

**2022-23 Provisional Outturn on the Schools Budget and other
Financial matters
Executive Director - People**

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Schools Forum of the provisional outturn on the 2022-23 Schools Budget, including the allocation of balances and use of Earmarked Reserves. These funds are ring-fenced for the support of schools and pupils.
- 1.2 There is also a brief update on the financial consultation with schools planned for the autumn term to help with initial preparations of the 2024-25 Schools Budget.

2 Executive summary

- 2.1 The 2022-23 draft accounts confirm that whilst there has been an improvement in financial performance compared to 2021-22, a significant overspending again occurred with the whole Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspending by £6.006m (was £6.595m). As expected, the most significant overspending occurred on the High Needs Block (HNB) at £6.294m (£7.143m over spend in 2021-22).
- 2.2 The over spending on the HNB is consistent with the experience of many LAs across the county for the last few years. Whilst this pressure has been recognised by the government with additional funding being provided to all LAs, this is still insufficient to finance the pressures. With a further £7.365m deficit projected when the 2023-24 HNB budget was considered, this represents a significant financial challenge.
- 2.3 Whilst the current legal framework requires accumulated HNB deficits to remain within the LA's Schools Budget, the financial responsibility of the debt remains with the Department for Education (DfE) to 31 March 2026. Responsibility for any accumulated debt after this point is expected to revert to LAs, creating a significant financial risk to BFC and many other councils at that time. The Council's participation in the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme has enabled one-off funding to be secured from the DfE to fund a programme of activities, aimed at helping to mitigate the cost pressures over time.
- 2.4 Therefore day to day operational decisions continue to rest with LAs and as with all decisions around spending of public money in BF, these are taken in accordance with the normal rules and professional financial management standards required by the Council in the Financial Regulations and other Financial Procedure documents.
- 2.5 The overall balances currently held in the Schools Budget amount to a £13.170m deficit (was £6.435m deficit in 2021-22). This increases to a deficit of £15.477m once the earmarked surplus balances held by schools of £2.307m. When an LA has a deficit balance on its DSG account, it must be separately held in an unusable DSG Adjustment Account.

3 Recommendations

That the Schools Forum notes:

- 3.1 that the outturn expenditure for 2022-23, subject to audit, shows an over spending of £6.006m (paragraph 6.6);**
- 3.2 the main reasons for budget variances (paragraph 6.8);**
- 3.3 the cumulative £15.477m deficit balance held in the unusable DSG Adjustment Account, responsibility for which currently rests with the Department for Education to 31 March 2026 (paragraph 6.12);**
- 3.4 the in-year funding transfers to and from Earmarked Reserves made in accordance with the relevant policies (paragraph 6.12).**
- 3.5 the questions expected to be included on the autumn term 2023 financial consultation with schools and provides feedback.**

That the Forum agrees:

- 3.6 the formal policy wording associated with the new Early Years Disability Access Reserve as set out in Annex B.**

4 Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations are intended to inform the Schools Forum of financial performance against budget in the 2022-23 financial year including the year end transfers to and from balances and Earmarked Reserves.

5 Alternative options considered

- 5.1 Not appropriate.

6 Supporting information

2022-23 Schools Budget Revenue Expenditure and Funding

- 6.1 Based on recommendations of the Schools Forum, the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning approved the initial Schools Budget for 2022-23 with £121.694m of grant funding. This comprised the estimated amount of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income that would be received from the DfE at £114.780m, anticipated income of £1.689m to reflect sixth form grant income from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), £2.078m from the Pupil Premium grant, £1.389m from the new School Supplementary Grant, £1.198m from the Universal Infant Free School Meal grant, £0.438m from the Primary PE and Sports grant and £0.122m from Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants. In addition to grant funding, there is also a budget of £0.126m for other receipts making total income of £121.820m.
- 6.2 Subsequent to this decision, anticipated DSG income has been updated to reflect revised grant notifications from the DfE, including reductions arising from academy schools where the amount due from the BF Funding Formula for Schools is recouped from the council for the ESFA to directly fund relevant schools. After making the following adjustments, the final DSG allocation amounted to £78.808m:

- £39.267m deduction for academy schools.
- £0.141m increase to HNB spending power following changes to the original allocation by the ESFA where final data indicated fewer places purchased from providers directly funded by the ESFA compared to the estimate included in the original budget
- £0.155m increase to the Early Years Block, essentially to finance the cost of the free entitlement to early education and childcare. This reflects the in-year recalculation of funding by the ESFA.

