At this point, LAs will need to manage the cumulative debt from their own resources.
- 2.4 In terms of the HNB, the current forecast debt at the point liability for repayment passes back to LAs is £42.8m. This is in excess of the deficit on the DSG Adjustment Account as the latter also holds surpluses in Earmarked Reserves and net surplus balances previously generated in the School Budget and Early Years Blocks of the DSG.
- 2.5 The financial difficulties highlight the need for the council to engage in the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme to receive additional funding and set in place a sustainable HNB budget.

3 Recommendations

That the Schools Forum NOTES:

- 3.1 **the budget variances being forecast on the Schools Budget that total to an aggregate net forecast over spending before Emerging Issues of £8.117m (paragraph 6.14);**

- 3.2 that including Emerging Issues, the forecast over-spending increases to £8.654m (paragraph 6.14);
- 3.3 that the year-end balance held in the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account is forecast at a deficit of £24.131m deficit and that the cost to Bracknell Forest Council of servicing this level of “debt” in 2024/25 will be around £1.2m per year (paragraph 6.15);
- 3.4 the expectation that the liability to fund balances held in the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account will transfer to LAs from April 2026 (paragraphs 6.20 to 6.21)
- 3.5 progress to date on the Education Capital Programme, as summarised at Annex 2.

4 Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 It is appropriate for the Schools Forum to be aware of, and where relevant, comment on these financial matters.

5 Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 Where relevant, these are set out in the supporting information.

6 Supporting Information

2023-24 Monitoring of the Schools Budget (Revenue)

Setting the budget

- 6.1 The Council holds the statutory duty to set the annual Schools Budget and each February sets an initial total budget as part of the overall budget setting process. For 2023-24, the initial budget was set at £7.166m, the estimated level of in-year over spending on pupils with High Needs, with specific government grant funding and other income funding other spending.
- 6.2 The most significant income source to the Schools Budget is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)¹ which is paid by the Department for Education (DfE). The initial approved budget included £124.270m as the estimated amount of DSG. Other grant income for maintained schools of £6.094m was also expected from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for sixth forms, the Pupil Premium, Primary PE and Sports activities, the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative and the new Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. With £0.084m of other income also anticipated, there was originally expected to be £130.448m of income available to fund expenditure within the Schools Budget. Adding the £7.166m approved net budget results in a gross budget of £137.614m.

¹ The DSG is the ring-fenced grant allocated by the DfE through a formula to LAs to fund most of their expenditure on school and education related services.

- 6.3 Therefore, for 2023-24, the Council agreed a net budget of £7.166m which comprised the forecast over spending on the HNB element of the DSG and the net nil effect from external income.
- 6.4 Having set the initial budget, the Council then delegates to the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning the power to agree the allocation of budgets to individual lines of the Schools Budget, up to the level of funding.
- 6.5 Budget proposals for the 2023-24 Schools Budget were approved by the Schools Forum at its meetings in January and March, and these were subsequently agreed by the Executive Member.

Current approved budget

- 6.6 Subsequent to setting the original budget, the ESFA has confirmed the amount of DSG recoupment that needs to be deducted to directly fund academy schools, where funding continues to be based on the BF Funding Formula for Schools. This amounted to a -£46.901m deduction which has been balanced off by an equivalent decrease in budget for maintained mainstream schools.
- 6.7 Furthermore, the ESFA has also recalculated allocations through the HNB DSG. This reflects updated numbers of pupils in special schools and the adjustment made to LA HNB funding allocations to ensure the resident LA funds the cost of places taken up by their pupils in other LA specialist providers and also for deductions for ESFA directly funded providers. The deduction for BFC has increased by +£0.171m, which has been balanced off by an equivalent increase in budget for non-maintained special schools.
- 6.8 The Early Years DSG allocation has also been updated by the ESFA to reflect January 2023 actual levels of uptake of the free entitlement to early years. This results in additional income of -£0.147m, which has been balanced off by an equivalent increase in budget for payments to providers.
- 6.9 There have also been 2 new grants allocated by the DfE: the Teachers' Additional Pay Grant at -£0.428m, which has been provided to help fund schools for the additional costs arising from the September 2023 Teachers' Pay Settlement; and the Early Years Supplementary Grant at -£0.648m which must be used to pay additional hourly funding rates to providers of the EY free entitlement to education and childcare. Both of these additional allocations have been balanced off by an equivalent increase in budget for relevant areas of spend.
- 6.10 Overall, these changes result in an anticipated level of income of £84.604m, an unchanged net budget of £7.166m and therefore total funding of £91.770m. To ensure budgets correctly reflect anticipated spending requirements, relevant adjustments have been made to the areas of the accounts that the changes relate to. Annex 1 sets out a summary budget statement.
- 6.11 Other budget changes will need to be processed later in the year as further updates are provided by the ESFA in respect of further academisation by schools and updates to HNB and the EY Block allocations.

Forecast budget variances

- 6.12 As part of the Council's Financial Regulations, the Schools Budget is subject to monthly budget monitoring. This involves forecasting likely expenditure and income

through to the end of the year, identification of reasons for variations against original budgets, and where relevant, setting out options for management action. This process allows for a forecast year end level of balances to be calculated.

- 6.13 It is appropriate for the Forum to be aware of the current forecast year-end balance as this will need to be taken into account when the 2024-25 budget is agreed. It is also likely that a number of variances identified this year will be on-going and will therefore need to be considered in next year's budget.
- 6.14 Provisional budget monitoring information available at the end of September indicates that the Schools Budget will overspend by £8.117m this year which is £0.951m higher than the amount forecast when the budget requirement was agreed. In addition, a number of budget risks have been identified where a variance is expected, but more work is required to quantify the financial impact and therefore a tentative estimate is provided at this stage. These are categorised as Emerging Issues and amount to estimated further spend of £0.537m. When these are included, the potential in-year deficit amounts to £8.654m.
- 6.15 There is a £15.477mm deficit opening balance on the DSG Adjustment Account² meaning an aggregate year end deficit of £24.131m is currently being forecast. Servicing this debt in 2024-25 will have a cost to the Council of lost interest of around £1.2m.
- 6.16 It is well known that along with a number of other LAs, the prime cause of increasing deficit in the Schools Budget is financial performance in the HNB which in the 5 years April 2019 to March 2024 is forecast to be over spent by £29.9m.
- 6.17 The following sections set out current spending and budget variance forecasts for 2023-24. Explanations of the significant changes anticipated from the current budget plan (+/- £0.050m) are set out below, with Annex 1 showing the overall Schools Budget at a summary level.

Schools Block - £0.205m underspend:

LA Managed items - £0.205m underspend:

- 1) The original approved budget included -£0.090m of unallocated funding above the National Funding Formula (NFF) funding rates. A -£0.118m under spending is reported against fewer than expected in-year growth allowances paid to schools experiencing significant increases in pupil numbers..

High Needs Block - £8.391m overspend:

Budget items 2) to 5) below represent the most unpredictable and volatile education budgets that the council is responsible for. Therefore, a considerable amount of time is taken in their management. However, they remain subject to significant change at short notice which can result in large movements in cost forecasts.

Forecasts reported at this time for external pupil placements and top up funding for mainstream schools include confirmed costs for the summer term, with provisional amounts included for autumn and spring which are subject to

² The DSG Adjustment Account is a statutory unusable reserve established under LA accounting regulations with the purpose of recording a schools budget deficit which must be carried forward to be funded from future DSG income and not an LAs General Fund. It covers balances from each DSG Block i.e. Schools; Central School Services, High Needs and Early Years.

change until all required placements and their costs are known. The forecasts will continue to change through to the end of the financial year and may increase or decrease.

