

# SCHOOLS FORUM

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**TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.00 PM**  
**REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS. THIS MEETING CAN BE WATCHED**  
**LIVE AT [WWW.CAMDEN.GOV.UK/WEBCAST](http://WWW.CAMDEN.GOV.UK/WEBCAST)**

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## **MEMBERS**

**Katy Forsdyke (Chair)**

**Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair) (L)**

**Jen Allan, Claire Burns, Alan Chesters, Rob Earrey, James Hadley, John Hayes, Perina Holness, Deborah Issacs, Nicholas John, Vijita Patel, Colin Reader and Luca Salice**

## **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

**Jemima Wade, Izzy Jones, Alison Lowton and Alex Yates**

Issued on: Wednesday 1 February 2023

## **REMOTE MEETINGS IN CAMDEN**

Everyone is welcome to watch public meetings in Camden. Agendas for these meetings are available in advance on the Council's website at [www.camden.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.camden.gov.uk/democracy).

Members of the public have a right to take their own recordings of public meetings for reporting purposes. Laws on public order offences and defamation still apply, and you should exercise your rights with responsibility. Please respect the views of others when reporting a meeting.

This meeting will be broadcast live via [www.camden.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.camden.gov.uk/webcast) and will be viewable for six months afterwards. If you have any views or questions about meetings at Camden Council please call Committee Services on 020 7974 1915

## REMOTE MEETING ETIQUETTE

Participants<sup>1</sup> in remote meetings are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

### Preparing for the meeting

- If you are planning to attend, make sure you have informed the committee officer named on the agenda front sheet, so that a full list of those expected at the meeting can be prepared.
- Ensure you have read the report(s) before the meeting.
- Ensure that you are located in an area where you are unlikely to be disturbed.
- Ensure that your broadband connection is sufficiently stable to join the meeting. If your connection has low bandwidth, you might need to ask others using your broadband connection to disconnect their devices from the broadband for the duration of the meeting. If the does not help, you may wish to try connecting your device to your router using an Ethernet cable.
- Ensure that your background is neutral (a blank wall is best) and that you are dressed appropriately for a meeting held in public.
- Ensure that the camera on the device that you are using is positioned to provide a clear, front-on view of your face. This may involve thinking about lighting in the room you are in (for example, sitting in front of a window may plunge your face into shadow) or putting your webcam, laptop or tablet on top of a couple of books so that you can look into the camera face on.
- Ensure that you are familiar with the functions of the software you are using. The committee officer will be online 15 minutes before the meeting start time to give everyone time to join and deal with any technical challenges, so try to join the meeting at least 5 minutes before the meeting start time to make sure that everything is working.
- Ideally, you should use earphones or a headset to participate in meetings as it reduces the risk of feedback from using your device's external speaker and reduces background noise from your surroundings.

### At the meeting

- Join the meeting promptly to avoid unnecessary interruptions.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking. If you are an officer or a depute, please turn off your video when not speaking in order to reduce bandwidth.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- When speaking for the first time, please state your name.
- Keep comments, questions and other contributions brief and to the point.
- If referring to a specific page on the agenda, mention the page number.
- The 'chat' function must only be used by committee members to indicate a wish to speak, to indicate that they are having a connection issue or to make a request for a formal vote. It is not to be used for conversations and should be used in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants are defined as members of the Forum; officers advising the Forum or presenting reports; and any external partners / third-parties invited to address or advise the Forum.

- Once you no longer need to participate in the meeting, please leave the call; you can still watch via the public video stream if you wish. Once the Chair closes the meeting, all remaining participants should leave the call promptly.

Gender inclusive minutes: Camden seeks to write the minutes of its committees in a way that does not misgender individuals. If you are contributing to the meeting and you wish to let us know what your pronouns are, please contact the Committee Officer named on the front of this agenda. Otherwise, we will use job titles, full names or neutral terminology. We will not assume gender.

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

**This meeting will be broadcast live by the Council on the Council's website at [www.camden.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.camden.gov.uk/webcast), and the footage will be on the website for 6 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.**

**If you address the meeting you will be deemed by the Council to have consented to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.**

**The Council is obliged by law to allow members of the public to take their own recordings and images from this remote meeting. The Council will only seek to prevent this should it be undertaken in a disruptive or otherwise inappropriate manner.**

**We have a privacy notice that explains our use of webcasting data which you can see via <https://camden.public-i.tv>.**

**If you have any queries regarding webcasting or the recording of meetings by the public, please contact the webcasting co-ordinator on 020 7974 5653.**

**ENDS**

# **SCHOOLS FORUM 7 FEBRUARY 2023**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. GUIDANCE ON REMOTE MEETINGS** (Pages  
9 - 12)  
To agree the procedures for the operation of remote meetings.
  
- 2. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST** (Pages  
13 - 14)  
To note the Schools Forum membership list and any updates.
  
- 3. APOLOGIES**
  
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
  
- 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Broadcast of the meeting**  

The Chair to announce the following: ‘In addition to the rights by law that the public and press have to record this meeting, I would like to remind everyone that this meeting is being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and can be viewed on our website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts are archived and can be made available upon request.

If you have asked to address the meeting, you are deemed to be consenting to having your contributions recorded and broadcast, including video when switched on, and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes’.
  
- 6. MINUTES** (Pages  
15 - 20)  
To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022.

**7. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**8. SCHOOL FUNDING 2023/24 – UPDATE**

(Pages  
21 - 52)

This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2023/24 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 16th December 2022 and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools early years and high needs. It then outlines future funding pressures the current DSG reserves position, de-delegation and the latest advice on energy costs.

**9. SCHOOL MEALS CATERLINK CONTRACT**

(Pages  
53 - 58)

Camden Council alongside Islington Council entered a contract with Caterlink to provide a school meals service with contracted schools. The contract ends on 31 March 2023 and includes an option to extend for two further years.

This paper sets out the Council's current position with regard to the future of the contract and the range of options available to the Council.

**10. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): UPDATE ON FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROPOSALS FOR 2023/24**

(Pages  
59 - 66)

This report provides a briefing on an update projection on the HNB outturn for 2022/23 and the proposals for the HNB and high needs funding for schools for 2023/24.

**11. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The next meeting, and final meeting of the academic year 2022/23, is on 6 June 2023.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**AGENDA ENDS**

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 6.00 pm and will be held remotely.



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## Guidance on remote meetings

### System for conducting remote meetings

1. Camden will conduct remote meetings using Microsoft Teams ('Teams') using the calls functionality.
2. The remote meeting will be conducted via a Teams call, using both the audio and video functionality so all participants<sup>1</sup> in a remote meeting should be capable of being heard and seen. All decision-makers must maintain as a legal minimum an audio connection to the meeting, but may mute themselves when they are not speaking. It will not impact the lawfulness or otherwise of the meeting should a committee member not be able to see the other participants for any part of the meeting, nor if they be cannot be seen by other participants and / or the public. All participants will, as far as able, try to join the meeting using the Teams app or web browser and not via dialling into the meeting.
3. Unless a meeting is dealing with confidential items, it will be streamed to the public so that they may listen and watch (should video be available) but the public will not be able to participate unless section B6 below applies; these are meetings held in public via a digital connection, but are not public meetings.
4. The Chair may be provided with advice on procedure and meeting management by a committee officer, a lawyer and other relevant officers.
5. Meetings will be streamed live as well as recorded, stored and uploaded to the Council's website. The Council will aim to do this within 48 hours of the meeting finishing.
6. Minutes will be taken and published in the usual manner.

### Prior to the meeting

1. Agendas will be published on the [website](#) and via the modern.gov app in advance of the meeting. Committee members will, as usual, receive an automated email when the agenda is published online containing a link to the agenda. They will also be provided with contact details to use in the event that their connection to the meeting is cut.

### At the meeting

1. The committee officer will begin the remote meeting 15 minutes before the meeting start time to allow participants to join promptly and check their audio / video feeds are working.
2. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair will confirm attendance by calling the name of each of those expected to be in attendance and ask them to confirm that they are present, their role (voting member, guest member, advising officer or member of the public with speaking rights) and that they can hear proceedings. Any members who are acting as substitutes shall identify themselves as substitutes and say for whom they are substituting.
3. The meeting will, as the first item of business on the agenda, note and agree the variations / interpretations of procedure rules as set out in this document. The meeting will then follow the published agenda as normal.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants are defined as members of the committee; others who seek to address the committee; officers advising the committee or presenting reports; any external partners / third-parties invited to address or advise the Committee; and any member of the public with speaking rights.

4. Any Member participating who declares an interest in any item of business which would normally require them to leave the room shall switch off their microphone and camera for the duration of the item so they cannot be heard or seen by the other participants. They should also refrain from sending any messages using the chat function during the item or do anything that may be reasonably perceived as trying to influence the debate. The relevant Member will still be able to see and hear the discussion and at the end of the item may switch their camera and microphone back on. The committee officer may use their ability to remotely switch microphones on and off to assist in this process.

#### Debate

5. Committee members will indicate their desire to speak by submitting their name using the “chat” function on Teams. This “chat” will not be minuted nor be a formal part or contribution to the meeting. All participants should refrain from using the chat for any function other than indicating their wish to speak or indicating a loss of their audio feed and will be reminded about this at the outset of the meeting. Where a committee member has joined through dialling in, and therefore does not have access to the chat function, the Chair will at relevant points during items specifically invite those participants dialling-in to address the meeting or otherwise confirm they have no comments / questions.
6. When not speaking, participants will be asked to keep themselves muted. Officers may do this remotely to improve the audio quality of the meeting.

#### Interruptions to connections

7. If a Member’s audio feed cuts out during the meeting they will:
  - If still connected to Teams, use the ‘chat’ function to advise immediately that they can no longer hear the other participants;
  - If they are unable to use the Teams ‘chat’ function, use the emergency contact details provided to alert the relevant officer (usually the committee officer) who will advise the Chair.
8. Where the Chair is notified of a committee member’s audio feed failing they will immediately stop the meeting and call a short adjournment of up to 15 minutes to re-establish the connection. Where the connection is re-established, the Chair will ask relevant participants to repeat in summary any part of the discussion that is considered reasonably necessary to ensure committee members have been given the same information as each other.
9. If after the 15 minutes adjournment, the connection to the committee member cannot be re-established then the meeting will resume – so long as there is still a quorum (if applicable) – and the Member will be deemed as having left the meeting and will be unable to vote on the item. They may, if able, rejoin the meeting and participate on later items.
10. If the Chair is the member affected by the interrupted connection, the committee officer will adjourn the meeting. Upon the resumption, if the Chair has been unable to rejoin the meeting, the Vice-Chair will assume the Chair. Where there is no Vice-Chair, the committee officer will conduct a vote for a committee member to temporarily assume the chair. The usual Chair may resume their role at the start of the next item if they have resumed their connection.

11. Where the Chair is advised that the public audio feed is not working to a satisfactory standard, then they shall adjourn the meeting.

#### Voting

12. The Chair may, at their discretion, consider that there is an accord amongst committee members, and shall announce this to the meeting and not call for a formal vote. Should a committee member wish a formal vote to take place they should indicate this by way of the 'chat' function.
13. When the Chair elects to put a matter to the vote, they will ask the voting members of the committee to confirm that they were able to hear the item in full and to cast their vote on the recommendation(s) / motion. The chair will conduct a roll call in alphabetical order for each committee member to respond in turn.

#### Behaviour

14. The Chair will at their discretion be entitled to mute any contributors, including voting members, should they consider it appropriate. Should either a member or other participant become disruptive, the Chair will warn them and should that warning not result in a change of behaviour which is acceptable to the Chair then they shall, at their absolute discretion, be entitled to terminate the individual's participation in the meeting.

#### **Equalities**

1. It is recognised that that some persons who ordinarily would be able to participate in meetings in person will not be able to participate in remote meetings due to physical or other disability or because they lack the technological capability to do so. It is believed that this will only be a small minority of persons, but will likely disproportionately affect older persons and those of less financial means. We are aware that in terms of income those that fall within certain protected groups are statistically more likely to lack the means to have access to that equipment or the ability to use it. There is therefore functionality to dial into a meeting instead of joining via the Internet, and the Council will support this as far as possible in line with the procedures set out above.
2. Teams has live captions functionality for remote meetings for the deaf / hard of hearing, which participants can independently turn on; guidance on how to do so will be provided. The Council cannot accept any liability for the accuracy of these live captions.
3. The Council will consider any other requests for reasonable adjustments to be made in order to allow parties to be involved in remote Council meetings as far as circumstances at the time of the meeting allows.
4. In addition the Council will review and monitor the operation of its remote decision making and make adjustments when it considers it can further mitigate any adverse impact.

