

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Elizabeth Savage, Academy School Representative
Jenny Baker, Special School Representative
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
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
Grant Strudley, Academy School Representative
Gareth Croxon, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Catherine Forrester, Academy School Representative
Katie Moore, Academy School Representative
Rachel Manton, National Education Union
Richard Ferris, Great Hollands - Maiden Erlegh



Also Invited:

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

Thursday 14 November 2024, 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.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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3.	Minutes and Matters Arising	3 - 8
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 19 September 2024	
4.	Schools Forum Work Planning Reporting: Elizabeth Savage, Chair & Academy School Representative	9 - 12
5.	New SEND banding tool Reporting: Duane Chappell, Assistant Director Education & Learning	13 - 22
6.	Update on 2025-26 School Budgets including outcomes from the October 2024 Financial Consultation with Schools Reporting: Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner	23 - 34
7.	The Schools Budget: 2024-25 Budget Monitoring Reporting: Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner	35 - 46
8.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 4.30pm on Thursday 5 December 2024. The other dates of Schools Forum meetings for the academic year are: 15 January 2025 13 March 2025. Reporting: Jamie Beardsmore, Democratic Services Officer	

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.

Published: 6 November 2024

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**SCHOOLS FORUM
19 SEPTEMBER 2024
16:30 – 17:20**

Present:

Elizabeth Savage, Academy School Representative
Caroline Johnson, Primary School Representative
Juanita Dunlop, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Trudi Sammons, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Katie Moore, Academy School Representative
Rachel Manton, Trade Union Representative

Observer:

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

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jenny Baker, Special School Representative
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Tim Griffith, Academy School Representative
Grant Strudley, Academy School Representative
Gareth Croxon, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)

8. Election of Chair

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

9. Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Jennifer Baker, Headteacher at Kennel Lane School be appointed Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum for the academic year.

10. Declarations of Interest

Caroline Johnson declared an affected interest in item 9: 2024-25 arrangements for additional financial support to maintained schools

11. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 June 2024 were approved a correct record.

Arising from the minutes Duane Chappell, Assistant Director Education and Learning confirmed that a meeting would be setup in the near future to discuss medical tuition.

12. Update to the Schools Forum Constitution

The Forum considered a report which sought endorsement to minor changes to the Schools Forum's Constitution and Membership.

The new Trade Union representative Rachel Manton was welcomed to the meeting.

The Chair noted that the proposed changes would reduce the Schools Forum membership from 18 to 17 by eliminating the Pupil Referral Unit member. Additionally, a minor change to the election process would introduce fixed term dates for all Schools Forum members.

RESOLVED that the updated Schools Forum Constitution and Membership be endorsed.

13. **Safety Valve Update**

The Forum considered a report which provided an update to the Schools Forum on progress made on the implementation of the Safety Valve programme, as well as wider SEND improvement work.

Duane Chappell updated the Forum on the Safety Valve Programme, which Bracknell Forest Council had been formally accepted into in March 2024. Several areas of the local authority were being monitored in relation to the programme. This included expanding provision through Special schools and Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs). To support this, an additional £4 million capital grant had been received from the Safety Valve Programme.

Furthermore, the SRP at Sandhurst School had opened at the beginning of September.

Duane confirmed that College Hall had closed on 31 August and that all children from College Hall had been placed in appropriate settings.

She also confirmed that AV1 robots had been purchased to meet the Safety Valve Programme's monitoring requirement related to the use of technology in schools.

Another monitoring report had been submitted to the Safety Valve Programme, and the local authority was awaiting feedback.

Arising from questions and comments, the following points were noted:

- The SRP placement decisions were made by the Decision-Making Group, which determines where children are placed within the local authority. This group consists of a multidisciplinary team. Each SRP has specific admissions criteria based on what they can offer pupils, which the panel uses to determine the appropriate provision for each child. Duane agreed to check that these admissions criteria were published in the local offer (**Action: Duane**).
- Duane would consider if there was a way to publicly share information related to SRP capacity within the borough (**Action: Duane**).
- Work was ongoing to clarify why some SRPs were refusing certain children. If deemed appropriate, the local authority would direct schools to accept the right children.
- The new SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) school would initially open in temporary accommodation. At this stage, this was not expected to impact the size of the cohort or the school's timeline for opening. Work to appoint a trust to run the site would take place in the following weeks.

- SEMH was the third most prominent need within the borough. It was hoped that the new SEMH school would provide adequate spaces for secondary education, but it was recognized that further capacity for primary school pupils may be necessary. Although no capital was currently available for this, Duane was engaging with primary school heads to discuss ways to meet SEMH provision for primary schools.
- Children with EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) would be exempt from the planned introduction of VAT for private schools, so there should not be an increase in costs for children with plans being placed in independent schools.

RESOLVED that the Forum Notes:

- The progress made on delivering the Safety Valve intervention programme up until submission of the first monitoring report to the DfE in May 2024.

14. **2025-26 initial Budget Preparations for the Schools Budget and related matters**

The Forum received a report to provide an update to the Schools Forum in respect of the 2025-26 Schools Budget for mainstream schools together with other relevant finance related matters

Paul Clark explained to the Forum that the DfE funding framework and the uplift to funding rates would typically be confirmed at the September meeting of the Schools Forum. However, due to the change in government, these details were still pending confirmation. As a result, less information was available than usual. Despite this, significant changes to the funding framework were not anticipated due to the limited timescales.

Arising from questions and comments, the following points were noted:

- It had already been agreed by the council that if the financial situation improved, the top slice to the High Needs Block would be reversed.
- Forum Members confirmed that a 5-year commitment to the Block Transfer had been made by schools which would be honoured.
- Several delegated services worked closely with SEN support services to address special educational needs. Duane was conducting a review of delegated services to identify what services the local authority could offer to maintained schools. This was influenced by the increasing academisation, which was shifting how funding was allocated.

RESOLVED that the Forum **agrees**:

- That subject to consideration of school responses to the annual financial consultation and general affordability, the approach to setting the 2025-26 budget should remain broadly the same as for 2024-25, and in particular:
 1. That there should be no change to the current budget strategy of:
 - a. as far as possible, replicating the National Funding Formula;
 - b. setting minimum per pupil funding increases between financial years at the lowest amount permitted by the DfE;
 - c. meeting additional diseconomy and post opening costs at new and expanding schools in accordance with the approved policy;
 - d. maintaining a centrally managed Growth Fund for in-year allocation of funds to qualifying schools;
 - e. using the Central Schools Services Block to finance the permitted

services.

- That in respect of the Safety Valve programme, the equivalent of 1% of Schools Block remains needed to help finance the High Needs Block deficit and that the planned Block transfer continues as follows:
 1. a funding transfer from individual school budgets capped at 0.5%, estimated at 0.42% of Schools Block funding;
 2. the unallocated balance on the Schools Block DSG Growth Fund, estimated at 0.43% of Schools Block funding;
 3. a balancing transfer from the Central Schools Services Block estimated at 0.15% of Schools Block funding.
- That in respect of the he proposed outline content of the autumn term financial consultation with schools. The Schools Forum offered no objections to proposed outline content of the financial consultation.

15. **2024-25 arrangements for additional financial support to maintained schools**

The Forum received a report that sought agreement from the Schools Forum in respect of proposals for additional financial support to schools, in particular, approval of new or amended applications for licensed deficit arrangements. An update was also provided on the current position in respect of previously agreed financial support arrangements.

