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Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref: AT

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Date: 12 January 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

A virtual meeting of the **SCHOOLS' FORUM** will be held on **Wednesday 19 January 2022** at **9.30 a.m.** You will be sent a link to the meeting via a Microsoft Teams Meeting invite and I would be grateful if you could accept or decline the invitation accordingly.

I remind you that if you are unable to attend, you should arrange for an appropriate substitute to attend on your behalf. Alternatively forward any written representations to me in advance.

In the current situation can I ask that Forum members read all papers prior to the meeting and forward any questions or contributions to me in advance of the meeting, however, we will do everything possible to take comments at the meeting too.

Yours faithfully

Andrea Todd
Clerk to the Forum

To: Members of the Schools' Forum

**Copy to Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Children's Services and Councillor
Guy Renner-Thompson**

AGENDA

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

		Decision/Consultation/ Information/Action
1.	MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE	Information
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Information
3.	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)	Information
4.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 1 - 10) Minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on Wednesday 17 November 2021, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.	Action
5.	COMMUNICATION (Pages 11 - 20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F40 Correspondence with Education Secretary and Schools Minister 	Information
6.	SETTING THE 2022/23 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (ATTACHED) (Pages 21 - 30)	Information, Consultation, Decision
7.	2022/23 DE-DELEGATION DECISIONS (PAPER TO FOLLOW)	Information, Consultation, Decision
8.	2021/22 WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING DATES (ATTACHED) (Pages 31 - 32)	Decision
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Information / Action
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next scheduled meeting of the Schools' Forum is Wednesday 16 February 2022.	Information

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOLS' FORUM

At a virtual meeting of the Schools' Forum on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT

G. Wilkins (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
St Wilfrid's RC Primary

Headteacher Representatives

N. Brannen, Whalton C of E Primary	A, Mead, Cramlington Hillcrest
M. Deane-Hall, Wooler First School	N. Rodgers, James Calvert Spence
F. Hartland, Kielder Primary	College

Governor Representatives

B Watson, St Robert's RC First

Academies Representatives

A. Hardie NCEA Trust	S Wild, NCEA Castle
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Roman Catholic Diocese – N. Threlfall

Church of England Diocese – Vacant Post

EYDCP – PVI Representative – K. Dickinson

Pupil Referral Unit Representative – Vacant Post

Trades Union Representative – Vacant Post

16 - 19 Provider of Education Representative – Vacant Post

Northumberland County Council Elected Member – Councillor G. Renner-Thompson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ch.'s Initials.....

S. Aviston	Head of School Organisation and Resources
S. Barron	Head of SEN Strategy and DCO
A. Kingham	Director of Education and Skills
B. Parvin	Education and Skills Business Manager
C. Pointing	Senior Manager - Schools HR
A. Russell	Principal Accountant - Non Team Leader
D. Street	Deputy Director of Education
N. Taylor	Head of Inclusive Education and SEN Transformation
A. Todd	Democratic Services Officer

22. MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- 22.1 Following a show of hands, it was **RESOLVED** to elect G. Wilkins, Vice-Chair of the Schools' Forum.
- 22.2 It was noted that due to illness the Chair of the Schools' Forum was unable to attend this meeting. As Vice-Chair, G. Wilkins agreed to chair.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 23.1 Apologies for absence were received from C. Pearson, B. Ryder, K. Faulkner, S. Hemmsley, G. Atkins, C. Hodgson, A. Thelwell, Councillor R. Wearmouth and D. Wylie.

24. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held on Wednesday, 29 September 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

A. Mead, Cramlington Hillcrest being added to the list of those present at the meeting.

Matters Arising:

- 24.1 Minute No. 15.2: B. Watson had now been appointed as Chair and G. Wilkins as Vice-Chair of the Funding Formula Committee.
- 24.2 Minute No. 15.3: Regarding the outcome of retrieving money from Bright Tribe, it was confirmed that this was a matter between the DfE and the organisation. Officers were not aware of any resolution to try to claw back the public money. However, this was an important issue and the forum's views on the matter would continue to be shared with relevant bodies.

Ch.'s Initials.....

25. COMMUNICATION: FFC Committee Draft Minutes of 3 November 2021

25.1 The draft minutes of the Formula Funding Committee meeting held on 3 November 2021 were circulated with the agenda papers for information and a copy filed with the signed minutes. It was noted that the reports discussed at the last FFC Committee had subsequently been brought to the Schools' Forum for consideration today.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Formula Funding Committee held on 3 November 2021 be noted.

26. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2021-24

26.1 S. Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources presented the School Organisation Plan 2021-2024 for Northumberland (which had been circulated with the agenda papers and a copy filed with the signed minutes).

26.2 The plan had already been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee, approved by Cabinet and been reported at a recent Headteacher conference.

26.3 It was noted that this was the second iteration of the School Organisation Plan 2021-2024 for Northumberland. This latest version of the plan covered the period 2021 to 2024 but would be subject to annual updates in order to capture changing information or circumstances relating to schools and academies as appropriate.

26.4 Attention was drawn to some additional or expanded sections of the new plan that the Schools Forum noted, in particular:

26.5 Section 4.2 of the Plan: Managing Surplus Places particularly small rural schools, to continue to provide education as close as possible to pupils' home communities. It was reported that the Haydon Bridge Partnership had the highest percentage of surplus places (43%) followed by Berwick (32%). Morpeth had the fewest number of surplus places (7%). There was also an emphasis on addressing surplus places in a way that reduced impact on the environment in support of the Council's Climate Change Plan Action Plan 2021-23.

26.6 Section 4.5 of the Plan: House Building included a table setting out the number of dwellings approved to be constructed by partnership over the next 5 years. It was stated that there were currently 100 houses being built in Haydon Bridge compared to over 1000 in Morpeth.

26.7 Section 7 of the Plan: School Partnerships which highlighted whether individual partnerships would be impacted by the house building (if any) planned for their area and whether there were any proposals for rebalancing of surplus places to be consulted upon as part of the annual Admissions Arrangements consultation. This would ensure that the maximum contribution could be sought where insufficient school places existed to help mitigate against the forecasted rise in demand.

Ch.'s Initials.....

- 26.8 Section 6.1 of the Plan: Special Education Needs highlighted the intention to identify proposals for expansion of provision to meet the need of children and young people with ASD and SEMH in the county, which were the fastest growing groups of primary need in relation to SEND in Northumberland. The programme of work would support the Council's intention to increase SEND provision within Northumberland to enable children and young people to be educated closer to their home communities and reduce the lengths of their journeys to school.
- 26.9 In reply to a query on school admissions, it was reported that there were still a large number of school appeals being received even though Northumberland continued to have a high success rate in meeting parental preference. Northumberland remained a desirable area for education, particularly from parents living outside of the county.
- 26.10 Clarification was provided regarding developer contributions. It was confirmed that a school would need to be 95% full before a contribution was sought. However, some developers did offer gestures of goodwill to individual schools to help resource things such as IT equipment or school trips.
- 26.11 The Chair praised the team involved in writing this comprehensive and valuable plan which would be of assistance to schools and academies, parents and other stakeholders. The Plan would help them to understand how the availability of school places across the country was monitored, how the need for school places was identified and where necessary, how additional places were delivered and funded.

