

Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Agenda

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Venue: Islington Town Hall, Committee room 4

[Schools forum documents and reports | Islington Council](#)

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
1.	Welcome and Apologies		Clerk (JW)	Verbal
2.	Declaration of interest		JW	Verbal
3.	Forum composition		JW	Enclosed
4.	Minutes of previous meeting		Clerk	Enclosed
5.	DSG Settlement (2024-25)	Information	DS	Enclosed
6.	School Funding Arrangements (2024-25)	Decision	DS	Enclosed
7.	Quality Assurance (CONFIDENTIAL)	Information	AC	Enclosed

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
8.	Central School Services Block (2024-25)	Decision	TP	Enclosed
9.	Specialist Provision Place Numbers (2024-25)	Decision	DS	Enclosed
10.	Licensed Deficits - processes	Information	TP	Enclosed
11.	Forward Planning	Information	DS	Enclosed
12.	AOB: Roll Projections		AC	To follow
13.	AOB: Sub Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years • High Needs • Capital 			

Contact for queries:

[Suzie Crawford](#) / [Governor Services](#)

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Items 5 and 6 are not accessible. You can view Excel spreadsheet versions of [item 5](#) and [item 6](#) instead.

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Agenda item 3: School Forum – Constitution and Membership

Recommendations: That Forum:

- note the final update on membership in relationship to the apportionment of places in line with the outcome of the School Census October 2023
- note updates on membership.

Apportionment of Primary and Secondary Places in line with School Census 2023

Apportionment of Primary and Secondary Pupils - Autumn 2023

Phase	Maintained (%)	Academy/FS (%)	Total (%)
Primary	10,587 (54)	1,525 (8)	12,112 (63)
Secondary	3,798 (20)	3,461 (18)	7,259 (37)
Total	14,385 (74)	4,986 (26)	19,371 (100)

Distribution of Mainstream and Academies/Free School Membership following Conversions

Sector	Maintained (%)	Academies/FS (%)	Total (%)
Primary	8 (54)	1 (8)	9 (63)
Secondary	3 (20)	2 (18)	5 (37)
Total	11 (74)	3 (26)	14 (100%)

There does not need to be any change to the distribution of primary and secondary school places in the light of the October Census 2023.

Update on membership

1. There are still two vacancies for representatives from the senior leadership teams of secondary academies. The Chair, ME, wrote to Mark Emmerson, CEO of City of Islington Academy Trust, to ask him to identify a representative from the senior management team in relation to one of the vacancies. Forum to discuss action needed in relation to St Mary Magdalene Academy Trust, as the terms of reference state that only one representative will be allowed per school, hard federation or multi-academy trust.
2. As reported at the last Forum in November, the term of office of Joe Simpson, Primary Governor representative, ends on 5 March 2024. JW wrote to primary governors in January advising them of the forthcoming vacancy and that JS was willing to carry out a second term of office – governors to express any concerns about this and/or to nominate themselves by a deadline in January, with elections to follow if necessary.
3. As reported at the last Forum in November, the term of office of Penny Barratt, Special Academy representative, ends on 31 March 2024. In January 2024, JW wrote to the senior leadership teams of the Bridge Academy and St Mary Magdalene Academy (SMMA): The Courtyard to advise that a vacancy was arising on Forum at the end of March, that PB was willing to complete another term, and for the two academies to decide about their representative by mid-March.

Contact for queries:

[Jane Wright](#)

Schools and Early Years Governance Manager (clerk)

T 020 7527 5560

Islington Schools Forum Composition Jan 2024

Appendix A

Organisation	Nominee	Term of Office Ends	Primary	Secondary	Special	Nursery	PRU	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Academy AP	Academy Special	Non-school	Total	Head	Gov	Other
School Members																
Secondary Academy Representative	Vacancy															
Secondary Academy Representative	Vacancy															
Arts and Media School Islington (AMSI) (VC)	Susan Service	27/02/2027		1										1		
Beacon High	Alan Streeter	31/03/2025		1										1		
Canonbury Primary School	Patrick Mildren	25/03/2025	1											1		
Kate Greenaway and Margaret McMillan Nursery Schools and Children's Centres	Diana Valcheva with support from Karen Smith (MMc)	27/02/2027				1								1		
Montem and Drayton Park - Edventure Federation (Ch)	Maggie Elliott	31/12/2024	1												1	
Prior Weston Primary & Children's Centre (VC)	Fiona MacCorquodale	30/09/2024	1											1		
PRU Mgt Cttee (New River College)	Nigel Smith	24/10/2025					1							1		
Richard Cloudesley Special School	Francis Gonzalez with support from Cerys Normanton (SRS)	09/01/2027			1									1		
Rotherfield and Newington Green Federation	Andrew Bosi	31/12/2024	1												1	
St Aloysius	Paul Lasok	11/12/2026		1											1	
St Mary's C of E Primary (Interim Head)	Anthony David	up to 8/11/27	1											1		
St Peter's and St Paul's RC Primary	Joe Simpson	05/03/2024	1												1	
The Bridge MAT	Penny Barratt	31/03/2024									1					1
The Learning Quarter (Winton and Hugh Myddleton)	Sarah Gill	13/10/2027	1											1		
The Pears Family School	Matthew Hillman	31/07/2026								1				1		
Thornhill Primary School	Jenny Lewis	05/05/2025	1											1		
William Tyndale School	Sophie Gavalda	31/08/2027						1						1		
Non School Members																
14-19 Partnership	Colleen Marshall	13/05/2025										1				1
New River Green, Packington Children Centres	Ana Sevilla, with support from Ann Curran	31/08/2025										1				1
Elected Member (non executive)	Clr Angelo Weekes	25/05/2026										1				1
VCS Providers, Islington Play Association	Joy Odunayo Abequnde	05/12/2026										1				1
Total			8	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	4	21	12	4	5
Required			8	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	23			
Vacancies			0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2			

HT/Govs 60/40 split

Type	Vacancy
Total	2

Members	Organisation/School
Susan Service (Vice Chair)	Arts & Media School Islington, Headteacher (Secondary)
Alan Streeter	Beacon High, Headteacher (Secondary)
Patrick Mildren	Canonbury, Headteacher (Primary)
Diana Valcheva (with support of Karen Smith)	Kate Greenaway and Margaret McMillan Nursery Schools and Children's Centres
Maggie Elliott (Chair)	Montem School, Governor
Nigel Smith	New River College (Pupil Referral Unit), Headteacher
Fiona MacCorquodale (Vice Chair)	Prior Weston, Headteacher (Primary)
Francis Gonzalez (with support of Cerys Normanton; Headteacher, Samuel Rhodes School)	Richard Cloudesley Special School, Headteacher
Andrew Bosi	Rotherfield, Governor
Paul Lasok	St Aloysius, Governor (Secondary)
Anthony David	St Mary's Primary (Interim Headteacher)
Joe Simpson	St Peter & St Paul's, Governor
Penny Barratt	The Bridge MAT, Chief Executive Officer
Sarah Gill	The Learning Quarter Federation, Headteacher
Matthew Hillman	The Pears Family School, Headteacher
Jenny Lewis	Thornhill, Headteacher (Primary)
Sophie Gavalda	William Tyndale (academy), Headteacher
Non School Members	
Colleen Marshall	City and Islington College for 14-19 Partnership
Ana Sevilla (with support of Ann Curran, Head of New River Green CC)	Executive Head, New River Green & Packington Children's Centres
Cllr Angelo Weekes	Islington Council – non-Executive Member
Joy Odunayo Abegunde	VCS Providers, Islington Play Association, Nursery Manager
Observers	

Islington Schools Forum

Meeting documents and minutes published on [Islington Schools Forum webpage](#).

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023 at 2pm at 222, room GA.