The Forum was informed that three additional schools had requested support to manage a deficit for 2024/25. This followed five schools reporting deficits for 2023/24, one of which had since paid off its deficit. If the financial arrangements were approved, the total deficit for maintained schools would rise to £0.970 million, representing a £0.155 million increase.

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 2024-25:

- i. Ascot Heath Primary School £0.150m;
- ii. Cranbourne Primary School £0.150m;
- iii. Harmanswater £0.145m (new for 2024-25);
- iv. New Scotland Hill Primary School £0.070m (new for 2024-25);
- v. Owlsmoor £0.075m (new for 2024-25);
- vi. St Michael's Easthampstead Primary School £0.135m;
- vii. Winkfield St Mary's Primary School £0.245m.

and **AGREES** the dissolution of the following licensed deficit which has been fully repaid:

- vi. The Pines Primary Schools £0.035m.

16. **Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of Schools Forum meetings for the forthcoming academic year were:

14 November 2024.
5 December 2024.
15 January 2025

13 March 2025.

CHAIRMAN

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**To: Schools Forum
14 November 2024**

Schools Forum Work Planning Chair: Schools Forum

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an outline of planned work for the Schools Forum together with the key priorities as identified by head teachers.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 Schools Forum is a statutory body that holds decision making powers as well as a leading consultative role for schools and education providers on a range of financial matters.

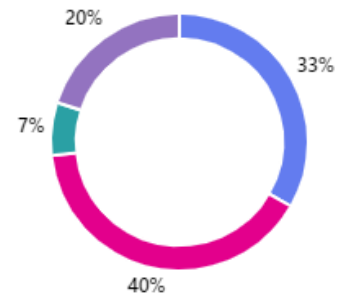
2.2 A number of the key considerations and decisions to be taken follow an annual cycle, and as such, can be planned into an expected work programme. There are also occasions when information needs to be presented or views obtained that are of a more unpredictable nature. The following table presents an outline of the normal annual cycle of meetings.

DATE OF VIRTUAL MEETING	ESSENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED	OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT CAN BE PRESENTED WHEN CONVENIENT
June	<u>Subject to DfE decisions:</u> Update on national changes to School Funding, including High Needs Block (HNB) and Early Years Block (EYB) as relevant information emerges. BFC proposals for consultation with local schools e.g. de-delegation, feedback outcomes from BFC local school's consultations	Individual school balances, Schools Budget outturn performance, report on prior year in-year budget allocations to schools, Schools Budget current year budget performance to date, Proposals of support to schools in financial difficulty, Education and CSC financial benchmarking (S251 statements), Education Funding policies, including New Schools
September		
November		
December	Updated proposals for next year's Schools / EYB / HNB Budget if ready. Initial proposals for HNB Budget.	Ad hoc matters, e.g. Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools, Updates on School Funding Pupil number and school capacity forecasts Early Years developments Contract renewals where costs are funded from Schools Budget (at least 1 month before invitation to tender)
January	Agree next year's individual school budgets. EY and HNB proposals if available. Consider council's budget	
March	Agree next year's Early Years and High Needs Block Budgets	

2.3 In order to ensure that the Forum also considers school priorities, the chair undertook a consultation with Headteachers who were asked about their views on priorities for Schools Forum after looking at the constitution.

2. Type of school

● Academy	5
● Mainstream	6
● Entering into partnership	1
● Other	3



Looking at the constitution what are your most pressing issues rearrange these top being most pressing



The 'other' subjects raised were-

Capacity for schools to respond to all new initiatives raised by other agencies/ services.

The number of surplus places

The sustainability of BF support and SLAs (non statutory)

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

3.1 Not required.

4 Strategic Risk Management Issues

4.1 None identified.

5 Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

5.1 No impact.

Background Papers

Constitution of the Schools Forum: <https://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/documents/s201324/Schools%20Forum%20Constitution%20Membersh%20ip%20September%202024%20-%20Proposed%20Changes%20v2.pdf>

Contact for further information

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: 01344 354054

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To: **Schools Forum**
14 November 2024

New SEND banding tool **Executive Director: People**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to gain the view of Schools Forum on the changes planned to the SEN banding tool.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The new banding tool will impact mainstream schools in Bracknell Forest Council. As the current banding tool is not fit for purpose, due to a lack of consistency in application and a lack of transparency leading to multiple bands being applied to each case, the council has successfully collaborated with a school's forum subgroup in early 2023 to adopt a descriptor model (see Appendix B). The banding tool was discussed at Schools forum again in March 2024, in relation to agreeing the Safety Valve submission which included a review of the financial values behind the new banding tool as a requirement for moving towards a sustainable High Needs Block.
- 2.2 An independent specialist conducted an analysis exercise to determine appropriate financial values for the new tool. They benchmarked the figures against comparator LAs. The funding amounts outlined in this report provide more or similar funding in 89% of benchmarked bands with comparator LAs. The approach seeks to protect funding at the lower bands, to promote early intervention and inclusion. The values provide significantly more funding in 72% of matches, largely in the lower bands, which this range of options has sought to protect, in order to promote early intervention.
- 2.3 The new banding tool will be applied from January 2025 at phase transfer and for new EHCPs. This is to ensure a phased approach to allow the system to adapt over time, and the amount settings receive will not change when the same child with the same needs remains within their setting. If needs change significantly before phase transfer, the new banding descriptors may be applied in individual cases.
- 2.4 From January 2025, the funding agreed on the new banding tool will be applied to new EHCPs on the date the final plan is issued or from the 20th week onwards. There will be no changes in funding allocations for other EHCPs. This was presented to Headteachers at a briefing session held on 23/10/24. 21 Headteachers were in attendance, and supported the proposal.
- 2.5 The original High Needs Block medium term budget plan agreed for the Safety Valve submission included an estimated annual reduction in funds allocated through the Banding Tool of £0.625m. The estimate from the latest model indicates a reduction of £0.763m over the life of the Safety Valve agreement.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Provide views and agree the proposed new tool.

4 Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The banding tool is an important part of the BFC Safety Valve programme and is recognised by the council and schools as requiring a significant review. The Funding Framework requires LAs to seek views of the Schools Forum in respect of the arrangements for paying High Needs Block top up funding.

5 Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 **Implementing the banding tool at Key Stage as well as Phase transfer:** Due to the significant level of change across the Safety Valve programme, and the potential impact this may have on schools, there must be consideration to choose reasonable approaches which are consistent with the Safety Valve submission while maintaining sustainability in the system. The reason for selecting the implementation model of new EHCPs and only phase transfers from January 2025 is to ensure the new tool can be implemented in a sustainable way. The council recognises the potential challenge it would create for schools to make changes to the associated bands while the child is in their current provision and want to remove the possibility of potential change to a child's current provision.
- 5.2 **Keep current banding tool (Do nothing):** The existing banding framework has been used primarily with a cost-focused approach in decision-making. This differs from the intended method, which should prioritise assessing the needs of children and young people (CYP) and the type of support required to determine funding. Currently, over half (56%) of CYP receiving top-up funding are placed in multiple bands, making the system complex for schools to navigate.