6.3 There are further budget adjustments to report:

- As part of the council's commitment to provide an additional £1m to schools to help mitigate the additional costs arising from new schools, the council added a further £0.182m to school budgets. The full £1m additional funding has now been allocated to schools.
- As part of a joint funding strategy for financing the costs arising from new schools, the Schools Forum agreed the addition of £0.174m from the DSG funded New school start-up / diseconomies Reserve
- In accordance with Local Government Accounting code of practice, where schools use their revenue funding for capital related expenditure, both the funding and spend need to be transferred to the capital accounts. The Council was notified by schools that of a total of £0.408m of funding needed to be converted to capital through a transfer from revenue. There is a net nil effect on school budgets from this as both the funding and costs are transferred out of delegated budgets.

6.4 The net effect of the budget changes set out above is that the final net Schools Budget totalled -£0.052mm, with an income budget of £82.847m, and an overall gross budget of £82.795m.

6.5 In accordance with DfE Funding Regulations, a number of self-balancing budget adjustments have also been made during the year to reflect the transfer of funds from centrally managed budgets to schools where they have met qualifying criteria or original estimates are revised following verified data. The most significant adjustments reflect funding for the free entitlement to early years education and childcare, changes in SEN funding for named pupils i.e. Element 3 top up funding, allocations from the Growth Fund, mainly in respect of managing the financial impact of Key Stage 1 Class Size Regulations, and support to schools in financial difficulty.

Provisional Outturn Position

6.6 The provisional final accounts for the Schools Budget, as summarised at Annex A, shows an over spending of £6.006m. These figures remain subject to change, pending external audit, although no significant movement is anticipated.

6.7 Some expenditure in the Schools Budget is ultimately financed from accumulated balances and earmarked reserves. Annex A sets out the transfers required as part of the accounts closedown process which is explained in more detail in paragraphs 6.9 to 6.12.

6.8 An explanation of the main changes (+/- £0.050m) from the approved budget plan, after transfers to or from reserves and balances are as follows.

LA Managed Budgets:

Schools Block: -£0.204m under spend:

- i. **Official staff absences. -£0.067m under spend.** The incidence and cost of maternity leave absence for classroom staff was lower than expected
- ii. **Under spend returned to schools. +£0.104m over spend.** Where there is an aggregate underspending on de-delegated these budgets, it is returned to maintained schools that initially funded the services through a budget top slice.
- iii. **Other Schools Block provisions and support services.-£0.169m under spend.** There was a net under spending of £0.116m in the Growth Fund in respect of funding allocations to schools experiencing additional teaching costs as a result of *Key Stage 1 maximum class size regulations* and which reflects fewer schools having numbers on roll significantly outside of the 30 per class limit. Additionally, there was a £0.050m under spending on boarding fees for children looked after in residential settings where the virtual school applied pupil premium funding.

High Needs Block. +£6.294m over spend:

Members of the Forum will be aware that budget items directly below represent the most unpredictable and volatile education budgets that the council manages. Placement requirements can change at short notice and new pressures can emerge that can together result in large movements in costs.

It is also well known that significant cost pressures are being experienced, which is a national issue, and not just limited to BF, with the number of pupils with a statement or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) ¹ having increased in 13.4% between January 2022 and January 2023 (provisional) and by 24.4% in the last 2 years ².

Additionally, there is a relatively high proportion of external placements which tend to be the most expensive provisions.

These factors are the main contributors to the significant overspending being experienced.

- iv. **Delegated Special School budgets. +£0.052m over spend.** Increase in funding to Kennel Lane Special school mainly as a result in change in the level of support needs with numbers on roll of BF resident pupils remaining stable at around 160.
- v. **Maintained schools and academies. -£0.646m under spend.** This relates to the cost of additional Element 3 top up support i.e. individual support needs above £0.010m where these have been determined by assessment. This includes payments to BF and other LA schools including Special Resource Provisions.

Support provided to BF schools over spent by £0.120m and is as a consequence of more pupils than anticipated in the budget remaining in a BF mainstream setting

For non-BF schools, there were fewer pupil placements than assumed in the budget, with a net reduction of 16 placements (-£0.326m). The budget had assumed 15 additional placements which therefore under spent (-£0.310m). Furthermore, average placement costs were expected to increase (-£0.169m) when prices remained stable.