RESOLVED that the School Organisation Plan 2021-2024 for Northumberland be received.

27. SCHOOLS BLOCK NFF: SPARSITY CONSULTATION GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND POTENTIAL CHANGES TO SPARSITY FUNDING 2022/23

- 27.1 B. Parvin, Education and Skills Business Manager provided information on the Government response on the Sparsity Funding consultation exercise and the implications of this for Northumberland Schools. The report was considered in conjunction with the NFF update and consultation update elsewhere on the agenda, and the associated proposals for 2022/23. (A copy of the report was shared with the forum and filed with the signed minutes).
- 27.2 It was reported that following the representations made previously by Northumberland, and the subsequent consultation, three key changes were to be implemented for 2022-23:
- School sparsity distances to be calculated by road journeys.
 - The maximum amount of sparsity funding a school can receive will be increased.
 - A distance taper threshold to be introduced.

Ch.'s Initials.....

- 27.3 It was stated that the DfE response highlighted that the total allocation via the sparsity factor would increase to £95 million for 2022-23. In terms of the impact for Northumberland, estimated figures at this stage suggested that Northumberland would receive an increase of £719,269 in 2022/23, receiving in total £2.602million of the DfE total of £95 million. In comparison in 2020/21 Northumberland received only £1.175 million.
- 27.4 Therefore, the additional funding to be distributed via sparsity would be beneficial to Northumberland especially some of the more rural schools.

RESOLVED that the information provided and the additional £719,269 estimated funding for schools in Northumberland arising from the greater investment in sparsity at a national level, be noted.

28. SEN UPDATE

- 28.1 N. Taylor, Head of Inclusive Education and SEN Transformation and S. Barron, Head of SEN Strategy and DCO provided an SEN update (a copy of the report had been circulated with the agenda papers and a copy filed with the signed minutes.
- 28.2 The update covered the following items:
- The SEND Revisit
 - SEND Strategy
 - Update on Provision of High Incidence Needs Teams Free at the Point of Delivery 20/21
 - Better Futures Project
- 28.3 It was advised that the SEND Revisit had been a three-day inspection. The revisit had been positive with inspectors looking to see whether the improvements the SEND Partnership committed to making had been delivered and whether they were improving experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families. It was noted that the SEND Partnership acknowledged to the inspectors that there was more work to do, particularly in relation to the four key SEND Strategic Priorities.
- 28.4 Regarding the provision of HINT services for 2020/21, it was reported that teams had received and responded to 36% more referrals than in 2019/20, meaning advice had been sought for an additional 290 children/young people.
- 28.5 HINT services had seen an increase in the number of schools referring across all partnerships with a particular rise seen in the Ashington, Ponteland and Haydon Bridge partnerships.
- 28.6 Overall, HINT Services had provided support into 92% Northumberland schools in 2020/21 as opposed to 78% in 2019/20. The rise in the number of referrals indicated that schools were using support services early and referrals based on emerging needs.

Ch.'s Initials.....

- 28.7 It was reported that a review was currently being undertaken of the Education Health and Care processes and pathways in Northumberland through the Better Futures project. The aim was for Northumberland's EHC systems to be a beacon for outstanding practice to enable families, young people, and children to participate in making well informed decisions about best outcomes.
- 28.8 Members were advised of an increasing demand for EHC needs assessment and specialist placements. A total of 92 EHCPs were written in August/September. The National rate was 3.7% but Northumberland was slightly higher at 3.9%. Also, in September 50 requests had been received for Special School places.
- 28.9 It was noted that the initial implementation of the Better Futures project would be for 6 months, with further developments being strengthened and embedded into the future. The next steps of the project were to hold a series of stakeholder events with schools, parents and carers and other partners.
- 28.10 Following a query regarding inviting early years registered settings to the proposed stakeholder events, it was confirmed that they would be invited to attend and stressed the importance of PVIs being involved in the project as the EHC needs assessment process often began with them.
- 28.11 A question was asked about whether there would be the capacity within the team to manage the increase in demand being seen. It was advised that sustainability and a high standard of service were the main aims of the project to ensure delivery to schools. It was hoped the review would help bottom out and modernise the team to continue to find best outcomes for all.
- 28.12 It was reported that a SEND review had been proposed for spring 2022 which could result in new guidance which would need to be incorporated into the Better Futures project moving forward.
- 28.13 It was envisaged that the forum would begin to receive regular SEN updates and help start to generate discussions around issues such as how to increase support for mainstreamed schools in meeting need as close to home as possible and funding opportunities to help deliver services.
- 28.14 In response to a query regarding out of county placements, it was confirmed that parental choice remained a strong factor in the arrangements. In discussions officers would always encourage parents to consider Northumberland placements but every case would be looked at on an individual basis and based on the individual needs of the child or young person.
- 28.15 It was reported that the challenges being experienced around specialist capacity were not unique to Northumberland. Many other authorities including regional counterparts were experiencing the same issues.
- 28.16 The School's Forum thanked officers for the update and for the continued excellent forward-thinking work being carried out.

Ch.'s Initials.....

RESOLVED that the report, and in particular the contents of Section 5 in the light of the request to continue transfer of funds from the Dedicated Schools Grant into the High Needs Block for 22/23, be noted.

29. COMPARISON OF NE SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA VALUES 2021/22

- 29.1 The report sought to provide additional insight and assurance in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF) and potential implications for school funding in Northumberland for 2022/23 and beyond. (A copy of the report had been circulated with the agenda papers and a copy filed with the signed minutes).
- 29.2 B. Parvin, Education and Skills Business Manager introduced the report and advised that the report should be considered in conjunction with the NFF update and consultation and update elsewhere on the agenda, and the associated proposals for 2022/23.
- 29.3 The report and the accompanying presentation compared the 2021/22 funding values for the 12 North East LA's and Cumbria.
- 29.4 It was reported that the basic per-pupil entitlement was a mandatory factor. 6 of the 13 authorities had set their Primary AWPU value in line with the NFF figure with Northumberland setting theirs at a higher figure. At KS3, Northumberland had set their figures in line with the NFF AWPU. At KS4, Northumberland had set its NFF AWPU higher than the figure value.
- 29.5 Deprivation was another mandatory factor which every local authority had to use in their formula. It was reported that all 13 authorities used FSM in their formulas.
- 29.6 It was noted that comparisons based on FSM and FSM6 were relatively straightforward, unlike IDACI where each LA could assign a different value to each of the different bands.
- 29.7 In relation to prior attainment all 151 local authorities were using the indicator. While for Northumberland secondary values were in line with NFF and other authorities, at primary Northumberland has the lowest rate of the 13. This was despite the increase in 2021/22 and highlighted the need to increase primary to move this in line with NFF.
- 29.8 With regard to pupils eligible for funding through the NFF mobility factor it was noted that historically Northumberland had not included this element. However, it was now a feature within the NFF. It was suggested that this may be responsible for £56,063 of Northumberland Schools Block funding, and potentially impact 21 schools.