6 Key issues

- 6.1 The Safety Valve programme must deliver financial savings, and the analysis of the current banding tool shows that there is a lack of consistency in the distribution for funding of high needs pupils and a lack of transparency in the funding of high needs pupils within the borough. However, we must consider the most reasonable approach to balance the financial targets while retaining sustainability in the school system.
- 6.2 Implementation of the tool is proposed for January 2025. This is later than plans proposed in the Safety Valve submission. However, we must ensure that there is confidence and consistency within the SEND team to enable them to successfully implement the new tool. Because of this, the implementation date of the tool is proposed for January 2025 to prioritise successful implementation.

7 Supporting Information

Background

- 7.1 Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) secured a Safety Valve agreement with the DfE in February 2024; a 6-year agreement for delivery from 2024/25 through to 2029/30. The resulting programme involves four workstreams that span the SEND system. A key enabler, which will impact across the system, programme, and many workstreams, is the introduction of a revised banding framework. The banding framework and tool will be critical to support inclusivity, enable effective decision-making, and manage cost.

- 7.2 The banding tool is the mechanism that Local Authorities use to determine additional support needs of pupils. It uses domains and descriptors to consistently and transparently assess individual pupil needs and then applies those scores to a funding rate to determine level of support to be financed. This is commonly known as Element 3 top-up funding, which is met from the High Needs Block linked to the education need of children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and is the funding required over the core per pupil funding element received by schools to enable a child or young person with high needs to participate in education and learning.
- 7.3 The existing banding framework has been used primarily with a cost-focused approach in decision-making. This differs from the intended method, which should prioritise assessing the needs of children and young people (CYP) and the type of support required to determine funding. Currently, over half (56%) of CYP receiving top-up funding are placed in multiple bands, making the system complex for schools to navigate.
- 7.4 The existing Banding Tool was recognised by schools as in need of updating and in early 2023, the Schools Forum HNB subgroup proposed a new banding tool which was endorsed by the council. The new tool involved wholesale changes to current bands, the scoring system, and financial values. A descriptor model was adopted following testing and moderation exercises. These exercises revealed a range of anomalies and inconsistencies in the application of the new tool. Additionally, it became clear that implementing the new tool as it stands would likely lead to a significant increase in High Needs costs, which is not financially sustainable. While the council supports the overall framework—specifically the domains, descriptors, and scoring system—it recognizes that the current financial values attached to each band need to be reconsidered to ensure a fair and viable funding approach.
- 7.5 A financial framework has been proposed to accompany the EHCP banding matrix. A benchmarking exercise conducted by the independent specialist consultancy company, PeopleToo, against 4 comparator LAs supports the viability of the banding framework as it provides similar or more funding for CYP than comparator authorities in most cases (89% of cases).
- 7.6 Given the fundamental changes from the old framework to the new, two separate methodologies have been used to provide a range of likely financial implications of the new framework and its associated values, with the average impact used in financial modelling. Please see Appendix C for further information about the analysis methods used. As outlined above, PeopleToo were commissioned to provide analysis expertise with this exercise.

Analysis of current banding tool

- 7.7 Part of the rationale for the revision of Bracknell Forest's Banding Framework is to establish a greater level of consistency in the distribution for funding of high needs pupils and a greater level of transparency in the funding of high needs pupils within the borough.
- 7.8 The existing banding framework has been utilised with a cost-led approach, when applied to banding decision-making, e.g. funding bands are selected and often combined to match the funding figure identified, rather than descriptors of need determining the level of funding required. This is the reverse of the method intended, as opposed to using descriptors of need or provision type to determine funding.

7.9 Examples are shown below to exemplify the use of the tool at child-level.

Child #1 (287566) Year 3, PN = SEMH	Child #2 (284673) Year 4, PN = ASD	Child #3 (279059) Year 5, PN = ASD
1Y - £4.5k 3Y - £8.5k Total: £13k	2V - £6.7k 2Y - £0.67k 2Z - £2k Total: £9.4k	3U - £1.8k 4U - £6.3k Total: £8.1k

Approach

7.10 The revised financial values that sit behind the needs-led banding framework have been developed in line with two guiding principles:

- Financial sustainability (for both the LA and schools) – based on the original banding amounts, the new tool would likely increase High Needs costs significantly which is not viable for the council’s High Needs Block or Safety Valve programme. Therefore, lower values have been proposed against the bands, validated through benchmarking against other LAs with a similar statistical match to BF, but with consideration to the impact to schools.
- Promotion of right support at right time – disruption to lower bands has sought to be minimised to enable need to be supported more effectively at lower bands.

7.11 The financial values have then been benchmarked against banding frameworks from comparator local authorities, in an exercise that matches descriptors of need together to compare top-up funding provided by different councils. The benchmarked authorities are:

- South Gloucestershire
- Surrey
- Hampshire
- Solihull

Financial values

7.12 Taking the median point between the two methodologies of calculation would indicate a median estimated financial impact of £0.763m per annum by 2029-30 (See Annex C for information on the methodologies used). Bands 1-3 have been protected to a greater extent to help mitigate any impact to early intervention and to support inclusivity.

7.13 The table below shows for the financial values against each band descriptors. Using the new tool, a band is determined by scoring from 1-6 across the four broad areas of need as outlined in the Code of Practice 2015. The domains cognition and learning, communication and interaction, speech, and language, ASD/SCD needs, SEMH needs, physical and neurological impairment, and sensory need. The application of the descriptor will be applied in line with the provision as outlined in Section F of the child or young person’s Education Health and Care plan. Each domain has a detailed

explanation to accompany a score. The total score across all domains is then totalled and weighted to give a final band and a funding allocation. The application of the tool will be undertaken by key staff within the SEND service to ensure consistency of application and appropriate levels of funding allocated to the descriptors within the banding tool, linked to the child's provision as outlined in section F of the EHCP. Using the new banding tool will eliminate the need for schools and settings to provide individual provision maps. To understand more, please see Appendix B which shows the descriptors for the new tool.

Band	Funding	Estimated 24/25 EHCPS
0	£0	
1	£1,500.00	34
2	£2,500.00	14
3	£3,750.00	67
4	£5,000.00	84
5	£6,000.00	58
6	£7,500.00	89
7	£9,000.00	110
8	£12,000.00	25
9	£17,000.00	10
10	£22,000.00	4
11	£32,000.00	8

Benchmarking analysis summary

- 7.14 Please see Appendix A for further information about the methodology of the benchmarking analysis.
- 7.15 The independent review has shown that the proposed values are aligned or provide more funding in 89% of matches.

BFC Band	Bracknell Forest new values	South Gloucestershire	Surrey	Hampshire	Solihull
Band 1	£1500		£1615 Targeted 1	£984 Targeted A	
Band 2	£2500	£2277 Band 2		£2099 Targeted B	
Band 3	£3750		£3554 Targeted 2	£3165 Enhanced A	£2637 2a
Band 4	£5000		£5978 Enhanced 1	£5244 Enhanced B	
Band 5	£6000	£5350 Band 3			
Band 6	£7500		£9372 Enhanced 2	£7999 Exceptional	£5000 2b
Band 7	£9000	£8880 Band 4			
Band 8	£12000	£10758 Band 5			£8807 2c
Band 9	£16000	£13193 Band 6			
Band 10	£22000		£10,424 Bespoke		
Band 11	£30000				

 Lower than BFC option
 In line with BFC option

Comparator LA	Total Band Matches	With new option, BFC provides...		
		Less Funding	Similar Funding	More Funding
South Gloucestershire	5	0	1	4
Surrey	5	1	2	2
Hampshire	5	1	0	4
Solihull	3	0	0	3

7.16 This benchmarking supports the viability of the financial values proposed to sit behind the revised Bracknell Forest banding framework, as it provides similar or more funding for CYP than comparator authorities in the vast majority of cases (89% of cases)

There are however several caveats to consider:

- **Exceptional cases:** Although the benchmarking exercise has sought to ensure that new bands are aligned to other local authorities in terms of funding provided, there is the potential for disruption in the transition between ‘as-is’ and ‘to-be’ funding must be carefully considered. Whilst the vast majority of EHCPs should be able to transition to the new funding arrangements, there is likely to be a range of ‘exceptional cases’ where this transition will be financially disruptive for the school. The modelling therefore includes applying a confidence weighting to the greatest variations to reduce the potential financial impact.