¹ An EHCP is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs. It explains the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and how that help will support the child or young person.

² DfE SEN statistic at relevant January from: [Create your own tables online, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/create-your-own-tables-online-table-tool-exploring-education-statistics)

- vi. **Non-Maintained Special Schools and Colleges (NMSS). -£0.944m under spend.** The ESFA generally pay the £0.010m place cost at these institutions, with LAs paying individual support needs above this level and which reflects the support arrangements agreed for schools plus £0.010m for any additional places that are needed and have not been pre-purchased.
Whilst the original budget proposals assumed a reduction in placements of 16, the actual number was 39, 23 greater than expected. At an average placement cost of £0.039m, this resulted in a -£0.897m underspending.
Within the overall number of placements, an increase in placements in post 16 FE institutions was expected, but the 44 actual increase was greater than anticipated. With placements in FE institutions averaging around £0.008m, this change in placement profile resulted in an overall reduction in average placement costs in NMSS and colleges of £4,207.
- vii. **Education out of school. +£0.576m over spend.** A separate agenda item on tonight's meeting provides a detailed update on EOTAS and for College Hall Pupil Referral Unit in particular which overspent by £0.384m primarily from a combination of additional management capacity, external placements for pupils and reduced income from SLAs with BFC for management of complimentary services. The Home Tuition Service over spent by £0.303m through additional placements and higher cost agency workers.
- viii. **Other SEN provisions and support services. -£0.244m under spend.** The main area of overspending amounts to £0.063m on additional support for pupils with medical needs. This is offset by a number of savings primarily arising from staff vacancies in the new inclusion service which commenced part way through the year (£0.074m), the range of specialist therapies as a result of staff shortages (-£0.119m), and a number of relatively small under spendings.
- ix. **Forecast overspend in Executive approved budget. +£7.500m overspend.** In setting the budget for 2022-23, the Executive of the Council recognised a significant over spending was unavoidable and agreed to set the budget £7.5m above available DSG income. This is shown as a negative amount as it has been added to the specific budget lines expected to overspend to ensure a realistic budget is reported against all services.

Early Years Block. -£0.084m under spend:

There are no significant budget variances to report against Early Years.

Net over spending for the year. +£6.006m:

- x. The final outturn for the year was a £6.006m overspend which represents a significant improvement of £1.494m compared to the £7.500m deficit expected when the budget was set.

Annex A sets out the full Schools Budget at a summary level, with the above notes referencing to the appropriate lines with budget variances.

Balances and reserves

- 6.9 As part of the financial planning process, there is the opportunity to establish and maintain reserves and balances. Earmarked Reserves are sums of money which have been set aside for specific purposes and the Schools Forum has agreed a number of Schools Budget reserves should be created. Each year these reserves can have funds added or deducted depending on financial performance and the purposes for which they were created. Balances reflect year end unspent funds and can be held separately as an unring-fenced amount or are transferred to Earmarked Reserves.

- 6.10 In order to align with DSG grant conditions, the Forum agreed that one new reserve should be created in 2022-23 which is required to identify any unspent balance on the Early Years Disability Access Fund as these funds must be used to finance support for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance attending Early Years settings.
- 6.11 The relevant School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations and Regulation 30L of The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (the 2003 Regulations) determine the accounting treatment to be adopted by LAs with deficit balances on their Schools budget. This affects BFC and requires the establishment of a statutorily ring-fenced unusable reserve – the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account. The new accounting practice has the effect of separating schools budget deficits from the LAs general fund to confirm no liability on LAs. This arrangement has been put in place by the government for an initial period to 31 March 2026.
- 6.12 Table 1 below provides a summary of movements last year together with current balances on the earmarked reserves of which column 3 shows a total deficit of funds at 31 March 2023 of £13.170m, an increase of £6.735m compared to 2021-22 (column 2). As balances held by schools are ring-fenced for future use by schools, these are outside the DSG Adjustment Account which shows only the debt, the responsibility of which currently resides with the government. The final row of Table 1 shows the debt in the DSG Adjustment Account at 31 March 2023 at £15.477m.
- 6.13 Annex B provides a summary of the purpose and policy of each element of the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account together with recent levels of funds.