Attendees

Present

- Maggie Elliott (ME); Governor, Montem Primary School (Edventure Collaborative Federation with Drayton Park) (Chair)
- Alan Streeter (AS); Headteacher, Beacon High Secondary School (Islington Futures Federation)
- Patrick Mildren (PM); Headteacher, Canonbury Primary School
- Nigel Smith (NS); Headteacher, New River College (Pupil Referral Unit)
- Penny Barratt (PB); Chief Executive Officer, The Bridge MAT
- Susan Service (SS); Headteacher, Arts & Media School Islington (Vice-chair)
- Paul Lasok (PL); Governor, St Aloysius Secondary School (and St Joseph's)
- Diana Valcheva (DV); Headteacher, Kate Greenaway Nursery School
- Joy Odunayo Abegunde (JA); VCS Providers, Islington Play Association
- Joe Simpson (JS); Governor, St Peter and St Paul's Primary
- Cllr Angelo Weekes (AW); Islington Council – non-Executive Member
- Andrew Bosi (AB); Governor, Rotherfield Primary School
- Cerys Normanton (CN), Headteacher, Samuel Rhodes Special School

Other attendees

- Jon Abbey (JA); Corporate Director of Children and Young People
- Tim Partington (TP); Assistant Director Finance, Children's, Schools & Resources
- Jane Wright (JW); Manager Schools and EY Governance (Clerk)
- Debbie Stevenson (DS); Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

- Alison Cramer (AC); Assistant Director, School Support and Information Services
- Sarah Callaghan (SC); Director of Learning and Culture
- Agnes Narkotey (AN), Finance Service, Islington Council

Apologies

- Sophie Garalda (SG): Headteacher, Hugh Myddelton Primary
- Francis Gonzalez (FrG); Headteacher, Richard Cloudesley Special School
- Colleen Marshall (CMA); City and Islington College for 14-19 Partnership
- Fiona MacCorquodale (FM); Headteacher, Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre (Vice-chair)

Not in attendance

- Ana Sevilla (ASe); Executive Head, New River Green and Packington Children's Centres
- Matthew Hillman (MH); Headteacher, The Pears Family School (AP Academy)
- Jenny Lewis (JL); Headteacher, Thornhill Primary School

Meeting minutes

1. Welcome/Apologies for absence/not in attendance

ME welcomed all to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves. Apologies were as above.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Schools Forum composition – for information and discussion (this Item was taken after Item 4 – Minutes)

JW (the clerk) spoke to a report previously circulated.

Update on vacancies / ends of terms of office:

Maintained Primary Headteacher

The clerk emailed the primary headteachers in September to seek nominations to fill the two vacancies and received one nomination from Nathalie Park, Executive Headteacher at The Learning Quarter for Sarah Gill, Head of Hugh Myddelton. There being no other nominations, Sarah was appointed to the Forum with a term of office of **16/10/2023 to 15/10/2027**.

The clerk wrote again to primary heads to inform them of Sarah's appointment and to ask for another nomination by 6 November. By the deadline, the clerk received only one nomination from Anthony David, Interim Headteacher at St Mary's C of E Primary. He was appointed unopposed as Interim Primary Headteacher representative with term of office up to 4 years from 8 November 2023.

Noted

Secondary Academy

The clerk had written four times to the senior leadership teams of the secondary academies asking them to select one, and then two representatives, and had received no reply. The clerk proposed that Schools Forum consider amending the terms of reference at the January Forum meeting to allow for one of the academy places to be offered to primary and secondary academies, not just to secondary academies. The other place would be reserved for secondary academies. In the meantime, the clerk would write again to secondary academies asking for two representatives, and flag up that if there were still no takers, Schools Forum would consider adjusting its terms of reference to allow for one of the places to be offered to primary as well as secondary academies.

Given the importance of secondary academies attending with the drop in school rolls coming through to secondary schools in a few years, it was **agreed** instead that the chair would take action.

Action: ME to contact Mark Emmerson at COLAT.

Terms of office next due to end:

- Joe Simpson (JS), Governor at St Peter and St Paul's Primary – 5.3.24. JS was willing to complete a second term of office.
- Penny Barrett, Director of Bridge Academy – 31.3.24. PB indicated her willingness to complete another term of office.

Actions:

- JW to write to primary governors in December advising them of the forthcoming vacancy and that JS was willing to carry out a second term of office – governors to express any concerns about this and/or to nominate themselves by a deadline in January, with elections to follow if necessary.
- JW to write in January to the senior leadership teams of the Bridge Academy and St Mary Magdalene Academy (SMMA): The Courtyard, the other special academy in the borough,

to advise that a vacancy was arising on Forum at the end of March, that PB was willing to complete another term, and for the two academies to decide about their representative by the beginning of March.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2023

Accuracy

The minutes were agreed as a true record subject to one correction – under Item 5 Scheme for Financing Schools, on page 6 of the minutes, in last paragraph of the item, to replace ‘the procurement document’ with ‘the procedure document’.

Matters arising

- **Item 5. Scheme for Financing Schools:** at the last meeting it had been proposed that Forum look at the procedure for applying for licensed deficits.
- **Action** - DS and TP to look at the LA’s financial processes and bring it to January Forum.
- DS also clarified in response to a question from NS about transparency and whether financial data about schools in deficit was being shared with councillors, that councillors do receive information about the overall financial situation of all schools, but they do not receive deficit recovery plans of individual schools, unless they are governors of these schools. SC added that Chairs of Governors on project groups may be councillors. ME concluded that the discussion about the procedure in January would be an opportunity to discuss transparency.
- **Item 10. Forward Planning:** ME confirmed that the Chairs’ Subgroup had met in October to discuss the process for the quality assurance of services and the role of the Forum subgroups. She urged members on subgroups to ensure they attended their meetings.
- Points were raised in relation to School Organisation which are included in the item on the agenda (12) below.

5. School Funding Arrangements (2024-25)

DS spoke to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Decisions in principle were needed from this meeting, with final decisions at the January forum.

The consultation of maintained primary and secondary schools on the funding forum had elicited only eight responses. The proposed formula mirrored the national funding formula which the Government is now due to implement in 2027/28. We will receive the data to determine the base rate and to be applied to the formula in December.

Proposal 1 – varying Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) with a maximum of +0.5%, with a cap on gaining schools. This was to protect schools. In the consultation, 6 in favour, 2 against.

Proposal 2 - retain funding for growth (previously agreed additional/bulge classes). In the consultation, 8 in favour. DS suggested that, rather than the current £300K, £150K was needed for the remaining schools still entitled.

Proposal 3 – use of about £39k growth funding on repurposing and removing surplus places – school organisation. In the consultation, 7 in favour, 1 against.

Proposal 4 – de-delegation of current services. In the consultation, 7 in favour, 1 against. There would be further discussion on that under item (13) below on QA.

Proposal 5 – not proposing to offer Behaviour Support, Library and Premises Insurance services as de-delegated services. In consultation, 5 in favour, 3 against – while this was more split, DS commented that to set up such services would involve a lot of resources and would require all maintained schools to agree to de-delegate funds, at a significant cost to schools, therefore, there was no proposal to do so at this stage.

In response to a question, DS clarified that if the primary and secondary schools still entitled to growth funding (bulge classes) did not achieve the places, they would not receive that growth funding.

In relation to the low level of responses from schools, compared to a few years ago, a reason suggested was that there were fewer proposals for schools to respond to as our formula now mirrored that of the DfE. It was suggested in future to ask for responses from people in person in meetings, for example headteachers at the Headteachers' Briefing.

Forum was asked to agree in principle to these recommendations:

- Vary MFG within allowable range of +0.0% to +0.5% and cap budget gains as necessary to ensure school budget allocation remain within funding envelope.
- Continue to retain Growth Funding to include an element for repurposing and removal of surplus places in accordance with the School Organisation Plan.
- Repurpose a portion of unused growth funding to support the removal of surplus places in accordance with the School Organisation Plan.
- To continue de-delegated current services.

Agreed in principle

6. Central School Services Block (CSSB) – Central Retention (2024-25) - for information/discussion

TP spoke to a report previously circulated.

The provisional funding envelope for CSSB in 2024-25 was £1.328m, but this would change with the outcome of the October Census. The proposal was to maintain services and their funding at the same level as in 2023-24, despite the reduction of £50K as the DfE continues to

reduce funding for historic commitments by 20 percent per annum. The top-slicing of £136K by the DfE for copyright licences was automatic.

Recommendations

That Schools Forum note:

- a) The current cost of CSSB services
- b) That Schools Forum will be required to agree allocations for 2024/25 in January following the quality assurance reviews before Christmas.

Noted

7. DSG Budget Monitor (2023-24) – for information

TP spoke to a report previously circulated. Overall, there was a projected in-year overspend of £0.077m as of Q2. The DSG balance was projected to reduce from £5.083m at end 2022/23 to £5.006m at the end of 2023/24. These balances were earmarked to manage increasing pressures on the high needs and early years block and on schools.

Schools Block - with the assumption that all of the £300K Growth Fund was allocated, there was likely to be an underspend of £150K.

Early Years - the DfE had clawed back £860K in-year based on take up of the free offer for 2s, 3s and 4s. The LA had been careful not to fund settings too much up front to minimise the impact on settings of the clawback.

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum notes:

- a) The forecast in-year overspend of £0.077m against the Dedicated Schools Grant at quarter 2.
- b) That DSG balances are forecast to be £5.006m at the end of the year.
- c) That these balances are earmarked for in future years to manage increasing pressures on the high needs block and early years block, and to meet cost pressures within schools.