- Variability in needs assessment: This exercise relies on the assumption that similar descriptors across different frameworks imply equivalent needs. However, contextual factors and implementation will vary between different local authorities, which is not possible to capture in this exercise. The use of multiple comparators in this exercise reduces the likelihood that sufficient variation would be present to invalidate the results.
- Variability in associated costs: costs associated with providing support to students with SEND can vary significantly across different local authorities and regions, influenced by a range of factors including regional cost of living, availability of specialised services, and local wage levels. Consequently, financial values assigned to similar support bands might be lower in areas where associated costs are naturally lower than Bracknell Forest.

Financial impact

- 7.17 It is recommended that the revised banding framework is implemented with a phased approach against the existing mainstream EHCP cohort, with the new bands applied at Phase transfers, as well as to all new EHCPs.
- 7.18 Given the fundamental changes from the old framework to the new, it is difficult to accurately assess the likely financial impact without additional moderation of cases to inform band mapping. As such, two separate methodologies have been used. Please see Appendix C for further information about the two methods used.
- 7.19 Due to the respective limitations of each approach, both have been applied in order to provide a range of likely financial implications of the new framework and its associated values.
- 7.20 The financial values, if implemented only to new EHCPs and at Key Phase transfers would be expected to provide £0.763m of cumulative financial impact across the duration of the Safety Valve Programme.

Financial Year	Projected Key Phase Transfers	Projected New Mainstream EHCPs	Method 1 Projected Financial Impact	Method 2 Projected Financial Impact	Median Projected Financial Impact
24/25	N/A	16	£-4,695	£-9,140	£-6,917
25/26	86	60	£-120,135	£-147,948	£-134,041
26/27	84	15	£-176,272	£-190,180	£-183,226
27/28	106	7	£-185,037	£-173,275	£-179,156
28/29	67	7	£-150,737	£-160,631	£-155,683
29/30	28	7	£-103,852	£-104,233	£-104,042
Cumulative Total:					£-763,067

Implementation

- 7.21 The proposed implementation date for the new banding tool is January 2025.
- 7.22 A review of SEND decision making processes is a key priority within the Safety Valve programme, building on the work already undertaken as part of the Written Statement of Action. Once all new permanent members of staff have joined the SEND team and completed their induction, there will be an exercise from November 2024 to train new staff members on use of the new banding tool, to ensure the tool is successfully embedded.

Conclusion

- 7.23 The proposed funding bands provide more or similar funding in 89% of benchmarked bands with comparator LAs. Due to the significant level of change across the Safety Valve programme, and the potential impact this may have on schools, there must be consideration to choose reasonable approaches to save money while improving sustainability in the system.
- 7.24 The reason for selecting the implementation model of only applying new funding levels to new EHCPs and phase transfers from January 2025 is to ensure the new tool can be implemented in a sustainable way, with no impact on funding levels for children and young people already being supported in settings. The council recognises the potential challenge it would create for schools to make changes to the associated bands while the child is in their current provision and want to remove the possibility of potential change to a child's current provision. This was presented to Headteachers at a briefing session held on 23/10/24. 21 Headteachers were in attendance and supported the proposal.

8 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 8.1 The statutory basis for local authorities funding maintained schools for additional support needs of pupils primarily comes from the Children and Families Act 2014. This legislation emphasizes the duty of local authorities to ensure that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the support they need to thrive in educational settings and Banding is lawful as long as it meets assessed needs.”

Financial Advice

- 8.2 The anticipated financial implications are set out in the supporting information. Through its participation in the Safety Valve programme, the Council has agreed to implement a robust plan to reduce spending on high needs block expenditure down to the level of grant provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant over a period of six years. A substantial amount of the council's reserves will be required to clear the cumulative deficit

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.3 Equality Impact Assessments (EqlAs) are undertaken on changes to policy and decisions that could have impacts on any of the protected characteristics under the

Equality Act 2010. All service areas will undertake EqlAs as appropriate for the activities within the service plans, as part of business-as-usual activity. Recognition of equality related activity is included throughout the plans for relevant activity.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 8.4 The level of deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant due to rising costs in recent years of SEND services, represents the most serious financial threat the Council faces. Participation in the Safety Valve programme provides the impetus to address this through the identification of mitigations that both reduce costs and maintain a focus on educational outcomes, while offering the opportunity to secure both revenue and capital grant funding from the DfE that is not available to authorities outside Safety Valve.

Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

- 8.5 The recommendations are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 8.6 There are no Health & Wellbeing implications from the recommendations.

Background Papers

Appendix A: [Benchmarking methodology](#)

Appendix B: [BFC Banding allocation tool descriptors](#)

Appendix C: [Methodologies for calculating financial impact](#)

Contact for further information.

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TO: Schools Forum
14 November 2024

**Update on 2025-26 School Budgets including outcomes from the October 2024
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 the latest information from the Department of Education (DfE) in respect of the 2025-26 Financial Settlement for schools and the responses received from schools to the annual financial consultation.
- 1.2 Views are also sought from the Forum regarding whether schools should be consulted on widening the calculation of the Block Transfer from the Schools Block (SB) to the High Needs Block (HNB) to include those schools funded at the lowest per pupil amount normally permitted by the DfE through the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL).

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 A general DfE announcement following the October 2024 budget has confirmed an additional £2.3 bn funding for schools, £1 bn of which will be directed to the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, with the remaining increase to the schools budget to fully fund the 5.5% September 2024 pay award for teachers and help cover pay awards in 2025-26. Additional funding will also be made available to support schools with the cost increase associated with changes to employer National Insurance Contributions. According to the Education Policy Institute (EPI) ¹, these changes represent a real-terms increase in funding of 1.8%.
- 2.2 The DfE has confirmed that details of the 2025-26 financial settlement for schools are expected to be made available at the end of November. Due to the resultant uncertainties, it is not possible to undertake meaningful budget modelling, resulting in further delays in making proposals for the 2025-26 SB Budget.
- 2.3 One new update has recently emerged where views are now being sought from the Forum. This relates to the calculation of the Block Transfer / Top Slice from the SB to the HNB. The DfE has now confirmed that local authorities can request a “disapplication” to the MPPFL values i.e. apply different values than those set by the DfE in the National Funding Formula (NFF)². This means that subject to Secretary of State agreement, the calculation of the Block Transfer / Top Slice could in future include a contribution from schools that are initially funded at the national MPPFL.
- 2.4 Such a change would not generate a greater transfer of funds out of the SB as this is capped at 1% of the total SB, and no more than 0.5% per school. The change would mean all schools contribute, with 7 currently exempt.