Ch.'s Initials.....

29.10 It was stated that since the mobility factor had not previously been used, it was suggested that a similar approach be adopted as last year and move 50% towards the NFF Values. This would allow the introduction of the factor into Northumberland's formula in a phased manner.

RESOLVED that the report informing on the consultation in relation to the setting of school funding formula values for Northumberland for 2022/23, be considered.

30. NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA & DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) AND CONSULTATION ON 2022/23 FUNDING VALUES

30.1 B. Parvin, Education and Skills Business Manager presented the report which provided further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and associated 2022/23 Schools Funding information. Information included formal consultation with Schools Forum in relation to funding values for 2022/3 and a transfer from the Schools Block, which had been undertaken in previous years. (A copy of the report had been circulated with the agenda papers and a copy filed with the signed minutes).

30.2 As reflected in the draft minutes of the Funding Formula Committee, the proposal to move towards the full adoption of NFF Values over two years, in two equal steps, in line with that potential 2022/23 deadline was recommended by the group to be the approach Northumberland should take. The estimated available Schools Block DSG of £208.5 million would also support this approach.

30.3 It was reported that it was the local authority's intention to request a transfer from the Schools Block. This transfer would support the continued provision of the Inclusive Education Services offer that was previously funded via SLA charges.

30.4 The cost of the Inclusive Education Service was £2.055 million; the maximum funding to be transferred based on the 2022/23 Provisional Settlement figure would be £1.043 million, with the balance being funded via the High Needs Block. Further information would be provided at future meetings of the Schools' Forum in relation to this.

30.5 It was noted that there had been a further significant fall in 2021/22 Central Services Block funding. The fall in the element for ongoing responsibilities in 2022/23 was a concern as the forecasted shortfall would fall to Northumberland as a budget pressure for 2022/23.

30.6 For 2022/23, the DfE had recently published details of a consultation as to how School Improvement functions would be funded in the future. The current proposal was that School Improvement Grant be cut by 50% for 2022/23 and removed with effect from 2023/24 which would be around £170,000. A further report on this issue would be provided at a future meeting of Schools' Forum.

Ch.'s Initials.....

- 30.7 No information for Northumberland was available yet in relation to Early Years funding, in line with previous years. Details of the 2022/23 EY funding would be received in December together with the rest of the DSG information for 2022/23.
- 30.8 It was agreed that a paper be produced for the Schools' Forum detailing the Early Years budget plans and how they impacted on settings. It was suggested the paper include details on the challenges faced by nurseries, the impact felt following the rise in the minimum wage and information about the closing the gap project.
- 30.9 It was stated that because of the short timescales between receiving the final 2022/23 DSG settlement in December, the preparation of a report to the Cabinet meeting on 11 January 2022 and the submission of the final figures to the ESFA by 21 January 2022, delegated powers would be sought for the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services to set the final figures, in line with the principles and illustrative figures outlined in this report.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the transfer of up to 0.5% of the final value of the Schools Block as an contribution to the costs of SEND Support Services, once the final DSG values are released in December, be agreed for 2022/23.

(b) the funding values for 2022/23 be set in line with the principles outlined in the report; and agree for these to be the basis for the wider consultation with schools be agreed.

(c) the delegation of final decisions on the values to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, once final funding becomes known in December 2021, in order to enable the required Cabinet report to be prepared and submitted to the 11 January 2022 meeting, and the submission of the necessary return to the ESFA by 21 January 2022 be noted.

(d) a further report be received by the Schools' Forum meeting on 19 January 2021 on the outcome of the consultation with schools and final funding values to be used for 2022/23.

(e) a further report be received by the Schools' Forum in relation to early years funding, budgeting and challenges faced by PVI's.

31 2020/21 WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING DATES

- 31.1 The schedule of dates had been circulated with the agenda papers and a copy filed with the signed minutes.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ch.'s Initials.....

RESOLVED that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

CHAIR_____

DATE_____

Ch.'s Initials.....



October 1, 2021

Investment in education and schools a priority post Covid

Dear Minister

I hope you are enjoying your new role as Minister of School Standards.

As we await the Comprehensive Spending Review at the end of October, f40 wishes to share with you some of the concerns we have around education funding and where we believe the greatest focus should be in the months and years ahead.

Covid recovery – We welcome the additional funding provided, however, more needs to be done to enable schools to provide extra support and learning to help pupils recover academically and emotionally from the pandemic. It has impacted widely, therefore, there is a need to ensure an appropriate level of support is provided to all children, including those in Early Years, where the greatest impact has been felt. The Recovery Premium Funding announced this month only caters to Pupil Premium children, so many will not qualify. Some schools will receive very little of this funding but still need to provide support to pupils.

SEND – This continues to be a major concern. The number of children with special educational needs, and their complexity of need, continues to grow, with demand far outstripping budgets. While we appreciate the increase in SEND funding during the last two or three years, significant additional funding is required for both mainstream and special schools. We urge Government to publish the long-overdue SEND review and to overhaul the SEND system to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Fairness – While Government is attempting to level up funding, the process is very slow and schools in some areas continue to receive far less funding than schools in other areas as many of the historic inequalities continue to be locked in. Many large rural communities and 'shire' local authorities still receive inequitably less funding, despite having sizeable pockets of deprivation. The basic entitlement should be enough to run a school, before extra money is added on for deprivation and higher area living costs. We would also like to see a National Funding Formula that is applied to a core element of spend across all schools, including MATs, with some local discretion allowed to reflect local need.

Increased funding - The pandemic has placed greater stress on already tight budgets. For a number of years, education funding has not kept pace with inflation, while the demands on schools and teachers have grown rapidly. In real terms, school funding is at 2010 levels. Education requires a substantial uplift to ensure schools are able to provide quality teaching for all.

Early years - Early Years has become a major concern throughout the pandemic, with the future of many providers hanging in the balance. Funding for free entitlement has received some support, but many providers have lost private parental income. The pandemic has also impacted on the readiness of young children to learn. Without additional funding, the effects will be felt for many years to come.

We know from your time as Vice Chair of f40, you are passionate about the education of young people and wish to see all children receive the best education possible, regardless of where they live or any special educational needs they may have.

We would really welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further in the near future, if possible.

Kind regards

James McInnes
Chair of the f40 group and Cabinet Member at Devon County Council

Cc Karen Westcott
Secretary of the f40 group



September 29, 2021

Investment in education a priority as we come out of the Covid pandemic

Dear Secretary of State

I hope you are enjoying your new role as Secretary of State for Education and the enormous challenges it brings, not least as we come out of the pandemic and begin to look at how best we can bolster our education system to ensure young people reach their potential – despite the disruption to their learning.