Noted

8. DSG Allocations (2023-24) - for information

DS spoke to a spreadsheet that had been previously circulated. The figures indicated a reduction of £860K in the Early Years Block; this reduction was anticipated and was built in to

budget projections. This reduction will not impact on funding already allocated to Early Years providers.

Noted

9. DSG estimated funding allocations (2024-25) – for information

DS spoke to a spreadsheet that had been previously circulated.

The October Census 2023 was not finalised, so DS had estimated the pupil numbers. The sheet compared the illustrative figures in July 2023 for 2024/25 with the DSG 2023/24 Settlement. A reduction of 390 pupils was projected across primary (259) and secondary (131).

The Maintained Schools Additional Grant is to be subsumed into SB, and with an inflation increase as part of the Government's spending review settlement represents a net increase of £4.5m into the DSG was projected. It was noted that the impact of falling rolls resulted in a funding reduction of £2.8m when compared to 2023-24 Schools Block Funding.

Early Years Block – the hourly rates have yet to be announced but will increase compared to 2023-24, but again falling rolls will impact on funding, bringing the increase in funding down to an estimated £490K.

DS agreed to check the age profiles of children leaving and bring back to the next meeting. JA added that there is a 13% reduction in school rolls nationally, with 11% in North Central London. DV felt it would be helpful to know where families are and the work they do to anticipate need for extended day provision. SC flagged up the recent review of childcare by Hemsalls. It was agreed that DV would join the EY Subgroup where there would be further discussions about childcare/extended services.

Noted

10. DfE Additional support for schools in financial difficulty - for information

DS spoke to a report that had been circulated previously.

The DfE announced in July 2023 a one-off grant nationally of up to £40m to support individual schools in particular financial difficulty. £20m was for academies, £20m for maintained schools with the funding being allocated by LAs. Islington, one of 35 LAs to receive it, was allocated £364,816. There is significant flexibility in how LAs can use the funding and they are to report to their schools forum. The expectation is that funding will be allocated on a case-by-case basis prioritising schools in greatest need. DS thanked schools for having all submitted their re-forecasted budgets.

Noted

11. Forward planning and Subgroup updates – for information

High Needs Subgroup – PB reported verbally. It was noted that the HN budget was just positive but would not be in the future. The budget was being analysed with a view to possible changes.

Capital Subgroup – the Estate Plan would be published in January 2024. There were not yet sufficient lessons learned from the Additionally Resourced Projects (ARPs) pilots to share – this would happen next year. Many projects had been completed during summer 2023, partly helped by improved access to project management support with the restructure of the Capital Team in Community Wealth. Work was commencing on the next round of match-funding capital projects on the assumption that the council would again make £200K available – schools to find 25 percent of funding.

It was confirmed that the DfE had no further concerns about RAAC in Islington schools.

Noted

12. Roll Projections – for information

AC gave a verbal presentation.

The number of reception children in the October 2023 Census was slightly lower than the September offer. In relation to secondary schools, it is projected there will be a reduction of one form of entry each year over the next three to four years, with the reduction increasing to nearer two forms per year after that. AS asked if secondary PAN reductions fitted in with the projections – AC said that it was being reviewed.

Points raised about school organisation during Item 4 – Minutes of Last Meeting

AB queried why the LA was not sharing more data with Forum and being more open about decision making. JA questioned the Forum being the place where such decisions were scrutinised and he stated that there had been lots of visibility with members, headteachers and governors around the School Organisation Plan and its three phases and there was much documentation available. He suggested there could be more information for Forum – ME asked Forum how they felt about the level of information shared to date. JA referred to the joint meeting of headteachers and chairs of governors on 19 October, information shared there, circulated to all schools, in Schools Bulletin, and advised that senior managers were meeting with schools with sustainability challenges.

Action: AC to bring a written presentation on roll projections to the next Forum meeting.

13. Quality Assurance – for information and request for volunteers

AC gave a presentation to summarise progress, alongside some slides that had been previously circulated.

The Annual Service Satisfaction Survey had been completed. While there were only 15 responses, these provided many useful comments and feedback. The responses came from headteachers (9), governors (3) and SBMs (3).

Most service leads had completed their self-assessment reports – a sample (Safeguarding) was included on the slides.

The next stage was for chairs of governors, headteachers and SBMs to sit on QA review panels before Christmas to review the survey and self-assessments to inform decisions at January Forum around services funded through central retention funding.

The following Forum members volunteered to take part in the Review panels:

- Andrew Bosi
- Nigel Smith
- Joe Simpson
- Alan Streeter
- Cerys Normanton
- Maggie Elliott as a reserve

Noted

14.AOB

There being no further business, ME thanked all for attending the meeting and for their contributions.

Dates of future meetings

(Virtual meetings on MS Teams unless otherwise indicated)

Schools Forum

- Thursday 18 January 2024, 2 to 4pm (Town Hall, Committee Room 4)
- Thursday 24 May 2024, 2 to 4pm (Town Hall, Committee Room 4)
- Thursday 11 July 2024, 2 to 4pm (222, Room GA)

Chairs Subgroup

- Wednesday 10 January 2024, 2 to 3pm
- Wednesday 15 May 2024, 2 to 3pm
- Wednesday 3 July 2024, 2 to 3pm

Early Years Subgroup

- Friday 17 November 2023, 1 to 2.30pm – meeting postponed to December
- Friday 12 January 2024, 1 to 2.30pm
- Friday 17 May 2024, 1 to 2.30pm

Capital Subgroup

- Friday 9 February 2024, 12.30 to 2pm
- Thursday 16 May 2024, 12.30 to 2pm

High Needs Subgroup

- Monday 15 January 2024, to 11am to 12.30pm
- Monday 20 May 2024, to 11am to 12.30pm