Table 1: Earmarked reserves and balances related to the Schools Budget

Reserve	Balance B/Forward 01-Apr-22 (1) £ 000	Year end Transfers (2) £ 000	Final Balance 31-Mar-2023 (3) £ 000
<u>School Balances - Earmarked:</u>			
Primary	-1,933	571	-1,362
Secondary	-699	43	-656
Special	-226	-79	-306
College Hall PRU	-47	63	16
(a)	-2,905	599	-2,307
<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>			
SEN Resource Provision Reserve	-401	0	-401
New school start-up / diseconomies (b)	-746	174	-572
School Expansion Rates Reserve (c)	-419	-113	-532
SEN Strategy Reserve (d)	-192	70	-1,628
EY Disability Access (e)	0	-17	-17
	-1,758	113	-1,645
<u>Schools Budget General Reserve</u>			
Brought forward balance	11,098	0	11,098
2022-23 in-year over spend (f)	0	6,023	6,023
	11,098	6,023	17,121
Total reserves	6,435	6,735	13,170
Memo item: DSG Adjustment Account	9,340	6,137	15,477

Note: some rows and columns may cross tally due to rounding errors.

A number of year-end transfers, as set out in column 2 of Table 1 have been processed in accordance with the accounts closedown arrangements:

- Note a: School balances: Statutory Regulations require balances on school budgets to be earmarked to individual schools for use in a future financial year. There was an aggregate £0.599m transfer from balances during the year, the most significant element of which was the £0.416m transferred to schools that converted in-year to academies and were therefore removed from BFC accounts. Schools that remained maintained for the whole year withdrew a cumulative £0.183m during the year. A separate item on tonight's agenda provides further detail on school balances.
- Note b: New school start-up / diseconomies Reserve. The purpose of this reserve is to help fund the additional costs occurring in new schools as they build up pupil numbers to sustainable levels. As part of the 2022-23 budget setting process, the Forum agreed the withdrawal of £0.174m for this purpose.
- Note c: School Expansion Rates Reserve: the annual review of liabilities reflects the latest in-year school rates revaluations. A number of new revaluations were completed that aggregated to reduced costs of -£0.113m.
- Note d: SEN Strategy Reserve: the Forum has previously agreed that this reserve would be used to finance the costs of short term support for pupils, including those that may not have an EHCP, to aid integration into mainstream education. Funding allocations of £0.070m were agreed in 2022-23.
- Note e Early Years Disability Access Reserve: this is a new reserve created to capture specific financing to support children with disabilities attending Early Years provisions.
- Note e: Schools Budget General Reserve: the aggregate in-year over spending on centrally managed budgets of £6.023m has been charged here.

Financial consultation with schools

- 6.14 Each autumn term, in advance of the new financial year, the council undertakes a financial consultation with schools to set out the current budget position following the announcement of DfE funding and regulatory decisions (these are usually made at the end of July) to gather relevant information for budget planning. This also includes seeking school views on the areas of budget decision making process that are the responsibility of the Schools Forum.
- 6.15 At this stage, the consultation is expected to seek views on the usual areas:
1. Should we aim to set the minimum per pupil funding increase from 2023-24 at the highest permitted rate for all school types i.e. mainstream and special?
 2. Should schools receiving the highest increases in per pupil funding finance the cost of ensuring all schools receive a minimum increase in per pupil funding from 2023-24?
 3. Should funds from maintained mainstream schools continue to be "de-delegated" back to the council on permitted budgets where there are strategic, risk sharing or cost-effective benefits to gain?
 4. Should maintained schools continue to make a financial contribution to the education related statutory and regulatory duties required of the council that are no longer financed through a grant from the DfE?

6.16 Additionally for 2023, the following areas are also expected to be included and views are now being sought:

- 5 An update to the calculation of notional SEN Funding. Notional SEN Funding is included in the main school budget and is intended to finance additional support needs of up to £6,000 for pupils prior to receiving an Education Healthcare Plan. There is no mandatory calculation that must be applied, and the BF calculation is to be reviewed to reflect current circumstances.
- 6 A request for schools to make a financial contribution to the High Needs Block, to help finance the annual deficit. Where agreed by the local Schools Forum, LAs are permitted to transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools Block DSG income. This would amount to around £0.450m at 2023-24 prices.

7 Advice received from statutory and other officers

Borough Solicitor

7.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the body of the report.

Executive Director of Resources: Finance

7.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out in the supporting information. The budget variances were reviewed during the year and where appropriate, have been built into the 2023-24 budget, most notably relating to the increasing pressure on High Needs Budgets.