We believe that in years to come we will be judged on how well we supported our children and how we invested in our schools, so it's vital that we act now to prevent irrevocable long-term damage.

As we await the Comprehensive Spending Review at the end of October, I hope you don't mind f40 sharing some of the key areas where we believe attention should be focused in the months ahead.

Covid recovery – We welcome the additional funding provided, however, more needs to be done to enable schools to provide extra support and learning to help pupils recover academically and emotionally from the pandemic. It has impacted widely, therefore, there is a need to ensure an appropriate level of support is provided to all children, including those in Early Years, where the greatest impact has been felt. The Recovery Premium Funding announced this month only caters to Pupil Premium children, so many will not qualify. Some schools will receive very little of this funding but still need to provide support to pupils.

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We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further.

Best wishes in your new role

James McInnes
Chair of the f40 group and Cabinet Member at Devon County Council

Cc Karen Westcott
Secretary of the f40 group



2021-0044006RWPO

Robin Walker MP

Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr James McInnes
Chair of the f40 group and Cabinet Member at Devon County Council
By email: karen@dtw.co.uk

3 November 2021

Dear Mr McInnes,

Thank you for your kind letter of congratulations on my appointment.

It is a privilege to be appointed as the Minister for School Standards. I believe that every child deserves the best start in life, regardless of their background or circumstances. All children and young people should have access to a high quality education, which is engaging, challenging, and allows them to achieve their potential.

Having both made my maiden speech on school funding and campaigned on this matter for many years I am excited by the opportunity to work as a minister on delivering the national funding formula.

I am delighted to be joining a strong team at a crucial time for the sector and I am looking forward to supporting brilliant teaching and the best outcomes for the next generation.

I believe you have also written to the Secretary of State, who will be responding to your concerns in more detail.

Thank you for your kind invitation to meet. You will appreciate that my office is in the process of working on my diary and I am grateful for your patience while this happens. I will be in touch in due course if I am able to meet.

Yours sincerely,



2021-0043359POSoS

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df

Cllr James McInnes
Chair of f40, Deputy Leader at Devon County Council
By email: karen@dtw.co.uk

Dear James,

5th December 2021

Thank you for your kind letter of September 29, regarding my recent appointment as the Secretary of State for Education, and your letter to the Prime Minister of 7 October, about education and the Spending Review. Your letter to the Prime Minister has been passed to me and I have been asked to reply.

It is an absolute honour to be appointed to this position, and I am delighted to be leading a department that does such vital and important work. It is a privilege to be able to work with our brilliant teachers, college staff, lecturers, social workers and support staff who are making such a difference to people's lives with their commitment and professionalism. By working collaboratively, we can face the challenges of the day and ensure every young person has the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Every child and young person in the country has experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19, and those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds will be amongst the hardest hit. Over the past year, we have made several major announcements to support education recovery. Each has been a step in our efforts to make sure children and young people are supported through their ongoing education recovery, using evidence-based practice.

In February 2021 the government announced the recovery premium, a new one-off grant worth over £300 million for state-funded schools in the 2021-22 academic year. Building on the pupil premium, the recovery premium will help schools to deliver evidence-based practices to support the most disadvantaged pupils.

We recognise that educational loss is significant and widespread. However, we also know that disruption has been more acute for some pupils, particularly those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. The one-off recovery premium allocations will reflect disadvantage funding eligibility. In this way, schools with more disadvantaged pupils will receive larger amounts.

We have included a 'floor' to ensure that no eligible primary school will receive less than £2,000 and no secondary school, special school, pupil referral unit or hospital school will receive less than £6,000.

Schools have flexibility in how they choose to spend the recovery premium, and they are encouraged to consider using it to support a wider cohort than the pupils who attract the funding. The premium for the academic year 2021-22 is being paid as a grant to all eligible schools in England in four payments over the course of the year.

The department has updated the Using Pupil Premium guidance with a short guide to help schools make best use of their pupil and recovery premium, alongside their pupil premium funding, which is available at: tinyurl.com/22k6ae5v.

On 2 June, the government announced an additional £1.4 billion to support education recovery for children ages 2 to 19 in schools, colleges and nurseries. This includes £1 billion for tutoring, which, combined with the funding for tutoring we have already announced, will allow us to provide up to 100 million tutoring hours for children and young people across England by 2024.

In October, the government announced that schools will receive an additional £4.7 billion in core funding in 2024-25, including £1.6 billion in 2022-23. This is in addition to the previously planned increases from the 2019 spending review, equating to a total increase of £1,500 per pupil between 2019-20 and 2024-25. This additional investment will also support the delivery of a £30,000 starting salary for all new teachers.

This funding sits alongside a further £1.8 billion dedicated to supporting young people to catch up on missed education, following on from the existing investment in catch up for early years, schools and colleges, including for tutoring and teacher training opportunities.

The funding takes the government's direct investment in education recovery to almost £5 billion, building on the high-quality tutoring for millions of pupils and world-class training for thousands of teachers and early years staff, already being provided. This additional investment in recovery will mean every school and college will have extra dedicated funding to support those who most need help catching up.

Primary schools will continue to benefit from the same per pupil rate as this year's recovery premium, while secondary schools are expected to receive nearly double that amount, meaning an average secondary school could attract around £70,000 a year. This extra support at secondary level reflects evidence showing the larger gaps in older pupils' learning and the amount of time those pupils have left in education.

The dedicated education recovery funding will complement the significant expansion of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), with millions of children set to benefit from high quality tutoring over the next three years, alongside world-class training for thousands of teachers and the summer schools that took place up and down the country through the school holidays.

There is extensive evidence that tutoring is one of the most effective ways to accelerate pupil progress. The NTP is an ambitious scheme which supports schools to access targeted support for disadvantaged pupils who need the most help to catch up. The NTP is comprised of three elements: a tuition programme for 5 to 16-year-olds, a 16 to 19 tuition fund, and a targeted early language support programme for reception-aged children. In order to maximise the impact of tutoring and to support schools, the Education Endowment Foundation has provided a guide on how to get the best out of tutoring, available at: [tinyurl.com/Y4Jv2Glr](https://www.tinyurl.com/Y4Jv2Glr).

The tuition programme for 5 to 16-year-olds consists of two pillars. All schools can access high quality subsidised tuition from approved tuition partners, and our most disadvantaged schools are supported to employ in-house academic mentors to provide intensive support to their pupils. Children aged 5 to 16 in receipt of tutoring will receive up to 15 sessions of small group or individual tuition to support them to catch up. Further details are available at: [tinyurl.com/YY6ecbPJ](https://www.tinyurl.com/YY6ecbPJ). Additionally, schools serving the most disadvantaged areas are being supported to employ in-house academic mentors for their pupils. Information about this is available at: [tinyurl.com/Y6rP5d84](https://www.tinyurl.com/Y6rP5d84).