**ENDS**

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## SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST Agenda Item 2

NAME		SCHOOL / NON SCHOOL	MEMBER/ SUBSTITUTE SINCE	4 YEAR PERIOD OF OFFICE EXPIRES
<b>PRIMARY</b>				
Katy Forsdyke (Chair)	H	Christ Church Primary (Hampstead)	December 2020	January 2025
Jen Allan	G	Eleanor Palmer Primary	March 2021	April 2025
Claire Burns	H	Emmanuel Primary	February 2022	March 2026
Rob Earrey	H	Fitzjohns Primary	December 2020	January 2025
John Hayes	H	Gospel Oak Primary	November 2022	November 2026
Deborah Isaacs	G	Edith Neville Richard Cobden Primary Primrose Hill Primary	November 2022	November 2026
Luca Salice	G	Brecknock and Torriano Schools Federation	March 2021	April 2025
<b>Primary Substitutes</b>				
Jemima Wade	H	Argyle Primary	February 2022	March 2026
1 Vacancy	G			
<b>SECONDARY</b>				
Alan Chesters	G	Acland Burghley	December 2019	January 2024
James Hadley	H	Haverstock	February 2021	March 2025
Nick John	H	Acland Burghley	December 2020	January 2025
Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair)	G	Parliament Hill	March 2021	April 2025
1 Vacancy	H			
1 Vacancy	G			
<b>Secondary Substitutes</b>				
Izzy Jones	H	William Ellis	February 2021	March 2025
Alison Lowton	G	Haverstock	March 2021	April 2025
<b>Special &amp; Hospital</b>				
Vijita Patel	H	Swiss Cottage School	December 2020	January 2025
Colin Reader	G	Kentish Town	March 2021	April 2025
<b>Special School &amp; Hospital Substitutes</b>				
Alex Yates	H	Royal Free Hospital Children's School	January 2019	February 2023
1 Vacancy	G			
<b>Nursery Schools</b>				
Perina Holness	H	Thomas Coram Centre	October 2021	November 2025
<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>				
1 Vacancy				
<b>Academies</b>				
1 Vacancy				
<b>Non School</b>				
1 vacancy		PVI (Early Years)		

**G = Governor and H = Head Teacher**

### Meeting Quorum

That at least 6 members are to be present based on a current membership of 15

This achieves the minimum 40% as required in the regulations.

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

## THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** held on **TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2022** at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 2, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

### MEMBERS OF THE FORUM PRESENT

Katy Forsdyke, Christ Church School, Hampstead (Chair)  
Daniel Silverstone, Parliament Hill School (Vice-Chair)  
Jen Allan, Eleanor Palmer Primary School  
Claire Burns, Emmanuel School  
Alan Chesters, Acland Burghley School  
Rob Earrey, Fitzjohns Primary School  
John Hayes, Gospel Oak Primary School  
Perina Holness, Thomas Coram Centre  
Deborah Issacs, Edith Neville Primary, Richard Cobden Primary, Primrose Hill Primary  
Nicholas John, Acland Burghley School  
Vijita Patel, Swiss Cottage School  
Colin Reader, Kentish Town School  
Luca Salice, Torriano Primary School

### MEMBERS OF THE FORUM ABSENT

James Hadley, Haverstock School

### ALSO PRESENT

Pauline Maddison, Interim Director of Education Commissioning  
Eve Stickler, Director of Early Intervention and Prevention  
Nick Smith, Head of Education Commission & School Organisation  
Victor Saunders, Schools Budget Financial Advisor  
Sharon Scott, Interim Head of SEN and Inclusive Intervention Services

**The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Schools Forum and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.**

### MINUTES

#### 1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

#### RESOLVED -

THAT the guidance be noted.

**2. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**RESOLVED -**

THAT the membership list be noted.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from James Hadley.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Broadcast of the meeting**

The Chair announced the following: "In addition to the rights by law that the public and press have to record this meeting, I would like to remind everyone that this meeting is being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and can be viewed on our website for six months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts are archived and can be made available upon request.

If you have asked to address the meeting, you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you are addressing the Committee your contribution will be recorded and broadcast."

**Discussion on how meetings will be held going forward**

After consideration of the feedback from members on how meetings were best conducted, the Chair stated that going forward meetings would be held remotely as a default; however, members should be flexible to periodically attend a meeting in-person. The subject would be revisited following the last Forum meeting of the academic year.

**Deputation**

A deputation statement titled 'Camden's School Funding Crisis' was presented to the Forum by Hugo Pierre (Camden UNISON Schools Co-convener) and had been published as supplementary agenda.

The Chair thanked Hugo Pierre for his deputation and invited comments and questions from the Forum. The following was discussed:

- Some members expressed interest in joining a joint campaign, as detailed in the closing paragraph of the statement.



*Schools Forum - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022*

- A member stated that some schools had been involved in taking a letter to the Department for Education (DfE).
- A member noted that it was difficult at this time to envisage a recovery from the critical funding situation schools were currently in and projected to worsen.
- It was noted by a member that special schools were not included in the National Education Union (NEU) website figures. There was a high number of support staff in those schools and these figures would be useful to share across those networks. The special school representative member stated that they would be in favour of joining a letter of support.
- In response to members asking what activities a campaign might pursue, it was stated that it could involve letters to the press, action from head teachers and politicians and demonstrations in the borough. Activities could aim to involve as many groups as possible, including parents. Camden should also connect with other boroughs on the issue who were experiencing similar funding challenges.
- It was noted that some head teachers across the borough may be prepared to be more publicly vocal than others.
- Parents needed to be reassured that schools were giving their best efforts to provide for all students and those with the greatest need, and teachers and head teachers needed to be supported to do so.
- The Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families stated that he would like to discuss the deputation, and what has been feedback by the Forum, with the depute outside of the meeting.

The Chair thanked Hugo Pierre for attending the meeting.

**6. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED -**

THAT the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**7. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

**8. SCHOOLS FUNDING 2023-24**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

The Schools Budget Financial Advisor introduced the report which outlined funding formulas; de-delegation of funding; Designated School Grant (DSG) Blocks for High Needs and Early years; recent funding announcements and cost increases for schools.

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The Chair thanked the officer for the report and opened the Forum to comments and questions:

- It was confirmed that the recently announced funding through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) would unlikely cover pay rises.
- Members stated that schools needed additional support to reflect the unusually difficult economic conditions.
- London boroughs had met with the EFSA, including Camden, and received the same information. London borough authorities faced different circumstances and challenges in overspending. There were suggestions externally that Camden received inequitably high funding.
- It was confirmed that Camden was working with other local authorities to monitor the impact on schools, and there were increasing concerns for years 2024/25 onwards. The additional funding was welcomed, however it was clearly not enough to cover the need. Camden schools needed to be looked on a school-by-school basis and support given to them to make efficiencies and share resources. The funding challenge they were grappling with was not only falling school rolls, but not enough money in the system.
- It was confirmed that it should be assumed ahead of receiving any funding, it would be allocated to Camden using the NFF.
- It was confirmed that any money not spent would return to the DSG reserves.
- A member requested information and advice on how the rise in utility costs would affect schools. It was confirmed officers would be invited to a future meeting to present an update to the Forum.

### **Action By - Schools Budget Financial Advisor**

- It was confirmed that it was unlikely that the EFSA would reclaim money following the flat rate supplementary grant.
- It was raised by a member that it would be essential for schools to collaborate and work together to save money. Further to that, it was stated that there should be research to carefully review the financial benefits of schools sharing structures, balanced with the educational benefits. It was also crucial that school sharing arrangements were executed at the right pace and correctly for any local context. It was noted by another member, after their school having become a federation, that there had been financial and educational benefits observed.

### **RESOLVED –**

THAT The Schools Forum

- a) note the level of reserves to be used to support the funding allocations to schools as set out in paragraphs 1.9;
- b) note the provisional NFF allocations to individual schools discussed in the report in section 1.1 and set out in Appendix 1. Also, that these are only indicative NFF allocations and are not yet the final school budgets;
- c) note the current forecast spending plans and funding for the high needs and early years blocks as set out in sections 4 and 5 respectively;

- d) note the continued use of the central school services block (CSSB) replacement of the former top sliced amounts detailed in section 1.4;
- e) approve the de-delegated budgets as set out in section 2.1 a) – e); and
- f) note the potential effects of the future funding and cost pressures outlined in sections 7 and 8 on schools' budgets.

**9. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): ANALYSIS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SPEND TRENDS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, who introduced the item.

Presented by the Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, the report provided a briefing on spending on independent schools from the HNB, as requested at the last meeting of the Forum.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and opened the Forum to comments and questions:

- In relation to tribunals in section 1.3, it was confirmed that the Council only pursued this route if they wholly believed the child's needs would be best met in-borough. Parental preference was usually favoured by tribunals. It was further confirmed that before reaching tribunal stage, mediation was primarily pursued. Either party, the local authority or parents, could withdraw at any stage before reaching tribunal.
- It was confirmed that the Council was using savings to create additional provision in the borough. They were using place planning work to project demand and ensure efficiency of provision.

**RESOLVED -**

THAT the report be noted.

**10. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The following remaining meeting dates for the 2022-23 academic year were noted:

- 7 February 2023
- 6 June 2023

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

*Schools Forum - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022*

**CHAIR**

**Contact Officer: Anoushka Clayton-Walshe**

**Telephone No: 020 7974 8543**

**E-Mail: [anoushka.clayton-walshe@camden.gov.uk](mailto:anoushka.clayton-walshe@camden.gov.uk)**

**MINUTES END**

# Agenda Item 8

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: ALL</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> School Funding 2023/24 – Update	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation - Supporting People	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE:</b> 7 February 2023
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>  This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2023/24 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools early years and high needs. It then outlines future funding pressures the current DSG reserves position, de-delegation and the latest advice on energy costs.  <b>Local Government Information Act 1972</b> The following documents which require listing were used in the preparation of this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Schools Operational guidance for 2023 to 2024</a></li><li>• <a href="#">DSG: technical note 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Mainstream schools additional grant 2023 to 2024</a></li></ul> <b>Contact Officer:</b>  Victor Saunders, Schools Budget Financial Advisor London Borough of Camden, 5 Pancras Square, NC1 4AG 020 7974 4504 / <a href="mailto:victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk">victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk</a>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> Schools Forum is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Note and agree the latest estimates of individual schools and growth budgets (section 3.6) and Appendix 1 and 2.</li><li>(b) Note and agree the provisional Early Years funding rates (section 3.9)</li><li>(c) Provide any further comment regarding the 2023/24 funding (section 2.14)</li><li>(d) Identify any areas of funding for review in autumn 2023 ahead of the funding year 2024/25.</li></ul>	



Signed by:  
Nicholas Smith, Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation  
Dated: 30 January 2023

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report updates the schools forum on the estimated funding available for 2023/24 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, (section 2.1) and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools (section 3.2), early years (section 3.7) and high needs (section 3.12). It then outlines future funding pressures (section 4.1) the current DSG reserves position (section 5) de-delegation (section 6) and the latest advice on energy costs (section 7)
- 1.2 Total government funding for Camden is estimated at £223.8m (up by £11m from last year due to the increased funding for the per pupil rate (4.5% - £4.2m less 2.9% relating to the continuation of supplementary grant into the base giving an average real terms increase of 1.6%), a further 8% increase to High Needs allocation (£4.9m) and increases to the new Additional Schools and High Needs grants in place of the former supplementary healthcare grants (£1.1m). The largest single item of funding is the schools DSG block which has been confirmed at £112.03m (plus an estimated £10.31m for Academies). Other elements of funding remain provisional although any change to the estimates is likely to be minor.
- 1.3 There have been no significant change to the Camden schools funding formula for 2023/24 which will be used to distribute the total of the aggregated individual schools budgets generated by the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2023/24. The agreed inflationary uplift to the local funding formula factors to reflect the NFF increases to LBC aggregate Schools block allocation were also made within the ESFA's bands for matching the NFF. The government update of the October 2022 census and the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IDACI) deprivation data is fully incorporated into next year's 2023/24 budget.
- 1.4 Overall Council funding is set at £223.8m across all three blocks of DSG in order to fund the total proposed spending plans requiring nil funding to be used from reserves.
- 1.5 This funding now includes in its base the former ESFA grant top ups to schools for Teachers pay awards and the Teacher's pension and supplementary pension grants. It also includes in its base the 2023/24 Supplementary Health and Social Care levy funding for mainstream schools (£3.71m). In addition, for 2023/24 the funding will also include the 2023/24 Additional Mainstream Schools Grant £4.5m and 2023/24 Additional High Needs Grant £2.06m.

### **Introduction**

- 1.6 This report sets out the latest estimate of resources for the financial year 2023/24, incorporating earlier Schools Forum decisions taken to date regarding the allocation of these resources to individual schools. These allocations are following the consultation undertaken with schools and discussion at previous meetings of the Schools Forum, and reflect the latest announcements from the ESFA regarding the funding settlement for 2023/24 made on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Under the National Funding Formula (NFF) the total Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) schools budget for each Council has been derived by the aggregation of its individual schools budgets as determined by application of the NFF factors to each school's October 2022 APT Census data for 2023/24. In line with the ESFA guidance this report proposes to allocate the total DSG schools budget via the basic

entitlement and the other agreed formula factors in Camden's local schools formula (as agreed by Schools Forum) and presents school by school funding projections on this basis.

