

**T0: Schools Forum**

**Date: 20 June 2024**

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**2023-24 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 2023-24 Schools Budget, including the allocation of balances and use of Earmarked Reserves. These funds are ring-fenced for the support of schools and pupils.

**2 Executive summary**

- 2.1 The 2023-24 draft accounts confirm that as expected, a significant overspending occurred with the whole Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and that it amounted to £8.827m (£6.006m in 2022-23). As expected, the most significant overspending occurred on the High Needs Block (HNB) at £9.274m (£6.294m).
- 2.2 The over spending on the HNB is consistent with the experience of many LAs across the county for the last few years. It is also recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) which in March 2024 agreed a bid from the council to join the Safety Valve programme, which will support structural change within the HNB and provide £16m of additional DSG income, of which the first £6.400m was received in March 2024.
- 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. The Council's participation in the Safety Valve programme has enabled one-off funding to be secured from the DfE to part finance a programme of activities, aimed at helping to mitigate the cost pressures over time and repay the accumulated deficit.
- 2.4 The overall balances currently held in the Schools Budget amount to a £16.760m deficit (was £13.170m deficit in 2022-23). This increases to a deficit of £18.062m once the earmarked surplus balances held by schools of £1.302m is excluded. 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 2023-24, subject to audit, shows an over spending of £8.827m (paragraph 6.7);**
- 3.2 **the main reasons for budget variances (paragraph 6.9);**
- 3.3 **the cumulative £18.062m deficit balance held in the unusable DSG Adjustment Account, responsibility for which currently rests with the Department for Education to 31 March 2026 (paragraph 6.13);**

### **3.4 the in-year funding transfers to and from Earmarked Reserves made in accordance with the relevant policies (paragraph 6.13).**

## **4 Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 The recommendations are intended to inform the Schools Forum of financial performance against budget in the 2023-24 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**

### 2023-24 Schools Budget Revenue Expenditure and Funding

- 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. The government funds the Schools Budget through the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and other school specific grant. The council ordinarily sets the budget based on these government grants plus other related income, such as from the Health Sector. Based on the assessed spending requirement for the year, a £7.166m in-year deficit was initially forecast.
- 6.2 The most significant income source to the Schools Budget is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)<sup>1</sup> which is paid by the Department for Education (DfE). The initial approved budget included £124.270m as the estimated amount of DSG. Other grant income for maintained schools of £6.094m was also expected from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for sixth forms, the Pupil Premium, Primary PE and Sports activities, the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative and the new Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. With £0.084m of other income also anticipated, there was originally expected to be £130.448m of income available to fund expenditure within the Schools Budget.
- 6.3 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 £76.285m:
- £47.865m deduction for academy schools.
  - £0.267m reduction to HNB funding following changes to the original allocation by the ESFA where final data indicated a higher number of places purchased from providers directly funded by the ESFA, including newly converted academies at Birch Hill and Kennel Lane (£0.130m) and FE providers (£0.124m) compared to the estimate included in the original budget
  - £0.147m 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

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

recalculation of funding by the ESFA and is generally offset by additional funding allocations to providers.

6.4 There are further budget adjustments to report:

- Additional school grants of £0.970m: £0.650m as part of the Early Years reforms; £0.429m relating to the Teachers Pay Addition Grant; with a reduction of £0.109m in sixth form grant funding. All these changes are offset by an equivalent adjustment to the associated expenditure budget and therefore have a net nil effect.
- 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 £0.183m 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.

6.5 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, including Key Stage 1 Class Size Regulations, and support to schools in financial difficulty.

6.6 The net effect of the budget changes set out above is that the final net Schools Budget totalled -£0.183m, with an income budget of £83.434m, and an overall gross budget of £83.251m.

#### Provisional Outturn Position

6.7 The provisional final accounts for the Schools Budget, as summarised at Annex A, shows an over spending of £8.827m. These figures remain subject to change, pending external audit, although no significant movement is anticipated.

6.8 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 6.11 to 6.13.

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

## 6.10 **LA Managed Budgets:**

### **Schools Block: -£0.347m under spend:**

- i. **Official staff absences. -£0.075m under spend.** The incidence and cost of maternity leave absence for classroom staff was lower than expected. Furthermore, none of the budget to fund staff suspensions was required.
- ii. **Under spend returned to schools. +£0.152m 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. -£0.330m under spend.** There was a net under spending of £0.242m in the Growth Fund in respect of funding allocations to schools experiencing significant increases in pupil numbers and 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. +£9.274m 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)<sup>2</sup> having increased in 16% between March 2023 and March 2024 and by 28% in the last 2 years

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. +£0.127m over spend.** Increase in funding to Kennel Lane Special school. 4 extra BF pupils in attendance at £0.090m extra spend with £0.176m extra spend because of higher top up payments from both reviews and new placements. After deducting budget resulted in £0.127m overspend. School remains at 198 pupil capacity.
- v. **Maintained schools and academies. +£0.530m over 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.

Top-up funding to BF schools overspent by +£0.782m with average top up increasing by 33% to £10.3k and number of EHCPs by 18% to 461.