To help manage this volatility, a contingency for future cost changes that are expected but are not certain of £1.114m (circa 4.4% of relevant budgets) is included in the forecasts until such time as greater certainty is available relating to placement details and their costs. The contingency amount is reviewed each month and adjusted accordingly.

The variances being reported now will need to be assessed as to their on-going impact and included as appropriate when detailed budget proposals for 2024-25 are presented.

- 2) **Delegated Special Schools – +£0.099m overspend.** Top up payments to Kennel Lane Special School have been recalculated to reflect in-year starters and leavers and increases in support needs for existing pupils, together with an allowance for further adjustments. The average cost of placement has increased. The current forecast also includes the purchase of 198 places.
- 3) **Maintained schools and academies – +£0.292m overspend.** Top up payments to BF maintained schools and academies, including Special Resource Provisions are forecast to overspend by £0.259m. This includes confirmed allocations to the end of September and an allowance for further allocations to financial year end. A +£0.033m over spending on the SEN contingency that provides additional funding for schools with the highest proportion of EHCP pupils is also forecast.
- 4) **Non-maintained special schools and colleges: pre-16 year olds – +£0.634m overspend.** This is the most significant budget area in terms of expenditure and the focus of the change programme. There are forecast to be 126.8 FTE placements with these providers which is around 9 FTE lower than in the last 2 years. The overspending has arisen as a result of a significant increase in average cost of provision from a 2 year average of £62.7k to a current average of £69.3k. The forecast does not include provision for any further placements.
- 5) **Education out of school - +£0.200m overspend.** A separate agenda item for this meeting provides an update on the operational position of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and the changes being made. This is an evolving situation, with an initial estimate that costs will exceed budget by £0.200m.
- 6) **Over spending anticipated in original budget - +£7.166m.** In setting the original budget, it was accepted that spending would significantly exceed income and was provisionally calculated at a £7.166m over spending.

Early Years Block - -£0.069m underspend

- 6.18 **Other Early Years provisions and support - -£0.069m underspend.** Summer term take-up hours for the free entitlement to education and childcare have been verified which indicates a £0.069m under spending on the free entitlement funding. Further variances are expected for autumn and spring terms once relevant data becomes available.

- 6.19 The following sections set out Emerging Issues, where budget risks have been identified and a variance expected, but more information is required to quantify the financial impact and therefore only a tentative estimate is provided. Annex 1 shows these in the overall Schools Budget at a summary level.

High Needs Block - +£0.537m overspend:

3) Maintained schools and academies – +£0.152m overspend.

Mainstream BF schools and SRPs. +£0.219m overspend. SRP forecasts remain volatile and subject to outcomes of on-going conversations with schools, in particular additional places to be delivered and levels of values of top up payments. It is not possible to present a reliable forecast variance, with a tentative estimate indicating an overspending of £0.219m.

Other LA schools (mainstream, SRP and special). -£0.062m underspend. The most significant factor preventing a robust cost forecast relates to other LAs and schools not yet having confirmed charges for the new academic year. There are circa 25 places where this information is awaited, which represents around 20% of expected placements. It is not therefore possible to present a reliable forecast variance, with the current expectation of an under spending of -£0.067m.

4) Non-maintained special schools and colleges: post 16 year olds – +£0.096m overspend. As with other LA school placements, the most significant factor preventing a robust cost forecast relates to providers not yet having confirmed charges for the new academic year. There are circa 28 places where this information is awaited, which represents around 17% of expected placements. It is not therefore possible to present a reliable forecast variance, with the current expectation of an overspending of +£0.096m.

5) Education out of school - +£0.209m overspend. There are 2 budget areas where a variance is expected. Firstly, the operational position of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), as highlighted on a separate agenda item has impacted on the number of pupils receiving home tuition. This impacts both costs of tutors and room hire. Current forecasts indicate an over spending of +£0.274m. Secondly, a -£0.065m under spending is forecast for the Outreach Service as a member of staff has taken the opportunity of a secondment to another service with the post remaining vacant.

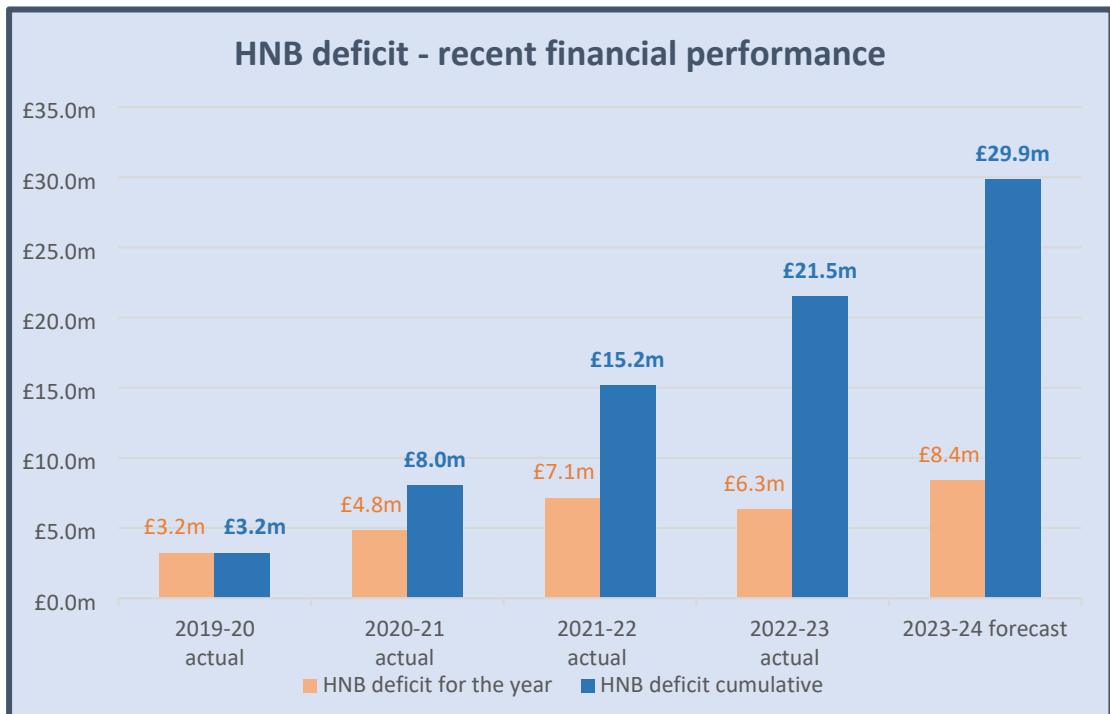
6) Other SEN provisions and support services - +£0.080m underspend. This area of the budget includes the range of therapies (£0.622m budget) and medical support (£0.457m). Limited information is currently available on likely cost of therapies, although based on current service delivery a preliminary -£0.145m underspending is forecast. For medical support, again this is impacted by College Hall and a provisional +£0.250m overspending being forecast.

Forecast cumulative balance - +£24.131m deficit

7) The budget variances being forecast at the end of September indicate a year end cumulative deficit of £24.131m. This comprises the £15.477m accumulated deficit at the start of the year, the £7.116m overspend anticipated when the budget was set and the additional £1.488m overspend now being reported.