## 2. ESFA Resources allocation to Camden

- 2.1 Government funding for Camden's schools, high needs and early years is estimated at £223.8m for 2023/24. This is in line with the ESFA's July 2022 NFF allocations and the Autumn Budget Announcement on 17th November 2022 when the Chancellor announced over and above the totals announced in the earlier 2021 Spending Review an additional £2.bn for Education (for schools core budgets ) over each of the following 2 years of 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 2.2 In the 2023 to 2024 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated their portion of this additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to schools' DSG allocations through the schools national funding formula.
- 2.3 The MSAG will allocate funding to state-funded mainstream schools only. In addition to the MSAG, local authorities have been allocated £400 million additional high needs funding for 2023 to 2024, on top of their high needs national funding formula allocations
- 2.4 The following base funding rates will be multiplied by the relevant Area Cost Adjustment (ACA), which is 1.1889 for LB Camden to determine the final school-level allocations for this grant:
  - a basic per-pupil rate of £119 for primary pupils, including pupils in reception
  - a basic per-pupil rate of £168 for key stage 3 pupils
  - a basic per-pupil rate of £190 for key stage 4 pupils
  - a lump sum of £4,510
  - an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £104 per eligible primary pupil
  - an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £152 per eligible secondary pupil
- 2.5 Schools can read full details for school level MSAG calculation at the following [methodology, calculator guidance and access the calculator](#) link where they can also access the school level allocation by typing in their school's URN number into the calculator.
- 2.6 This means that in addition to their DSG national NFF funding for 2023/24, Camden schools will also be given a further £4.54m of Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and £2.06m Additional High Needs Grant. This is to cover additional costs now being faced by schools. Schools will have the flexibility to prioritise their spending of the MSAG to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures.
- 2.7 The ESFA state that their intention is that payment of this additional funding in the form of a separate grant will be for 2023 to 2024 only. The funding will then be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2024 to 2025. So, for primary, secondary and all-through schools, this will mean the funding being rolled into the schools national funding formula for 2024 to 2025.
- 2.8 In line with the to the national MFG (0.5%) and national levelling up arrangements the ESFA December 2022 DSG notification indicated an overall 1.6% per pupil increase in Camden schools funding for 2023/24. The ESFA guidance requires that Local Authorities mirror any additional total DSG funding added to schools NFF baselines in the local formulas subject to the statutory maximum and minimum requirements on local formula

factors set by the ESFA. Hence in order to maximise the distribution of the total DSG uplift to schools in line with these requirements Camden schools formula factors have been uplifted by up to 2% where allowable for 2023/24 (subject to the statutory ESFA maximum and minimum requirements on our local factors). The additional 3.6% per pupil increase from the approximate £4.54m 2023/24 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) will be distributed to schools in line with the ESFA individual allocations during 2023. Thus resulting in a total overall 5.6% increase in Camden's schools per pupil funding for 2023/24.

- 2.9 Camden's HN DSG allocation has also increased by £4.9m from £47.6m in 2022/23 to £52.59m in 2023/24 in line with earlier ESFA announcements. This includes the additional £2.06m of Additional High Needs Grant for 2023/24 resulting in an overall 8.5% increase.
- 2.10 For 6<sup>th</sup> Form funding, beyond the 4.7% increase for 2020/21 no major changes have yet been announced for funding in Camden.
- 2.11 The Bank of England's [Monetary Policy Report - November 2022](#) stated that Consumer Price Index of inflation (CPI) was 10.1% in September and is projected to pick up to around 11% in 2022 Q4, reflecting the impact of the EPG. Services CPI inflation has risen and nominal annual private sector regular pay growth rose to 6.2% in the three months to August, some 0.6 percentage points higher than expected in the earlier August Report. Despite an expected decline in global price pressures and a significant fall in the prospective contribution of household energy prices to CPI inflation, domestic inflationary pressures are expected to remain strong over the next year.
- 2.12 Between 2010 and 2023/24 Camden schools will have received a cumulative total rate of increase of 15.06% to its schools block DSG, This includes an additional 5.6% in 2023/24 (which includes the 3.6% Mainstream Schools Additional Grant MSAG). Using CPI index at 11% as per Bank of England forecasts, it is estimated that by 2023/24 Camden schools will have suffered real terms spending pressures from rising inflation alone of 29% (net of the total 15.06% DSG increases up to 2023/24). This is equivalent to nearly £28m based on the current level of schools DSG income (measured on the CPI- the government's preferred measure of inflation)
- 2.13 The government has agreed to a 5% Teachers pay rise for September 2022/23 but rejected the recommended 3% for 2023/24. Following a request from Teachers unions for a minimum 12% increase for this year and a resulting dispute with the government over the current and future pay levels which may be significantly higher than the "on average" 5.6% increase to schools 2023/24 core budgets referred to in the January Ministerial letter to headteachers. Although details of longer-term future funding for schools have yet to be confirmed - if funding fails to increase in real terms combined with unusually sharp increase to costs caused by current high levels of general inflation and the acute increases in utility costs then Camden schools will need to continue plan for a reduction in spending power.
- 2.14 The known cost increases that schools will need to provide for were outlined in the December 2022 Forum Report along with inflation tables already sent to schools separately to support 3 year budget planning. In line with the earlier Schools Forum decision for sustainability to ensure that schools are funded entirely from government grant allocations, it is planned to continue to use nil DSG reserves in 2023/24 to fund schools formula budgets. The breakdown of expected funding for 2023/24 is shown below.



**Table 1: Total estimated schools funding 2023/24**

<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	£m	
Dedicated schools grant		
Schools block excluding Academies	112.03	Excluding academies and free schools. Includes 1.6% increase in pupil led funding less changes in pupil numbers.
National non-domestic rates within the premises factor (£s)	3.10	
- Academies and Free schools	10.31	
Central Support Services block	1.21	
- Early years block	16.15	included EY pupil premium and EY disability
- High needs block	50.50	5% pupil led increase (5% DSG and 3.3% from Additional High Need Grant below)
<b>Total DSG</b>	<b>193.31</b>	* Excluding the 2023/24 MAGA and HN Additional Grants below
2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	4.54	New Grant in 2023/24- from ESFA subject to DSG conditions replacing former Supplementary Healthcare Levy Grant (3.5% per pupil)
2023/24 Additional High Needs Grant	2.06	New Grant in 2023/24- from ESFA subject to DSG conditions replacing former Supplementary Healthcare Levy Grant (3.4% per pupil)
Pupil premium	9.68	3% expected change in grant
6 <sup>th</sup> form	14.22	No projected change in grant
<i>Total from Government</i>	<i>223.80</i>	

2.15 Further changes may be made during the year as the early years, pupil premium and 6<sup>th</sup> form funding are only provisional allocations. These will be based on January 2023 census data and confirmation of final figures are expected to be made during the year by adjustment to payments.

### **Differences between the 2022-23 and the 2023-24 NFF Formula**

2.16 The ESFA operational guidance 2023/24 indicates that the main NFF formula for 2023/24 is broadly similar to the formula in 2022/23 subject to the following updates ;

#### **Schools NFF Formula**

Key changes to the schools NFF formula in 2023 to 2024 are:

- (1) **Schools supplementary grant** for 2022 to 2023 was rolled into the NFF by:
  - adding an amount representing what schools received through the grant into their baselines
  - adding the value of the lump sum, basic per pupil rates and free school meals Ever 6 (FSM6) parts of the grant onto the respective factors in the NFF
  - uplifting the minimum per pupil values by the supplementary grant's basic per-pupil values, and an additional amount which represents the average amount of funding schools receive from the FSM6 and lump sum parts of the grants

- (2) **NFF factor values** were then increased (on top of the amounts that were added above for the schools supplementary grant) by:
- 4.3% to free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6) and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)
  - 2.4% to the basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), FSM, English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and sparsity factors, and the lump sum.
  - 0.5% to the floor and the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL)
  - 0% on the premises factors, except for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which has increased by Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) which is 11.2% for the year to April 2022

(3) **High Needs NFF**

The ESFA has also confirmed the following aspects of the high needs NFF:

- the funding floor is set at 5% so each local authority will see an increase of at least 5% per head of their 2 to 18 population (as estimated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS))
- the gains cap is set at 7%, allowing local authorities to see gains up to this percentage increase under the formula, again calculated on a per head basis of their 2 to 18 population

(4) **Split Sites**

Following from their consultation on implementing the direct national funding formula the ESFA now propose that from 2024/25 split sites funding will “ be determined through a national split sites factor”. The government response to the consultation will be published in the new year, which includes their final plans on this proposal. As part of the preparation for this proposed change, the ESFA will be asking local authorities to enter the details of mainstream split site schools and their addresses on the split site data collection worksheet included in the APT. Those Camden schools concerned have been advised and contacted by schools finance for their completion details.

## **Differences between the 2022-23 and the 2023-24 Funding Allocation levels to Camden.**

2.17 After changes to the NFF formula and following announcements in the Autumn statement (detailed by the ESFA December notification) and the January ministerial letter to headteachers on Additional Funding (see section 2.1 to 2.5 above) the effect on Camden Schools total level of funding in 2023/24 are outlined below;

(a) **Schools block (DSG) allocations**

- The aggregate amount received from the government per pupil based on the NFF has now been analysed between primary (£6,192) and secondary (£8,051) for 2023/24. The funding allocations per school are set out in Appendix 2 and are in line with the government’s overall intention indicated in July NFF data for a 1.6 % increase (including continuation of the 2022 to 2023 schools supplementary grant adjustment) in schools block funding for Camden in 2023/24. These rates are not subject to any subsidy from Camden’s DSG reserve which means that LBC schools are completely funded by government grant.
- The change in Camden’s December 2022 ESFA notified per pupil rate for 2023/24 was an overall 4.6% increase. However, once adjustment of 3% is made to remove the inclusion of last years £3,7m Schools Supplementary grant into the base budget for 2023/24 (as a continuation of earlier year funding is not additional new funding), the real overall increase from the NFF is 1.6%. The combination of these adjustments and

uplift rates results in the final overall percentage increase to Camden's total Schools block DSG for 2023/24 being taken as a net 1.6% increase.

- Subject to the ESFA's statutory NFF "factor matching" constraints for 2023/24 this increase has now been fully passed on to schools by a corresponding 2% uplift where possible to the local funding formula factors for 2023/24 in order to maximise the distribution of aggregate schools DSG block via the local funding formula to school budgets.
- In addition the Autumn statement announcement of a £2bn increase to core schools budgets for 2023/24 will be passed to schools as a separate MSAG grant later in the year and is expected to represent a further 3.6% uplift to the per pupil funding rates for Camden schools.

In summary - This will mean that for 2023/24 LB Camden schools will have received an overall total per pupil funding uplift of up to 5.6% comprising 2% from the local APT Funding formula uplift and 3.6% from the MSAG additional funding.

### **(b) Early years block (DSG) allocation**

- 2023/24 will be the sixth year following the introduction of the new LBC early years offer in response to the revised government funding formula and regulations regarding an additional 15 hours free childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year which came into effect in September 2017.
- Under these regulations Camden is only able to retain a maximum 5% of the total funding. Camden had previously retained more than this to deliver a high level of additional hours above the current statutory offer. Camden revised its early years offer from September 2017 which from 2018/19 required an ongoing commitment from the council's general fund to enable the council to continue to go above the government's minimum requirements and offer an additional 15 hours childcare for some of the 3 and 4 years olds that previously qualified for the 15 hours provision as 2 year olds. [link to EY Report](#)

### **(c) High Needs Block allocations**

- Following the unexpected £400m national increase to HN funding from the additional funding announced in the Chancellor's November 2022 Autumn Statement the ESFA's 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 notification has now indicated that Camden's HN DSG block will increase by a total of £4.85m 9% for 2023/24 (includes 5% DSG uplift and 3.4% for the £2.05m 2023/24 Additional High Needs Grant - intended as the equivalent to the increase that mainstream schools will receive through the MSAG). This final figure may still subject to some minor adjustments relating to the new pupil import/export arrangements.
- The Ministerial letter to headteachers from Gillian Keegan to all schools on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 also confirmed that for 2023/24 "in addition to the protection afforded by the special schools minimum funding guarantee. "We have introduced a new condition of grant on local authorities to make sure that special schools and alternative provision receive the 3.4% increase".
- As the equivalent to the 2023/24 MSAG the HN Additional grant is expected to cover unforeseen additional costs in 2023/24.
- Whilst the unexpected additional funding was very much welcomed, it is important to note that ongoing HNB transformation remains crucial to ensure Camden is able to meet the needs of its children and young people with SEND in a way that is financially sustainable. The HNB report submitted to Schools Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 predicted that the High Needs Block will now move to an underspend in 2022/23 following the unexpected increases to the HN DSG budgets of £4.3m, £3.8m and

£4.8m in 2021/22, 2022/22 and 2023/24 respectively. Please see the HN Report of November 2022 forum for full details.

