

# SCHOOLS FORUM

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**WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 PM**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE**

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**Enquiries to:** Anoushka Clayton-Walshe, Committee Services  
**E-Mail:** [anoushka.clayton-walshe@camden.gov.uk](mailto:anoushka.clayton-walshe@camden.gov.uk)  
**Telephone:** 020 7974 8543 (Text phone prefix 18001)

## **MEMBERS**

**Jen Allan, Jules Belton, Alan Chesters, Rob Earrey, Katy Forsdyke, James Hadley, John Hayes, Perina Holness, Bob House, Deborah Issacs, Nicholas John, Vijita Patel, Colin Reader and Daniel Silverstone**

## **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

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

Issued on: Wednesday 6 September 2023

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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.

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**ENDS**

**SCHOOLS FORUM  
13 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**AGENDA**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

To elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of Schools Forum for the 2023-24 academic year.

**2. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST**

(Pages  
7 - 8)

To note the Schools Forum membership list and any updates.

**3. APOLOGIES**

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

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**6. MINUTES**

(Pages  
9 - 14)

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2023.

**7. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(Pages  
15 - 22)

To note the Schools Forum terms of reference.

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

**9. FUNDING UPDATE AND SCHOOLS FUNDING CONSULTATION:  
2024/25**

(Pages  
23 - 72)

This report updates Schools Forum on the national funding position following the latest July 2023 ESFA technical updates and guidance on

schools funding for 2024/25. It provides forum with estimates of the possible impacts on resources up to and beyond 2023/24. It then sets out a draft consultation document for comment by the Forum, seeking the views of schools and other interested parties about any changes to the school funding arrangements for 2024/25.

The report recaps that the schools national funding formula (NFF) was introduced in April 2018 with transitional arrangements whereby local authorities maintain a local funding formula for the distribution of schools and high needs block grants, until 2019/20. It then explains how the updated Education Schools Funding Agency (ESFA) July Guidance for 2023 2024-25 on NFF has now extended this arrangement to 2024/25 and continued its “mirroring” requirement to reduce the difference between individual local formulas and the NFF factors annually by 10%. This now makes 2025/26 the earliest year for the completed national funding formula proposals.

The report also indicates the current budget pressures and the position regarding any possible draw down or addition to Designated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves following the uplifted DSG allocations for 2024/25 announced in July 2023.

The draft consultation section of the report outlines the current and any proposed changes or ESFA statutory requirements to the local Camden funding formula (primary and secondary schools) used for the distribution of the schools DSG block. The recommendation is that there be no changes to the current formula beyond uplifting the local formula factors in line with the general DSG inflation increase for 2024/25 (currently 2.64%) subject to the new ESFA statutory “mirroring” requirements. These ESFA requirements are mainly maximum and minimum factor value requirements introduced to reduce any difference between individual local formula and NFF factors by 10% per year. This approach continues forums earlier aim to wherever possible continue with its current agreed local formula with minimal changes. This is to enable schools to concentrate on dealing with the real terms funding reductions to school budgets (caused by ongoing high levels of inflation and a significant period of below inflation increases to per pupil funding in past years) without introducing new redistributive effects from changes to the local formula at this stage.

The report also explains the timetable leading up to a decision on the funding formula by the authority, which is required prior to the end of October in order to comply with a requirement to inform the government of any changes by 30th November.

**10. SCHOOLS FORUM HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SUB-GROUP: RECOMMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE** (Pages 73 - 76)

Following discussion at July Schools Forum, this report sets out proposals for the development of a High Needs Block sub-group of the Schools Forum. The purpose would be to allow more in-depth consideration of the use of the HNB in partnership with the local authority, bringing high level recommendations back to the Schools Forum.

**11. SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS** (Pages 77 - 82)

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

Camden Council reported to Schools Forum in February 2023 concerning the development of the School Meals contract.

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

**12. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

To note all Schools Forum meeting dates for academic year 2023/24, that will take place at 6.00pm on:

- 13 September 2023
- 1 November 202
- 5 December 2023
- 6 February 2024
- 4 June 2024

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

**AGENDA ENDS**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 1 November 2023 at 6.00 pm in Remote meeting via Microsoft Teams. This meeting can be watched live at [www.camden.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.camden.gov.uk/webcast).

## SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST Agenda Item 2

NAME		SCHOOL / NON SCHOOL	MEMBER/ SUBSTITUTE SINCE	4 YEAR PERIOD OF OFFICE EXPIRES
<b>PRIMARY</b>				
Jen Allan	G	Eleanor Palmer Primary	March 2021	April 2025
Rob Earrey	H	Fitzjohns Primary	December 2020	January 2025
Katy Forsdyke	H	Christ Church Primary (Hampstead)	December 2020	January 2025
John Hayes	H	Gospel Oak Primary	November 2022	December 2026
Deborah Isaacs	G	Edith Neville Richard Cobden Primary Primrose Hill Primary	November 2022	December 2026
Jules Belton	H	St Mary & St Pancras Primary	July 2023	July 2027
1 Vacancy	G			
<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
Nicholas John	H	Acland Burghley	December 2020	January 2025
Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair)	G	Parliament Hill	March 2021	April 2025
Bob House	G	Camden School for Girls	February 2023	March 2027
1 Vacancy	H			
<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>				
1 Vacancy	H			
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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## **THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

At a meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** held on **TUESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 2023** at 6.00 pm in Remote meeting via Microsoft Teams. This meeting can be watched at [www.camden.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.camden.gov.uk/webcast)

### **MEMBERS OF THE FORUM PRESENT**

Katy Forsdyke, Christ Church School, Hampstead (Chair)  
Daniel Silverstone, Parliament Hill School (Vice-Chair)  
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  
Bob House, Camden School for Girls  
Nicholas John, Acland Burghley School

### **MEMBERS OF THE FORUM ABSENT**

Jen Allan, Eleanor Palmer Primary School  
James Hadley, Haverstock School  
Deborah Issacs, Edith Neville Primary, Richard Cobden Primary, Primrose Hill Primary  
Vijita Patel, Swiss Cottage School  
Colin Reader, Kentish Town School

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Marcus Boyland, Cabinet Member for the Best Start for Children and Families  
Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion  
Joe Lynch, Schools Financial Advisor  
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 REMOTE MEETINGS**

#### **RESOLVED -**

THAT the guidance be noted.

## **2. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST**

Luca Salice had stepped down as a governor at Torriano and Brecknock and was therefore no longer a member. Claire Burns would be stepping down as head teacher at Emmanuel Primary and would therefore no longer be a member. Members gave thanks for their contribution to the Forum.

### **RESOLVED -**

THAT the membership list be noted.

## **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received by Vijita Patel and Colin Reader.

## **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."

### **Next meeting on 13 September 2023**

The next meeting of Schools Forum would be the first meeting of the 2023-24 academic year and hold the annual elections for Chair and Vice-Chair. The meeting would be held fully in-person at the Town Hall.

### **Officer updates**

The Chair welcomed Vikram Hansrani in his new post of Director for Education Commissioning and Inclusion, replacing Pauline Maddison in her interim post. The Chair noted that it was Eve Sticker's last meeting before leaving Camden and her post of Director of Early Intervention and Prevention. The Chair thanked outgoing officers for their contribution to the Forum.

## **6. MINUTES**

In response to members, it was noted by officers that there would be a formal update report on the food catering contract, outlining the progress and range of options, to the September Forum meeting. It was noted this report would include how the Greater London Authority (GLA) announcement of universal free school meals (FSM) grants would affect Camden's position and how schools would have the opportunity to engage in the process.