Managing the forecast overspend

- 6.20 It is clear that the council is facing significant challenges in managing spend to the level of HNB income. As previously advised to the Schools Forum, with an update provided on another agenda item to this meeting, the Council is working towards submitting a bid to the DfE to join the Safety Valve Programme which would provide additional resource to help move to a sustainable budget position and help eradicate any accumulated deficit.
- 6.21 In response to the continuing growth in deficits on HNB budgets, in January 2020, the DfE updated the status of the DSG ring-fence to make clear that any deficit must be carried forward to the Schools Budget in the next financial year or future financial years. This is intended to confirm that no liability for a deficit will fall onto an LAs General Fund.
- 6.22 This is a time limited change to the DSG ring-fence, initially for 3 years, but subsequently extended to 6 years through to March 2026. As it stands, the Government has stated that local authorities are expected to be able to demonstrate their ability to cover DSG deficits from their available resources from 2026-27 onwards. Clearly this will present a significant financial challenge to the council at the same time as other challenges, most significantly relating to rising costs of social care and general inflation. Current forecasts indicate that the council will face a £29.9m deficit from the HNB only at April 2024, as illustrated in the chart below. The forecast deficit is 125% of the £24.0m HNB grant funding expected to be received in 2023-24.



2023-24 Education Capital Programme

Approved budget

- 6.23 The current Education Capital budget approved by the council amounts to £13.868m, and comprises £0.911m of council funding, £0.911m from housing developers and £12.046m from various grants and other income. Of this total, £5.360 is new funding for 2023-24 with £8.508m brought forward from previous years to finance the completion of approved projects.
- 6.24 The major scheme in the programme are:
- School related projects, including schools' Devolved Formula Capital £9.697m
 - School Planned Maintenance £2.932m
 - Other projects £1.239m

Annex 2 provides a summary of the approved schemes, including current progress.

Forecast budget variances

- 6.25 At this stage, a £0.109m under spending is being reported which relates to a small number of completed school schemes which were delivered below budget. No variances are being reported elsewhere as in general, variances are recycled within the school related projects.
- 6.26 At this stage, there is expected to be sufficient DfE grant funding and developer contributions plus the investment from the Council to fully finance the schemes required in the short term, with funding pressure expected to arise over the medium term if schemes are approved to create additional SEND places.
- 6.27 Due to a substantial number of high-cost roof repairs, the planned maintenance programme is also facing pressure in delivering all the works required within available funds.

Next steps

- 6.28 Budget monitoring will continue with any emerging issues incorporated into budget proposals and presented to the Forum at the appropriate time.

7 Advice Received from Statutory and other Officers

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal provisions have been considered within the main body of the report.

Director of Resources

- 7.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out in the supporting information.

Equalities Impact Assessment

7.3 There are no specific impacts arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

7.4 There are a number of risks associated with managing these budgets:

- financial and economic factors, in particular the need to maintain services whilst achieving significant savings;
- the impact of demand led services and the need to forecast changes and reshape service delivery to meet changing needs;
- the impact from inflationary pressures;
- staffing and the need to recruit, train and retain staff with the relevant skills and expertise;
- IT infrastructure availability and information accuracy;
- failure to design, monitor and control major programmes and projects;
- effective safeguarding of children;
- effective maintenance of assets;
- working effectively with partners
- impact of litigation and legislation;

The budget includes resources sufficient to enable the Council to monitor these key risks and where possible to minimise their effects on services. Specific risk reduction measures included as part of budget monitoring are:

- A robust system of budgetary control with regular reporting to CYPL Departmental Management Team and the Corporate Management Team
- Quarterly Service Reports (QSR's) to Members
- Exception reports to the Executive

Climate Change Impact

7.5 Not applicable to this report on financial performance.

Health Impact

7.6 Not applicable to this report on financial performance.

8 Consultation

8.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner – People Directorate
<mailto:paul.clark@bracknell-forest.gov.uk>

(01344 354054)

Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/\(119\)_161123/2023-24_Schools_Budget_Monitoring_etc.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/(119)_161123/2023-24_Schools_Budget_Monitoring_etc.docx)

2023-24 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS BUDGET AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2023

Service Area	Approved Budget			Estimated Variance			Note	Emerging Issues
	Spend	Income	Net	Over spending	Under spending	Net variance		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Schools Block								
<u>Delegated and devolved funding:</u>								
Delegated Mainstream School Budgets	48,852	0	48,852	0	0	0		0
School Grant income	0	-6,523	-6,523	0	0	0		0
Schools Block	48,852	-6,523	42,329	0	0	0		0
<u>LA managed items:</u>								
Retained de-delegated Budgets:								
<i>Behaviour</i>	244	-8	236	23	0	23		0
<i>Schools in Financial Difficulty</i>	161	0	161	0	0	0		0
<i>Official Staff Absences</i>	302	0	302	0	-3	-3		0
<i>English as an Additional Language</i>	123	0	123	17	-25	-8		0
<i>PRC / Licence Fees / FSM checking</i>	53	0	53	1	-10	-9		0
<i>Under spend returned to maintained schools</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Combined Service Budgets:								
<i>Education and School Transport for CLA</i>	176	0	176	0	0	0		0
<i>Family Intervention Project / Domestic Abuse</i>	102	0	102	0	0	0		0
<i>SEN Contract Management</i>	33	0	33	0	0	0		0
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	466	0	466	0	0	0		0
Other provisions and support services	958	0	958	15	-223	-208		0
LA managed items:	2,618	-8	2,610	56	-261	-205	1	0
Sub total Schools Block	51,470	-6,531	44,939	56	-261	-205		0
High Needs Block								
Delegated Special Schools Budgets	5,642	-7	5,635	99	0	99	2	0
Maintained schools and academies	9,172	0	9,172	292	0	292	3	152
Non Maintained Special Schools and Colleges	10,588	0	10,588	634	0	634	4	96
Education out of school	2,840	-3	2,837	200	0	200	5	209
Other SEN provisions and support services	2,571	-68	2,503	0	0	0		80
Delivering Better Value - spend	542	0	542	0	0	0		0
Delivering Better Value - income	-542	0	-542	0	0	0		0
Overspending anticipated in original budget	0	0	0	7,166	0	7,166	6	0
Sub total High Needs Block	30,813	-78	30,735	8,391	0	8,391		537
Early Years Block								
Free entitlement to early years education	9,057	-650	8,407	43	-112	-69	7	0
Other Early Years provisions and support services	430	0	430	0	0	0		0
Sub total Early Years Block	9,487	-650	8,837	43	-112	-69		0
Dedicated Schools Grant	0	-77,345	-77,345	0	0	0		0
Sub total Dedicated Schools Grant	0	-77,345	-77,345	0	0	0		0
TOTAL - Schools Budget	91,770	-84,604	7,166	8,490	-373	8,117		537
<u>Note on Unallocated Schools Budget balance:</u>								
Opening balance on DSG Adjustment Account (Unusable Reserve)						15,477		
Forecast overspend in budget build						7,166		
2023-24 additional over spend compared to estimate in approved budget						951		
Budget risks associated with Emerging Issues						537		
Net forecast deficit at 31 March 2024						24,131	8	