The tuition partner and academic mentor pillars of the NTP will be provided with £218 million of new funding. This is addition to the £215 million already announced to be invested in the academic year 2021-22.

The special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Review is also a high priority for me and this government. I am determined to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND so that they are better prepared for later life and adulthood.

It is so important to get this right. We have been taking time to properly consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the extensive feedback we are receiving from parents and carers, charities and those working in local government, education, health and care services about our ongoing work, to make sure our proposals help everyone build back better.

I understand the urgency of moving forward with improvements to the current system, and we will be bringing forward proposals for public consultation as soon as possible.

This government is also delivering the biggest funding boost for schools in a decade which will give every school more money for every child.

High needs funding will increase by £780 million, or 9.6%, in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22; this follows the increase of more than £1.5 billion over the previous two years. This will bring the total high needs budget to £8.9 billion, an increase of over a third since 2019-20.

The national funding formula (NFF) continues to distribute this fairly, based on the needs of schools and their pupil cohorts. The significant majority of schools' funding is allocated through the basic per pupil factors, and over 90% of the NFF funding is pupil-led. The NFF is levelling up school funding: increasing core factors of the formula (such as the basic per-pupil funding rate, and deprivation factors) by 3%, while also ensuring that every school is allocated at least 2% more pupil-led per pupil funding.

The purpose of the NFF is not to give every school the same level of per pupil funding. It is right that schools with lots of pupils with additional needs – such as those indicated by measures of deprivation, low prior attainment, or English as an additional language – receive extra funding to help them meet the needs of all their pupils. In addition, schools in more expensive areas, like London, attract higher funding per pupil than other parts of the country to reflect the higher costs they face.

There is no consensus on the minimum operating cost of a school. Each school is unique, and we believe it should be for heads and governors to decide their operating model. However, we are targeting funding to the lowest funded schools through the minimum per pupil funding level to ensure every secondary school attracts at least £5,525 per pupil through the formula in 2022-23, and every primary school attracts at least £4,265 per pupil. The minimum per pupil levels recognise that every school should attract a minimum level of funding regardless of their cohort – this was a message we heard in the consultation when we introduced the NFF and have heard from schools and educational professionals since. While there is no 'right' answer on the minimum level of sufficient funding, we are responding to feedback from those working in schools today.

We have made the use of the national minimum per pupil funding levels compulsory for local authorities to deliver, to assure school leaders that they receive at least these levels locally. As well as delivering gains to all schools and the biggest increases to the historically underfunded, the minimum levels provide every school the foundation to deliver a world-class education for its pupils.

With regard to early years education, we have spent over £3.5 billion in each of the past three years on our early education entitlements and the government continues to support families with their childcare costs. At the Spending Review on 27 October, we announced that we are investing additional funding for the early years entitlements worth £160 million in 2022-23, £180 million in 2023-24 and £170 million in 2024-25, compared to the current year.

The government has also confirmed continuation of maintained nurse schools supplementary funding throughout the Spending Review period, providing the sector with long-term certainty.

We continue to evaluate the support on offer and endeavour to provide support to both parents and providers to ensure the sustainability of the sector.

We will confirm the 2022-23 hourly funding rates for individual local authorities in due course, followed by the initial allocations in December.

Funding for early years also remains one of my department's top priorities. In June we announced an investment of up to £153 million in training for early years staff to support the very youngest children's learning and development, with a focus on the most disadvantaged areas.

Improving and expanding the training for early years practitioners is one of our key levers for driving up quality. We will provide further detail on the training programmes in due course.

This new recovery package is in addition to the £27 million previously announced to support early language development for children in light of the pandemic. Of this, £17 million is to deliver the Nuffield Early Language Intervention in schools that would particularly benefit, and 60% of primary schools have already signed up for the programme. The remaining £10 million will support the second phase of the Early Years Professional Development Programme to support staff in pre-reception settings in 50 new local authorities to work with children who are at risk of falling behind.

Thank you for your kind invitation to meet. My office is aware of your request and will be in touch if I am able to do so in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education

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Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health

Agenda Item 6

SCHOOLS FORUM

19 January 2022

Setting the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022/23

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Schools Forum of the DSG settlement for 2022/23, as provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 17 December 2021, and the proposed formula values for the allocation of funds to Schools for 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is recommended to:

- note this report and the information provided in respect of the various elements of the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant ; and
- agree, where appropriate, the various specific budgets within the individual elements of the DSG at the 16 February 2022 meeting.

3. Background

Schools Forum has previously received reports outlining developments in relation to the National Funding Formula (NFF). The November 2020 report outlined the position to date and gained agreement to a series of principles in relation to the setting of formula values for 2021/22:

- A two-step approach towards the adoption of National Funding Formula values for those values not already in line with NFF figures;
- A transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs block for 2021/22;
- Continuing use of capping and scaling to ensure overall affordability;
- The use of a Minimum Funding Guarantee factor to support those schools receiving the lowest overall levels of “per pupil” increase.

Subsequently to the last Schools Forum meeting, the 2022/23 DSG figures were received from the ESFA on 17 December 2021. Our 2022/23 Schools Block DSG Grant figure is £208,482,884, some £5,360,650 (2.64%) higher than the equivalent 2021/22 figure of £203,122,234. Northumberland’s total 2022/23 DSG allocation is £273,044,427 (£264,350,458 in 2021/22) before any recoupment or deductions for academies. Summary figures for the 2022/23 DSG are shown in the table below, with details at **Annex 1**.

DSG Block	2021-22 (Dec 2020)	Final 2022-23 (Dec 2021)	Change	
			£	%
Schools Block	£203,122,234	£208,482,884	£5,360,650	2.64%
High Needs Block	£40,876,888	£44,497,569	£3,620,681	8.86%
Early Years Block	£17,593,993	£17,609,703	£15,710	0.09%
Central School Services Block	£2,757,343	£2,454,271	£-303,072	-10.99%
TOTAL	£264,350,458	£273,044,427	£8,693,969	3.29%

Other influences on the 2022/23 allocated figure are:

- A decrease of 157 in the overall number of pupils;
- A continuing shift in pupils from primary (down 194) to secondary (up 37) where there are higher levels of basic “per pupil” funding; and
- Increases in deprivation funding due to increased primary and secondary numbers attracting free school meal funding.

The DSG remains as a ring-fenced grant subject to formal grant conditions. As in 2021/22, the DSG is split into four blocks and each block will be determined by a separate national funding formula. Further information is provided on each element in the subsequent sections of the report below.

4 Consultation with Schools

4.1 The recommendations agreed with the Schools Forum on 17 November 2021 were the basis for a consultation with all schools carried out between 17 November and 13 December 2021.

4.2 6 questions were asked:

Q1 Do you support the introduction of a mobility factor into the Northumberland Schools Funding Formula for 2022/23, in order to move closer to the NFF, as supported by Schools Forum?

Q2 How should the mobility factor be introduced?

Q3 Do you support the potential use of capping and scaling as part of the 2022/23 School Budget setting process?