- (d) **Pupil premium funding** - for 2023/24 continues to be maintained as a separate grant and to be largely based on the free school meals (FSM6) data at January 2023. The January 2023 Ministerial statement to headteachers also confirmed that Pupil premium funding rates will increase by 5% in 2023-24, bringing total funding to over £2.8 billion. The rates will be uplifted but eligibility criteria will remain unchanged in 2023//24. Current trends in FSM6 take up during the pandemic offset by falling rolls suggest that Camden may receive a marginally increased level to the current £9.6m pupil premium during 2023/24, but this will be confirmed by the ESFA later in the year.

Early years pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds in nursery (15 hours per week) is currently £342 per eligible pupil for 2022/23 and it is currently estimated that the Council will receive a total of £0.131m for 2023/24

- (e) **The 6<sup>th</sup> form funding** grant is issued on academic year basis. Funding for September 2022 to March 2023 is planned to be announced in March 2023. There was a 4.7% increase in the 16 to 19 funding rates for 2020/21. Following expected roll changes in line with recent trends in Camden the projection is for a small increase in total actual funding for 2023/24.

### **National Comparison of London boroughs funding**

2.18 Using similar approach to earlier London Councils reports gives the following analysis of London Councils on the overall DSG funding allocations:

- Nationally in 2023-24, £55.8 billion will be allocated through the total DSG across England, an increase of 7.75% since 2022/23. London Boroughs will receive £9.68 billion, an increase of 6.94% from 2022/23: the 2nd lowest increase of all authority types with Unitary authorities increasing the most by 11.44%. London's share of the total DSG blocks will fall by 0.13%, while Unitary authority types' share will increase by up to 0.84% (see table 2 below).
- For Schools Block, there was a national increase of 6.21% from 2022-23. London boroughs will receive £7.1 billion in funding, representing an increase of 5.11% when compared to 2022-23, the second lowest of all authority types with Unitary Authorities receiving the highest annual increase of 9.9%. London's share of the total national schools block (£42.6 billion) will decrease by -0.17%: whilst the Metropolitan and Unitary authorities will rise by up to 0.85%.
- For High Needs bloc in 2023/24 there was a national increase of 15.92%. London boroughs will receive £1.78 billion, an increase of 15.13% from 2022-23, the second lowest percentage increase of all authority types with Unitary Authorities receiving the highest increase of 19.68%. London's share of the total national High Needs block will fall by -0.14%, with the Metropolitan and Unitary authorities increasing by 0.08% and 0.77% respectively
- For the Early Years Block In 2023-24, £3.92 billion will be allocated nationally, an increase of 8.81% from 2022-23. London Boroughs will receive £734 million, an increase of 15.13%, the second lowest with Unitary Authorities at the top with a 19.68% increase. Unitary are again the only authority types to have experienced an increase in their share of the total national Early Years DSG block which increased by 0.92%. London's share again reduced by -0.21%.

**Table 2: 2023-24 DSG funding allocations for schools, central schools services, high needs and early years in London Councils**

ENGLAND	DSG allocations (£m)			Proportion of England total		
	2022-23	2023-24	Percentage change	2022-23	2023-24	Percentage change
London	£9,055	£9,683	6.94%	17.47%	17.34%	-0.13%
Metropolitan District	£12,166	£13,112	7.78%	23.47%	23.47%	0.01%
Unitary Authority	£12,648	£14,095	11.44%	24.40%	25.23%	0.84%
Shire County	£17,969	£18,966	5.55%	34.66%	33.95%	-0.71%
England total	£51,837	£55,856	7.75%			

### 3. Distribution of Resources in Camden 2023/24

#### Overall distribution

- 3.1 The majority of the £223.80m total funding (table1 above) will go to Camden schools as shown in column 2 of the following table.

**Table 3: Analysis of DSG funding 2023/24 (including any current use of reserves)**

	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	Totals
Funding Area	Camden schools	Services provided by Camden including children's centres <sup>1</sup>	External providers Academies & EY	Sub Totals
	£m	£m	£m	
Schools DSG - Including Additional Grant	118.72	0.95	10.31	<b>129.99</b>
Central Support Services Block	0.00	1.21	0.00	<b>1.21</b>
Early years DSG	8.29	0.08	7.79	<b>16.15</b>
High needs DSG - Including Addnl Grant	39.86	3.00	9.70	<b>52.56</b>
Pupil premium	9.68	0.00	0.00	<b>9.68</b>
6th form	14.22	0.00	0.00	<b>14.22</b>
Total government funding	190.77	5.23	27.80	<b>223.80</b>
Camden Contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Use of Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	<b>190.77</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>27.80</b>	<b>223.80</b>

Notes:

(1) Children's centres are those operated direct by the authority only

(2) Funding to academies and free schools is shown under 'external providers'

(3) Early Years split is not yet confirmed so remains as per last year

(4) Before any use of reserves or LBC contribution

## **Distribution of Local Funding Formula by Camden in 2023/24**

### **Schools Block DSG**

- 3.2 The 2023 to 2024 NFF Schools block, as in the previous year, uses IDACI 2019 ranks to group each lower super output area (LSOA), an area with typically about 1,500 residents) into one of 6 bands of decreasing deprivation. the most recent IDACI deprivation index of October 2019 along with any changes in rolls or updates have now been incorporated into Camden's local funding formula. Any significant effects on individual school allocations have been mitigated by the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) now set in line with ESFA guidance at 0.5% (thus ensuring a minimum protected 0.5% uplift in the per pupil rate). The MFG provides protection to any school that loses funding following changes to the formula. Details of changes to the current IDACI data calculations can be found at the following [IoD link](#) and are summarised in Appendix 6.
- 3.3 For 2023/24 beyond the overall inflation uplift in per pupil funding resulting in an overall 1.6% increase in the per pupil rate for Camden Schools from the NFF there have been no significant changes to schools DSG (which now include the 2022/23 Supplementary Schools Grant in its base budget 3%). Subject to the ESFA statutory NFF "matching " constraints" for 2023/24 this increase has been fully passed on to schools by a corresponding 2% uplift to the local funding formula factors where applicable for 2023/24 school budgets. With the planned addition of £4.5m in the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) representing an additional 3.6% increase to the per pupil rate of available funding, the final total increase to Camden's per pupil funding rate for 2023/ 24 will be an overall 5.6% (comprising the 2% uplift from the local APT Funding formula and 3.6% from the MSAG additional funding) See Appendix 7
- 3.4 The council has made no applications to the ESFA to change its local formula and has ensured that its local formula factors comply with the ESFA statutory bands for Camden's formula factors and include all mandatory factors (which to now comply with the NFF include minimum levels for the FSM and Mobility factors). This is in accord with forum's earlier changes to simplify and maintain its funding formula in line with national average allocations in preparation for the implementation of the national funding formula.
- 3.5 The NFF allocation to LBC in 2023/24 has now identified and allocated Schools Business Rates (NNDR) under "premises funding" to Camden at the local authority level on the basis of "actual spend in the Jan 2022 to 2023 APT". Whilst appearing in DSG budget figures there will be no cash transfers to schools budgets for this item as from 2022 to 2023, national non-domestic rates (NNDR) will be paid by ESFA directly to billing authorities. The government has indicated in an ESFA policy document (July 2018) `that going forward they are "continuing to consider the long-term approach to all premises factors in the NFF".
- 3.6 The local schools formula proposed for 2023/24 after allowing provision for growth costs of £1.7m related to potential planned reorganisations is set out at Appendix 1. The allocations per school together with the increase / decrease compared to the previous year's totals are shown in Appendix 2.

### **Early years DSG distribution**

- 3.7 The review of Camden's early years provision remains ongoing the progress will be reported to forum under separate cover at an appropriate stage.

- The ESFA have announced on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 that - 2023/24 hourly rates for each EYNFF formula factor have been updated for the first time since 2017/18 to cover the following;
  - i. the increased funding secured for 2023 to 2024 in the Autumn Spending Review,
  - ii. additional funding to reflect the recently announced National Living Wage increases and
  - iii. the majority of the money that has previously been paid through the early years element of the TPPG. Thus indicating the costs that the increased funding is to cover for EY providers.
- The ESFA have increased the the EY hourly funding rates for all local authorities by 69 pence (10%) an hour for the 2-year-old entitlement and 22 pence an hour (2.5%) for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements for most areas. so that no council can receive less than £4.61 per hour for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements.
- Last year Camden was one of a small number of local authorities that have been protected from large drops to their historically high funding rate for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements by the 'loss cap'. and continued to have their 2021/22 hourly funding rates protected in 2022/23. As a Council with its historically higher EY already protected under the 'loss cap' Camden's 3 to 4 year old rates from the ESFA remained the same for 2022/23. However, for 2023 to 2024 "year-to-year protections and funding floors have been revised, for example, the loss cap protection has been removed and a new +1% year-to- year protection and +4.9% gains cap has been introduced. These are applied before rounding the hourly funding rates to the nearest penny". This means that Camden's 3 to 4 year old EY rates will rise from £8.51 to £8.73 (2.5%) for 2023/24. (source [2023 to 2024 Early years funding formulae: technical note - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/111111/2023_to_2024_Early_years_funding_formulae_technical_note.pdf))

3.8 The current early years national funding formula was introduced in April 2017 for 3/4year olds and 2 year olds. The revised ESFA rates given to LB Camden for 2023/24 in the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Notification are set out in table 4 below (subject to any ESFA update). They may also not be the final rates that Camden pays to providers as they are subject to ESFA approval of Camden's disapplication to the ESFA to 'disapply' the 95% pass through rate for 3 and 4 year olds. This requests to pass through a lower rate of 92% so as to use the remaining 3% to keep the hourly rate paid to providers for 2 year olds at £8.10. This dis-application is allowed by the ESFA so as is to maintain a viable rate to ensure that providers continue to offer places for two year olds in Camden as the ratios of staff and hence cost are much higher than for three and four year olds.

3.9 Earlier applications to dis-apply the 'pass through' regulation for the year enabling, Camden to use some 3 & 4 year old funding to support the 2 year old rate, has in the past been approved by DfE. Camden have applied again for 2023/24.

**Table 4: Early years ESFA funding rates 2023/24 - per 16.12.22 ESFA Notification**

<b>2023/24 ESFA RATE</b>	<b>2022-23 £ / hr)</b>	<b>2023-24 £ / hr)</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percentage change</b>
ESFA EYNFF hourly rate for 3-4 year olds for 2023/24	£8.51	£8.73	£0.22	<b>2.59%</b>
ESFA Hourly rate for 2 year olds for 2022/23	£6.87	£7.56	£0.69	<b>10.04%</b>

3.10 The current 2022/23 distribution of DSG Early years funding by Camden's early years team after adjustments for any dis-applications, deprivation and inclusion funding results in



an hourly rate to providers of £7.83 for 3 to 4 year olds (including the £1.26 deprivation factor per hour) and £8.10 for 2 year olds providers as detailed in Appendix 5.

- 3.11 As LB Camden's EY rate are no longer constrained by protected under "loss Cap" the early years team expects their current Council payment rates to providers of £7.83 for 3 to 4 year olds and £8.10 for 2 year olds to eventually reflect the modest increase to funding rates for 2023/24. They will inform Forum and Camden providers of the final rates for 2023/24 once the disapplication process has been completed by the ESFA and the outcome confirmed to Camden.

### **High needs DSG distribution**

- 3.12 Camden's current funding distribution of HN DSG to schools will continue with mainstream schools receiving part of the top up as a fixed cash allocation (covering the first 10 to 20 hours of support) with further top ups on an individual pupil basis where support is required over 20 hours. All special schools (and pupil referral units) will receive place funding of £10,000 with top ups at agreed rates for individual placements. For schools with resource units, this place funding will continue but (as from April 2018) at the rate of £6,000 plus basic entitlement via pupil led funding for each place provided. In addition, there will continue to be top ups at agreed rates for individual placements. In line with recent ESFA instructions these rates are expected to rise in line with the 5% DSG uplift and the 3.4% Additional funding uplifts for 2023/24. (section 2.17c)
- 3.13 The unexpected increase in HN DSG funding since 2021 means that provisional spending plans for 2023/24 are not currently expected to exceed the increased £52.5m (including Additional Grant) to be received from the government in 2023/24 ref 2.14 and the Council continues to consult with stakeholders on the optimum future service provision at this level of funding. However, the SEN team advise that spending pressures are still expected to continue to rise against post-16 costs and increasing mainstream top up costs as numbers increase.
- 3.14 The service will continue to work to ensure that forecast spending is within the funding available. This now includes the progression of a school-led exceptional needs framework and an ongoing review of the current service offer to schools.