### **RESOLVED -**

THAT the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 February 2023 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, HIGH NEEDS AND EARLY YEARS OUTTURN AND FUNDING UPDATE**

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

The Team Leader Schools and Designated Schools Grant (DSG) presented the report which updated the Forum on the financial outturn position for 2022/23, funding for 2023/24, existing spending pressures, 2023/24 onwards, recent Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) grant announcements, and further support to schools.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and invited questions and comments from the Forum. The following was discussed:

- In relation to section 3.1 b), high needs block (HNB) forecast, it was clarified by officers that the £5 million underspend was in addition to the current £8.7 million underspend, therefore the total end of year position would be c. £13 million.
- In relation to the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG), it was confirmed that the MSAG amounts had already been included in the schools budgeting and calculations. MSAG would cover pay awards of over 4% for teachers, but did not include support staff.
- In relation to section 6.6-6.9, GLA primary FSM grants, it was confirmed by officers that the grant money would firstly be paid to the Council who would then distribute to schools. Officers explained the potential negative impact a universal offer could have on maintaining levels of registration of FSM and the effect this would have on pupil premium funding for schools. Camden were in talks with the GLA in how best the Council can manage the grants when considering the indirect effects. The GLA told the Council they should find creative ways of encouraging parents to register for FSM and officers asked the Forum for

***Schools Forum - Tuesday, 6th June, 2023***

suggestions and ideas. Officers confirmed that one route the Council would take was requiring eligible parents to register for FSM as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) sign-up.

- Officers referred to section 8, the finance comments in the report, that the Forum should start to consider the appropriate actions to manage the level of DSG reserves. When reserves were above 5%, Councils were contacted by the ESFA to question their status and planning. Camden was currently on c. 20%, with the HNB accounting for half of that (10% of the total). Officers confirmed that reserves could be used into different spending areas and were not ringfenced to specific spending.
- Members stated they should be using the reserves to serve the current need for additional resources in schools and they asked officers how the process of forming proposals could begin. Officers responded that the Forum needed to discuss how to manage the reserves with the education department. Having been suggested by the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion, and supported by members, it was agreed that a sub-group of the Schools Forum be established to inform spending proposals and recommendations.

**Action by: Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion**

- Members agreed they would like an update of the Council structure, showing which officers managed different areas in education, to inform the Forum on who could support them in creating spending proposals.

**Action by: Head of Education Commission & School Organisation**

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the Schools Forum

- a) Note the 2022/23 outturn for all the blocks of the DSG as set out in section 1.
- b) Agree that as previously any reserve remaining in the Schools and Central Schools Services block continue to be applied to offset any schools block deficit arising from pressures on Camden schools budgets following any proposed reorganisation - section 1.5.
- c) Note the current 2023/24 level of funding (section 2) and the range of current pressures and future funding challenges for schools' funding (section 3) and also the current and proposed next steps in the transition towards the "hard" national funding formula in section 4 and 5.
- d) Note the most recent grant announcements since February 2023 from the ESFA relating to Afghanistan Resettlement (Education) Grant 2022 to 2023 and the GLA universal grants for Free School Meals for primary pupils from September 2023 (section 6).
- e) Provide any advice or comments to the authority regarding the type of any ongoing support that would assist schools in improving financial planning as described in section 7.6.

**9. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): 2022/23 OUTTURN AND POSITION FOR 2023/24**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Early Intervention and Prevention.

The Director of Early Intervention and Prevention introduced the report which set out HNB outturn for 2022/23 and an updated HNB position for 2023/24. In addition, the following was outlined:

- Peter Grey would be presenting proposals and recommendations in June 2023 on his work at Camden Council on sustainable financial modelling and contingency planning and included focus groups with head teachers. It was suggested, the final proposals and recommendations could be considered by the Forum.
- In relation to section 4, the SEN2 return, it was noted this data set was the largest return to date because the requirements had recently been broadened by the DfE.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and invited questions and comments from the Forum. The following was discussed:

- In relation to section 4, members stated they would like Educational Needs Grants (ENGs) to be included in the data, because otherwise the real level of Camden's additional needs was not reflected; the lowering number of educational health and care plans (EHCPs) were attributed to the increase in ENG provision. A significant rise in additional needs had been observed in schools, however the trend was not recorded by the number of EHCP. In response to a member asking if the government was aware of the ENG system in Camden and if it resulted in lesser funding, officers responded that Camden was positively referenced by the government using this system and was acknowledged by the DfE to be ahead of the curve. It was stated that SEN2 did not currently pick up ENG as a pre-statutory intervention, but was expected to in the future.
- Members raised the experience of financial difficulties for Early Years settings due to the lack of SEND budget and increase in the number of SEND children. They also noted the effect of lack of resources for that age group and would carry with children through the key stages. Officers suggested that the proposed sub-group could look into long-term planning and growth in this areas to bring back recommendations to the Forum.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the updated High Needs Block position, as detailed in the report, be noted.