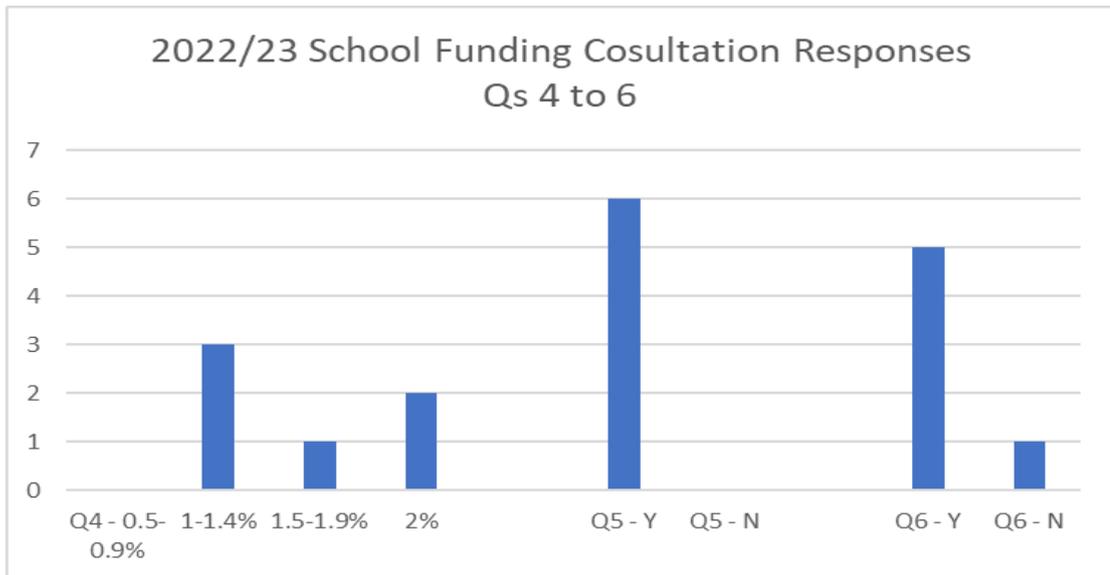
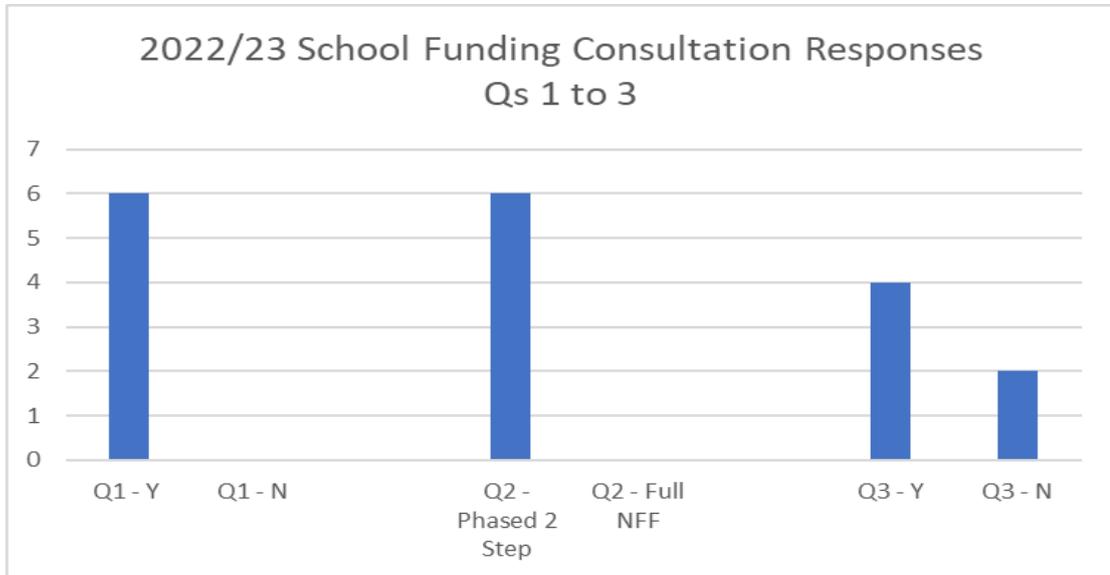
(“capping and scaling” is a mechanism by which different increases under new formula values are averaged out in order to limit some gains and provide more funding for general distribution to schools via the formula values. Without the use of capping and scaling, formula funding values would need to be set at lower values.)

Q4 At what level do you believe Northumberland’s Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) level should be set for 2022/23?

Q5 Do you agree to the Council’s proposal, agreed with Schools Forum on 17 November 2021 to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs block for the financial year 2022/23?

Q6 Do you agree to the proposal that the establishment of a falling rolls fund should be investigated for Northumberland subject to funding being available?

4.3 Responses were received and the results of the consultation were as follows:



Six responses were received within the consultation period, whilst this number is a low response it is higher than last year and may reflect implicit agreement with the approach agreed in consultation with the Schools Forum. As can be ascertained from the results, there was clear support for the School Forum decision for all questions from those who did respond, as detailed below

In relation to Q3, on MFG level there was some differences in opinion as shown above, but in the absence of a strong view to the contrary it is believed that the approach favoured by Schools Forum to set the level at the maximum 2% is a sound one, providing the highest possible level of baseline increase to all schools within the financial resources available.

5. Early Years Block

Since April 2017 the Early Years Block has been subject to a National Funding Formula. The Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate funding rate had been unchanged between 2017/18 and 2019/20 at £4.30 per hour (3 and 4 year old rate), but increased to £4.38 for 2020/21, and has increased by a further 6p (1.4%) to £4.44 for 2021/22. For 2022/23 there has been a further 17p increase in this rate to £4.61 per each eligible 3 & 4 year old hour.

Due to the reliance on January census data for EY block funding, Schools Forum will be aware that we have historically reported underspending on the EY Block, due to the average of the January census figures used for funding purposes being higher than the cumulative annual Autumn, Spring and Summer term payments. Because of this, it is estimated that a 3 and 4 year old rate can be uplifted by 21p to £4.45 for 22/23 after the appropriate provisions were made for the required deprivation elements and central costs.

For 2 year olds the rate received should be passed on directly to providers. This rate has increased from £5.28 (2020/21) to £5.36 (2021/22) to £5.57 (2022/23).

For EY pupil premium the rate has been increased to 60p per hour. Schools Forum will also recall that we agreed to introduce deprivation payments based on EY pupil premium with effect from April 2020. This has proved successful and has seen an increase in the take up of additional funding to support deprived children. This additional premium will increase from 75p per hour to 78p per hour and will continue to be paid for 2022/23 meaning deprived 3 and 4 year old's will receive an additional £1.38 per hour taking their hourly rate to £5.83 to support narrowing the gap and school readiness.

For Disability Access Fund (DAF) the annual rate has been increased from £615 (2021/22) to £800 (2022/23).