### **Pupil premium distribution**

- 3.15 To receive this grant schools must demonstrate how they are using the funding to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils identified as eligible to receive free school meals at some stage over the previous six years. They cannot use it to replace cuts in other funding.
- 3.16 Pupil premium for 2023/24 will be largely based on the free school meals (FSM6) data at October 2022. Initial estimates suggest that Camden may receive a slightly increased level to the current £9.6m in 2022/23 based on an expected increased uptake in free school meals due to the current cost of living emergency and the Covid 19 pandemic, but the final allocation will be confirmed by the ESFA in the new year.
- 3.17 The premium was extended in 2015/16 and now covers 3 and 4 year olds under the early years pupil premium. However, despite previous announcements indicating that the pupil premium for other groups would be increased in line with inflation to maintain its real value there had been no regular annual increases until the December 2021 when ESFA increased them by 3% in line with the latest inflation forecasts. For 2023/24 the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Ministerial letter to schools and the ESFA have indicated that the eligibility



for pupil premium will remain the same with a 5% increase to the rates for 2023/24. The new rates for 2023/24 are as follows:

- Primary FSM6 pupils: £1,445
- Secondary FSM6 pupils: £1,035
- Children who have been adopted from care or have left care: £2,530
- Looked-after children by local authority: £2,530
- Service children: £335
- Early years 3 and 4 year olds £342

### **6<sup>th</sup> Form Funding for distribution**

3.18 The allocation of the expected funding between the 6<sup>th</sup> forms is determined by the government's formula. The authority has no discretion over the allocations. The funding period covers the academic year with funding for September 2023 to March 2024 expected to be announced in April 2023. The national base rates for the academic year 2023/24 have not yet been fully confirmed by the ESFA. The ESFA are expected to announce the final allocations for 2023/24 to all post 16 institutions in March 2023. Camden's current funding had increased by £1.7m from the previous year. However, whilst changes in roll numbers and the most recent (2020/21) 4.7% increase in rates which generated the increased funding of £1.7m for 2022/23, any continuation of the below inflation increases to the pupil funding rate will result in a further real terms reduction in funding going forward. The Institute for Fiscal studies (IFS) FE Report in 2021 stated that for school sixth forms, current spending per student in 2024–25 will still be 15% lower in real terms than it was over 20 years earlier in 2002–03. There is currently no announcement on any variance to these factors for next year.

## **4. Preparation by Schools for Future Funding Pressures**

- 4.1 In the Autumn Budget Announcement on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the Chancellor announced an additional £2bn for Education (for schools core budgets ) over each of the following 2 years of 2023/24 and 2024/25. The ministerial letter to headteachers of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 stated that "In 2023-24 mainstream school funding will increase, on average, by 5.6% per pupil through core allocations and the new Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)". "The MSAG will allocate the main portion of the additional funding that was announced in the Autumn Statement and equates to an average increase of 3.4% in per pupil funding over and above your core allocations" This funding will then be rolled into the schools national funding formula in 2024-25. Special schools and alternative provision will see an increase of 3.4% in funding next year, provided from that additional £400 million – equivalent to the increase that mainstream schools will receive through the MSAG. We have introduced a new condition of grant on local authorities to make sure that special schools and alternative provision receive the 3.4% increase.
- 4.2 Some commentators have indicated that these rises will still not redress the historic real terms funding reduction to core school budgets since 2010 and that this additional funding will still only continue the path to "restore per pupil funding to 2010 levels in real terms".
- 4.3 Since the funding freeze in 2010 Camden schools have received a cumulative total increase of 10.06% to DSG in the 5 years from 2018/19 to 2022/23 with an additional 5.6% in 2023/24. With a current year CPI of 8% and a forecast 11% for 2023 it is estimated that Camden schools will have suffered by 2022/23 a real terms spending pressures from rising inflation alone of 24% (net of the total 10.06% DSG increases up to 2022/23 as above).

- 4.4 The government has agreed a Teachers 5% pay award for 2022/23 but rejected the Teachers Pay Review bodies recommendation of 3% for September 2023. Teaching unions (e.g, NASUWT) are currently in dispute with the government over a minimum 12% pay award claim for 2022/23. If funding fails to increase in real terms then Camden schools will need to continue plan for a reduction in spending power.
- 4.5 In addition, although Camden Schools were historically and comparatively well funded by per pupil measure nationally (7<sup>th</sup> by Local Authority at Primary and Secondary in 2022/23) this position via the “levelling up” of national schools funding continue to influence Camden’s share of national funding. Camden Schools, especially primary have also seen falling demand for places, reflecting wider demographic trends. As funding for schools is driven primarily by the number of pupils on roll at the school, the already significant pressure on school budgets is will be further exacerbated by the prevalence of surplus places. There are currently five schools (of which one is secondary) with a licensed deficit with Camden.
- 4.6 In order that schools are able to develop adequate financial plans to deal with these pressures on their funding, they will continue to be advised to maintain three year financial forecasts of costs and income. This information will be important in supporting the schools longer term financial planning. The authority has regularly issued detailed guidance to support this process, and annual updates on cost pressures are provided to schools each year with the most recent update being sent to schools in July and updated in December’s report.

#### **Support and ESFA Announcements since December 2022**

- 4.7 Earlier schools forum reports have outlined the main ESFA financial support to schools during the current cost of living emergency and recent Ukraine war, Afghan refugee and Covid-19 emergencies.
- 4.8 The ESFA have also set up a number of training workshops and online Benchmarking tools for schools staff on financial management.

#### **5. Reserves**

- 5.1 The table below outlines the historic and proposed use of reserves (one-off cash balances) in 2022/23 and the level of reserves available beyond that. The table shows the movement from the opening 2013/14 DSG reserve balance to the current forecast position at the end of the current year, which remains subject to future schools forum decisions. It shows the reduction in the use of DSG reserves in accordance with the objective of improving sustainability in schools budgets by reducing reliance on one-off balances. The projections are of course subject to change as decisions are made in response to changing circumstances over time. The High Needs balance includes the forecast underspend in 2022/23 less the expected drawdown of £0.06m for HN projects such as the primary exclusions early intervention project.

**Table 5: DSG Reserve and movements at February 2023**

	Schools	CSSB Central Support Services block	High needs	Early years (inc 2 year olds)	Movement in year	Final end of year balance
Opening balance	7,181,000	0	0	0	7,181,000	7,181,000
2013/14 actual movement	-1,421,059		2,204,740	3,212,713	3,996,394	11,177,394
2014/15 actual movement	-2,501,180		1,619,602	978,578	97,000	11,274,394
2015/16 actual movement	-1,660,683		371,974	-207,090	-1,495,799	9,778,595
2016/17 actual movement	-1,986,487		-51,636	-402,189	-2,440,313	7,338,282
2017/18 actual movement	108,443		-1,462,839	1,665,870	-3,020,265	4,318,017
2018/19 actual movement	780,715	738,437	-1,259,399	0	259,753	4,577,770
2019/20 actual movement	1,072,016	746,568	-1,084,099	125	734,609	5,312,379
2020/21 actual movement	1,116,391	622,653	1,686,405	-1	3,425,449	8,737,827
2021/22 actual movement	1,158,792	644,246	2,660,550	0	4,463,588	13,201,416
<b>sub total - Current balance year end</b>	<b>3,847,947</b>	<b>2,751,904</b>	<b>4,685,298</b>	<b>1,916,266</b>	<b>13,201,416</b>	
2022/23 planned movement	-250,000	0	4,125,544	-470,000	3,405,544	

- 5.2 A significant contributor to the now a significantly improved surplus on the total DSG reserve is the High Needs DSG reserve. As the HN Team have reported this has been caused by unexpected and significant increases in grant income over the past few years. As reported, the Council in consultation with key stakeholders are now planning to utilise these additional resources in a sustainable manner going forward. There is also now an improved surplus on the schools block element of the reserve which as reported in June was due to a lower than expected spend of schools block funds on reorganisation and growth following from the effects of the Covid 19 emergency lockdowns on anticipated schools reorganisation activity. Also a lower than estimated increase in direct recoupment for Academy growth from the government. Other contributors were a reduction in growth costs due to falling rolls in Camden and a reduced contribution to the Early Years block.
- 5.3 However, beyond 2022/23 due to expected pressures relating to inflation, possible future school and class reorganisations in response to falling rolls and potential future Covid 19 emergency consequences it is expected that this reserve will be called upon. As agreed in earlier school Forum, any reserve remaining in the Schools or Central Schools Services block continues to be currently available to offset any schools block deficit arising from pressures on schools budgets following future reorganisations or cost pressures.
- 5.4 Last years response by the Council and Forum to the growth of the Schools block reserve under the current economic climate was to use some of this available surplus to support schools by relieving them of the charge of £15 per pupil for schools contribution to for of ESG grant for Camden education services to schools from 2017. This application of DSG reserve will continue to support schools budgets in 2023/24 by removing the £246k that would have historically been charged to them.

## 6 De-Delegated Schools Budget

6.1 Prior to 2013 the annual DSG was top sliced in order for the authority to provide the functions outlined below centrally. Changes introduced by the government in 2013 required funding for these services that are provided centrally by the authority to be given to schools (delegated) and then charged back (via de-delegation) from their individual budgets. Schools forums have the authority on behalf of all schools to approve which services should be provided centrally by the authority. The forum has previously approved services to be delivered centrally totaling £0.949m in 2023/24 subject any changes outlined within this report, The current distribution is as follows:

- a) Behaviour support (primary schools only): £0.45m– due to the small size of primary schools, the usage of behaviour support services at individual school level varies from year to year and if funding was delegated to individual schools it is unlikely to match spending need. Funding for secondary schools is not de-delegated and remains within existing funding levels.
- b) Assessment of applications for free school meals: £0.035m – the current service offers a direct link with benefit applications and therefore offers the best opportunity to maximise take up.
- c) Reimbursement to schools for staff undertaking formal union roles is currently provided at £0.124m and those schools that suffer a loss of staff time are reimbursed which in effect shares the cost amongst schools. The current provision reflects the current cost.
- d) Contingency: £0.240m – to cover extra costs of bulge classes and changes in pupil numbers where funding regulations allow extra funding to be given as well as coverage of schools contributions for former schools improvement brokerage grant.
- e) Licences arranged at national level by the government are now confirmed at £0.133m by the ESFA.

6.2 To assist schools with budget planning the de-delegated schools budget and an analysis by school and pupil numbers have been provided. The detailed information is contained in Appendix 4 with the summary information and rate per pupil data contained in table 6 below. The lower overall rate for secondary arises because primary behaviour support is not included in secondary schools figures.

**Table 6: 2023/24 Budget De–delegated rate per pupil**

<b>Primary:</b>	<b>Rolls</b>	<b>Total Rate per pupil</b>	<b>Behaviour Support (Primary Only)</b>	<b>Assessment of FSM Applications</b>	<b>Union Duties</b>	<b>Contingency Bulge Class Pupils / Falling Rolls</b>	<b>Licences</b>
Total Primary:	9,166	£82.10	£49.09	£2.17	£7.68	£14.87	£8.29
Total Secondary:	6,973	£33.01	£0.00	£2.17	£7.68	£14.87	£8.29
Total Charge per heading	16,139	£982,714	£450,000	£35,000	£124,000	£240,000	£133,714

6.3 The ESFA has indicated on de delegated budgets that following the introduction of the “hard” NFF (now postponed from 2023/24) that Councils will no longer delegate the aggregated NFF to schools via the Councils local formula and that individual schools would be free to choose which former de-delegated services they buy” from their NFF budgets.

6.4 The Behaviour Support service is the largest single service under the current LB Camden de-delegated services. The future satellite model was outlined in February 2019 forum

report and progress and ongoing future plans for this model and the service are expected to be reported to forum under separate cover by the SEN Team.

## **7. Energy Costs**

7.1 In December the energy Management team wrote to schools individually regarding KCC Laser 2022-23 Gas and ELEC flexible contract prices for schools. Although the letters were written to individual schools to reflect their own individual circumstances the advice given to schools regarding Oct 2022 – Sep 2023 Schools gas and electricity prices against Oct 21 – Sep 22 prices was as follows

### **Electricity**

- For electricity supplies that have been on Camden's main Flex contract since 2009 (billed by LASER), electricity prices are showing an average increase of **78%**.
- For electricity supplies that were moved from Camden's Fixed Term Fixed Price (FTFP) contract (billed by SSE) to Camden's main Flex contract in Oct 2022, electricity prices have seen a smaller average increase of **57%**.
- Ofgem's Targeted Charging Review (TCR) is moving some electricity costs from a consumption basis to a fixed basis, which has seen some significant increases in electricity standing charges.
- All School's electricity monthly prices for Oct 22 – Mar 23 are below the EBRS wholesale price cap, so no EBRS discounts will apply to billing for this period.
- The last 6 months have continued to see unprecedented price movement and volatility, with wholesale electricity prices rallying to 84.5 pence/kWh in August 2022, which is approximately 1,500% higher than long run average market prices

### **Gas**

- Gas prices are showing an average increase of **211%** (including estimated Energy Bill Relief Scheme discount).

7.2 Further advice will be sent to schools as it becomes available to the Energy Management team.

## **8 Schools Funding Timetable**

8.1 In order to keep schools informed of key school funding dates a summary of the key steps towards the finalisation of the 2023/24 schools high needs and early years funding position is outlined in Appendix 3.