See paragraphs 6.17 and 6.18 for an explanation to the notes

CAPITAL MONITORING 2023/24

Dept: People

Children, Young People and Learning

As at 30 September 2023

Cost Centre Description	Approved Budget 2023/24	Cash Budget 2023/24	Expenditure to Date	Estimated Outturn 2023/24	Carry Forward 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Current status of the project / notes
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
SCHOOL PROJECTS							
Ascot Heath Schools Security	23.0	23.0	19.4	19.4	0.0	(3.60)	Project has now been completed and can be closed off.
Warfield West Primary	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.00	Migration to Woodhurst site complete.
Primary	26.7	26.7	23.1	23.1	0.0	(3.60)	
Garth Hill College	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	0.0	0.00	CCTV works only, works completed summer 2023, final payment has been paid.
Secondary	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	0.0	0.00	
King's Academy Binfield - Contract	20.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.00	Complete
King's Academy Binfield	218.0	218.0	0.0	218.0	0.0	0.00	Completed - Final contractual equipment payments due to King's Academy 23-24.
All through	238.0	238.0	0.0	238.0	0.0	0.00	
High Needs Provision Capital	4,136.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,136.4	0.00	Plans being developed
Special Provision Capital Fund	821.9	821.9	0.0	821.9	0.0	0.00	Plans being developed
Primary SEMH Hub	700.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	700.0	0.00	Plans being developed
Holly Spring Infant & Junior	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.00	Project complete.
Devolved Capital and other funds held by schools	1,352.5	1,352.5	282.1	1,247.0	0.0	(105.50)	Managed by schools
Project Management Overheads	55.7	55.7	31.6	55.7	0.0	0.00	To be allocated to projects at year end.
Other Schools Related Capital	9,282.8	2,232.2	315.8	2,126.7	7,050.6	(105.50)	
SCHOOL PROJECTS	9,697.50	2,646.9	488.9	2,537.8	7,050.6	(109.10)	

Percentages

18.5%

95.9%

-4.1%

CAPITAL MONITORING 2023/24

Dept: People

Children, Young People and Learning

As at 30 September 2023

Cost Centre Description	Approved Budget 2023/24	Cash Budget 2023/24	Expenditure to Date	Estimated Outturn 2023/24	Carry Forward 2023/24	(Under) / Over Spend	Current status of the project / notes
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
CAPITAL MAINTENANCE / CONDITION							
Planned works	2,931.9	2,631.9	1,312.0	2,631.9	300.0	0.00	Decarbonisation projects at design stage. All other projects on site.
ROLLING PROGRAMME	2,931.9	2,631.9	1,312.0	2,631.9	300.0	0.0	

Percentages 49.8% 100.0% 0.0%

OTHER PROJECTS							
Larchwood	75.0	75.0	72.7	75.0	0.0	0.00	Snagging and final elements of the work are underway. On target for completion end October 23.
Nursery Provision	398.9	277.4	121.5	277.4	121.5	0.00	There is a need to plan for the extended entitlements commencing from April 2024 - Currently awaiting further DfE guidance.
S106 Ascot Heath Primary	65.8	65.8	0.0	65.8	0.0	0.00	School Managed. Project at planning stage.
East Berks CYP Residential Project	686.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	686.0	0.00	Business case being produced.
S106 Priestwood Nursery Facilities	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.8	0.00	Works are completed - Balance being held pending further planning round.
Other	1,238.5	418.2	194.2	418.2	820.3	0.00	
OTHER PROJECTS	1,238.5	418.2	194.2	418.2	820.3	0.00	

Percentages 46.4% 100.0% 0.0%

TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	13,867.9	5,697.0	1,995.1	5,587.9	8,170.9	(109.10)	
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Percentages 35.0% 98.1% -1.9%

TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 16 November 2023

**Update on 2024-25 School Budgets including outcomes from the October 2023
Financial Consultation with Schools
Executive Director: People / Resources**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Schools Forum on a revision to the funding rates to be used by the Department of Education (DfE) for funding mainstream schools in the 2024-25 Financial Settlement. It also provides an update on responses from schools to the annual financial consultation.
- 1.2 With work underway on preparing a potential bid to the DfE for the High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme, it is not appropriate to consider any decisions on 2024-25 school budgets at this stage.

2 Supporting Information

Update on Department for Education 2024-25 funding rates

- 2.1 At its last meeting on 14 September, as part of initial budget preparations for 2024-25, it was reported that the usual July release by the DfE of new year funding allocations had indicated an average increase in per pupil funding for schools of 2.7%.
- 2.2 Other updates to the Funding Framework were also confirmed including mainstreaming into main school schools the funds separately allocated to schools in 2023-24 to contribute to cost pressures through Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, and to continue paying separately the Teachers' Pay Addition grant that contributes to extra costs arising from the September 2023 Teachers' Pay Award.
- 2.3 On 6 October, DfE confirmed an error in the July budget calculations which had understated the number of pupils that needed to be funded. The effect of this was a £375m over allocation of funds through the national schools' budget.
- 2.4 Correcting this means that rather than schools in England receiving an average 2.7% increase in per pupil funding in 2024-25, it is now forecast at 1.9%. Working through the information released indicates that the revised average increase for BF schools will in fact only amount to 1.7%. In total, £0.9m of previously expected grant income has been withdrawn.
- 2.5 The DfE announcement of the change in funding stated that "Schools have not yet received their 2024-25 funding – so the correction of this error does not mean adjusting any funding that schools have already received". Whilst it is correct to say schools across the country have not received their 2024-25 funding, like BFC, other LAs would have shared this information and schools will have used the July data to assess the level of staff they can afford to employ in the forthcoming academic.
- 2.6 With such a significant impact arising from this, the Leader of the Council has written to James Sunderland MP to lobby on behalf of Bracknell Forest pupils and residents for the reinstatement of the per pupil funding increases announced by the DfE in July.

2.7 The table below sets out the key elements of the funding announcements:

Item	July 2023 announcement	October 2023 update	Change
Total BF Schools Block DSG	£94.218m	£93.318m	-£0.900m
England average increase in per pupil funding	+2.7%	+1.9%	-0.6%
BF average increase in per pupil funding ^A	+2.6%	+1.7%	-0.9%
Increase in core National Funding Formula (NFF) ¹ factor values	+2.4%	+1.4%	-1.0%
Increase in NFF current Free School Meal factor value	+1.6%	+1.6%	None
Minimum per Pupil Funding Level – Primary (MPPFL) ²	£4,655	£4,610	-£45
Minimum per Pupil Funding Level – Secondary	£6,050	£5,995	-£55
Permitted range for Minimum per Pupil Increase from 2023-24 (the “MFG”) ³ .	Nil to +0.5%	Nil to +0.5%	None

^A The indicated change in per pupil funding for BF schools is after removing from 2023-24 starting budgets the additional £0.101m allocated through the fixed lump sum allocation which was affordable for one year only as a consequence of the lagged allocation of elements of the DSG income.