DRAFT

	2024-25 DSG Settlement (19/12/2023) Updated PUF & SUF (Admissions) (A)			2024-25 Estimated Funding (21/07/2023) Updated PUF & SUF (Illustrative) (B)			Change (Pupil numbers) (C) = (A - B)			% Change	2023-24 DSG Settlement (16/12/2022) (Oct 2022 census) (D)			Change (E) = (B - D)			% Change	Net Change (F) = (A - D)			% Change		
	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding		Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding		Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding			
Schools Block			£			£			£						£			£					
Primary Pupils (PUF)	12,109	6,565.97	79,507,331	12,383	6,565.97	81,306,347	-274	0.00	-1,799,017	-2.2%	12,383	6,220.22	77,024,984	-	345.75	4,281,363	5.6%	-	274	345.75	2,482,346	3.2%	
Secondary Pupils (SUF)	7,258	8,706.15	63,184,885	7,422	8,706.15	64,617,061	-165	0.00	-1,432,176	-2.2%	7,422	8,230.29	61,085,212	-	475.86	3,531,848	5.8%	-	165	475.86	2,099,672	3.4%	
Growth			697,257						697,257	0.0%			389,632			307,625	79.0%				307,625	79.0%	
Premises			5,208,373			5,208,372			1	0.0%			5,236,225		-	27,853	-0.5%				-	27,852	-0.5%
<i>National non-domestic rates within the premises factor</i>																							
Schools Block - before recoupment	19,367		148,597,845	19,805		151,131,780	-439	5,779	-2,533,935	-1.7%	19,805	7,258	143,736,054	0		8,092,984	5.6%	-439			4,861,792	3.4%	
<i>National non-domestic rates within the premises factor</i>			- 2,506,998			-2,627,879			120,881				-2,627,879			-	0.0%				120,881	-4.6%	
<i>Academy Recoupment:</i>						- 38,464,860			38,464,860	-100.0%			- 38,464,860										
<i>% of Total DSG</i>		66.7%	67.6%		68.6%	62.7%			88.5%				62.0%										
Total Schools Block - after recoupment	19,367	0	146,090,847	19,805	0	110,039,041	-439	5,779	36,051,806	-101.7%	19,805	7,258	102,643,315	0	0	8,092,984	5.6%	-439	0		4,982,673	-1.2%	
Central School Services Block																							
Ongoing Duties	19,367	54.19	1,049,472	19,805	54.19	1,073,234	-439	0.00	-23,762	-2.21%	19,805	52.61	1,041,942	-	1.58	31,292	3.00%	-	439	1.58	7,530	0.7%	
Historic Commitments			270,008			270,008			0	0.0%			337,510		-	67,502	-20.0%				67,502	-20.0%	
<i>% of Total DSG</i>		0.6%	0.6%		0.6%	0.8%			-0.1%				0.8%										
Total CSSB			1,319,480			1,343,242			-23,762	-1.8%			1,379,452			-36,211	-2.6%				-59,973	-4.3%	
High Needs Block																							
National Funding Formula			43,851,961			43,851,961			0	0.0%			40,482,011			3,369,950	8.3%				3,369,950	8.3%	
Basic Entitlement Factor (Sp Schs & Acads)	657	5645.90	3,709,358	614	5645.90	3,466,584		0.00	242,775	7.0%	614	5656.28	3,472,957		6,373	-0.2%				236,401	6.8%		
Import / Export adjs			192,000			27,199			-219,199	-805.9%			282,000		309,199	-109.6%				90,000	-31.9%		
Special Free Schools			291,458						291,458	0.0%			296,327		-	296,327	-100.0%				4,869	-1.6%	
Hospital education**, AP teachers pay/pension and supplementary funding*** factor total (provisional)			210,841			210,841			0	0.0%			210,842		1	0.0%				1	0.0%		
Add'l High Needs Funding (Nov 22 Gov Autumn Statement)									0	0.0%			1,858,670		-	1,858,670	-100.0%				1,858,670	-100.0%	
Supplementary Grant Funding (NiC)									0	0.0%					-	-	0.0%				-	0.0%	
High Needs Block - before recoupment			47,871,618			47,556,585			315,034				46,038,807			1,517,778					1,832,812	4.0%	
<i>EFA Direct funding of places</i>			- 3,970,000			- 3,827,501			-142,499	3.7%			- 3,610,000			- 360,000	10.0%				0	0.0%	
<i>% of Total DSG</i>		21.5%	20.3%		21.6%	24.9%			0.4%				25.6%										
Total High Needs Block - after recoupment			43,901,618			43,729,084			172,535				42,428,807			1,157,778					1,832,812		
Early Years Block		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		PTE	£/hour		
Under 2 Year Olds (Schs + PVI)	215.53	15.42	1,894,380		15.16	-		216	0.26	1,894,380	0.0%				15.16	-	0.0%		215.53	15.42	1,894,380	0.0%	
2 Year Old disadvantaged (Schs + PVI)	574.95	11.27	3,693,422	590.27	11.09	3,731,274		-15	0.18	-37,851	-1.0%	590.27	7.54	2,536,862		3.55	1,194,411	47.1%	15.32	3.73	1,156,560	45.6%	
2 Year Old working parents (Schs + PVI)	425.40	11.27	2,732,728		0.00	-		425	11.27	2,732,728	0.0%		0.00	-		-	0.0%		425.40	11.27	2,732,728	0.0%	
3&4 Year Old (Schs + PVI)	2,574.89	8.38	12,299,220	2,696.38	8.13	12,495,296		-121	0.25	-196,076	-1.6%	2,696.38	8.05	12,372,341		0.08	122,955	1.0%	121.49	0.33	73,121	-0.6%	
3&4 Year Additional (Schs + PVI)	696.57	8.38	3,327,236	738.33	8.13	3,421,495		-42	0.25	-94,259	-2.8%	738.33	8.05	3,387,827		0.08	33,668	1.0%	41.76	0.33	60,591	-1.8%	
EYPPG - 3&4 Year Olds	456.50	0.68	176,940	583.42	0.66	219,483		-127	0.02	-42,542	-19.4%	583.42	0.62	206,181		0.04	13,302	6.5%	126.92	0.06	29,240	-14.2%	
EYPPG - 2 Year Olds	249.63	0.68	96,757		0.00	-		250	0.68	96,757	0.0%		0.00	-		-	0.0%		249.63	0.68	96,757	0.0%	
EYPPG - Under 2 Year Olds	12.48	0.68	4,838		0.00	-		12	0.68	4,838	0.0%		0.00	-		-	0.0%		12.48	0.68	4,838	0.0%	
MNS - 3&4 year olds	159.00	5.59	506,622	145	4.72	390,108		14	0.87	116,514	29.9%	145	4.48	370,272		0.24	19,836	5.4%	14.00	1.11	136,350	36.8%	
DAF - 3&4 Year Olds	157.00	1.60	142,870	143	881.00	125,983		14	-879.40	16,887	13.4%	143	828.00	118,404		53.00	7,579	6.4%	14.00	826.40	24,466	20.7%	
DAF - 2 Year Olds	22.00	1.60	20,020		0.00	-		22	1.60	20,020	0.0%		0.00	-		-	0.0%		22.00	1.60	20,020	0.0%	
DAF - Under 2 Year Olds	6.00	1.60	5,460		0.00	-		6	1.60	5,460	0.0%		0.00	-		-	0.0%		6.00	1.60	5,460	0.0%	
<i>% of Total DSG</i>		11.2%	11.5%		9.2%	11.6%			11.1%				11.5%										
Total Early Years Block			24,900,494			20,383,638			4,516,856	22.2%			18,991,887			1,391,751	7.3%				5,908,607	31.1%	
Total DSG																							
Total DSG before Recoupment			222,689,437			220,415,245			2,274,192	1.0%			210,146,199			10,966,302	5.2%				12,543,237	6.0%	
Total DSG after Recoupment			216,212,439			175,495,005			40,717,434	23.2%			165,443,460			10,606,302	6.4%				12,664,118	7.7%	

Schools Block Notes:
Includes the Maintained Supplementary Additional Grant (MSAG) moved in to the Schools Block from 2024-25
Four academies yet to submit census data, estimates have been used to calculate pupil numbers

Early Years Block Notes:
3&4 yo rates include Teachers Pay and Pension grants

Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item 6 : School Funding Formula 2024-25

Purpose of report: Decision

Recommendations: School Forum to agree:

- a) 2024-25 formula factors and values
- b) Final value centrally retained for Growth

Background

A consultation with schools on School Funding 2024-25 ran from 29 September to 20 October 2023.

In November, Schools Forum agreed the following principles and changes be applied to the local School Funding Formula:

- Vary MFG within allowable range of +0.0% to +0.5% and cap budget gains as necessary to ensure school budget allocation remains within funding envelope
- Continue to centrally retain Growth Funding, to include an element for re purposing and removing surplus places
- To continue current de-delegated services

Data changes between October 2022 and 2023 census

Pupil number movements are as follows:

Primary	Secondary KS3	Secondary KS4	TOTAL
-309	-89	-78	-476

A summary of all the data movements is shown below:

Primary	Factor	October 2023	October 2022	Change	% Change
Basic Entitlement		12109	12418	-309	-2.5%
Deprivation	FSM	5313	5261	52	1.0%
Deprivation	FSM Ev6	5567	5596	-29	-0.5%
Deprivation	IDACI F	1206	1212	-6	-0.5%
Deprivation	IDACI E	2072	2154	-82	-3.8%
Deprivation	IDACI D	1713	1726	-13	-0.8%
Deprivation	IDACI C	2417	2522	-106	-4.2%
Deprivation	IDACI B	2319	2323	-4	-0.2%
Deprivation	IDACI A	457	503	-46	-9.1%
EAL	3 Yrs	2647	2697	-50	-1.9%

Primary	Factor	October 2023	October 2022	Change	% Change
Mobility		219	157	62	39.5%
Prior Attainment		3938	3867	71	1.8%

Secondary	Factor	October 2023	October 2022	Change	% Change
Basic Entitlement	KS3	4346	4435	-89	-2.0%
Basic Entitlement	KS4	2913	2991	-78	-2.6%
Deprivation	FSM	3604	3520	84	2.4%
Deprivation	FSM Ev6	3980	4001	-21	-0.5%
Deprivation	IDACI F	710	707	3	0.4%
Deprivation	IDACI E	1218	1267	-49	-3.9%
Deprivation	IDACI D	1163	1223	-60	-4.9%
Deprivation	IDACI C	1621	1643	-22	-1.3%
Deprivation	IDACI B	1354	1339	15	1.1%
Deprivation	IDACI A	365	367	-2	-0.5%

Secondary	Factor	October 2023	October 2022	Change	% Change
EAL	3 Yrs	356	329	27	8.1%
Mobilty		81	50	31	62.8%
Prior Attainment		1477	1553	-76	-4.9%

Budget Modelling 2024-25

The initial step was to roll in the new data and apply the 2024-25 National Funding Formula (NFF) factor values.

Funding associated with PFI schools was uplifted with the latest available RPIx, 4.1% as at November 2023. These are used as an estimate where actual charges will be based on the February RPIx, in line with each school's Governing Body Agreement. Should any variances occur, these will be retrospectively adjusted in the 2025-26 funding formula.

The NNDR (Rates) values have been included in the formula as those provided by the ESFA. These values will be recouped by the ESFA in order to pay directly to the Council. Should the final value be different, an adjustment will be made in 2025-26.

As set out within the 2024-25 Operational Guidance, Vittoria primary school has been awarded an additional lump sum (85%) as a school amalgamated, with Copenhagen, during 2023-24. This is a one-off funding adjustment for 2024-25.