7.3 Whilst liability for the £15.477 deficit balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account rests with the DfE, it is important that the council continues to work on strategies to reduce costs whilst maintaining appropriate support levels to children and young people as the liability is expected to eventually pass on to the council.

Equalities Impact Assessment

7.4 There are no specific impacts arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

7.5 There is a risk to the Schools Budget from not having sufficient reserves to manage unforeseen in-year cost pressures. This is mitigated by holding funds in earmarked reserves and other reserves, although these are now diminishing.

7.6 The £15.477m deficit balance on the DSG Adjustment Account is expected to continue to rise significantly in the medium term and whilst there is government support to cover this liability in the medium term, should the debt ultimately transfer to the council it will represent a significant risk.

Climate Change Implications

7.7 The recommendations from this report will have no impact on emissions of carbon dioxide as they generally relate to on activities already undertaken.

Health and wellbeing considerations

- 7.8 The recommendations from this report will have no impact on health and wellbeing as they report on activities already undertaken.

8 Consultation

- 8.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Finance Business Partner – People Directorate

(01344 354054)

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

Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(117\) 220623/2022-23 Schools Budget outturn etc.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools%20Forum/(117)%20220623/2022-23%20Schools%20Budget%20outturn%20etc.docx)

**2022-23 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING
OUTTURN STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Service Area	Budget before year end transfers			Outturn Net Spend	Estimated Variance			Transfer to (+) / from (-) reserves	Final Budget	Final variance	Note
	Spend	Income	Net		Over spending	Under spending	Net variance				
	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Schools Block											
<u>Delegated and devolved funding:</u>											
Delegated Mainstream School Budgets	48,652	0	48,652	49,266	614	0	614	-614	49,266	0	
School Grant income	6,914	-6,914	0	-3	5	-8	-3	0	0	-3	
Schools Block	55,566	-6,914	48,652	49,263	619	-8	611	-614	49,266	-3	
<u>LA managed items:</u>											
Retained de-delegated Budgets:											
<i>Behaviour</i>	256	-7	249	220	14	-42	-28	0	249	-29	
<i>Schools in Financial Difficulty</i>	73	0	73	60	0	-12	-12	0	73	-13	
<i>Official Staff Absences</i>	328	0	328	261	0	-67	-67	0	328	-67	i
<i>English as an Additional Language</i>	111	0	111	111	0	1	1	0	111	0	
<i>PRC / Licence Fees / FSM checking</i>	57	0	57	62	2	0	2	0	57	5	
<i>Under spend returned to maintained schools</i>	0	0	0	104	104	0	104	0	0	104	ii
Combined Service Budgets:											
<i>Education Attainment and School Transport for CLA</i>	176	0	176	162	0	-15	-15	0	176	-14	
<i>Family Intervention Project / Domestic Abuse</i>	102	0	102	102	0	0	0	0	102	0	
<i>CAF Co-ordinator</i>	42	0	42	41	0	0	0	0	42	-1	
<i>SEN Contract Management</i>	33	0	33	33	0	0	0	0	33	0	
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	507	0	507	490	2	-19	-17	0	507	-17	
Other Schools Block provisions and support services	538	0	538	256	30	-312	-282	113	425	-169	iii
LA managed items:	2,223	-7	2,216	1,902	152	-466	-314	113	2,103	-201	
Sub total Schools Block	57,789	-6,921	50,868	51,165	771	-474	297	-501	51,369	-204	

**2022-23 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING
OUTTURN STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Service Area	Budget before year end transfers			Outturn Net Spend	Estimated Variance			Transfer to (+) / from (-) reserves	Final Budget	Final variance	Note
	Spend	Income	Net		Over spending	Under spending	Net variance				
	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
High Needs Block											
Delegated Special Schools Budgets	5,152	-7	5,145	5,125	52	-79	-27	79	5,066	52	iv
Maintained schools and academies	4,935	-39	4,896	4,321	1,134	-1,710	-576	-70	4,966	-646	v
Non Maintained Special Schools and Colleges	11,403	0	11,403	10,446	39	-983	-944	0	11,403	-944	vi
Education out of school	2,179	-3	2,176	2,819	768	-129	639	-63	2,239	576	vii
Other SEN provisions and support services	2,384	-68	2,316	2,073	195	-439	-244	0	2,316	-244	viii
Overspending anticipated in original budget	-7,500	0	-7,500	0	7,500	0	7,500	0	-7,500	7,500	ix
Sub total High Needs Block	18,553	-117	18,436	24,784	9,688	-3,340	6,348	-54	18,490	6,294	
Early Years Block											
Free entitlement to early years education	6,058	-2	6,056	6,124	-42	0	-42	0	6,056	-42	
Other Early Years provisions and support services	395	0	395	354	0	-42	-42	0	395	-42	
Sub total Early Years Block	6,453	-2	6,451	6,478	-42	-42	-84	0	6,451	-84	
Dedicated Schools Grant	0	-75,807	-75,807	-75,918	0	0	0	0	-75,807	0	
TOTAL - Schools Budget	82,795	-82,847	-52	6,509	10,417	-3,856	6,561	-555	503	6,006	x