Additional information requested by the Schools Forum

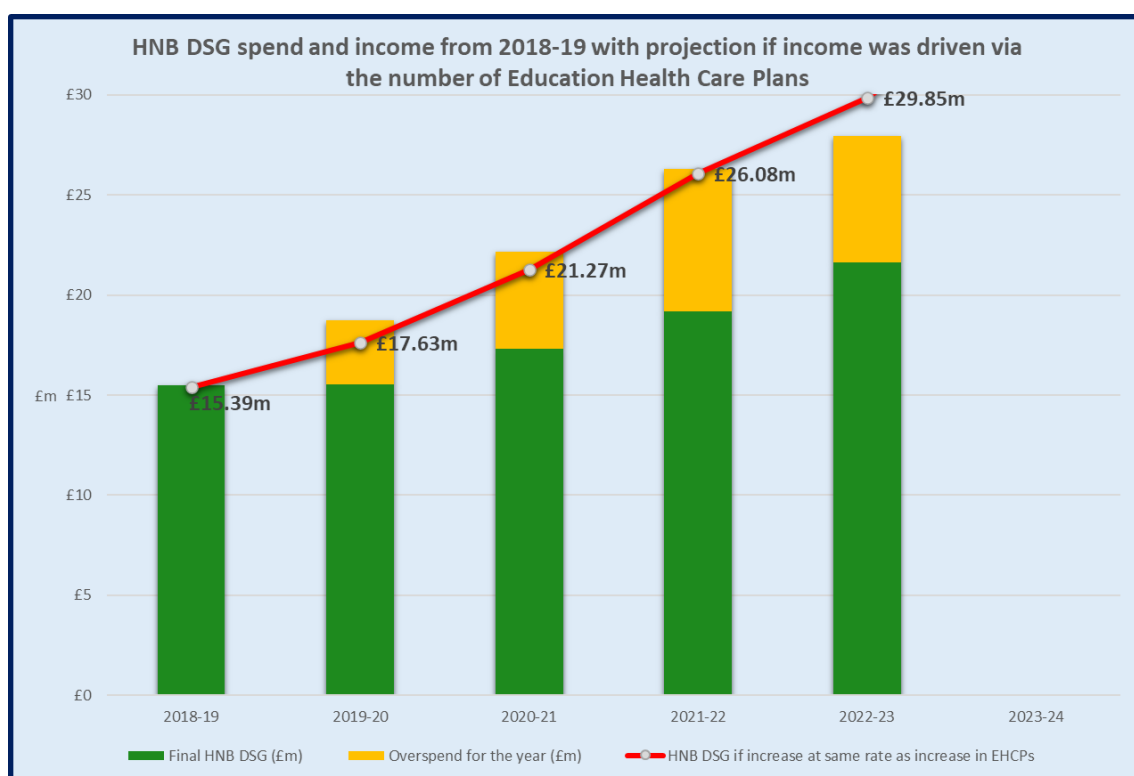
2.8 At the previous meeting, the Safety Valve presentation displayed information relating to medium term changes in relation to spending patterns from the point the HNB Budget generated a deficit in 2019-20, income receipts and the number of EHCP issued. Additional information was requested in respect of how DSG income would look if annual increases were more closely linked to the number of EHCPs or if the more recent 9% increases had been provided throughout the medium term.

¹ The DfE uses a National Funding Formula to resource LAs for their schools. It uses objective data, such as pupil numbers and pupil eligibility to Free School Meals in order fund all schools in the country on the same basis.

² The NFF includes MPPFLs that are applied equally to all primary and secondary schools if the NFF delivers a lower level of funding. LAs must also apply these minimum rates in their local funding formula. The only factors not included in the calculation are premises e.g. business rates

³ The MFG compares per pupil funding allocations between years and where the change is below the minimum threshold, a funding top-up is added to meet the minimum per pupil change requirement. The MFG calculation required by the DfE excludes funding for business rates and fixed lump sum allocations. The cost of top-up funding is financed by scaling back increases to schools experiencing the highest proportional funding gains

- 2.9 What this additional analysis shows is that even if there had been a 9% increase in each year's HNB DSG allocation, there would have been a £6.069m overspend in 2022-23 and a cumulative deficit of £17.843m compared to the actual cumulative deficit of £21.381m.
- 2.10 An alternative view would be to compare 2018-19 HNB DSG income per EHCP and what that approach would have delivered if a similar amount of income per EHCP, uplifted for inflation, was received in each of the following years. This would have resulted in a £1.919m in year surplus in 2022-23, and a cumulative deficit of £0.317m. The budget performance moves to an in-year surplus as a consequence of the improvement programme which has also delivered savings.
- 2.11 The following table sets out the projection.



Outcomes from the financial consultation with schools

- 2.12 An annual consultation is undertaken with school to provide an initial overview of school funding for the next financial year and to also meet DfE consultation requirements.
- 2.13 With an agreed financial strategy in place for a number of years now to mirror as closely as possible the NFF, questions are limited to views on the level and funding required for setting the minimum per pupil funding increase from 2023-24 through the MFG, whether maintained schools supported on-going de-delegation of budgets and also whether a financial contribution should continue to be made to the council in respect of the cost of meeting statutory education related duties. In addition, views were also sought on making an update to the calculation of Notional SEN Funding.

- 2.14 Ordinarily, to aid budget planning, the council would be seeking decisions on these questions, however, with work underway on preparing a bid to the DfE for the High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme, it is not appropriate to consider any decisions on 2024-25 school budgets at this stage.
- 2.15 Responses from the financial consultation showed clear support from maintained schools for continuing to maximise the strategic and cost-effective benefits that can arise from central management through the de-delegation route on permitted services. Furthermore, there is strong support from maintained schools to continue to contribute £20 per pupil towards the cost to the council of meeting education statutory and regulatory duties that the DfE no longer provides LAs with grant funding to meet their responsibilities. Schools also demonstrated strong support for the treatment proposed for the MFG and the changes suggested to calculating the Notional SEN funding included in the NFF budget allocation. With 51% of schools responding, there is confidence that the consultation responses are suitably reflective of schools.
- 2.16 The following tables set out a summary of the key elements of the financial consultation. Any decisions required on these areas will be sought later in the budgets setting process. Annex 1 provides more detailed information.

Response rate: 51% (58% in 2022)

	%	Replies		%	Replies
Maintained	66%	17	Primary	57%	17
Academy	23%	3	Secondary	33%	2
			Special / PRU	50%	1
	521%	20	Overall	51%	20

Responses to the questions

Question	Yes	No	No. of Replies	Impacts:
1. Should minimum increases in per pupil funding be set at the maximum permitted amount of +0.5%	95%	5%	20	All schools including special
2. Should the cost of financing any impact from 1. be met from deductions to schools receiving the highest % increase	90%	10%	20	Mainstream schools only
3. Should de-delegation continue on permitted services?	100%	0%	15	Maintained mainstream schools only

Question	Yes	No	No. of Replies	Impacts:
4. Should maintained schools continue to contribute £20 per pupil to LA statutory education related costs?	88%	12%	17	Maintained schools only
5. Is the best way to calculate notional SEN through the actual number of pupils on SEN support or in receipt of an EHCP?	84%	16%	19	All mainstream schools
6. Should individual school Notional SEN Funding amounts be calculated from the key proxy SEN funding factors in the NFF plus an element of core per pupil funding amounts?	95%	5%	19	All mainstream schools

2.17 Eleven comments were received from ten schools / trusts which related to:

1. more financial support to; small schools; those with falling rolls, those with high needs (4 comments);
2. de-delegated services, and most commonly that each service should be considered individually when comments are sought relating to on-going de-delegation (3 comments);
3. Greater information on Education related statutory and regulatory duties (1 comment);
4. Notional SEN Funding (3 comments).

Annex 2 sets out the detailed responses received.

2.18 The following responses are made to the comments from schools:

1. additional financial support is already provided to 1 FE primary schools, the council recognises the difficulties facing schools with falling rolls and is actively reducing the number of available places and considering other options. The NFF is becoming a mandatory basis for allocating funds to schools, with no power to make changes. Work in relation to the Safety Valve Programme will consider all areas of support to High Needs pupils.
2. the future presentation of questions to schools on de-delegation of services will be reviewed with the intention of seeking views on each requested service.
3. for Education related duties, the Financial Consultation document provides an overview of the areas the requested £20 per pupil deduction helps finance. This will be reviewed and enhanced.
4. for Notional SEN Funding, the varied comments are noted and will be further considered as part of the on-going work programme relating to high needs pupils.