## **9. Environmental Implications**

9.1 There are no environmental implications.

## **10. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

10.1 The report outlines the proposed allocation of DSG budget allocations for 2023/24 based on the ESFA notification and guidance of 16 December 2022 and invites forum for comments.

10.2 The distribution of the DSG funding is made within the available ESFA funding for 2023/24 and in accord with ESFA guidance requirements and earlier Forum approval of the local budget formula.

- 10.3 Forum will need to take note of the level of funding in context of the expected spending pressures for 2023/24 and increasing levels of DSG reserves and start to consider the appropriate actions to manage this level of DSG reserves.
- 10.4 Subject to the above comments, so far as the ESFA regulations have been met and the approved allocation is within the available funding levels here are no additional finance comments.

## **11. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

- 11.1 The report has set out how it has arranged the 2023/24 schools funding allocations in accordance with the ESFA Guidance and requirements for 2023/24 and in accord with earlier forum agreement on the local funding formula mechanism that was used.
- 11.2 The basic structure of the national funding formula (NFF) has not changed for 2022-23. Local Authorities must make sure all schools receive at least the minimum per-pupil funding levels. The schools block is ring-fenced so the vast majority of the block is passed directly to schools. Schools Forum have limited flexibility over the structure of the formula and decisions on transferring. Money between the mainstream schools budget and the high needs budget.

**REPORT ENDS**

## Appendix 1 - Camden's School Funding Formula 2023/24

<b>Primary and Secondary schools only, reception to year 11.</b>	<b>£'m</b>
Primary and Secondary schools only, reception to year 11.	£'m
<b>Pupil lead factors</b>	
(1) Base entitlement - number of pupils x fixed amount.	89.63
Primary £4,233, secondary KS3 £5,879 secondary KS4 £6,444	
(2) Deprivation – number of pupils FSM and IDACI x fixed amount.	
FSM = primary £69 secondary £69	
FSM6 = primary £1,031 secondary £1267	
IDACI 1 Band F = primary £267, secondary £378	
IDACI 2 Band E = primary £329, secondary £498	16.43
IDACI 3 Band D = primary £463, secondary £624	
IDACI 4 Band C = primary £552, secondary £730	
IDACI 5 Band B = primary £604, secondary £804	
IDACI 6 Band A = primary £857, secondary £1,206	
Special needs – number eligible pupils x fixed amount	
Eligibility measured by Prior Attainment using EYFSP in primary x £923 and key stage 2 at secondary, failure to achieve level 4 in maths or English x £1,319	4.56
(3) Looked after children – number eligible pupils x £0	0.00
(4) English as additional language – number eligible pupils x £615 primary, £1,506 secondary. Payable for first three years.	2.51
5) Mobility - Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates = Eligible proportion of NOR x £136 Primary and £198 - Secondary	0.05
<b>Non pupil led factors</b>	
(10) Split site (relevant schools only) – primary £113, secondary £412	0.56
(11) Rates –full cost of rates less charitable relief where applicable.	3.43
(12) PFI (relevant schools only) - additional cost of premises and related services compared to non PFI school.	0.21
(7) Lump sum per school – £150,000 primary, £175,000 secondary.	7.60
Total funding allocated before transition	124.98
(15) Transition – funding reductions from changes to the local formula are capped at 0.5% per pupil per annum. No protection for reduction in pupil numbers or changes in funding for other separate funding streams (high needs, 6th form, nursery).	0.95
<b>Total funding allocated</b>	<b>125.93</b>
Pupil count – determined by October pupil census in year prior to financial year rather than January. Schools will receive extra funding if the in-year September intake creates an overall increase in pupil numbers above 5% agreed percentage.	
Secondary/Primary ratio – funding levels set so that average funding per secondary pupil is approximately 30% higher than primary.	

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## Appendix 2 - Funding Formula Allocations 2023/24 – Primary and Secondary Schools (provisional)

Estimated funding per school for 2023/24 using up to 2% per pupil increase in the January 2023 APT where possible to maximise distribution (subject to ESFA maximum and minimum band constraints) applied to October 2022 pupil numbers, Assuming nil funding from the schools block of the DSG reserve Figures are subject to any further ESFA amendment.(which would be advised)- Note that this excludes the announced £4.5m 2023/24 MSAG Grant which is expected to give an additional 3.6% to the final per pupil funding for 2023/24.

School	2023-2024 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Supplementary Grant	2022-2023 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Adjusted for Supplementary Grant	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
Argyle	2,049,339	2,033,730	15,609	0.77
West Hampstead (Beckford)	2,255,740	2,283,402	(27,662)	-1.21
Brecknock	1,930,692	1,930,478	214	0.01
Brookfield	1,997,663	2,088,527	(90,864)	-4.35
Carlton	-	-		
Edith Neville	1,234,687	1,346,734	(112,047)	-8.32
Fleet	1,299,040	1,285,889	13,151	1.02
Hawley	1,361,722	1,341,154	20,568	1.53
Netley	2,365,173	2,313,081	52,092	2.25
New End	1,793,956	1,778,363	15,593	0.88
Primrose Hill	2,365,763	2,352,780	12,983	0.55
Rhyl	2,677,925	3,076,122	(398,197)	-12.94
Richard Cobden	2,448,971	2,393,537	55,434	2.32
Torriano	2,495,227	2,519,162	(23,935)	-0.95
Gospel Oak	2,446,473	2,445,650	823	0.03
Fitzjohns	1,194,705	1,179,851	14,854	1.26
Eleanor Palmer	1,232,174	1,231,821	353	0.03
Christopher Hatton	1,336,936	1,289,441	47,495	3.68
Kingsgate	3,904,499	4,017,052	(112,553)	-2.80
Christ Church NW3	1,047,180	1,029,433	17,747	1.72
Christ Church NW1	1,241,246	1,232,382	8,864	0.72
Emmanuel	1,156,308	1,116,461	39,847	3.57
Hampstead Parochial	1,118,001	1,110,549	7,452	0.67
Holy Trinity NW3	1,107,255	1,118,703	(11,448)	-1.02
Holy Trinity & St. Silas	1,298,505	1,297,100	1,405	0.11
Kentish Town	1,295,259	1,300,519	(5,260)	-0.40
Rosary	1,591,332	1,595,634	(4,302)	-0.27
St Alban's	1,060,003	1,046,992	13,011	1.24
St Aloysius	-	-		
St Dominic's	904,110	1,020,192	(116,082)	-11.38

School	2023-2024 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Supplementary Grant	2022-2023 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Adjusted for Supplementary Grant	Increase/ (Decrease)	%
St George the Martyr	1,232,350	1,237,681	(5,331)	-0.43
St Joseph's	1,122,364	1,072,731	49,633	4.63
St Mary's Kilburn	1,298,020	1,276,752	21,268	1.67
St Mary Pancras	1,252,969	1,298,197	(45,228)	-3.48
St Michael's	-	842,117	(842,117)	-100.00
St Patrick's	1,004,282	1,139,483	(135,201)	-11.87
St Paul's	1,113,631	1,137,100	(23,469)	-2.06
St Eugene de Mazenod	1,251,865	1,243,557	8,308	0.67
Our Lady's	1,961,335	1,397,421	563,914	40.35
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>58,446,700</b>	<b>59,419,778</b>	<b>(973,078)</b>	<b>-1.64</b>
Haverstock	6,726,162	6,146,935	579,227	9.42
Parliament Hill	7,029,671	6,899,567	130,104	1.89
Regent High School	7,992,584	7,744,906	247,678	3.20
Hampstead	8,409,520	8,252,751	156,769	1.90
Acland Burghley	7,209,290	7,152,432	56,858	0.79
Camden School for Girls	4,426,701	4,398,474	28,227	0.64
Maria Fidelis	5,799,900	5,660,137	139,763	2.47
William Ellis	4,801,364	4,830,659	(29,295)	-0.61
La Sainte Union Convent	4,921,374	5,530,794	(609,420)	-11.02
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>57,316,566</b>	<b>56,616,655</b>	<b>699,911</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Total Camden Maintained	115,763,266	116,036,433	(273,167)	-0.24
St Luke's Cof E School	643,804	646,216	(2,412)	-0.37
Abacus Belsize	919,725	911,167	8,558	0.94
Kings Cross Academy	2,217,801	2,240,490	(22,689)	-1.01
The UCL Academy	7,222,156	6,979,295	242,861	3.48
<b>Total Academy &amp; Free</b>	<b>11,003,486</b>	<b>10,777,168</b>	<b>226,318</b>	<b>2.10</b>
<b>Total All Camden Schools</b>	<b>126,766,752</b>	<b>126,813,601</b>	<b>(46,849)</b>	<b>-0.04</b>

**Appendix 3 - Timetable - ESFA DSG: technical note 2023 to 2024  
Published 16 December 2022 (extract)**

Date	Action
16 December 2022	ESFA announce 2023 to 2024: schools block, early years block, high needs block and details of the charges for national copyright licenses issued to local authorities
20 January 2023	Local authorities submit final APT for 2023 to 2024.
End February 2023	ESFA issues details of high needs places in AP free schools.
March/April 2023	Update DSG allocations for recoupment and high needs deductions for academies as at 1 March 2023. ESFA issues detailed recoupment guidance.
April 2023	Deductions made for national copyright licenses from first DSG payment for 2023 to 2024.
June 2023	Update import and export adjustment for cross border high need places in high needs national funding formula using January 2022 census and R06 ILR 2022 to 2023 data.
July 2023	Update for in-year recoupment and high needs deductions. Early years block update.
November 2023	Update for in-year recoupment and high needs deductions.
March 2024	Final update for in-year recoupment and high needs deductions
July 2024	Early years block update

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## Appendix 4 - De-delegation 2023-24 -Totals per school and Per-Pupil Rates

Primary:	Rolls	Total £	Behaviour Support (Primary Only) £	Assessment of FSM Applications £	Union Duties £	Contingency Bulge Class Pupils / Falling Rolls £	Licences £
<b>Totals</b>		<b>982,714</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>133,714</b>
Argyle	316.0	25,944	15,514	685	2,428	4,699	2,618
Beckford	362.0	29,721	17,772	785	2,781	5,383	2,999
Brecknock	283.0	23,235	13,894	614	2,174	4,208	2,345
Brookfield	340.0	27,915	16,692	737	2,612	5,056	2,817
Edith Neville	179.0	14,696	8,788	388	1,375	2,662	1,483
Fleet	202.0	16,585	9,917	438	1,552	3,004	1,674
Hawley	198.0	16,256	9,721	429	1,521	2,944	1,640
Netley	353.0	28,982	17,330	766	2,712	5,249	2,925
New End	305.0	25,041	14,974	661	2,343	4,536	2,527
Primrose Hill	392.0	32,184	19,245	850	3,012	5,829	3,248
Rhyl	354.0	29,064	17,379	768	2,720	5,264	2,933
Richard Cobden	370.0	30,378	18,165	802	2,843	5,502	3,066
Torriano	409.0	33,580	20,080	887	3,142	6,082	3,389
Gospel Oak	405.0	33,251	19,883	878	3,112	6,023	3,355
Fitzjohns	208.0	17,077	10,212	451	1,598	3,093	1,723
Eleanor Palmer	210.0	17,241	10,310	455	1,613	3,123	1,740
Christopher Hatton	208.0	17,077	10,212	451	1,598	3,093	1,723
Kingsgate	590.0	48,440	28,966	1,280	4,533	8,774	4,888
Christ Church NW3	190.0	15,599	9,328	412	1,460	2,825	1,574
Christ Church NW1	191.0	15,682	9,377	414	1,468	2,840	1,582
Emmanuel	205.0	16,831	10,064	445	1,575	3,049	1,698
Hampstead Parochial	203.0	16,667	9,966	440	1,560	3,019	1,682
Holy Trinity NW3	170.0	13,957	8,346	369	1,306	2,528	1,408
Holy Trinity & St. Silas	208.0	17,077	10,212	451	1,598	3,093	1,723
Kentish Town	208.0	17,077	10,212	451	1,598	3,093	1,723