¹ The EPI is a charity aiming to “raise standards in education through rigorous data analysis, research and the exchange of information and knowledge to help inform the public and hold government and decision-makers to account.”

² The NFF distributes funding based on schools’ and pupils’ needs and characteristics and uses the same factor values for all schools across the country. The exception to this being an area cost adjustment (ACA) uplift which is paid to areas with high costs. BF receives a 5.7% uplift

- 2.5 In terms of the financial consultation, responses 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.
- 2.6 In terms of allocating funds to mainstream schools, there is also strong support from schools to applying minimum per pupil funding increases at the lowest permitted rate, which is expected to be 0% but has yet to be confirmed by the DfE.
- 2.7 The decisions taken on the outcomes from the consultation will assist with the on-going preparation of the 2025-26 budget. As some of the questions only impact on specific groups, DfE only allows Forum members representing these groups to make relevant decisions. The report recommendations are therefore presented to reflect this.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To AGREE that after taking account of the school responses to the October 2024 financial consultation:**

Item for Maintained Primary School members only

- 1) de-delegation of budgets continues for the services requested by the council.**

Item for Maintained Secondary School member only

- 2) de-delegation of budgets continues for the services requested by the council.**

Item for all Maintained School members only

- 3) a £20 per pupil contribution continues to be made by maintained schools towards the cost of delivering 'general' education related statutory and regulatory duties.**

Items for all Forum members

- 3.2 To AGREE if a consultation should be undertaken with all schools to gather views on whether the calculation of the Block Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block budget should be updated to include schools funded at the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level.**

4 Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 To ensure the majority views as expressed by schools through the financial consultation are considered when relevant budget decisions are taken.

5 Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 These were set out in the consultation document.

6 Supporting Information

Update on 2025-26 Financial Settlement for schools

- 6.1 The previous meeting of the Forum received confirmation that the change in government following the July general election would prevent the normal July release of key budget setting data for 2025-26. This reflected the resultant delay in agreeing Departmental budgets.
- 6.2 A general DfE announcement following the October 2024 budget has confirmed an additional £2.3 bn funding for schools, £1 bn of which will be directed to the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, with the remaining increase to the schools budget to fully fund the 5.5% September 2024 pay award for teachers and help cover pay awards in 2025-26. Additional funding will also be made available to support schools with the additional cost associated with changes to employer National Insurance Contributions. According to the EPI, these changes represent a real-terms increase of 1.8%.
- 6.3 On 25 October, the DfE provided an update on the statutory Funding Framework. “The school and local authority level National Funding Formula (NFF) allocations will be published as soon as possible following the budget. To allow sufficient time to quality assure the accuracy of the allocations, we expect that the allocations will be published in late November.”
- 6.4 This latest update also confirmed what had been anticipated on the following areas:
1. The 2025 to 2026 schools NFF will use the same factors as the 2024 to 2025 NFF.
 2. The funding framework will continue to provide funding protections through the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)³ and Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPFL)⁴
 3. The teachers’ pay additional grant (TPAG) 2023 and the teachers’ pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) will be rolled into the NFF for 2025 to 2026. The recently announced core schools budget grant (CSBG) will also be rolled into the schools NFF for 2025 to 2026.
 4. Local authorities will be responsible for deciding local funding formulae for mainstream schools in their area. The funding levels that schools – both maintained schools and academies – receive will be determined by the respective local formulae.
- 6.5 At publication of this report, relevant information had not been released by the DfE for any meaningful modelling of 2025-26 budgets for schools.
- 6.6 What has also recently emerged, which is contrary to advice received for the 2024-25 Schools Budget, is that the DfE has now confirmed that local authorities can request a “disapplication” to the MPPFL values i.e. apply different values than those set by the

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

⁴ The NFF includes MPPFLs that are applied equally to all primary and secondary schools (£4,655 and £6,050 respectively in 2024-25). The only factors not included in per-pupil funding for the purpose of the MPPFL calculation are premises e.g. business rates

DfE in the NFF. This means that subject to Secretary of State agreement, the calculation of the Block Transfer / Top Slice could in future include a contribution from schools that are initially funded at the national MPPFL.

- 6.7 This update does warrant review by the Schools Forum in respect of whether a change should be considered in the calculation of the current 1% transfer of SB income to the HNB. This is currently achieved by a maximum 0.5% top slice at individual school level, excluding schools on the MPPFL, plus a share of Schools Block income received through use of Dedicated Schools Grant⁵ Growth Fund and also a share of the Central School Services Block⁶ DSG.
- 6.8 The equivalent of 1% transfer of funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would not increase if schools on the MPPFL were subject to the top slice. If a contribution was agreed to be made from these schools, this is expected to reduce the contribution from the DSG Growth Fund allocation, resulting in more of these funds remaining in the Schools Block budget for general distribution to all schools.
- 6.9 The key consideration is whether some schools should be excluded from the top slice calculation. In the current year, 6 schools are completely excluded from making a contribution, with one making a contribution of 0.17% of budget as it was in receipt of a MPPFL top up of below the 0.5% cap.
- 6.10 If schools on the MPPFL were to be included in the top slice calculation, the deduction would not necessarily be a standard 0.5% to each relevant school's budget. This is because the MPPFL has to be applied as a fixed cash amount to all qualifying schools. The value of the MPPFL would need to be set at a level that ensures no school experiences a greater deduction in funding than 0.5%.
- 6.11 With the detailed 2025-26 financial settlement for schools yet to be published, it is not possible now to produce robust calculations on likely 2025-26 top slice contributions from individual schools.
- 6.12 If the Forum supported such a change, a disapplication request would be made to the Secretary of State where the most important factors will be the outcome of consultations with schools, the views of the Schools Forum on reducing the MPPFL, and a strong justification for why this disapplication is necessary.
- 6.13 Views are therefore sought from the Forum on whether a consultation should be undertaken with schools to gather views on extending the top slice to schools on the MPPFL. Financial exemplifications of such a change at individual school level would be provided if sufficient information has been released in time from the DfE, or the council is able to make a reasonable estimate.

Outcomes from the financial consultation with schools

- 6.14 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.

⁵ The DSG is a specific grant provided by the Department for Education to local authorities. It funds current expenditure on schools, early years and children and young people with high needs. The DSG is the main source of income from the schools budget.

⁶ The CSSB covers funding allocated to local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies in England

- 6.15 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 2024-25 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.
- 6.16 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. Whilst the response rate reduced from 51% to 37%, there is confidence that the consultation responses provide enough consensus to make decisions.
- 6.17 The following tables set out a summary of the key elements of the financial consultation. Annex 1 provides more detailed information.

Response rate: 37% (51% in 2023)

School type:	%	Replies	Phase:	%	Replies
Maintained	50%	10	Primary	37%	11
Academy	22%	4	Secondary	33%	2
			All through	100%	1
			Special / PRU	0%	0
	37%	14	Overall	37%	14

Responses to the questions (note not all schools responded to all questions)

Question	Yes	No	No. of Replies	Impacts:
1. Should minimum increases in per pupil funding be set at the lowest amount permitted by the DfE, estimated at nil %?	100%	0%	14	All schools including special
2. Should the cost of financing any impact from 1. be met from deductions to schools receiving the highest % increase?	92%	8%	13	Mainstream schools only
3. Should de-delegation continue on permitted services?	100%	0%	9	Maintained mainstream schools only
4. Should maintained schools continue to contribute £20 per pupil to LA statutory education related costs?	100%	0%	9	Maintained schools only

- 6.18 Comments were received from 3 schools which related to:
1. High costs being experienced by schools with insufficient funding increases, with a bigger impact on small schools;
 2. De-delegated services, where more information on some services was requested and some services not meeting school needs;
 3. Greater information on Education related statutory and regulatory.