Central retention for growth has been included at £150k. This funding will only be used to support one primary school where the PAN increase had previously been agreed with the LA, currently estimated at £104k. Actual allocation of funding will be based upon October 2024 census. The residual funds, £46k, is to be used to support the LA process with regards to place planning, particularly in regard to re-purposing and removing of surplus places.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was set at the maximum 0.5%.

Schools gaining through the formula have not been capped.

Following this process, there remained a surplus balance of £247k in which to further allocate to primary and secondary schools.

Budget recommendation

The DfE require all LAs to move 10% closer to the NFF and provide each LA with a minimum and maximum value for each of the funding factors.

Islington are currently mirroring the NFF, however, the residual funds mean a deviation away from the national formula.

In previous years, Schools Forum have agreed to either increase or decrease the Base Rate factor unit value as a mechanism in which to remain within the overall Schools Block DSG funding envelope. Furthermore, the Base Rate had been proportionally adjusted across the three phases, in line with, and maintaining, the NFF ratios across primary and secondary schools. Islington has replicated this principle in distributing the £247k residual funds.

The table below shows the 2023-24 Base Rate values compared to the 2024-25 NFF vales; minimum and maximum permissible ranges and the values included in the recommended local model.

Base Rate	2023-24 APT	2024-25 NFF (incl ACA)	2024-25 APT minimum	2024-25 APT maximum	2024-25 Unit Value	Change 2023-24 to 2024-25	Difference to NFF
Primary	£4,004.09	£4,226.88	£4,121.21	£4,332.55	£4,232.38	£228.29	£5.50
KS3	£5,645.37	£5,959.41	£5,810.42	£6,108.39	£5,979.44	£334.07	£20.03
KS4	£6,362.90	£6,717.68	£6,549.74	£6,885.62	£6,751.40	£388.50	£33.72

Recommended Unit Rates

The table below shows the recommended 2024-25 unit values, compared to 2023-24. Annex A illustrates the budget implications on individual schools.

Factor	Unit	Unit Value (Increased Base Rate) (£)	NFF Primary 2024-25 (£)	NFF Secondary 2024-25 (£)	Primary 2023-24 (£)	Secondary 2023-24 (£)	% increase Primary Increased Base Rate	% increase Secondary Increased Base Rate
Basic Entitlement	Pri	4,232.38	4,226.88		4,004.09		5.70%	
Basic Entitlement	KS3	5,979.44		5,959.41		5,645.37		5.92%
Basic Entitlement	KS4	6,751.40		6,717.68		6,362.90		6.11%
Deprivation	FSM		581.46	581.46	570.68	570.68	1.89%	1.89%
Deprivation	FSM E6		973.06	1,423.99	838.19	1,224.59	16.09%	16.28%
Deprivation	IDACI F		278.87	403.46	273.45	398.29	1.98%	1.30%
Deprivation	IDACI E		338.20	534.00	332.90	529.07	1.59%	0.93%
Deprivation	IDACI D		528.06	747.60	523.12	737.13	0.94%	1.42%

Factor	Unit	Unit Value (Increased Base Rate) (£)	NFF Primary 2024-25 (£)	NFF Secondary 2024-25 (£)	Primary 2023-24 (£)	Secondary 2023-24 (£)	% increase Primary Increased Base Rate	% increase Secondary Increased Base Rate
Deprivation	IDACI C		575.53	818.80	570.68	808.47	0.85%	1.28%
Deprivation	IDACI B		611.13	878.13	606.35	867.91	0.79%	1.18%
Deprivation	IDACI A		806.93	1,121.39	796.58	1,105.70	1.30%	1.42%
EAL	3 yrs		700.13	1,880.86	689.57	1,860.66	1.53%	1.09%
Mobility			1,139.19	1,637.59	1,123.53	1,616.93	1.39%	1.28%
Prior Attainment			1,388.39	2,106.32	1,373.20	2,080.61	1.11%	1.24%
Lump Sum			159,487.10	159,487.10	152,181.76	152,181.76	4.80%	4.80%

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to Schools Forum:

- Base Rate unit value be increased proportionally across primary, KS3 and KS4 to meet affordability limits of Schools Block funding
- Formula factors and values used in local School Funding Formula are agreed
- £150k is retained for Growth funding

Contact for queries:

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Head of Schools & Early Finance Services