<b>Primary:</b>		<b>Total £</b>	<b>Behaviour Support (Primary Only) £</b>	<b>Assessment of FSM Applications £</b>	<b>Union Duties £</b>	<b>Contingency Bulge Class Pupils / Falling Rolls £</b>	<b>Licences £</b>
	<b>Rolls</b>						
Rosary	265.0	21,757	13,010	575	2,036	3,941	2,196
St Alban's	158.0	12,972	7,757	343	1,214	2,350	1,309
St Dominic's	121.0	9,934	5,940	262	930	1,799	1,003
St George the Martyr	201.0	16,503	9,868	436	1,544	2,989	1,665
St Joseph's	175.0	14,368	8,592	380	1,345	2,602	1,450
St Mary's Kilburn	199.0	16,338	9,770	432	1,529	2,959	1,649
St Mary Pancras	192.0	15,764	9,426	416	1,475	2,855	1,591
St Patrick's	142.0	11,659	6,971	308	1,091	2,112	1,176
St Paul's	180.0	14,778	8,837	390	1,383	2,677	1,491
St Eugene de Mazenod	198.0	16,256	9,721	429	1,521	2,944	1,640
Our Lady's	276.0	22,660	13,550	599	2,121	4,104	2,287
<b>Total Primary:</b>	<b>9,166.0</b>	<b>752,550</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>19,878</b>	<b>70,425</b>	<b>136,306</b>	<b>75,942</b>
<b>Secondary:</b>							
Haverstock	726.0	23,964	-	1,574	5,578	10,796	6,015
Parliament Hill	896.0	29,575	-	1,943	6,884	13,324	7,423
Regent High School	893.0	29,476	-	1,937	6,861	13,280	7,399
Hampstead	1,041.0	34,361	-	2,258	7,998	15,481	8,625
Acland Burghley	921.0	30,400	-	1,997	7,076	13,696	7,631
Camden School for Girls	598.0	19,739	-	1,297	4,595	8,893	4,955
Maria Fidelis	701.0	23,139	-	1,520	5,386	10,424	5,808
William Ellis	616.0	20,333	-	1,336	4,733	9,160	5,104
La Sainte Union Convent	581.0	19,178	-	1,260	4,464	8,640	4,814
<b>Total Secondary:</b>	<b>6,973.0</b>	<b>230,164</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,122</b>	<b>53,575</b>	<b>103,694</b>	<b>57,772</b>
Per pupil Rates			-	2.169	7.683	14.871	8.285
<b>Total Charge to Schools</b>	<b>16,139.0</b>	<b>982,714</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>133,714</b>

## Appendix 5 - Early Years Rates for 2022/23 as at Jan 2022-

	Pass-through rate <u>without disapplication(s)</u>	Pass-through rate if applying under <u>criteria C</u> - To meet early years statutory duties
Description	Amount	Amount
Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for 3-4 year olds	£12,705,428	£10,516,825
Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for 3-4 year olds		
Anticipated budget for supplements for 3-4 year olds: Deprivation	£1,148,490	£1,148,490
Anticipated budget for supplements for 3-4 year olds: Quality		
Anticipated budget for supplements for 3-4 year olds: Flexibility		
Anticipated budget for supplements for 3-4 year olds: Rurality		
Anticipated budget for supplements for 3-4 year olds: EAL		
Anticipated budget for 3-4 year old SEN inclusion fund (top-up grant element only)	£647,000	£647,000
Anticipated budget for 3-4 year old contingency		
Subtotal =	£14,500,918	£12,312,315
DfE allocation to LA for MNS supplementary funding if applicable (initial allocation published in Dec 2019)		
Planned total base rate hours for core 15 and additional 15 hours for 3-4 year olds	1,572,454	1,572,454
Equivalent average rate to providers for 3-4 year old entitlement hours	£8.08	£7.83
LA's EYNFF hourly rate for 3-4 year olds (published in DSG table in Dec 2019)	£8.51	£8.51
Funding pass-thought rate	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>92.0%</b>

**Current EY funding rates** paid to providers - plus the deprivation of £1.26 an hour which works out at an overall rate, with disapplication, of £7.83 for 3/4year olds

Funding Rates 21/22				
Funding Scheme	PVI	School Nursery	Maintained Nursery	Childminder
Statutory universal 15 hours	£6.57	£6.57	£6.57	£6.57
Additional Government 15 hours	£6.57	£6.57	£6.57	£6.57
Camden Enhanced offer - CEO	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25	£5.25
2 Year Old Scheme	£8.10	£8.10	£8.10	£8.10

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## Appendix 6 - Extract From ESFA

### 26. How are the Indices of Deprivation 2019 different to the Indices of Deprivation 2015?

The IoD2019 has been produced using the same approach, structure and methodology used to create the previous Indices of Deprivation 2015 (and the 2010, 2007 and 2004 versions).

The Indices of Deprivation are typically updated every 3 to 4 years, but the dates of publication for future Indices have not yet been scheduled.

A number of changes and modifications to some indicators have been implemented since the Indices of Deprivation 2015. Briefly, these include:

- The inclusion of adults and children in Universal Credit families where no adult is in 'Working -no requirements' conditionality regime as part of the Income Deprivation domain
- The inclusion of claimants of Universal Credit in the 'Searching for work' and 'No work requirements' conditionality groups as part of the Employment Deprivation domain
  - Changes to data and definitions of the Key Stage 2 attainment indicator, which forms part of the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation domain
- Data on claimants of Universal Credit (in the 'No work requirements' or the 'Preparing for work' conditionality categories) and Personal Independence Payments have been incorporated into the comparative illness and disability ratio indicator, which forms part of the Health Deprivation and Disability domain
- The health benefits component of the mood and anxiety disorders indicator, which feeds into the Health Deprivation and Disability domain, has been dropped
- Changes to data and definitions around the Crime Domain indicators
- Modifications to the housing affordability and homelessness indicators, which feed in to the Barriers to Housing and Services domain.

You can see a full description of changes since the Indices of Deprivation 2015 in Appendix C of the Technical Report, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-technical-report>

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## Appendix 7 - ESFA Schools and High Needs Funding PLUS MSAG Mainstream Additional Grant 2023

2023 to 2024 schools and high needs funding	Mainstream school funding								
	2023-24 Schools DSG block (£m)	2023-24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant: indicative allocations (£m)	2023-24 Schools DSG block and Mainstream Schools Additional Grant funding together: indicative allocations (£m)	2022-23 Schools DSG block (£m)	2022-23 School supplementary grant (£m)	2022-23 Schools DSG block and supplementary grant funding together (£m)	Increase in schools funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (£m) - see information sheet for calculation details	Increase in schools funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (%) - see information sheet for calculation details	Increase in schools funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (%), per pupil) - see information sheet for calculation details
	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]	[F]	[G]	[H]	[I]
			= [A] + [B]			= [D] + [E]	= [C] - [F]	= [G] / [F]	
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>£129m</b>	<b>£5m</b>	<b>£133m</b>	<b>£40,539m</b>	<b>£1,168m</b>	<b>£41,707m</b>	<b>-£41,574m</b>	<b>-99.7%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
202 <b>Camden</b>	£129m	<b>£5m</b>	£133m	£124m	£4m	£128m	£5m	4.0%	5.4%

High needs DSG funding				
2023-24 High needs DSG block (£m)	2023-24 High needs additional DSG funding (£m)	2023-24 Total high needs DSG funding (£m)	Total 2022-23 high needs DSG block, including the 2022-23 additional funding (£m) - see information sheet for calculation details	Increase in high needs DSG funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (£m) - see information sheet for calculation details
[J]	[K]	[L]	[M]	[N]
		= [J] + [K]		= [L] - [M]
£53m	£2m	£55m	£8,988m	-£8,932m
£53m	£2m	£55m	£50m	£5m

Schools and high needs DSG funding combined			
Total schools and high needs DSG funding combined 2023-24 (£m)	Total schools and high needs DSG funding combined 2022-23 (£m) - see information sheet for calculation details	Total increase in schools and high needs DSG funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (£m) - see information sheet for calculation details	Total increase in schools and high needs DSG funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (%) - see information sheet for calculation details
[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]
= [C] + [L]	= [F] + [M]	= [O] - [P]	= [Q] / [P]
£188m	£50,695m	£50,507m	-99.6%
£188m	£178m	£10m	5.6%

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: All</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> School Meals Caterlink Contract	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Gavin Haynes, Director of Property Management	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 7 February 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>Camden Council alongside Islington Council entered a contract with Caterlink to provide a school meals service with contracted schools. The contract ends on 31 March 2023 and includes an option to extend for two further years.</p> <p>This paper sets out the Council's current position with regard to the future of the contract and the range of options available to the Council.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Shola Matiluko, Contracts Performance Manager <a href="mailto:shola.matiluko@camden.gov.uk">shola.matiluko@camden.gov.uk</a> / 020 7974 4518</p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Schools' Forum is asked to note the current position of the renegotiation of the school meals contract and the changes to price that may occur.</p>	

Signed: 

Gavin Haynes, Director of Property Management

Date: 01 February 2023

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 The current contract procured jointly with London Borough of Islington ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, however, it includes an option to extend for up to a further two years. The Council is currently considering its approach to the procurement of this contract.
- 1.2 This paper sets out the commercial considerations and approach for the Council, as considered in part two of this item.

## **2. Legal Implications**

- 2.1 The contract provides for the proposed extension, and thus its award will comply with the PCR 2015 and CSOs. CSOs require that the Executive Director makes the Decision to award the extension.

## **3. Environmental Impacts**

- 3.1 None

## **4. Financial Comments**

- 4.1 The full cost of the service is financed by schools through a combination of charges to parents for paid meals and funding of free meals from their delegated budget. Schools are charged as per the invoiced number of meals by the contractor.
- 4.2 Schools have autonomy on the use of their budgets with the Council having a duty to assist them in securing value for money for their contracted services. As a result, the Council through its procurement processes allows schools to have access to contracts at competitively tendered price and quality.
- 4.3 Schools can be varied into or out of the contract by giving a reasonable notice.
- 4.4 The key financial risk in the contract relates to price increases during the contract. This is mitigated by the requirement that a joint review of prices takes place each year, allowing the service to manage any price changes within available budgets and / or with reference to retail price index for food and catering. Any increase in contractor costs will also be subject to market benchmarking of prices. Schools can opt out of the contract with no financial penalty.

## **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – School Meals Caterlink Contract Part II Report

**REPORT ENDS**

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> High Needs Block (HNB): Update on financial position and proposals for 2023/24	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Eve Stickler, Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, Supporting People	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 7 February 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report provides a briefing on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an update projection on the HNB outturn for 2022/23</li> <li>• the proposals for the HNB and high needs funding for schools for 2023/24.</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Local authority guidance on high needs sustainability</a> - June 2022</li> <li>• <a href="#">National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2023 to 2024</a> - published 19 July 2022</li> <li>• <a href="#">Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2023 to 2024</a> schools and high needs additional allocations - published 16 December 2022</li> <li>• <a href="#">High needs funding: 2023 to 2024 operational guide</a> - updated 17 January 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b></p> <p>Sharon Scott            Interim Head of Special Education and Inclusive Intervention Service. 020 7974 6836 / <a href="mailto:sharon.scott@camden.gov.uk">sharon.scott@camden.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Paul Tanton            Special Educational Needs Finance and Commissioning Manager. 020 7974 8007 / <a href="mailto:paul.tanton@camden.gov.uk">paul.tanton@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Schools' Forum is asked to note the updated HNB position and additional funding proposals.</p>	



Signed:

Eve Stickler, Director of Early Intervention and Prevention

Date:            01 February 2023

## **1. HNB Funding Position**

- 1.1. The context and background has been set out in reports to previous meetings of the Schools Forum. The national position has been one of pressure on funding from the High Needs Block (HNB) that has seen some Local Authorities in significant deficit positions. From 2020/21 the Government has put substantial additional funding into HNB and Camden returned to an in year surplus and has rebuilt reserves. This placed Camden in the fortunate position of being one of a small number of Local Authorities that are no longer in deficit position.
- 1.2. In July 2022 the DfE published an initial indication of the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) figures. The minimum increase in HNB baseline was reduced from 8% to 5%. Even so, this represented an increase of around £3m on the then published HNB estimate for 2022/23. There has, however, now been additional funding announced for 2023/24 reflecting economic conditions. The official position is that future increases will be more modest as the additional funding and the programmes mentioned above resolve deficits across the country. However, recent guidance for local authorities states *“In 2019, NAO concluded “The main reason why local authorities have overspent their high needs budgets is that more pupils are attending special schools.”* The prudent position, however, is to assume that HNB allocations will not continue to rise at the rate they have been in recent years.

## **2. 2022/23 Monitoring**

- 2.1 The finalisation of adjustments to Camden’s 2022/23 HNB allocation now see this stand at £47,683,948 an increase of almost £350,000 on the figure reported to Schools Forum in November 2022. This adjustment relates to the “import/export adjustment” which is derived from school and college census returns and amended through local authority representations. As shown in table 1 below this revised allocation represents an increase of almost £6m on the £41.7m received for 2021/22.