Annex 3 sets out the detailed responses received.

7 Advice Received from Statutory and other Officers

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal implications are addressed within the main body of the report.

Director of Resources

- 7.2 The Director of Resources is satisfied that there are no significant financial implications arising from this budget policy setting report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 The need for an EIA will be taken when the final budget proposals are confirmed.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 None identified.

Climate Change Impact

- 7.5 None identified.

Health Impact

- 7.6 None identified.

8 Consultation

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 People Directorate Management Team, school governors, head teachers, Schools Forum and schools.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Written reports and formal consultation with schools.

Representations Received

- 8.3 Included in body of this report.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(125\) 141124/25-26 Schools Budget incl Outcomes fr Oct 24 consultation.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/(125) 141124/25-26 Schools Budget incl Outcomes fr Oct 24 consultation.docx)

Outcomes from the October 2024 Financial Consultation with Schools

1. By the October response deadline, replies had been received from 14 out of 38 schools (37% response rate – was 51% last year). A reply was received from 11 primary schools (37%), 2 secondary schools (33%) and KAB Binfield all through school. This represents a reduced response rate from previous years but there is a general consensus in responses, which gives confidence that decisions on these matters can be taken that reflect the view of respondents.
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 (question 4).

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 permitted change in per pupil funding from the 2024-25 financial year? The range of values permitted by the DfE is expected to be between 0% and +0.5%.

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.

All 14 responses supported this proposal.

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 2024-25 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. 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 12 schools (92%) supported this proposal. 1 disagreed (8%).

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.

All 9 responses from schools impacted form this decision 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.

Note this question only impacts on maintained, mainstream schools.

All 9 responses from schools impacted form this decision supported the proposal.

Summary responses to the October 2024 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 the minimum permitted change in per pupil funding from the 2024-25 financial year? The range of values permitted by the DfE is expected to be between 0% and +0.5%.						
Yes	11	2	1	0	14	100%
No	0	0	0	0	0	0%
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 2024-25 by limiting increases to those mainstream schools receiving the largest increases in per pupil funding, typically those above the average percentage increase?						
Yes	11	1	0	0	12	92%
No	0	1	0	0	1	8%
No reply / not applicable	0	0	1	0	1	

QUESTION	TOTALS				TOTAL	%
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	ALL THROUGH	SPECIAL		
<p>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?</p> <p>Note: If the total spend incurred by the council in delivering de-delegated services is below the amount of funds provided by maintained schools, then the amount of underspending is returned to maintained schools at the end of the financial year?</p>						
Yes	8	1	0	0	9	100
No	0	0	0	0	0	0%
No reply / not applicable	3	1	1	0	5	
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	8	1	0	0	9	100%
No	0	0	0	0	0	0%
No reply / not applicable	3	1	1	0	5	

School comments rising from the October 2023 financial consultation

School	Comment
Crowthorne Primary	<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 - Utility costs continue to be a concern as the cost (though not as high as previous year) still remain high - We will be getting help with the teacher pay increases (not a full amount though), but nothing to cover teh pay increases for other staff is a concern <p>Other issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The way 'other staffs' pay increases are a 'fixed figure' and not a % (like teachers) so salary increase isn't consistent through all support staff is unfair.
Binfield Primary	<p>Response for 3 is unable to answer- what are we getting for support to underperforming ethnic groups and Behaviour Support Services, request more details, Cleapss Licence fees is secondary only, Response for 4 is unable to answer at this stage, would like more detail on what is provided to schools for the £20.00 pupil contribution that is different to what is paid for via an SLA</p>
Holly Spring Primary	<p>The service received from Behaviour Support, within the de-delegated section, does not meet the requirements of the school. This is the one area that we would like to see removed as we feel we are funding this ourselves.</p>

**TO: Schools Forum
14 November 2024**

The Schools Budget: 2024-25 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 2024-25 forecast budget monitoring position for the Schools Budget, to be aware of key issues 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 £9.155m 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 £6.483m forecast deficit for the year when the budget was set.
- 2.2 Additionally, in respect of the HNB, Bracknell Forest is a high spending local authority when compared to national data, ranked second out of 150 LAs on a per pupil cost basis.
- 2.3 Taking account of the pre-existing £18.062m deficit held in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Adjustment Account and other adjustments, including £1.370m of Department for Education funding to support the Safety Valve programme, a £26.278m cumulative deficit is currently being forecast for 31 March 2025.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The financial difficulties highlight the importance of 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 £9.155m (paragraph 6.15);**

- 3.2 that including Emerging Issues, the forecast over-spending increases to £10.017m (paragraph 6.15);
- 3.3 that the year-end balance held in the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account is forecast at a deficit of £26.278m deficit and that the cost to Bracknell Forest Council of servicing this level of “debt” in 2025/26 will be around £1.25m per year (paragraph 6.16);
- 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 6.21 to 6.22)
- 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

2024-25 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 2024-25, the initial budget was set at £6.483m, the estimated level of in-year over spending on pupils with High Needs-
- 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 £136.610m as the estimated amount of DSG. Other grant income for maintained schools of £4.972m 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 Teachers Pay Addition Grant. With £0.100m of other income also anticipated, there was originally expected to be £141.682m of income available to fund expenditure within the Schools Budget. Adding the £6.483m approved net budget results in a gross budget of £148.165m.

¹ The DSG is a specific grant provided by the Department for Education to local authorities. It funds current expenditure on schools, early years and children and young people with high needs. The DSG is the main source of income from the schools budget.

- 6.3 Therefore, for 2024-25, the Council agreed a net budget of £6.483m which comprised the forecast over spending on the HNB, with all other spend being financed 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 2024-25 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 After setting the original budget, the 2023-24 final accounts reported an improved outturn position to that expected when the budget was approved of £0.917m. This meant several on-going commitments budgets were set at an incorrect amount when presented to the Forum. Relevant self-balancing adjustments have therefore been processed to better reflect the 2023-24 year end position and to set more realistic budget amounts.
- 6.7 Since initial budgets were set, DfE 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 £54.507m deduction which has been balanced off by an equivalent decrease in budget for mainstream schools.
- 6.8 Furthermore, the DfE 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 DfE directly funded providers. This reflects the £1.980m funding Kennel Lane Special Academy school receives for places commissioned by the council, rather than BFC directly funding the school. The overall deduction from BFC has increased by £2.090m.
- 6.9 The Early Years DSG allocation has also been updated by the DfE to reflect January 2024 actual levels of uptake of the free entitlement to early years. This results in additional income of -£0.563m. The significant change reflects the difficulty in accurately predicting increased take ups following the new expansion to eligibilities.
- 6.10 There have also been 2 new grants allocated by the DfE: the Teachers' Pension Additional Pay Grant at -£0.835m, which has been provided to help fund schools for the 5% increase in employer contributions to the scheme; and the Core Schools Budget Grant at -£0.831m which has been provided to help schools finance the cost of the September 2024 Teachers' Pay Award and other cost increases. Furthermore, the original allocation for the 2023 Teachers' Pay Grant has been reduced by +£0.002m.
- 6.11 Overall, the above changes are self-balancing as the adjustments in income are offset by equivalent changes in the relevant service budgets. The anticipated level of income has reduced to £87.313m, there is an unchanged net budget of £6.483m and therefore total funding of £93.796m. 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.