New and existing SRP overspent by +£0.245m, including +£0.157m from miscalculation of initial budget for RISE, plus £0.040m for uplifting top ups to a uniform £7.5k plus on-going additional support to some SRPs.

Funding for other LA schools forecast to underspend by -£0.497m. Mainly accounted for as the expected 26 FTE increase in placements from general increase in number of EHCPs did not materialise with other placement types used due to limited LA places.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

- vi. **Non-Maintained Special Schools and Colleges (INMSS). +£0.843m over 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.  
INMSS / FE placements were expected to reduce by around 20 FTE placements after taking account of the forecast increase in EHCPs, less the impact of savings measures, such as more SPR places and inclusion support to schools. Numbers have remained similar to last year, primarily from a shortage of local provisions, resulting in a £0.843m overspending.
- vii. **Education out of school. +£0.297m over spend.** Financial challenges at College Hall PRU remained and resulted in an over spending of £0.120m. The Home Tuition Service over spent by £0.349m through additional placements and higher cost agency workers. There were a number of under spendings against various pupil provisions and support services that amounted to -£0.172m.
- viii. **Other SEN provisions and support services. +£0.311m under spend.** The main area of overspendings amount to £0.572m on additional support for pupils with medical needs and £0.156m on the investigation and resolution of complaints. This is offset by a number of savings primarily arising from staff vacancies in the inclusion service (-£0.104m) and Traveller Education Service (-£0.086m), the range of specialist therapies as a result of staff shortages (-£0.122m), and a number of other relatively small under spendings.
- ix. **Forecast overspend in Executive approved budget. +£7.166m overspend.** In setting the budget for 2023-24, the Executive of the Council recognised a significant over spending estimated at £7.166m was unavoidable. 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. -£0.075m under spend:**

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

**Dedicated Schools Grant. -£0.025m under spend:**

There are no significant budget variances to report against the DSG.

**Net over spending for the year. +£8.827m:**

- x. The final outturn for the year was a £8.827m overspend which is £1.661m greater than the £7.166m deficit expected when the budget was set. This compares to a £10.090m overspend forecast from the December budget monitoring cycle. At that time it was highlighted that these are volatile, high-cost services that change at short notice and that further variances are possible with a provision of £0.573m included in the forecasts for potential changes. The final accounts reconciliation identified that a number of cost forecasts could be reduced or removed, and that there was more income from partners than expected. The provisional outturn forecast is in line with the forecasts presented to the DfE in the Council's Safety Valve bid.

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**

- 6.11 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.

- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 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 2024 of £16.760m, an increase of £6.735m compared to 2022-23 (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 (f) Table 1 shows the debt in the DSG Adjustment Account at 31 March 2023 at £18.062m.
- 6.14 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-23 (1) £ 000	Year end Transfers (2) £ 000	Final Balance 31-Mar-24 (3) £ 000
<u>School Balances - Earmarked:</u>			
Primary	-1,362	366	-995
Secondary	-656	344	-311
Special	-306	306	0
College Hall PRU	16	-11	5
<b>(a)</b>	<b>-2,307</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>-1,302</b>
<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>			
SEN Resource Provision Reserve	-401	0	-401
New school start-up / diseconomies	-572	0	-572
School Expansion Rates Reserve <b>(b)</b>	-532	177	-355
SEN Strategy Reserve	-122	0	-122
EY Disability Access <b>(c)</b>	-17	-19	-36
Safety Valve income <b>(d)</b>	0	-6,400	-6,400
	<b>-1,645</b>	<b>-6,241</b>	<b>-7,886</b>
<u>Schools Budget General Reserve</u>			
Brought forward balance	17,121	0	17,121
2023-24 in-year over spend <b>(e)</b>	0	8,827	8,827
	<b>17,121</b>	<b>8,827</b>	<b>25,948</b>
Total reserves	13,170	3,590	16,760
Memo item: DSG Adjustment Account <b>(f)</b>	15,477	2,585	18,062

Note: some rows and columns may cross not 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 £1.005m transfer from balances during the year, the most significant element of which was the £0.293m 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 £0.712m during the year. A separate item on tonight's agenda provides further detail on school balances.
- Note b: 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 increased costs of £0.117m.
- Note c: Early Years Disability Access Reserve: spend to support children with disabilities attending Early Years provisions was £0.019m below the level of grant income received.
- Note d: Safety Valve income: This agreement with the DfE will deliver £16m of additional grant funding to support the DSG adjustment account of which £6.4m was received in March 2024.
- Note e: Schools Budget General Reserve: the aggregate in-year over spending on centrally managed budgets of £8.827m has been charged here.