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

3.1 The need for an EIA is not considered necessary for this update report.

4 Strategic Risk Management Issues

4.1 None identified.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner: People Directorate

(01344 354054)

paul.clark@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(119\) 161123/Outcomes from October 2023 consultation with schools.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/(119) 161123/Outcomes from October 2023 consultation with schools.docx)

Outcomes from the October 2023 Financial Consultation with Schools

1. By the October response deadline, replies had been received from 29 out of 39 schools (51% response rate – was 58% last year). A reply was received from 17 primary schools (57%), 2 secondary schools (33%) and Kennel Lane Special School. This represents a good response rate, with 65% of maintained schools and 23% of academy schools responding which gives confidence that decisions on these matters can be taken with the knowledge of the majority view of schools.
2. The questions are set out below and responses summarised. A numerical summary of replies to each question can be found at Annex 2.
3. In terms of agreeing decisions from this consultation, the Executive Member for CYPL has the statutory duty in respect of agreeing the MFG (questions 1 to 2). For de-delegation, the maintained school members of the Forum decide for their phase (question 3) with any contribution to education related statutory duties being decided by the relevant maintained school members, including special school and pupil referral unit members (question 4). The calculation of the Notional SEN Funding amount can be decided by the Schools Forum.

4. Question 1: Strategy for allocating funds to schools

Do you agree that subject to affordability, that both mainstream and special schools should receive a minimum +0.5% increase in per pupil funding from the 2023-24 financial year? +0.5% is the highest increase permitted by the DfE.

This question relates to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) which LAs are required to apply and requires funding top-up to schools where the ordinary operation of the Funding Formula results in a change in per pupil funding that is below a specified percentage. It compares the final budget from one year to the next and adjusts for changes in the number of pupils. For 2024-25, the DfE will permit LAs to set a rate of between 0% and +0.5.

Responses from 19 schools (95%) supported this proposal, 1 school (5%) did not, declining to make a specific comment.

5. Question 2: Strategy for allocating funds to schools

Do you agree that we should continue to fund any cost associated with providing all mainstream schools with the agreed minimum percentage increase in per pupil funding from 2023-24 by limiting increases to those mainstream schools receiving the largest increases in per pupil funding, typically those above the average percentage increase?

Where top-up funding is required through the MFG, the main option available to finance the cost relates to scaling increases to schools with increases above the minimum threshold which based on responses to this consultation is expected to be +0.5%. The consultation proposed limiting the scaling of increases to only those schools receiving above the average percentage increase. An alternative approach would be to scale increases to all schools receiving a rise in per pupil funding.

Responses from 18 schools (90%) potentially impacted by this supported this proposal. 2 schools disagreed (10%).

6. **Question 3: de-delegated services**

To continue the strategic and cost effective approach in the use of the funds for contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties including those in or in danger of entering an Ofsted category), support to underperforming ethnic groups, CLEAPSS licence fees, staff supply cover costs, premature retirement / dismissal cost, free school meal eligibility checking and Behaviour Support Services, do you agree that the Schools Forum should again agree to de-delegate all relevant funding for continued central management by the LA?

Note this question only impacts on maintained, mainstream schools.

Responses were received from 15 schools, all of which supported the proposal.

7. **Question 4: statutory education related duties**

In respect of making a financial contribution to the education related statutory and regulatory duties required of the council that are no longer financed through DfE grant, do you agree that maintained schools should continue to make a £20 per pupil / place contribution?

Note this question only impacts on maintained schools, including mainstream special schools and Pupil Referral Units.

From April 2017, the DfE implemented a saving of £600m through the complete withdrawal of the Education Services Grant (ESG) which was the mechanism used to fund LAs for their statutory and regulatory education related duties as prescribed in various Education Acts and other relevant statutes. This resulted in the council losing £1.2m of grant but continuing to have to meet the same requirements. The DfE “recognise that local authorities will need to use other sources of funding to pay for education services once the general funding rate has been removed” and will “allow local authorities to retain some of their schools block funding to cover the statutory duties that they carry out for maintained schools which were previously funded through the ESG.” Schools have always previously agreed to a £20 per pupil deduction which would contribute around £0.18m to the £1.2m loss in grant. The deduction, if agreed, is taken after the calculation of final school budgets.

Respondents from 15 schools (88%) agreed that a £20 per pupil contribution should continue, 2 schools (12%) did not.

8. **Question 5: Notional SEN Funding**

Do you agree that the best approach to calculate the total notional SEN funding in the overall Schools Budget is to include £3,000 for the total number of pupils identified as receiving SEN support (half the maximum amount of financial support a school is expected to provide), and £6,000 for the total number of pupils with an EHCP (the amount a school is required to provide) i.e. Option C?

Respondents from 16 schools (84%) supported this proposal, with 3 (16%) not in agreement.

Of those schools not in agreement, all 3 supported retaining the existing methodology that was agreed when Notional SEN Funding was first introduced.

9. **Question 6: statutory education related duties**

Do you agree that the best approach to calculate individual school Notional SEN Funding amounts is to use the key proxy SEN funding factors in the NFF plus core per pupil funding amounts?

Responses from 18 schools (95%) supported this proposal. 1 school disagreed (5%).

Summary responses to the October 2023 financial consultation with schools

QUESTION	TOTALS				TOTAL	%
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	ALL THROUGH	SPECIAL		
1 Do you agree that subject to affordability, that both mainstream and special schools should receive a minimum +0.5% increase in per pupil funding from the 2023-24 financial year? +0.5% is the highest increase permitted by the DfE.						
Yes	16	2	0	1	19	95%
No	1	0	0	0	1	5%
No reply / not applicable	0	0	0	0	0	
2 Do you agree that we should continue to fund any cost associated with providing all mainstream schools with the agreed minimum percentage increase in per pupil funding from 2023-24 by limiting increases to those mainstream schools receiving the largest increases in per pupil funding, typically those above the average percentage increase?						
Yes	17	1	0	0	18	90%
No	0	2	0	0	2	10%
No reply / not applicable	0	0	0	1	1	

QUESTION	TOTALS				TOTAL	%
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	ALL THROUGH	SPECIAL		
3 To continue the strategic and cost effective approach in the use of the funds for contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties including those in or in danger of entering an Ofsted category), support to underperforming ethnic groups, CLEAPSS licence fees, staff supply cover costs, premature retirement / dismissal cost, free school meal eligibility checking and Behaviour Support Services, do you agree that the Schools Forum should again agree to de-delegate all relevant funding for continued central management by the LA?						
Yes	14	1	0	0	15	100%
No	0	0	0	0	0	0%
No reply / not applicable	2	1	0	1	4	
4 In respect of making a financial contribution to the education related statutory and regulatory duties required of the council that are no longer financed through DfE grant, do you agree that maintained schools should continue to make a £20 per pupil / place contribution?						
Yes	13	1	0	1	15	88%
No	2	0	0	0	2	12%
No reply / not applicable	1	1	0	0	2	

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QUESTION	TOTALS				TOTAL	%
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	ALL THROUGH	SPECIAL		
5 Do you agree that the best approach to calculate the total notional SEN funding in the overall Schools Budget is to include £3,000 for the total number of pupils identified as receiving SEN support (half the maximum amount of financial support a school is expected to provide), and £6,000 for the total number of pupils with an EHCP (the amount a school is required to provide) i.e. Option C?						
Yes	15	1	0	0	16	84%
No	2	1	0	0	3	16%
No reply / not applicable	0	0	0	1	1	
If you have selected "No" to question 5 directly above, which alternative Option do you prefer? Please select only one option						
A Retain the existing amount from the school led evaluation	2	1	0	0	3	
B Move to the national average percentage of all LAs	0	0	0	0	0	
6 Do you agree that the best approach to calculate individual school Notional SEN Funding amounts is to use the key proxy SEN funding factors in the NFF plus core per pupil funding amounts?						
Yes	17	1	0	0	17	95%
No	0	1	0	0	1	5%
No reply / not applicable	0	0	0	1	1	