The “pass through” level of funding (i.e. the % that must be paid directly to providers) is 95% of 3 and 4 year old funding. Historically Northumberland County Council (NCC) has retained less than 5% centrally.

The initial allocation for the Early Years Block for 2022/23 is £17,609,703 including the £178,576 allocation for the Early Years Pupil Premium and £112,000 for the Disability Access Fund. This is shown in the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocation summary at **Annex 1**. It includes an initial allocation of £10,583,260 for the 4,010.45 part time equivalent (pte) 3 and 4 year olds and an allocation of £4,484,906 for 1,706.78 pte 3 and 4 year olds of working parents eligible to access the additional 15 hours free childcare. In addition, there is an initial allocation of £2,295,961 for the 723.16 pte disadvantaged 2 year old children.

All these allocations are indicative and are based on the January 2021 census, but they will be further revised in the light of the January 2022 and January 2023 census data. However, payments will continue to be made to schools and PVI settings based on actual pupil numbers in each of the three terms, Summer 2022, Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023.

The proposed hourly payment rates for 2022/23 are therefore:

	£
3 and 4 Year Old Rate	4.45
2 Year Old Rate	5.57
EY Pupil Premium rate	0.60
Additional Deprivation rate paid on basis of pupil premium	0.78

It has been agreed with Corporate Finance that this can be funded from within the overall EY DSG budget.

Note 1 : Schools Forum is requested to note the following:

The Early Years Block budget to be set at the DfE allocation of £17,609,703 as detailed in Annex 1;

The 3 and 4 year old rate will increase with a 21p uplift from £4.24 (2021/22) to £4.45 per hour (2022/23);

The 2-year-old rate will increase in line with the 21p uplift from £5.36 (2021/22) to £5.57 per hour 2022/23).

6. High Needs Block

The latest indicative High Needs Block allocation for 2022/23 is £44,497,569 before any deductions by the ESFA for direct funding of places by the ESFA of Pre and Post 16 in Academies, Post 16 in maintained special schools and post 16 in Independent Learning Providers (ILP) and Further Education (FE) establishments, as outlined in Annex 1. This figure will also be reduced by £1,023,000 in respect of the net import export adjustments.

The current 2022/23 allocation after these deductions is £40,822,569 but this figure will be revised following January 2022 census information in respect of the import export adjustment which reflects the movement of high needs pupils and students both between local authorities, and to non-maintained special schools, Special Post 16 and FE Institutions, where place funding is deducted from local authorities and paid directly by the ESFA to those institutions. The revised data is usually received in July but the information we currently have represents the latest information that will be made available prior to budget setting.

Work is continuing on the detail of the total requirements within the High Needs Block, and it is recommended that the total 2022/23 budget for the High Needs Block is set at this time, with the detailed breakdown of that funding into the various services being provided to the Schools Forum meeting on 16 February 2022. Setting the overall total for the High Needs Block is necessary at this time as final decisions in relation to the Schools Block must be made before the deadline of 21 January 2022 for submitting the final formula and final formula values for school budgets to the DfE.

Note 2:

The budget for the High Needs Block will be set at £40,822,569, after the deduction by the ESFA for the place funding outlined at Annex 1.

Recommendation 1:

To agree that the various budgets within the High Needs Block be set at the meeting on 16 February 2022.

7. Schools Block

The 2022/23 Primary unit of funding (per pupil figure) is £4,790.26 (£4,646.45 in 2021/22) and the Secondary unit of funding is £5,905.10 (£5,726.05 in 2021/22), giving a per pupil allocation of £204,379,861 (£198,910,374 in 2021/22). The addition of a fixed amount in respect of Growth and Premises of £4,103,023 gives a total Schools Block of £208,482,884 as set out in **Annex 1**.

As agreed by Schools Forum at the meeting on 17 November 2021 and the subsequent consultation with schools, a maximum transfer of £1,042,537 (0.5%) of the Schools Block to the High Needs block is available, this would reduce the amount available to the Schools Block to £207,440,347, a figure £5,288,969 (2.6%) higher than the equivalent 2021/22 figure of £202,151,378.

Proposed formula values are in line with the previously agreed two step approach to the adoption of NFF figures supported by Schools Forum and previous Schools Consultations. It is intended to use, capping of 6% with scaling of 50%, pending the final agreement of figures with the ESFA. In practice this means that any “per pupil” gains of over 6% are reduced by 50% in order to maintain the formula figures as proposed while ensuring overall affordability. This compares to a lower threshold of 4% in 2021/22. Mobility has also been introduced into the Northumberland funding formula at 50% of the NFF values, as part of the overall transition to NFF. Proposed figures are shown in **Table 1** below.

A 2% Minimum funding Guarantee (MFG) is being proposed. MFG is the mechanism that prevents excessive changes in the per pupil values on a year to year basis, that could potentially arise from changes in the overall student profile affecting low prior attainment and deprivation. The lump sum, sparsity and rates formula factors are excluded from MFG calculations by the ESFA in order to avoid excessive or inappropriate protection.

No disapplication requests have been made to the ESFA in respect of 2022/23 School Funding. Changes to the way sparsity funding is allocated means that the 6 schools previously funded via the specific 2020/21 disapplication request should receive funding automatically via the formula.

No further contribution to the growth fund is anticipated in 2022/23, but in line with the discussion within Schools Forum in November 2021 and the subsequent schools’ consultation, funding of £25,000 is being set aside for the creation of a Falling Rolls Fund. Options for this will be developed in conjunction with the Funding Formula Committee and further information will be provided to Schools Forum in the future.

As agreed at the 17 November 2021 Schools Forum meeting, and in conjunction with the associated 11 January 2022 Cabinet report, the decision on the final formula values is delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Childrens Services. This is required in case of any adjustments following the submission of information to the ESFA by their 21 January 2022 deadline and the deadline for the confirmation of schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools by 28 February 2022. No changes are anticipated at this stage. As in previous years, it is intended to provide maintained schools with their 2023/23 budget via the Schools E-courier bulletin by the ESFA deadline of 28 February 2022. This covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. The equivalent figures for academies will be included for illustrative purposes only; the ESFA is responsible for the provision of the general

annual grant statements to academies for the period from September 2022 to August 2023 by 31 March 2021.

Note 3:

The budget for the Schools Block to be set provisionally at £208,482,884 including a proposed amount of £456,529 in respect of de-delegation. This figure is reduced to £207,440,347 after the transfer of £1,042,537 to the High Needs Block.

Note 4:

School budget shares be provisionally constructed based on the formula values shown the final column of Table 1, including an MFG value of 2%, subject to any adjustments required once the ESFA's decision is known.

Note 5:

Schools Forum are asked to note the intended retention of £25,000 as a Falling Rolls Fund with no further intended deduction from the 2022/23 DSG in respect of this at this stage.

Note 6:

Delegated powers to Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Childrens Services to set the final formula values was agreed at the 17 November 2021 Schools Forum meeting.