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2024-25 Funding Model

DFE No.	School	2023-24		2024-25 LA Recommended Model		Pupil Numbers (NOR)			Budget comparison impact				
		Adj School Budget (budget less NDR)	MFG incl in budget	Adj School Budget (budget less NDR)	MFG incl in budget	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Change	Movement between 2023-24 and 2024-25	% change	Average per pupil per school	Est of impact of change in NOR	Impact of settlement
2062015	Ambler Primary and Children's Centre	2,487,557	169,196	2,602,439	100,246	412	416	4	114,882	4.6%	5,872	23,490	91,393
2062809	Ashmount Primary	2,191,864	-	2,331,788	-	378	378	-	139,924	6.4%	5,747	-	139,924
2063643	Blessed Sacrament RC Primary	718,667	-	650,865	-	93	76	-17	67,802	-9.4%	6,466	-109,914	42,112
2062854	Canonbury Primary	2,364,576	-	2,552,952	-	400	403	3	188,376	8.0%	5,939	17,817	170,559
2063633	Christ The King Catholic Primary	1,538,113	-	1,690,006	-	234	243	9	151,892	9.9%	6,298	56,686	95,206
2062001	City of London Primary Academy	1,700,125	-	1,867,524	-	312	314	2	167,399	9.8%	5,440	10,879	156,519
2062128	Copenhagen Primary School - yrly comparison only	918,278	-	-	-	128	-	-128	918,278	-100.0%	-	-	-918,278
2062166	Drayton Park Primary	1,560,366	25,980	1,653,397	-	262	265	3	93,031	6.0%	5,637	16,912	76,118
2062170	Duncombe Primary	2,295,359	-	2,215,678	-	340	313	-27	79,681	-3.5%	6,569	-177,371	97,690
2062251	Gillespie Primary	1,204,298	14,488	1,249,581	4,425	208	208	-	45,283	3.8%	5,241	-	45,283
2062261	Grafton Primary	2,341,467	-	2,525,534	-	398	399	1	184,068	7.9%	5,930	5,930	178,138
2062279	Hanover Primary	1,675,220	-	1,680,151	-	275	259	-16	4,931	0.3%	5,871	-93,941	98,871
2062282	Hargrave Park Primary	1,748,804	-	1,759,097	-	276	263	-13	10,293	0.6%	6,082	-79,068	89,361
2062805	Highbury Quadrant Primary	1,349,806	-	1,232,917	-	209	172	-37	116,889	-8.7%	6,241	-230,912	114,023
2062855	Hugh Myddelton Primary	2,528,997	-	2,718,882	-	412	417	5	189,885	7.5%	6,138	30,688	159,197
2062003	Hungerford	961,400	-	1,011,513	9,716	130	132	2	50,112	5.2%	6,455	12,909	37,203
2062379	Laycock Primary	1,899,420	-	1,757,849	-	293	254	-39	141,571	-7.5%	6,293	-245,418	103,847
2062852	Montem Primary	1,772,161	-	1,949,057	-	262	270	8	176,896	10.0%	6,628	53,024	123,872
2062429	Moreland Primary	2,160,331	-	2,305,385	-	336	341	5	145,054	6.7%	6,293	31,465	113,590
2062853	Newington Green Primary	2,258,565	-	2,466,618	-	355	366	11	208,052	9.2%	6,304	69,340	138,712
2062455	Pakeman Primary	1,900,054	-	1,907,791	-	286	272	-14	7,737	0.4%	6,428	-89,986	97,723
2062856	Poles Park Primary	1,281,906	-	1,103,381	-	182	143	-39	178,525	-13.9%	6,601	-257,426	78,901
2062850	Prior Weston Primary and Children's Centre	1,549,256	-	1,448,014	-	245	212	-33	101,241	-6.5%	6,078	-200,573	99,331
2062515	Robert Blair	1,243,362	4,681	1,297,409	-	184	185	1	54,047	4.3%	6,151	6,151	47,896
2062857	Rotherfield Primary	2,026,668	-	2,060,845	-	310	301	-9	34,177	1.7%	6,317	-56,851	91,028
2063384	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary	2,495,065	-	2,637,297	-	393	390	-3	142,232	5.7%	6,353	-19,060	161,292
2063606	St Andrew's (Barnsbury) Church of England Primary	1,186,820	-	1,232,945	-	181	172	-9	46,126	3.9%	6,241	-56,169	102,295
2063631	St Joan of Arc RC Primary	2,328,838	-	2,392,077	-	397	390	-7	63,239	2.7%	5,725	-40,072	103,311
2063456	St John Evangelist RC Primary	1,557,283	-	1,567,198	-	237	221	-16	9,915	0.6%	6,370	-101,916	111,830
2063471	St John's Highbury Vale CofE Primary	1,157,310	-	1,263,859	-	194	201	7	106,549	9.2%	5,494	38,461	68,088
2063465	St John's Upper Holloway CofE Primary	1,170,922	-	1,245,219	-	179	180	1	74,297	6.3%	6,032	6,032	68,265
2063483	St Joseph's Catholic Primary	2,017,574	-	2,193,473	-	371	379	8	175,899	8.7%	5,367	42,934	132,965
2063488	St Jude and St Paul's CofE Primary	905,126	-	952,016	-	129	125	-4	46,889	5.2%	6,340	-25,361	72,250
2063495	St Luke's CofE Primary	1,291,238	-	1,341,303	-	200	195	-5	50,065	3.9%	6,061	-30,303	80,368
2063501	St Mark's CofE Primary	1,254,443	-	1,317,992	-	195	190	-5	63,549	5.1%	6,097	-30,487	94,036
2063527	St Mary's CofE Primary	1,041,131	-	1,120,712	-	152	155	3	79,581	7.6%	6,201	18,604	60,977
2063575	St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary	1,249,333	-	1,293,910	-	188	179	-9	44,577	3.6%	6,338	-57,038	101,615
2063644	The New North Academy	1,582,719	-	1,518,173	-	234	204	-30	64,546	-4.1%	6,660	-199,807	135,260
2062596	Thornhill Primary	2,321,491	-	2,476,951	-	411	415	4	155,460	6.7%	5,584	22,337	133,123
2062803	Tufnell Park Primary	2,332,475	-	2,604,967	-	392	408	16	272,492	11.7%	5,994	95,901	176,591
2062624	Vittoria Primary	998,062	1,496	1,667,191	-	142	220	78	669,128	67.0%	6,346	494,968	174,161
2062000	Whitehall Park	1,638,043	-	1,646,122	-	267	245	-22	8,078	0.5%	6,068	-133,494	141,572
2062643	William Tyndale Primary	2,326,670	-	2,454,259	-	418	420	2	127,589	5.5%	5,464	10,927	116,661
2062646	Winton Primary	1,278,136	-	1,316,260	-	194	191	-3	38,124	3.0%	6,056	-18,169	56,293
2062666	Yerbury Primary	2,138,666	-	2,265,751	-	416	417	1	127,084	5.9%	5,051	5,051	122,033
	Primary Total	75,947,967	215,841	78,546,346	114,388	12,210	11,899	-311	2,598,380			-1,182,828	3,781,207
2064325	Arts and Media Islington	6,113,198	-	6,092,136	-	672	628	-44	21,062	-0.3%	9,447	-415,663	394,601
2064112	Beacon High	3,985,573	-	4,434,123	-	390	415	25	448,549	11.3%	10,300	257,508	191,041
2064614	Central Foundation Boys'	7,038,220	-	7,351,966	-	863	876	13	313,746	4.5%	8,211	-57,474	371,220
2064003	City of London Academy Highbury Grove	9,270,050	-	9,583,304	-	1,035	1,008	-27	313,254	3.4%	9,349	-252,424	565,678
2064001	City of London Academy Highgate Hill	5,483,775	-	5,624,834	-	649	617	-32	141,059	2.6%	8,858	-283,454	424,513
2066906	City of London Academy Islington	6,726,212	-	7,293,504	-	803	806	3	567,292	8.4%	8,851	26,553	540,738
2064324	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	7,699,919	-	8,093,947	-	886	872	-14	394,028	5.1%	9,099	-127,388	521,416
2064307	Highbury Fields	6,096,466	-	6,360,870	-	681	681	-	264,404	4.3%	9,106	-	264,404
2064651	St Aloysius RC College	3,612,595	-	3,108,053	-	411	326	-85	504,542	-14.0%	9,045	-768,798	264,256
	Secondary Total	56,026,008	-	57,942,737	-	6,410	6,229	-181	1,916,728			-1,621,139	3,537,868
2066905	St Mary Magdalene Academy	8,834,203	-	9,496,149	-	1,224	1,240	16	661,946	7.5%	7,530	120,473	541,473
	All Through Total	8,834,203	-	9,496,149	-	1,224	1,240	16	661,946			120,473	541,473
	GRAND TOTAL	140,808,178	215,841	145,985,232	114,388	19,844	19,368	-476	5,177,054			-2,683,494	7,860,549

2023-24 = Budget post MFG but before de-delegation
 2024-25 = NFF values; MFG 0.5%; no cap; increase to Base Rate proportionally

Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 8 – DSG Central Retention (2024-25)

Purpose of report: For decision

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum:

- a) Agree the proposed central retention in the CSSB.
- b) Note that an update report will be brought to Schools Forum in the first meeting of the autumn term to provide details of progress against actions from the quality assurance meetings in December.
- c) Note the proposed central retention in the Early Years Block and that this will be brought back to an extraordinary meeting of Schools Forum for agreement following the Early Years funding consultation.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide proposals for central retention within the Central School Services Block (CSSB) and Early years Block.
2. Schools Forum are required to agree:
 - Central retention for growth within the Schools Block. This is considered in a separate report.
 - All central retention under the CSSB, except for licences which is an automatically top-sliced by the DfE. In terms of the operational guidance, where a schools' forum does not agree with a local authorities proposals, the DfE will adjudicate. There must be equality of access to centrally retained services for schools and academies under the CSSB.

- All central retention under the Early Years Block.
3. Central retention within the High Needs Block is a local authority decision in consultation with Schools Forum. High needs budget allocations are being reviewed and will be reported to Schools Forum in May. Demand pressures in high needs are increasing by between 8% and 12% per annum, while funding is only increasing by 3.5% in 2024/25.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

1. CSSB funding is provisionally £1.319m for 2024/25. This represents a reduction of £0.060m from 2023/24 as the DfE continue to reduce funding for historic commitments by 20% per annum. The split in funding and provisional movement from 2023/24 between the ongoing duties and the historic element of CSSB funding is as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25 Provisional	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
Ongoing duties	1.041	1.049	+0.007
Historic commitments	0.338	0.270	-0.067
Total	1.379	1.319	-0.060

2. In addition to the provisional allocation above of £1.319m there is a prior year balance of £0.205m of CSSB funding that can be used to continue to support services in future years and smooth in the reductions in funding. The exact level of prior year balances will change if there is an under or overspend on the CSSB in the current financial year. This brings the provisional budget to £1.524m.
3. The budget for centrally retained services is £1.442m in 2023/24. However, following a reduction in central support service costs in the Council, the cost of these services is reducing to £1.396m. There is no impact on the provision of services to schools from this reduction in costs. If Schools Forum agrees to continue to fund these services at the level of reduced cost there will be £0.128m of prior year CSSB balances will be available for future years. These proposals follow the quality assurance exercise in relation to these services that took place with schools.

Cost of CSSB Services			
Service	2023/24 £k	2024/25 £k	Service Description
9. Admissions	630	599	School admissions service for children and young people of compulsory school age. Advice on school exclusions, representing the LA at exclusion hearings and independent review panels. Secure appropriate education provision for children applying in year as soon as possible. Tracking pupils missing education, including unofficial exclusions, Day 6 provision, off-rolling and in-year admissions. Coordinate Islington's Fair Access Protocol via the Primary and Secondary Securing Education Board mechanisms. Represent the LA at statutory admission appeals. Advice and guidance to parents and schools on the school admissions application and appeal procedures and exclusions procedure. Due to the reduction in Council support service costs this is £31k less than 2023/24
9A. School admission appeals	45	45	Cost of hearing admission appeals
14. Access and engagement service	257	249	Support to schools, children and families to secure good attendance and engagement, and ensure that all children are properly safeguarded by: advising schools in their delivery of a whole school approach to promoting good attendance and engagement and on safeguarding policy and practice; operating to an agreed borough-wide approach; empowering parents to meet their legal responsibilities regarding school; and supporting efficient and effective partnerships in the best interests of the child or young person. The service is also responsible for monitoring illegal school activity and elective

Cost of CSSB Services			
			home education and for issuing licenses for children in employment or entertainment, and for providing safeguarding support to schools. Due to the reduction in Council support service costs this is £8k less than 2023/24
18. Servicing Schools Forum	50	50	Support to Schools Forum
19. Capital and asset management	110	104	Management of the capital programme including preparation and review of asset management plan, and negotiation and management of BSF. General landlord duties. Due to the reduction in Council support service costs this is £5k less than 2023/24
24. Directors and assistant directors	71	69	Statutory and regulatory duties under the School and Early Years Finance Regulations including planning for the education service as a whole. Due to the reduction in Council support service costs this is £2k less than 2023/24
65. Equalities	30	30	Ongoing work with all schools (including academies and free schools) to raise progress and achievement for the two lowest achieving groups in schools (black Caribbean and white British) and Equaliteach
66. Legal services SLA	30	30	Provision of legal advice to schools (encompassing education law, employment law, contract law, data protection and freedom of information, property matters, child and adult community care, and litigation), ensuring they can access appropriate legal advice when necessary, minimising potential liabilities.