School comments rising from the October 2023 financial consultation

School	Comment
Bonitas Trust	<p>Q6. As long as the calculation remains notional and not real this is a good move to create transparency. Creating a 3 year average is a good move.</p> <p>If it became reality the variation in funding would be impossible to support. A lack of reflection of IDACI is not what a society should support. Whilst we benefit greatly in the change in money it is morally wrong to take this.</p>
Crowthorne	<p>As always, we have the following costs that put an additional financial strain on us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a one form entry school, we have higher 'per head' costs - We have an old building, and so more costly upkeep costs (than newer schools) - We have a lot of trees/natural areas that can potentially have a large yearly cost to keep safe. - Our PP children numbers are small compared to other schools, however, that in itself puts strain on us financially, as extra interventions are more costly on a 'one to one' basis, rather than say a 'three to one' basis - The uncertainty surrounding utility costs is a great concern to us as we already are working to very small/tight margins - The expectation to increase staff salaries but with no additional funding is a strain
Garth Hill	<p>Q5 and Q6. In relation to Notional SEN, we cannot make a decision until we have greater understanding of the overall provision of SEN funding across the LA.</p>
Harmanswater	<p>At HWPS. We have a higher than average social need and higher than average SEN including the SRP</p>
Meadow Vale	<p>Re question 3, whilst Behaviour Support Services have helped the schools I have worked in over the years, I do not feel as though this is providing value for money any longer, in terms of offering specialist support to meet the needs of more challenging behaviours in school.</p>
Owlsmoor	<p>When is the new banding system going to be implemented in BFC? The banding system makes the system fair and also allows individual children the funding they need to have their needs met in a mainstream setting.</p>

School	Comment
Pines	Q3 All services are collated within this but there are some that we are happy to pay for and others we are not - we would prefer if they split so we can be more specific about which we are happy to pay for.
	I know that you will say that this isn't double dipping where services that have SLAs are concerned, such as HR, Finance and Governor Services, but I would like to know more about what the £20 pays for so I don't feel this way.
St Joseph's Primary	<p>re question 6. To apply a best fit approach using permitted NFF funding factors to a calculation using 3 year average actual number of pupils on SEN Support requires clear criteria for defining pupils who should be placed on SEN support to ensure there is consistency across all schools.</p> <p>We currently have several pupils who we consider to be "borderline" - but this might be different to how other schools would have assessed them - leading to unfairness in this new approach.</p>
Wildridings	<p>The LA need to provide funds in-line with specialist provision for high-needs children based in mainstream settings due to the lack of specialist provisions. Our budget is hugely affected by providing support for children desperately in need of more support.</p> <p>As a school, we are incredibly concerned around changes within the SEND safety valve programme.</p>
Woodenhill	re question 3, some services of value, others not. Advise seek school views on valuable aspects.

(ITEM)

TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 16 November 2023

Safety Valve Update **Executive Director: People / Executive Director: Resources**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises work undertaken to date following the invitation from the Department for Education for Bracknell Forest Council to participate in its Safety Valve programme, which is focused on resolving the highest deficits in Dedicated School Grant budgets.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Schools Forum notes and comments on the update provided in the report.**
- 2.2 **That the Schools Forum notes the likelihood that a block transfer (top slice) will need to be proposed and should that be the case that there would be a consultation with schools on this from 27 November to 8 December 2023.**

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is appropriate for the Schools Forum to be aware of and offer comment on this significant matter affecting Bracknell Forest Council and maintained and academy schools within the Borough.

3 Alternative Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could have declined the invitation to participate in the Safety Valve programme, but has not done so as this would mean that the annual and cumulative deficit on the DSG budget would remain a local responsibility. The Safety Valve programme offers financial and other support to help address and fund the deficit.

3 Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Schools Forum and Headteacher representatives have been briefed on the Safety Valve programme generally and involved in early work to help identify options to reduce expenditure, particularly related to the High Needs Block element of the DSG. Detailed work is being undertaken to model the financial impact of potential changes to the model of service delivery, most notably developing an increased local offer to reduce the current reliance on expensive independent schools outside the Borough.
- 4.2 Headteachers were invited to attend workshops on 30 and 31 October and invited through these to offer views on the effectiveness of current spending across a wide range of services funded from the DSG. The results of this are set out in Annex A. While opinions were inevitably divided on many elements, there were a few areas

which Headteachers generally felt should be protected e.g. funding for the special school and SRPs, and therapy services such as SALT, OT and sensory support. Others where views were less positive were use of the INMSS, the Pupil Referral Unit and Tuition Service and the Behaviour Support Team.

- 4.3 Looking ahead, the Council is required to submit an initial proposal to the DfE by 15 December 2023 that sets out proposals to bring expenditure in line with grant levels over a period of around 5 years and a final proposal that addresses any feedback from the DfE by 12 January 2024. This timetable has been set by the DfE and is very tight.
- 4.4 It is important to stress that at this point no firm plans have been developed or agreed for inclusion in the Council's initial submission. A range of themes and potential projects within these have been identified based on local feedback and experience from other areas that have already been through the Safety Valve process. These are summarised in the chart below.

Early intervention and demand management
Front Door and Early Intervention (including Local Offer)
Autism Training (already underway as part of DBV)
Graduated Response
Outreach and Inreach Hub (already underway as part of DBV)
Panels and Decision-Making
Right Provision, Right Time
New autism free school
New SEMH school/provision
SRPs and SEND units
Value for Money Services
Commissioning and QA
Health and care funding – strategy, policy, protocol and processes
Specialist Support Services VfM review
EOTAS VfM review (including the PRU and AP)
Banding Tool
Effective Pathways and Transition to Independence
Transition Team (already underway as part of DBV)
Post-16 Pathways and Placement Model

- 4.5 Work is underway to develop scoping documents for each of these themes and identify scenarios and assumptions that will enable financial modelling of their impact to be assessed. This work will continue until the end of November, to inform the submission.
- 4.6 Engagement with school representatives and other key stakeholders has already commenced and will continue over the coming weeks, as set out in the table below.

Chair of governors briefing	16 November
Bursar support briefing	16 November
Executive briefing	28 November
Consultation briefing meeting with headteachers and governors	30 November
Schools Forum SEND subgroup (plus primary and secondary head reps)	7 December
Executive	12 December

Schools Forum	13 December
Council	10 January
Schools Forum	11 January

- 4.7 Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on the work undertaken to date and to highlight any other areas for consideration that are not in the current workplan.
- 4.8 There is an expectation from the DfE that the council and schools work together to develop a credible plan to bring the in-year spend into a balanced budget. Once more work has been done to model the potential financial impact of the opportunities identified so far, there is a likelihood that a block transfer (top slice) will be required. Agreement from the Schools Forum to a block transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is considered by the DfE to represent a commitment from school leaders to the plan. Should a block transfer be required, the Council will launch a formal consultation with Schools Forum members. This consultation will take place between 27 November and 8 December and will include a consultation briefing meeting for head teachers and governors on 30 November.

5 Advice Received from Statutory and other Officers

Borough Solicitor

- 5.1 No advice sought at this stage.

Director of Resources

- 5.2 There are no financial implications arising from this update, however the Safety Valve process will have significant future financial implications for both Bracknell Forest Council and its schools.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 5.3 There are no specific impacts arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 5.4 None at this stage, however the Safety Valve process represents both an opportunity and a significant risk to Bracknell Forest Council's future financial position.

Climate Change Impact

- 5.5 Not applicable at this stage, however increased local school provision will help reduce CO2 emissions associated with transporting pupils to schools outside the Borough's boundary.