- 6.12 Other budget changes will need to be processed later in the year as further updates are provided by the DfE in respect of further academisation by schools and updates to HNB and the EY Block allocations.

Forecast budget variances

- 6.13 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.
- 6.14 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 2025-26 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.
- 6.15 Provisional budget monitoring information available at the end of September indicates that the Schools Budget will overspend by £9.155m this year which is £2.672m 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 £0.862m. When these are included, the potential in-year deficit amounts to £10.017m.
- 6.16 There is a £18.062mm deficit opening balance on the DSG Adjustment Account² with -£1.801m additional income for the Safety Valve from the DfE and BFC, meaning an aggregate year end deficit of £26.278m is currently being forecast. Servicing this debt in 2025-26 will have a cost to the Council of lost interest of around £1.2m.
- 6.17 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. Latest forecasts from a survey from Association of Local Authority Treasurers Society (ALATS), reveals that the nationwide SEND deficit currently exceeds £3 billion across English councils and is projected to rise to £8 billion in 2026-27. These deficits are not accounted for in the government's £22 billion budget gap.

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.

6.19 In respect of spend in Bracknell Forest, national data³ for 2023-24 budget statements ranks Bracknell Forest as the second highest spending LA on HNB functions out of 150 when expressed as an amount per pupil. Areas with the highest ranked spending are:

- 1) Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers (3rd)
- 2) Other alternative provision services (19th)
- 3) Top-up funding – maintained schools (24th)

6.20 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.

High Needs Block - £9.418m 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 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.

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 2025-26 are presented.

- 1) **Delegated Special Schools – +£0.114m 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 which is the full capacity.
- 2) **Maintained schools and academies – +£1.681m overspend.** Top up payments to BF maintained schools and academies, including Special Resource Provisions are significantly above the estimate assumed in the budget. There are an additional 86 FTE plans at an average cost of £10,645, which is a 20% increase, with average cost of support up £913 (9%). This includes confirmed allocations to the end of September and an allowance for further allocations to financial year end. The spend includes £0.230m for backdated allocations relating to 2023-24 financial year.
- 3) **Non-maintained special schools and colleges - +£1.197m overspend.** This is the most significant budget area in terms of expenditure and the focus of the change programme. There are forecast to be 325 FTE placements with

³ Section 251 of the Apprentices, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 requires Local authorities submit statements of planned and actual expenditure on education and children's social care. The Department for Education uses the data for publishing statistics, constructing benchmarking tables, answering parliamentary questions and responding to other data requests

these providers which is around 17 FTE higher than the previous year (+6%). The overspending has arisen as a result of an increase in average cost of provision from £37.0k to a current average of £38.9k (+5%).

- 4) **Education out of school - £0.168m underspend.** This area of the budget has been subject to the greatest change from the Safety Valve programme with the closure of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and a re-provision of support to excluded pupils and those with medical needs through the Access to Education Service. The closure of College Hall will result in a reduction in spend from 2023-24 of -£0.808m (-51%) and Access to Education -£0.712m (-58%). Taken together, these services are on target to achieve the exceed the overall cost reduction targets included in the budget by -£0.168m.
- 5) **Other SEN provisions and support services - +£0.111m overspend.** The most significant budget variance relates to a £0.458m forecast overspending on cost of support provided through alternative provision. Whilst the number being supported has remained stable at a circa average 45 FTE, the average cost of support has increased by +£12k (+60%) to £32k. There are a number of underspendings on other SEN support services that partially offset this overspending.
- 6) **Over spending anticipated in original budget - +£6.483m.** In setting the original budget, it was accepted that spending would significantly exceed income and was provisionally calculated at a £6.483m over spending.

Early Years Block - £0.200m underspend

- 7) **Early Years free entitlement - £0.200m under spending.** New free entitlements are being rolled out during 2024-25 and beyond. Based on summer term take up and the January 2024 census funding point, a circa -£0.200m under spend is forecast. This will be subject to change once the autumn and spring term take up data and the January 2025 census funding point..

Dedicated Schools Grant - £0.063m underspend

- 8) **Dedicated Schools Grant - £0.063m under spending.** The DfE has recalculated the 2023-24 EYB DSG allocation with the actual January 2024 census data, with a further payment of £0.063m received.

6.21 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 - +£0.862m potential spend:

- 1) **Kennel Lane special school – +£0.040m spend.**

Pupil placements and support needs are often subject to change, with a general trend to higher support costs. A further increase in spend is therefore possible before financial year end.

- 2) **Maintained schools and academies – +£0.231m spend.**

Mainstream BF schools and SRPs. +£0.183m spend. SRP forecasts remain volatile, in particular additional places to be delivered, including through new provisions and values of top up payments. £0.070m is estimated as a potential cost increase. For top up payments to mainstream schools, there is an expectation of further support plans being agreed, with a current provision of £0.113m.

Other LA schools (mainstream, SRP and special). +£0.048m spend. In a similar situation as for BF schools, there is an expectation of a small number of further placements being agreed, with a current provision of £0.048m.

- 3) **Non-maintained special schools and colleges. +£0.099m spend.** there is an expectation of a small number of further placements being agreed, with a current provision of £0.099m.
- 4) **Education out of school - +£0.326m overspend.** Whilst College Hall PRU has closed, costs will continue to be incurred until the future use of the building is determined, with some staff termination costs also to be financed.
- 5) **Other SEN provisions and support services - +£0.166m spend.** There is an expectation of a small number of further placements being agreed, with a current provision of £0.166m.

Forecast cumulative balance - +£26.278m deficit

- 9) The budget variances being forecast at the end of September indicate a year end cumulative deficit of £26.278m. This comprises the £18.062m accumulated deficit at the start of the year, the £6.483m overspend anticipated when the budget was set, the additional £3.534m overspend now being reported, less additional income of -£1.801m from the DfE and BFC to support the Safety Valve programme.

Managing the forecast overspend

- 6.22 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.
- 6.23 This is a time limited change to the DSG ring-fence, initially for 3 years, but subsequently expended 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.
- 6.24 It is clear that the council is facing significant challenges in managing spend to the level of HNB income.

2024-25 Education Capital Programme

Approved budget

- 6.25 The current Education Capital budget approved by the council amounts to £24.276m, and comprises £1.960m of council funding, £3.761m from housing developers and £18.555m from various grants and other income. Of this total, £7.032m is new funding for 2024-25 with £17.244m brought forward from previous years to finance the completion of approved projects.
- 6.26 The major scheme in the programme are:

- School related projects, including schools' Devolved Formula Capital £20.315m, of which £16.700m relates to 3 Safety Valve projects at All Saints, Edgbarrow and Sandhurst
- School Planned Maintenance £2.236m
- Other projects £1.725m

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

Forecast budget variances

- 6.27 No under spendings are currently being reported, though there is a potential slippage in relation to a Planned Maintenance project. No variances are being reported elsewhere as in general, variances are recycled within the school related projects.
- 6.28 The Safety Valve projects will be subject to further review and potential reallocation of funds as schemes progress and costs at individual scheme level become more certain.
- 6.29 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 currently planned. As a number of schemes cross financial years, the current forecast is for £15.914m of funding to be slipped into 2025-26.