Cost of CSSB Services			
67. Sports co-ordinators	25	25	This funding supports the work of the PE, School Sports and Physical Activity team in their work with primary and secondary schools in: developing physical activity opportunities for the least active children and young people; advising on high quality PE, and meeting the requirements of the PE and sport premium and expectations from Ofsted; accessing additional resources and support from local and national providers; and Work with schools identified as having higher levels of health needs ('red' schools) to support PE, school sport and physical activity.
69. Copyright licences	132	136	Automatic top-slice by the DfE. Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools.
73. Early Career Training (ECT)	54	54	Provision of a training programme for each NQT as required by statutory guidance / statutory induction monitoring and guidance service provided by the Council. The training is provided through the Paddington Teaching Schools Alliance and schools nominate Islington as the appropriate body for the scheme. The programme is now a two-year programme and at the end of the two years the schools involved in the scheme get a payment of £2,600 from the DfE.
Total	1,425	1,396	
Provisional funding	1,379	1,524	
Balance	-0.059	0.128	For smoothing in further future year reductions in CSSB funding

Early Years Block

1. Local authorities are able to centrally retain funding for central services to lead and support the system. Central retention remains capped at 5% of Early Years Block funding for the statutory entitlements to free early education and childcare. Due to the rollout of the new entitlements, Early Years Block funding is increasing by 31%, leading to an increase in the 5% top-slice of £0.283m from £0.914m to £1.197m:

Entitlement	Provisional allocation £m	5% top-slice £m
Under 2 Year Olds	1,894	95
2 Year Old disadvantaged	3,693	185
2 Year Old working parents	2,733	136
3&4 Year Olds universal	12,299	615
3&4 Year Additional	3,327	166
Total	23,947	1,197

2. Early Years Block funding is currently centrally retained as follows. We are consulting with providers on retaining the full £1.197m for the provision of central services. Further proposals will be worked-up on how this funding will be used to support and embed the additional entitlements. This will be brought back to Schools Forum for decision at an extraordinary meeting in March.

Existing EYB Central Retention Proposed Allocations for 2024/25 (unchanged from 2023/24)

Service		2024/25 Proposed £k	
Finance		61	Annual budget statements and adjustments. Technical advice to Schools Forum and its sub groups. School Funding Consultation. Financial implications on changes to funding
ICT and data services		101	Software licences and systems management to fulfil our duties in relation to safeguarding children, early years headcount and payments. Critical response to e-safety incidents, advice and guidance on information governance and digital communications with settings and schools
Family information service		101	Children's services elements of the maintenance of Family Directory and Early Years and Childcare web pages including the Local Offer providing information to families about services and support for children and young people including childcare and schools; childcare brokerage; information about events for children and young people.
Early Years Foundation Stage Team, Strategy and Management		581	EYFS school and setting improvement (primary and nursery schools, children's centres, PVI providers, childminders) through bespoke in-setting support, projects, central training, and guidance on meeting statutory requirements. EYFSP moderation; integrated health and education check at aged 2. Strategic development, management, and

Existing EYB Central Retention Proposed Allocations for 2024/25 (unchanged from 2023/24)

			administration of early childhood services pregnancy to 5 and out-of-school childcare. This includes commissioning and support for setting up systems to meet national requirements and ensuring the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare. Approximately 30% of the budget for these services comes from the Early Years Block, 55% from core Council funds, 5% from de-delegated funding and the remainder from income
Strengthening Parenting		71	Parenting programmes including Incredible Years courses
Total		914	

Recommendations

That Schools Forum:

- a) Agree the proposed central retention in the CSSB.
- b) Note that an update report will be brought to Schools Forum in the first meeting of the autumn term to provide details of progress against actions from the quality assurance meetings in December.
- c) Note the proposed central retention in the Early Years Block and that this will be brought back to an extraordinary meeting of Schools Forum for agreement following the Early Years funding consultation.

Contact for queries:

[Tim Partington](#)

Assistant Director of Finance, Children's, Schools and Resources

T 020 7527 1851

Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item 9: Specialist Provision Place Numbers 2024-25

Recommendations: Schools Forum agree principles of determining number of SEND places commissioned by the local authority and arrangements for allocating top-up funding

Background

Determination of place numbers at maintained special schools and resource units is an annual process.

Numbers of existing placements are taken from the current year January school census. These numbers are then reviewed with each school to assess need for the coming financial year.

The local authority informs and requests the view of Schools Forum on funded place numbers and arrangements for paying top up funding.

Special Provision Placements 2023-24

Place numbers: as in previous years, numbers used for maintained special schools and the Laycock resource unit are those occupied as at January 2024 school census date, adjusted if necessary following discussions between the school and SEND commissioning officers regarding any known movements in roll. Should unexpected demand for places arise in year, the LA will discuss provision with the school and determine any additional funding required. Schools will be asked to provide costings for any additional place/top up funding requested.

Top up funding: funds available for individual high needs pupils in special schools and resource units will, in the first instance, be increased in line with national guidance on allocating additional funds coming into the High Needs Block 2024-25. Consideration will then be given to any additional funding available and options discussed at the High Needs sub-group.

Recommendations

Schools Forum agree the commissioning and funding arrangements for maintained special schools and resource units in 2024-25.

Contact for queries:

[Debbie Stevenson](#)

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

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Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 10 – Licenced Deficits Process

Purpose of report: For information

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum notes the licenced deficits process.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with details of the licenced deficits process.

Licenced Deficits

2. The process for applying for a licenced deficit is set out in the scheme for financing schools, which states:

“A governing body setting its annual budget is expected to do so within the resources available to its school for that year, taking account of any surplus or deficit balances brought forward.

“Schools must submit a recovery plan to the LA when their revenue balance projects a deficit when measured against the preceding March year-end balance. A governing body must apply for a Licensed Deficit Agreement (LDA) that allows for the setting of a deficit budget for an agreed period not exceeding three years. In cases where a governing body considers a deficit unavoidable the Chair of Governors must make a formal application in writing to the Director of Learning and Achievement”.

3. When a school applies for a licenced deficit, it will be managed under process B in Appendix A for new schools in deficit. Appendix B illustrates the escalation process if progress within

the agreed timescales of the Deficit Recovery Plan is not being met or at significant risk of not being achieved.

Recommendations

That Schools Forum notes the licenced deficits process.