<b>Table 1: High Needs Block Outturn from 2020/21 with 2023/24 budget:</b>				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 projection	2023/24 budget
Camden Early Years (incl PVIs)	229,139	248,756	647,000	716,800
Camden mainstream	7,652,592	7,961,996	9,501,000	10,966,130
Camden additionally resourced provision	1,540,495	1,631,166	1,945,000	2,260,500
Camden special	9,270,303	9,883,194	10,302,993	11,033,890
<b>total Camden SEN</b>	<b>18,692,529</b>	<b>19,725,112</b>	<b>22,395,993</b>	<b>24,977,320</b>
Camden PRU	2,961,165	3,059,136	3,377,687	3,550,840
Camden hospital schools	2,850,852	3,339,621	3,731,216	4,027,520
other LA maintained (mainstream & special)	2,542,350	2,768,445	3,100,000	3,360,400
independent & non-maintained special schools	2,889,003	3,491,264	3,540,000	3,866,800
independent mainstream schools	214,838	315,523	282,000	305,690
<b>total non Camden schools</b>	<b>5,646,190</b>	<b>6,575,232</b>	<b>6,922,000</b>	<b>7,532,890</b>
Further Education	2,837,520	3,167,165	3,196,000	3,655,520
other support (therapy/individual tuition/equipment)	655,351	789,788	943,709	1,075,000
Transformation support to Camden schools		176,255	360,352	385,000
outreach services	275,963	275,963	475,963	536,000
central services	1,625,545	1,697,237	1,689,510	1,814,000
<b>Total HNB spend</b>	<b>35,545,115</b>	<b>38,805,510</b>	<b>43,092,430</b>	<b>47,554,090</b>
High Needs Block funding received	-37,543,927	-41,721,841	-47,683,948	-52,568,000
DSG Reserve (- addition/+ withdrawal)	-1,998,812	-2,916,331	-4,591,518	-5,013,910

1.5 Projected HNB spend for 2022/23 has also increased since that presented to the Schools Forum in November 2022 from £42,610,071 to £43,092,430. This reflects updated monitoring. It includes a provision for increased funding for outreach services provided by Robson House (see below).

### 3. 2023/24 HNB Funding

3.1 As detailed in the report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation elsewhere on this agenda, following the Chancellor's Autumn statement additional funding for 2023/24 was announced in December 2022 that "recognises the additional costs that local authorities and schools will face in the coming year, which were not foreseen when the original high needs block allocations were calculated." The additional allocation for Camden's HNB is £2,058,092 and brings Camden's updated estimate HNB receivable for 2023/24 to £52,568,485. This figure is an estimate as there are some factors of the HNB that are based on pupil counts that are yet to be calculated and for the import/export adjustment referred to above for 2022/23.

3.2 The guidance on the additional £2m also states: “*These allocations are on top of the DSG high needs block allocations calculated under the national funding formula, but are subject to the same DSG conditions of grant and an additional condition of grant.*” The additional condition of grant is that authorities “*Local Authorities must allocate 3.4% per place*” for:

- maintained special schools, special academies and free schools,
- pupil referral units (PRUs), Alternative Provision (AP) academies and free schools, and;
- maintained and academy hospital schools.

3.3 Whilst no mention is made of HNB funding to mainstream schools and additionally resourced provision in mainstream schools, in the interest of equity, Camden will ensure similar increases are applied across all schools.

#### **4. Proposals for increased spend 2023/24**

4.1 Camden’s priorities have been restated in the Camden Local Area SEND Strategy for 2022- 2027 that was published recently. Our priorities remain firmly rooted in early prevention, getting the right support at the right time and in strengthening the mainstream offer in line with our commitment to inclusive local education for all children and young people with SEND to improve their outcomes and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA). This focus on vulnerable groups is also a clear driver within Camden’s Education Strategy.

To this end we are proposing:

##### **i) Increase funding for Camden Special Schools and PRUs £904k**

As above, the guidance stipulates that the additional funding must be used to increase total funding including the place element, by 3.4%. The place funding therefore increases nationally from £10,000 to £10,340 from April 2023.

The model specified by DfE for hospital schools (see below) was in the July 2022 announcement a 5% increase in funding to which the additional allocation added a further 3.4%. Adopting this model of an 8.4% increase to Camden’s special schools and PRUs would increase Camden HNB expenditure by an estimated £900k but schools with placements from other boroughs would benefit further from increased top-up rates.

This proposal would increase the top-up rate by an average 7.45% (for instance Swiss Cottage from £24,400 to £26,950). With the increase in the place funding from £10,000 to £10,340 the total increase is the 8.4%. The rates for each school/PRU are shown in table 3.

	top-up rate 22/23	place funding 22/23	Total funding per filled place	places	Pupils (Oct22)			Proposed Top-up rate 2023/24	place funding 23/24	Total funding per filled place	increase in top-up		increase in total funding
					Camden	other	total				net	gross	
<b>special schools</b>													
Swiss Cottage	£24,400	£10,000	£34,400	260	231	30	261	£26,950	£10,340	£37,290	10.45%	6.36%	8.40%
Frank Barnes	£24,420	£10,000	£34,420	35	2	35	37	£26,971	£10,340	£37,311	10.45%	7.41%	8.40%
CCfL special	£29,000	£10,000	£39,000	35	31	5	36	£31,936	£10,340	£42,276	10.12%	7.53%	8.40%
<b>PRUs</b> top-up paid as an annual sum rather than following pupils													
Robson House (PLSS)	£35,715	£10,000	£45,715	20	16		16	£39,215	£10,340	£49,555	9.80%	7.66%	8.40%
CCfL PRU	£23,814	£10,000	£33,814	65	18		18	£26,314	£10,340	£36,654	10.50%	7.39%	8.40%

One point to note is that practice in Camden has been that PRU funding is paid as a lump sum regardless of number of pupils on roll. As shown in table 2 the position in CCfL is now over place numbers in its special school but under within the PRU. It has been agreed to address this with an adjustment in the split of place numbers from 35 special and 65 PRU to 40 and 60 respectively. This would reduce the PRU lump sum paid to the school but increase funding overall from the higher special school top-up rate as long as places are filled. It is also prudent to show we are taking action to address the number of empty PRU places and the pressure on special school places. A further change that has been agreed for CCfL is the move from mixed PRU and special school provision across the 2 sites split between KS3 and KS4 to Agincourt becoming the PRU and Harmond site the special school.

Schools Forum should note the guidance also clarifies that “*These additional funding allocations do not count towards the requirement for local authorities to pay extra high needs funding equivalent to the historic teachers’ pay grant and teachers’ pension employer contribution grant.*” These amounts which are currently paid separately to the 3 special schools, the 2 PRUs and the 2 hospital schools will therefore continue.

## ii) Increase funding for Hospital schools £296k

This report is showing hospital schools separately from special schools and PRUs as although the additional 3.4% increase applies equally the basic funding is directly determined by the DfE and both schools had already received a 5% increase in the original July 2022 allocations.

The hospital schools will receive an overall increase in funding of 8.4% alongside the frozen historic teachers’ pay grant and teachers’ pension employer contribution grant. The figures are as follows:

	2022/23			2023/24		
	budget	tpp grant	Total	budget	tpp grant	Total
Children's Hospital School at Gt Ormond Street & UCH	£2,881,108	£168,795	£3,049,903	£3,123,121	£168,795	£3,291,916
Royal Free Hospital Children's School	£646,379	£34,934	£681,313	£700,675	£34,934	£735,609
	£3,527,487	£203,729	£3,731,216	£3,823,796	£203,729	£4,027,525

**iii) Increased funding to Early Years by a further £70k.**

Additional funding has been put into supporting SEN in early years in 2022/23 both through an increased HNB contribution to the Camden Local Inclusion Fund (CLIF) and additional advisory support to early years settings. These ensure better transitions to primary school with a focus on keeping pupils in mainstream schools.

Early Years have seen a significant increase in numbers of children requiring CLIF since lockdown, despite falling numbers of children overall. This is being monitored closely.

In the summer of 2022 over 40 children in receipt of CLIF were allocated an Exceptional Needs Grant (ENG) from the start of their reception year to ensure a smooth transition. These children would otherwise have had EHC plans and it is therefore recognised that the HNB contribution to CLIF should be increased. In allocating ENG we can monitor whether with support these children settle into primary school to a point that high needs funding is no longer required or whether longer term support is necessary.

**iv) Increase funding to Camden Mainstream schools by £1.5m**

Radical changes were made in 2022/23 with the increase in the devolved funding that is allocated to mainstream schools, the introduction of proportionality payments, the harmonisation of the band rates across all mainstream pupils and the increase of band funding. Alongside this clusters have been piloted as an evolution of the ENG system.

As the DfE guidance for the additional HNB funding, costs have risen faster than was foreseen. The pay award to NJC staff for 2022/23 was a flat rate of £2355 which represented an increase of around 9.8% for Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) paid on Scale 3 contracts.

The proposed increase in band funding is shown in table 4 below.

Note: Band funding is predominantly expressed against how many hours LSA it will fund (ie 1 = 25 & 2 = 32.5). Bands however should be for a combined package of interventions not necessarily 1:1 LSA – but small groups and teacher support as well. In percentage terms it is the LSAs pay that has gone up significantly.

**Table 4 Mainstream bands for 2023/24:**

Current Band 1	Proposed Band 1	Increase of	Total new SEND funding per pupil	Current Band 2	Proposed Band 2	Increase of	Total new SEND funding per pupil
£8,400	£10,220	<b>£1,820</b>	£21,220	£14,220	£16,590	<b>£2,370</b>	£27,590

On current numbers at bands 1 and 2 across both EHC plans and ENG, this would cost the HNB an additional £1,210,950 per annum.

**v) Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) in mainstream schools £315k**

These proposals are designed so that ARP top up rates match the average increase for special schools and address the rising costs. The proposed increase is set out in table 6 below. Two alternate rates are shown for autism ARPs where the enhanced rate introduced in 2022/23 that built in resourcing for some additional support staffing rather than requesting individual 1:1s, has only been signed up to by the secondary school.

**Table 5: Proposed ARP top-up rates for 2023/24**

		top-up rate 22/23	Proposed Top-up rate 2023/24	percentage increase		
				net	gross	
Primary Autism	with enhanced 1:1 support	£17,515	£19,270	10.02%	7.46%	Kentish Town, Netley, Primrose Hill
Primary Autism	core SLA	£15,045	£16,615	10.44%	7.46%	Kentish Town, Netley, Primrose Hill
Secondary Autism	with enhanced 1:1 support	£20,100	£22,045	9.68%	7.45%	Acland Burghley
Physical Disability		£12,000	£13,340	11.17%	7.44%	Kentish Town, Regent High
Language		£6,800	£7,755	14.04%	7.46%	Torriano

This budget also allows for the planned opening of a second secondary autism ARP at Haverstock Schools from September 2023.

**vi) Increased funding for external provision £1.2m**

This section refers to out borough, independent and college placements as well as individual tuition and therapy budgets. The additional condition of grant for a 3.4% increase in special school funding rates will apply to all other local authorities but wider than that, all settings will be responding to the wider economic situation of inflation and pay awards. This will impact on HNB budgets as requests for fee increases are received. Each of these will be considered on their own merits but at this stage budgets have been uplifted by 8.4% as a provision.

Negotiations with the NCL Integrated Care Board on the contribution to speech therapy are ongoing and at this stage only an inflationary increase has been included.

**vii) increase outreach services to support all schools £400k**

The HNB funding available represents an opportunity to enhance provision across Camden. This is set out in the priorities of the Camden Local Area SEND Strategy for 2022- 2027

Discussions are underway with the Primary Learning Support Service (PLSS)/Camden Language & Communication Service (CLCS) run by Robson House around additional funding required to maintain this valuable service.

Discussions have also been held with CCfL regarding the Keystage 4 pathways programme CCfL. It has been agreed that the HNB will underwrite 32 places on this programme in 2023/24 to provide stability and certainty for this service. If all 32 places are filled by schools this will not cost the HNB anything. This initiative will be monitored and reviewed if necessary in future years.

The cluster model has always included a proposal for devolved funding for clusters to allocate to training/CPD and development projects. As the pilot has been rolled out these proposals have been fleshed out. The current handbook states each cluster has £15k for CPD and £5k for projects. For 2023/24 it is proposed that these are rolled into one flexible pot of £25k per cluster, to cover a combination of projects and CPD over which the cluster makes decisions on what they spend it on. Little has been spent in 2022/23 and we are proposing that these amounts are reflected against 2023/24 allocations so as not to disadvantage clusters that have not yet started or considered this funding.

A central provision for training will be maintained for 2023/24. In 2022/23 this has funded the Autism Educational Trust training programme across all schools. This is an ongoing programme into 2023/24. It has also funded a one off project for the academic year 2022/23 with MENCAP working with Swiss Cottage school to develop employment pathways.

**viii) Continued support of Rhyl satellite.**

As agreed at February 2022 Schools Forum meeting, continued support of the primary PRU satellite at Rhyl was extended on a 50/50 basis with schools funding for 2 years until end of financial year 2023/2024. This funding will no longer be shown as a contribution from reserves but as part of PRU revenue funding from the HNB. The cost of the PRU satellite was £183.3k in 2021/22 so was around £92k to both the HNB and SB. The latest projection from Robson House is for a similar figure for 2022/23

**Summary table**

These proposals for 2023/24 are summarised in the final column of table 1 above. Despite the increased spend to over £47.5m it still produces a £5m contribution to reserves

**5. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

Finance comments have been built in throughout this report.

**6. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add to this report.

**7. Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications.

**REPORT ENDS**