Note on Unallocated Schools Budget balance:

Diseconomy funding for new schools - BFC	182	Forecast overspend in Executive approved budget	7,500
Diseconomy funding for new schools - DSG balances	174	2022-23 in-year net variance	6,006
Revenue expenditure required to be treated as capital (RCCO)	<u>-408</u>		
Net over spend for the year	<u><u>-52</u></u>		<u><u>-1,494</u></u>

See paragraph 6.8 for an explanation to the notes to variances. Note roundings may result in totals not cross checking

Breakdown of balances arising from the Dedicated Schools Grant

DSG adjustment account: £15.477m deficit

Internal Reserve	Purpose	Policy	Year-end value
SEN Resource Units	To set aside in a reserve for building adaptations to allow for the creation of SEN resource units on school sites.	To finance capital expenditure to assist with the development of local, cost effective provisions to support pupils with SEN.	March 19 £0.459m March 20 £0.459m March 21 £0.459m March 22 £0.401m March 23 £0.401m
New school start-up / diseconomies	To set aside an earmarked reserve to support the additional costs that will arise from the new school places building programme.	To help finance the diseconomy costs that will arise from new schools that will open with relatively low numbers of pupils as housing developments progress.	March 19 £1.000m March 20 £0.746m March 21 £0.746m March 22 £0.746m March 23 £0.572m
School Meals Re-Tender Reserve	To set aside an earmarked reserve for the School Meals Catering Re-tendering exercise	To help finance costs arising from future Schools Meals Catering tendering exercises.	March 19 £0.040m March 20 £0.040m March 21 Nil March 22 Nil March 23 Nil
Schools Expansion Rates Reserve	To set aside an earmarked reserve for the rates costs associated with school expansions.	To help finance costs arising from the school expansion programme.	March 19 £1.092m March 20 £0.364m March 21 £0.435m March 22 £0.419m March 23 £0.532m

Reserve	Purpose	Policy	Year-end value
SEN Strategic Reserve	To set aside funding to contribution to costs arising from implementation of the SEN Strategy, assisting with the early implementation of change to improve the outcomes of children.	To help finance start-up and one-off initiatives arising from the SEN Strategy.	March 19 £0.439m March 20 £0.356m March 21 £0.256m March 22 £0.192m March 23 £0.122m
NEW: EY Disability Access Reserve	To set aside in a reserve any unspent EY Disability Access funding to facilitate use in a future year	To comply with grant conditions which require help finance disability access improvements at providers to support eligible early years pupils.	March 23 £0.017m
Grants unapplied Reserve	To set aside in a reserve for unspent Schools Budget related grants where there are no restrictions applied to the spending from the grant awarding body.	To facilitate the transfer of unspent grant balances between financial years.	March 18 £0.003m March 19 £0.003m March 20 £0.003m March 21 £0.003m March 22 £0.003m
Schools Budget General Reserve	The Schools Budget is a ring-fenced account, fully funded by external grants, the most significant of which is the Dedicated Schools Grant. Any under or overspending remaining at the end of the financial year must be carried forward to the next year's Schools Budget.	This reserve is held for specific accounting reasons. The funds in this reserve are ring fenced and cannot be used for any other purpose than a future years' Schools Budget.	March 19 £1.577m March 20 -£0.141m March 21 -£4.503m March 22 -£11.098m March 23 -£17.122m

Earmarked school balances:

Internal Reserve	Purpose	Policy	Year-end value
School Balances	These funds are used to support future expenditure within the Schools Budget relating to individual school balances.	Balances are permitted to be retained by Schools under the Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998. Policies are set and the reserves are managed by schools and the LA has no practical control over the level of balances.	March 19 £1.610m March 20 £1.038m March 21 £2.123m March 22 £2.905m March 23 £2.307m