Health Impact

- 5.6 None at this stage.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 Details of engagement and planned consultation with key stakeholders regarding Safety Valve is included in the report.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner – People Directorate

(01344 354054)

<mailto:paul.clark@bracknell-forest.gov.uk>

Feedback from head teacher workshop sessions

Key

R	Needs review – change model of delivery, reduce or increase provision or cease delivery completely
A	Unsure
G	Retain service
B	No response received
S	Statutory requirement
N/A	Service not currently used by school

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Summary of High Needs Block feedback

	College Hall (Section 19) exclusions	Tuition Service (Section 19) medical needs	Early Years management costs	Child development centre	Special school	Specialist Resource Provision secondary	Specialist Resource Provision primary	Element 3 - Top Ups BF schools mainstream (maintained and academies)	Element 3 - Top Ups other local authority schools (maintained, academies and special)	Sensory support services	SALT and OT	INMSS and colleges	Other funding to mainstream schools, e.g. SEN contingency with high numbers of pupils	Autism Support Team	Support for Inclusion Team	Support for Learning Team	Specialist support equipment	Mediation and tribunals
Primary 1	R	R	B	G	G	A	G	G	A	G	G	R	G	A	R	R	G	G
Primary 2	R	A	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	R	A	A	A	G	A	A
Primary 3	R	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	G	G	B	A	G	R	R	R	A	A
Primary 4	R	G	A	G	G	G	G	G	A	G	G	R	G	G	A	G	G	G
Primary 5	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	A	A	A	A
Primary 6	R	R	G	G	G	G	G	G	R	A	A	R	A	G	A	A	A	G
Primary 7	R	A	A	G	G	G	A	G	G	G	A	R	G	R	R	R	G	G
Primary 8	R	R	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	R	G	A	R	R	A	A
Primary 9	R	A	G	G	G	R	G	G	R	G	G	R	G	G	A	G	G	R
Primary 10	G	A	A	G	A	G	G	G	R	G	A	R	G	A	R	A	G	R
Primary 11	R	A	A	A	G	G	G	G	A	G	G	R	B	R	R	R	G	G
Primary 12	R	G	A	A	G	G	G	G	A	R	G	R	G	A	R	A	A	R
Primary 13	A	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	R	A	G	R	A	G	A	A	A	R
Primary 14	A	A	A	G	G	R	A	G	R	A	G	R	G	G	A	R	G	B
Secondary 1	R	R	A	A	A	R	A	G	G	A	A	R	A	G	A	A	A	R
Secondary 2	R	R	A	A	G	A	A	G	B	G	G	R	B	B	R	A	A	B
Secondary 3	R	R	A	A	G	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	G	R	A	A	A	A
Secondary 4	R	A	A	A	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	A	A	A	A	A	A
Secondary 5	R	R	A	A	R	B	B	G	G	G	G	R	A	R	R	A	A	R
Secondary 6	R	R	A	A	A	A	A	R	R	A	A	R	A	A	A	A	A	A

Summary of Early Years Block feedback

	95% of funding payment to the providers including schools and PVI	Management of funds, e.g. specialist IT, managing payments etc.	Support to provider and families (incl. FIS)
Primary 1	S	A	A
Primary 2	S	A	A
Primary 3	S	A	B
Primary 4	S	A	A
Primary 5	S	A	A
Primary 6	S	A	A
Primary 7	S	A	A
Primary 8	S	A	A
Primary 9	S	G	A
Primary 10	S	G	G
Primary 11	S	G	G
Primary 12	S	A	A
Primary 13	S	G	G
Primary 14	S	A	R
Secondary 1	S	A	A
Secondary 2	S	A	A
Secondary 3	S	A	A
Secondary 4	S	A	A
Secondary 5	S	A	A
Secondary 6	S	A	A

GT

Summary of Central School Services Block feedback

	Support to children looked after	Family support advisers	Contract monitoring officer	LA statutory education duties (i.e. EWOs, efficiency planning)	Admissions team	National copyright licence	Schools Forum	Other (support for borough wide initiatives, boarding fees for CLA)
Primary 1	G	G	A	A	G	S	S	G
Primary 2	A	R	A	G	G	S	S	G
Primary 3	G	A	G	A	G	S	S	A
Primary 4	G	R	A	G	G	S	S	G
Primary 5	A	A	A	A	A	S	S	A
Primary 6	G	G	G	G	G	S	S	A
Primary 7	A	R	A	G	G	S	S	A
Primary 8	A	A	A	R	R	S	S	R
Primary 9	G	A	A	A	R	S	S	G
Primary 10	B	B	B	G	A	S	S	A
Primary 11	G	R	G	A	G	S	S	G
Primary 12	G	G	A	A	G	S	S	R
Primary 13	G	A	A	G	G	S	S	A
Primary 14	A	A	A	A	G	S	S	A
Secondary 1	R	R	A	G	R	S	S	A
Secondary 2	R	B	B	B	B	S	S	R
Secondary 3	A	A	R	A	G	S	S	B
Secondary 4	G	A	A	A	A	S	S	A
Secondary 5	R	R	A	G	G	S	S	R
Secondary 6	A	A	A	R	G	S	S	A

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Summary of Schools Block feedback

	National funding formula (NFF)	Class size regulations ar	Official staff absence, e.g. maternity leave, union duties and suspension, premature	Behaviour support team	Support to schools in financial difficulties and Ofsted categories	EAL	FSM eligibility checks
Primary 1	B	B	G	A	G	G	G
Primary 2	G	G	A	R	A	R	R
Primary 3	G	G	G	R	A	R	A
Primary 4	G	A	G	R	G	A	G
Primary 5	G	A	A	R	A	A	R
Primary 6	G	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Primary 7	A	A	G	R	G	R	R
Primary 8	G	A	A	R	R	A	R
Primary 9	A	A	R	G	G	A	A
Primary 10	B	B	A	R	G	G	G
Primary 11	A	A	G	R	A	A	G
Primary 12	A	A	A	A	R	A	A
Primary 13	B	B	B	A	G	A	G
Primary 14	G	A	G	A	A	G	G
Secondary 1	B	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Secondary 2	B	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Secondary 3	G	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Secondary 4	G	A	A	A	A	A	G
Secondary 5	B	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Secondary 6	B	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Summary of council funded services feedback

	Education psychology service	NEET	Standards and effectiveness	Governor services	SEND statutory team	SENDIAS	Early years	Home to school transport	Sufficiency of school places	Historic teacher redundancies	Traded services, including Can Do
Primary 1	G	A	G	G	A	G	R	R	A	G	G
Primary 2	G	A	A	A	G	G	A	A	A	A	A
Primary 3	G	A	G	A	G	B	A	A	B	A	G
Primary 4	G	A	G	G	G	G	U	G	A	A	A
Primary 5	A	A	R	A	G	A	G	A	A	A	R
Primary 6	B	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	A	A	A
Primary 7	G	G	G	G	G	G	A	G	A	G	A
Primary 8	A	R	R	R	A	A	R	A	R	G	R
Primary 9	G	A	R	A	A	A	G	R	A	A	R
Primary 10	G	A	A	G	G	R	G	R	A	G	G
Primary 11	A	G	A	G	G	G	U	G	A	U	A
Primary 12	R	A	R	G	A	R	A	A	R	R	A
Primary 13	G	A	B	G	A	B	G	A	A	A	A
Primary 14	A	A	A	G	B	B	A	B	A	R	A
Secondary 1	G	A	A	A	A	A	G	R	G	G	R
Secondary 2	B	R	B	B	B	B	U	B	B	B	U
Secondary 3	G	A	A	G	R	B	A	R	A	B	B
Secondary 4	A	A	A	A	R	A	A	R	A	R	A
Secondary 5	R	R	A	A	R	R	B	R	A	A	A
Secondary 6	G	A	R	A	R	A	A	R	R	A	A