Table 1

**COMPARISON OF FINAL 2021-22 AND PROPOSED 2022-23 FORMULA VALUES FOR
NFF AND NORTHUMBERLAND**

Factor (all figures £)	NFF Values (As published July 2020) 2021/22	Final NCC Values 2021/22	2022-23 NFF Values (As published July 2021)	Proposed NCC Values 22-23	Change in NFF Values 21/22 to 22/23 %	Change in NCC Values 21/22 to 22/23 %
AWPU Primary	3,123	3,154	3,217	3,217	3.01%	2.00%
KS3	4,404	4,404	4,536	4,536	3.00%	3.00%
KS4	4,963	5,064	5,112	5,112	3.00%	0.95%
Lump Sum Primary	117,800	117,800	121,300	121,300	2.97%	2.97%
Middle	117,800	117,800	121,300	121,300	2.97%	2.97%
High/Secondary	117,800	117,800	121,300	121,300	2.97%	2.97%
Deprivation - Free School Meals Primary	460	570	470	470	2.17%	-17.54%
Secondary	460	570	470	470	2.17%	-17.54%
Deprivation – FSM6 Primary	575	575	590	590	2.61%	2.61%
Secondary	840	840	865	865	2.98%	2.98%
Deprivation – IDACI:						
Primary Band F	215	215	220	220	2.33%	2.33%
Band E	260	260	270	270	3.85%	3.85%
Band D	410	410	420	420	2.44%	2.44%
Band C	445	445	460	460	3.37%	3.37%
Band B	475	475	490	490	3.16%	3.16%
Band A	620	620	640	640	3.23%	3.23%
Secondary Band F	310	310	320	320	3.23%	3.23%
Band E	415	415	425	425	2.41%	2.41%
Band D	580	580	595	595	2.59%	2.59%
Band C	630	630	650	650	3.17%	3.17%
Band B	680	680	700	700	2.94%	2.94%
Band A	865	865	890	890	2.89%	2.89%
Low Attainment Primary	1,095	840	1,130	1,130	3.20%	34.52%
Secondary	1,660	1,660	1,710	1,710	3.01%	3.01%
Mobility : Primary	900	0	925	463	2.78%	-
Secondary	1,290	0	1,330	665	3.10%	-
EAL Primary	550	550	565	565	2.73%	2.73%
Secondary	1,485	1,485	1,530	1,530	3.03%	3.03%
Sparsity (max): Primary	45,000	45,000	55,000	55,000	22.22%	22.22%
Middle	70,000	70,000	80,000	80,000	14.29%	14.29%
Secondary/All Through	70,000	70,000	80,000	80,000	14.29%	14.29%
Totals Adjusted by Capping and Scaling rates:						
Capping		4.65%		6.00%		
Scaling		50%		50%		
Minimum Funding Guarantee level		2%		2%		

8. De-Delegation

On Tuesday 11 January 2022, the Government published its response to the consultation on how School Improvement functions should be funded. Details are available [HERE](#) . In short this has announced the withdrawal of the School Improvement and Monitoring Grant, and the opportunity for local authorities to recover this funding via de-delegation.

Due to the short notice from the Government of this change, the LA is currently assessing the implications of this and will prepare a separate paper on de-delegation for the meeting on 19 January 2022.

9. Central Schools Services Block

This block was newly created in 2018/19 and comprises of funding for ongoing statutory responsibilities of the Council and a cash sum for historic commitments. The 2022/23 allocation for this block is £2,454,271, a figure £303,082 (11%) lower than the 2021/22 allocation of £2,757,353. This reduction in the historic element was expected and has previously been reported, but the reduction in the per pupil element, and fall in pupil numbers, for ongoing services represents an additional funding pressure for the Council.

As with the High Needs Budget, the overall budget will be set at £2,454,271 in line with the allocation, with the details of the budget being provided to the February Schools Forum meeting.

Note 7:

The budget for the Central Schools Services Block will be set at £2,454,271 as set out in Annex 1

DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT (DSG) ALLOCATION 2022/23

Annex 1

Pupils Unit Value

Schools Block

Main Primary	22,854.5	4,790.26	109,478,998
Main Secondary	16,071.0	5,905.10	94,900,863
Premises			3,411,508
Growth			691,515
			208,482,884
NNDR Within the Premises Factor (Deducted and paid directly)			-2,550,203
Total Schools Block after Deduction of NNDR			205,932,681
0.5% to High Needs Block			-1,042,537
			204,890,144
Proposed De-delegation			to follow
			204,890,144

Central School Services Block

Pupil nos	38,925.5	36.23 \$	1,410,271
Historic Commitments (NB 20% Reduction)			1,044,000
			2,454,271

Early Years Block

3/4 Year Olds	4,010.45	2627.70	10,538,260	4.61 Per Eligible Child per Hour
3/4 Year Olds - Additional 15 hours	1,706.78	2627.70	4,484,906	4.61 Per Eligible Child per Hour
2 Year Old Entitlement	723.16	3174.90	2,295,961	5.57 Per Eligible Child per Hour
Disability Access Fund	140.00		112,000	800 Per Eligible Child
			17,431,127	
Initial Allocation early years pupil premium	522.15	342 #	178,576	0.60 Per Eligible Child per Hour
			17,609,703	

High Needs Block

TOTAL 22/23 allocation (incl basic entitlement)			44,497,569
HN deductions			
Mainstream Academy Pre 16	0	6000	0
Mainstream Academy Post 16	30	6000	-180,000
Special Academy Pre 16	180	10000	-1,800,000
Special Academy Post 16	36	10000	-360,000
Special Schools Post 16	0	10000	0
Mainstream Post 16	0	6000	0
ILP and FE	52	6000	-312,000
Total Deductions to HN Block for Direct Funding of Places by ESFA			-2,652,000
Import Export Adjustment	177	6000	-1,023,000

TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BLOCK AFTER DEDUCTIONS **40,822,569**

TOTAL 2022/23 DSG **269,369,427**

41,845,569 DfE published HN figure is BEFORE Import Export Adjustment but after other adjustments.

267,842,224 DfE published DSG figure is AFTER NNDR deduction from Schools Block



Northumberland County Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Agenda Item 7

19 January 2022

Wednesday 19 January 2022: 9.30-12.00 (Virtual Meeting)

Setting the DSG for 2022/23 – overall allocations
De-delegation decisions for 2022/23

Wednesday 16 February 2022: 9.30-12.00 (Virtual Meeting)

Setting the DSG budget for 2022/23 – individual budgets

Wednesday 06 July 2022: 9.30-12.00 (Virtual Meeting)

Review of Schools Forum Membership
DSG Provisional Outturn
Scheme for Financing Schools

Wednesday 28 September 2022 : 9.30-12.00 (Virtual Meeting)

(provisional date)

DSG Final Outturn
Analysis of School Balances

Wednesday 16 November 2022 : 9.30-12.00 (Virtual Meeting)

(provisional date)

National Funding Formula Update & Consultation for 2023/24
SEN Update

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