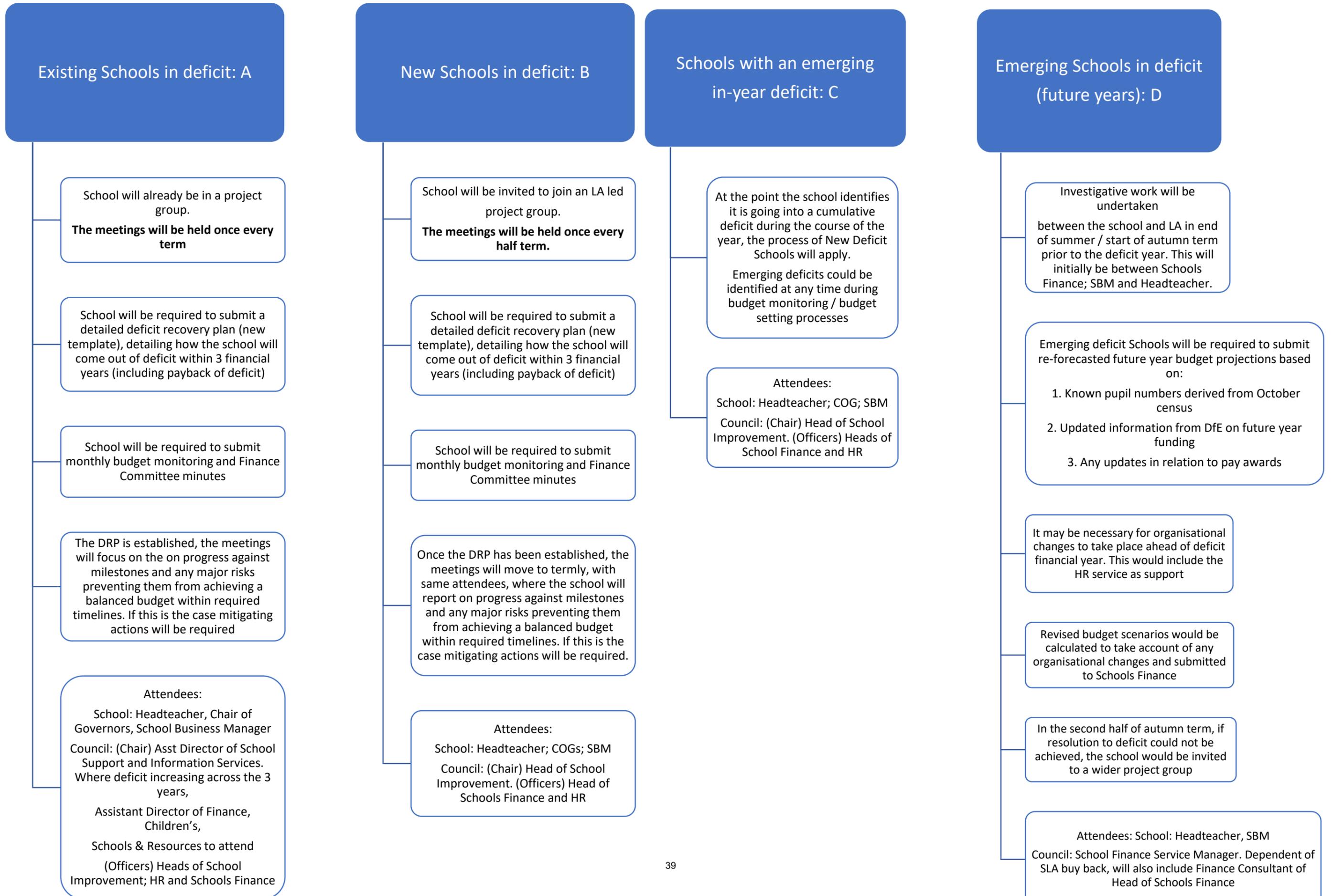
Contact for queries:

[Tim Partington](#)

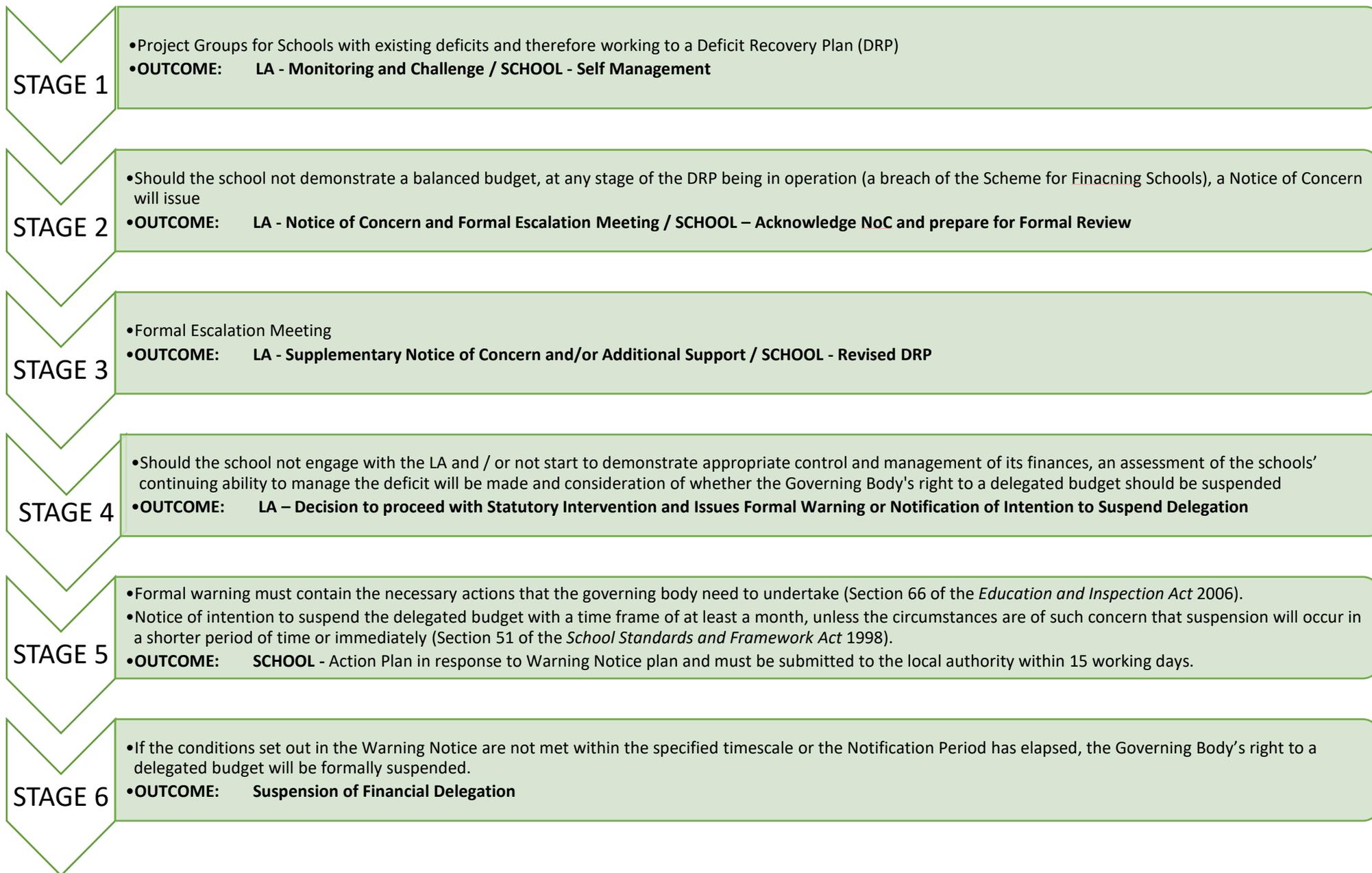
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Appendix A: Managing a Deficit Budget in a School or Setting



Appendix B: Managing a Deficit Budget - Escalation Process



Islington Schools Forum

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 18 January 2024, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 11 – Forward Planning

Purpose of report: Information

Recommendations:

Schools Forum notes the updates and provide comments

Forward planning

The purpose of this report is to provide the foundation of a future work plan for Schools Forum meetings on a rolling 12-month period.

The report presented has been updated to reflect changes that have since emerged from the previous meeting.

The table in appendix A provides the updated work plan and includes an additional notes column to enable recognised changes.

Listed within the work plan are suggested standing items, these will be presented either via a written or oral report, dependent on the need for the meeting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum note the updated work plan and provide comments.

Contact for queries:

[Debbie Stevenson](#)

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

T 020 7527 5763

Appendix A - School Forum: Work plan

Standing Items:

- Declaration of Interest
- Forum Composition
- Forum Forward Planning
- Subgroup Updates
- Roll Projections
- Quality Assurance

Financial year	Agenda item	Information/comments & views/Decision	Notes
January 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Funding Formula (future year) 2. School Central Retention (future year) 3. Specialist Provision Place Numbers 4. DSG Settlement (2024-25) 5. Licensed Deficits - processes 6. Roll Projections 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision 2. Decision 3. Decision 4. Information 5. Information 6. Information 	

Financial year	Agenda item	Information/comments & views/Decision	Notes
March 2024	Early Years Funding Formula (future year)	Decision	Exceptional meeting
May 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scheme for Financing Schools (DfE) 2. School Balances (DRAFT - prior year) 3. DSG Outturn (DRAFT: prior year) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments & Views 2. Information 3. Information 	
July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scheme for Financing Schools (Local) 2. School Balances (FINAL - prior year) 3. DSG Outturn (FINAL: prior year) 4. DSG Allocations (in year) 5. Schools Internal Audit Programme Outcomes (prior year) 6. DSG Schools Block estimated funding (new year) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision 2. Information 3. Information 4. Information 5. Information 6. Information 	
November 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Funding Arrangements, Consultation results (future year) 2. Central School Services Block - Central Retention 3. Quality Assurance Survey 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision 2. Decision 3. Information 	

Financial year	Agenda item	Information/comments & views/Decision	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Roll Numbers 5. DSG Budget Monitor (in year) 6. DSG Funding Settlement (in year) 7. DSG projected allocations (future year) 8. DfE - Add'l support for Schools in Financial Difficulty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Information 5. Information 6. Information 7. Information 8. Information 	
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Funding Formula (future year) 2. School Central Retention (future year) 3. Early Years Funding Formula (future year) 4. Specialist Provision Place Numbers 5. DSG Settlement (future year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision 2. Decision 3. Decision 4. Decision 5. Information 	