## **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 2024-25 budget, most notably relating to the increasing pressure on High Needs Budgets.
- 7.3 Whilst liability for the £18.062m 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 £18.062m 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

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#### Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools\\_Forum/\(123\)\\_200624/2023-24\\_Schools\\_Budget\\_outturn\\_etc.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/(123)_200624/2023-24_Schools_Budget_outturn_etc.docx)



**2023-24 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING  
OUTTURN STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Service Area	Budget before reserves			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	
<b>Schools Block</b>											
<u>Delegated and devolved funding:</u>											
Delegated Mainstream School Budgets	53,419	0	53,419	54,130	711	0	711	-711	54,130	0	
School Grant income	0	-6,414	-6,414	-6,427	0	-13	-13	0	-6,414	-13	
<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>53,419</b>	<b>-6,414</b>	<b>47,005</b>	<b>47,703</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>-711</b>	<b>47,716</b>	<b>-13</b>	
<u>LA managed items:</u>											
Retained de-delegated Budgets:											
<i>Behaviour</i>	244	-7	237	251	48	-34	14	0	237	14	
<i>Schools in Financial Difficulty</i>	117	0	117	68	0	-49	-49	0	117	-49	
<i>Official Staff Absences</i>	301	0	301	227	0	-75	-75	0	301	-74	i
<i>English as an Additional Language</i>	123	0	123	115	17	-25	-8	0	123	-8	
<i>PRC / Licence Fees / FSM checking</i>	53	0	53	18	5	-39	-34	0	53	-35	
<i>Under spend returned to maintained schools</i>	0	0	0	152	152	0	152	0	0	152	ii
Combined Service Budgets:											
<i>Education Attainment and School Transport for CLA</i>	176	0	176	165	1	-12	-11	0	176	-11	
<i>Family Intervention Project / Domestic Abuse</i>	102	0	102	104	2	0	2	0	102	2	
<i>SEN Contract Management</i>	33	0	33	33	0	0	0	0	33	0	
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	466	0	466	471	5	0	5	0	466	5	
Other Schools Block provisions and support services	903	0	903	750	14	-167	-153	-177	1,080	-330	ii
<b>LA managed items:</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>-401</b>	<b>-157</b>	<b>-177</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>-334</b>	
<b>Sub total Schools Block</b>	<b>55,937</b>	<b>-6,421</b>	<b>49,516</b>	<b>50,057</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>-414</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>-888</b>	<b>50,404</b>	<b>-347</b>	

**2023-24 PROVISIONAL BUDGET MONITORING  
OUTTURN STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Service Area	Budget before reserves			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	
<b>High Needs Block</b>											
Delegated Special Schools Budgets	5,478	-7	5,471	5,904	127	306	433	-306	5,777	127	iv
Maintained schools and academies	5,211	0	5,211	5,739	1,757	-1,227	530	0	5,211	530	v
Non Maintained Special Schools and Colleges	10,675	0	10,675	11,519	843	0	843	0	10,675	843	vi
Education out of school	2,784	-3	2,781	3,068	581	-295	286	11	2,770	297	vii
Other SEN provisions and support services	2,571	-68	2,503	2,815	796	-485	311	0	2,503	311	viii
Overspending anticipated in original budget	-7,166	0	-7,166	0	7,166	0	7,166	0	-7,166	7,166	ix
<b>Sub total High Needs Block</b>	<b>19,553</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>19,475</b>	<b>29,045</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>-1,701</b>	<b>9,569</b>	<b>-295</b>	<b>19,770</b>	<b>9,274</b>	
<b>Early Years Block</b>											
Free entitlement to early years education	7,331	-650	6,681	6,631	1,563	-1,613	-50	19	6,662	-31	
Other Early Years provisions and support services	430	0	430	387	0	-44	-44	0	430	-44	
<b>Sub total Early Years Block</b>	<b>7,761</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>7,111</b>	<b>7,018</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>-1,657</b>	<b>-94</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7,092</b>	<b>-75</b>	
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-76,285</b>	<b>-76,285</b>	<b>-76,309</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-76,285</b>	<b>-25</b>	
<b>TOTAL - Schools Budget</b>	<b>83,251</b>	<b>-83,434</b>	<b>-183</b>	<b>9,811</b>	<b>13,788</b>	<b>-3,797</b>	<b>9,991</b>	<b>-1,164</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>8,827</b>	

Note on Unallocated Schools Budget balance:

Revenue expenditure required to be treated as capital (RCCO)	<b>-183</b>	Forecast overspend in Executive approved budget	7,166	
		2023-24 in-year net variance	8,827	
		Variance in excess of original forecast	<u>1,661</u>	x

See paragraph 6.9 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 20 £0.459m March 21 £0.459m March 22 £0.401m March 23 £0.401m March 24 £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 20 £0.746m March 21 £0.746m March 22 £0.746m March 23 £0.572m March 24 £0.572m
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 20 £0.364m March 21 £0.435m March 22 £0.419m March 23 £0.532m March 24 £0.355m
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 20 £0.356m March 21 £0.256m March 22 £0.192m March 23 £0.122m March 24 £0.122m

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Year-end value</b>
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 March 24 £0.036m
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 20 £0.003m March 21 £0.003m March 22 £0.003m March 23 £0.003m March 24 £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 20 -£0.141m March 21 -£4.503m March 22 -£11.098m March 23 -£17.122m March 24 -£25,948m

**Earmarked school balances:**

<b>Internal Reserve</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Year-end value</b>
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 20 £1.038m March 21 £2.123m March 22 £2.905m March 23 £2.307m March 24 £1.302m