Next steps

- 6.30 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

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Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(125\) 141124/2024-25 Schools Budget Monitoring etc.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/(125)_141124/2024-25_Schools_Budget_Monitoring_etc.docx)

2024-25 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING
SCHOOLS BUDGET AS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2024

Service Area	Approved Budget			Estimated Variance			NOTE	Emerging Issues Extra
	Spend	Income	Net	Under spending	Over spending	Net variance		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000
Schools Budget - 100% grant funded								
Schools Block (SB)								
Delegated and devolved budgets:								
Delegated Mainstream School Budgets	46,248	-6,636	39,612	0	0	0		0
School Funding supporting HNB	401	0	401	0	0	0		0
LA managed items:								
Growth Funding Supporting Schools	373	0	373	0	0	0		0
Retained de-delegated Budgets:	835	-7	828	-89	89	0		0
Maintained schools contribution to statutory duties	163	0	163	0	0	0		0
Growth Funding Supporting HNB	422	0	422	0	0	0		0
Total Schools Block	48,442	-6,643	41,799	-89	89	0		0
Central School Services Block (CSSB)								
LA managed items:								
Combined Service Budgets:	311	0	311	0	0	0		0
Admissions	202	0	202	0	0	0		0
All schools contribution to statutory duties	16	0	16	0	0	0		0
Other CSSB services	179	0	179	0	0	0		0
Funding supporting HNB	140	0	140	0	0	0		0
Total Central School Services Block	848	0	848	0	0	0		0
High Needs Block (HNB)								
LA managed items:								
Delegated Special Schools Budgets	4,056	-7	4,049	-44	158	114	1	40
Maintained schools and academies	9,650	0	9,650	-2,780	4,461	1,681	2	231
Non Maintained Special Schools and Colleges	11,340	0	11,340	0	1,197	1,197	3	99
Education out of school	1,671	-3	1,668	-853	685	-168	4	326
Other SEN provisions and support services	3,036	0	3,036	-528	639	111	5	166
Overspending anticipated in original budget	0	0	0	0	6,483	6,483	6	0
DSG Block Transfer income from Schools Block	-822	0	-822	0	0	0		0
DSG Block Transfer income from Central Schools Supj	-140	0	-140	0	0	0		0
Income from Health	0	-81	-81	0	0	0		0
	28,791	-91	28,700	-4,205	13,623	9,418		862
Early Years Block (EYB)								
Free entitlement to early years education	15,012	-2	15,010	-200	0	-200	7	0
Other Early Years provisions and support services	703	0	703	0	0	0		0
	15,715	-2	15,713	-200	0	-200		0
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)								
	0	-80,577	-80,577	-63	0	-63	8	0
TOTAL - Schools Budget	93,796	-87,313	6,483	-4,557	13,712	9,155		862
Opening balance on DSG Adjustment Account (Unusable Reserve)						18,062		
Forecast overspend in approved budget						6,483		
2024-25 additional over spend compare to estimate in approved budget						2,672		
Budget risk associated with Emerging Issues						862		
DfE Safety Valve funding						-1,370		
BFC Safety Valve funding						-431		
Forecast year end balance on DSG Adjustment Account (Unusable Reserve)						<u>26,278</u>	9	

See paragraphs 6.20 and 6.21 for an explanation to the notes

CAPITAL MONITORING 2024/25

Dept: People
 Children, Young People and Learning
 As at 30 September 2024

Cost Centre Description	Approved Budget 2024/25	Cash Budget 2024/25	Expenditure to Date	Estimated Outturn 2024/25	Carry Forward 2024/25	(Under) / Over Spend	Current status of the project / notes
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
SCHOOL PROJECTS							
Wooden Hill Nurture Centre	115.0	115.0	39.8	115.0	0.0	0.0	School managed project
Primary	115.0	115.0	39.8	115.0	0.0	0.0	
High Needs Provision Capital	2,156.0	2,156.0	0.0	2,156.0	0.0	0.0	Spend is now unlikely this financial year. Expected to be allocated to Safety Valve Projects
Special Provision Capital Fund	82.8	82.8	0.0	82.8	0.0	0.0	Spend is now unlikely this financial year. Expected to be allocated to Safety Valve Projects
Safety Valve SEMH Special School at All Saints	12,726.3	899.9	380.6	899.9	11,826.4	0.0	Tender process to commence mid November 2024 with construction works scheduled to commence May 2025, to complete mid November 2026 (subject to securing planning and contractors programme).
Safety Valve Special Resource Provision – Edgbarrow	3,091.0	300.0	149.9	300.0	2,791.0	0.0	Detailed design commenced and is to be completed at the end of November. Tender documents are to be issued in December 2024, with construction works to begin in late March 2025 and complete mid-November 2025 (subject to securing planning and contractors programme).
Safety Valve Special Resource Provision – Sandhurst	900.0	800.0	107.6	800.0	100.0	0.0	Scheduled to complete in early March 2025..
Special Needs	18,956.1	4,238.7	638.1	4,238.7	14,717.4	0.0	
Devolved Capital and other funds held by schools	922.4	922.4	221.1	922.4	0.0	0.0	Managed by schools.
Project Management Overheads	128.2	128.2	64.1	128.2	0.0	0.0	To be allocated to projects at year end.
Other Schools Related Capital	1,244.2	1,136.7	371.3	1,136.7	107.5	0.0	
SCHOOL PROJECTS	20,315.30	5,490.4	1,049.2	5,490.4	14,824.9	0.0	

CAPITAL MONITORING 2024/25

Dept: People

Children, Young People and Learning

As at 30 September 2024

Cost Centre Description	Approved Budget 2024/25	Cash Budget 2024/25	Expenditure to Date	Estimated Outturn 2024/25	Carry Forward 2024/25	(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	2,235.6	2,235.6	621.9	2,235.6	0.0	0.0	Most projects complete although potential for one major scheme to slip into 2025-26.
ROLLING PROGRAMME	2,235.6	2,235.6	621.9	2,235.6	0.0	0.0	
OTHER PROJECTS							
Larchwood	51.1	51.1	22.8	51.1	0.0	0.0	Aw aiting planning permission for fencing. Outcome expected October. Door entry system has commenced.
Nursery Provision	506.2	506.2	-3.3	506.2	0.0	0.0	Under consideration with Legal. Delayed due to questions in relation to the subsidy act.
S106 Ascot Heath Primary	65.8	65.8	31.5	65.8	0.0	0.0	Project at planning stage - business case due to go through governance in October '24.
East Berks CYP Residential Project	1,089.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,089.0	0.0	Joint East Berkshire scheme, funded by NHS England. Sites under consideration. Scheme to slip to 2025-26.
S106 Priestwood Nursery Facilities	12.8	12.8	0.0	12.8	0.0	0.0	Works are completed - Balance being held pending further planning round.
Other	1,724.9	635.9	51.0	635.9	1,089.0	0.0	
OTHER PROJECTS	1,724.9	635.9	51.0	635.9	1,089.0	0.0	
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	24,275.8	8,361.9	1,722.1	8,361.9	15,913.9	0.0	