**10. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The following meeting dates for the 2023-24 academic year were noted:

- 13 September 2023
- 1 November 2023
- 5 December 2023
- 6 February 2024
- 4 June 2024

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm.

**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**

## Camden Schools Forum - Constitution and Terms of Reference

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### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Camden Schools Forum is established to meet the requirements of the Schools Forums (England) regulations 2012. Recommendations to change the constitution and terms of reference may be made at any time by the schools forum. The final decision on any proposed amendments rests with the authority except where specific issues are for the forum to decide. Changes may also be required from time to time to comply with new statutory requirements, as set out in the regulations.

### 2 Membership

#### 2.1 Voting Members

Primary schools, secondary schools and academies shall be broadly proportionally represented on the forum having regard to the total number of pupils registered at them. Based on the pupil census as at January 2012 and allowing for other members, the Schools Forum shall comprise 20 voting members as follows:

#### School Members (17)

- (a) Primary schools – 7 representatives (4 headteachers and 3 governors – at least 2 headteachers and 2 governors must be from schools with nurseries).
- (b) Secondary schools – 6 representatives (3 headteachers and 3 governors).
- (c) Special and hospital schools – 2 representatives (1 headteacher and 1 governor).
- (d) Pupil referral units – 1 representative
- (e) Nursery school – 1 representative

Only one representative per school may normally be elected as a member of the forum at any one time. This restriction does not apply to substitutes.

The membership should broadly reflect the different types of schools and, in particular, ensure a balanced representation between voluntary aided and community schools.

#### Academy Members (1) – 1 representative

#### Non-schools Members (2)

- 1 from the private, voluntary and independent early years sector
- 1 from the authority 14-19 partnership

## 2.2 **Observers (non-voting)**

The following shall be invited to attend meetings of the forum as an observer:

- named member substitutes when not attending as substitute for a member
- The Department for Education retain the right to attend Schools Forum Meetings as an observer.

## 2.3 **Substitute Members**

Each group is entitled to nominate one substitute to attend meetings and to vote on behalf of any member within that group who is unable to attend a meeting. Each non school member may also nominate a substitute to attend and vote on their behalf.

In addition, headteachers have the option to nominate any senior member of staff from their school to represent them on the forum.

Substitute members may attend on behalf of members provided that the substitute would be eligible for appointment to the forum in the same way as the member for whom they are acting as substitute. The forum must receive notification of substitutes in advance of the meeting.

## 2.4 **Officers and members of the council**

The Executive Director Supporting People, Executive Director Corporate Services, the Borough Solicitor and / or their representatives shall be eligible to attend meetings of the forum for the purposes of providing advice. The Cabinet Member for Children shall also be entitled to attend meetings in an advisory capacity. No officer or elected member may be appointed as a non school member of the forum.

## 2.5 **Appointment Procedures**

### School members

Headteacher representatives shall be elected by the primary and secondary headteacher groups. Governor representatives shall be elected by the joint chairs and governors meeting. Each representative group or sub-group will be responsible for determining the method by which they elect and nominate school forum representatives. The groups shall be responsible for notifying the clerk to the forum of the person elected within one week of the elections taking place.

Where headteachers or governors within a school group fail to make a nomination within two months of the request being made, the remaining representatives within the relevant school group shall nominate the representative to be appointed to fill the vacancy. Where there are no remaining representatives of the school group, the remaining schools members shall nominate the representative to fill the vacancy.



Any group may request the help of the clerk to the forum in organising and undertaking the election of representatives.

Headteachers and governors that hold multiple positions can only be elected to represent one of the school groups that they are eligible to stand for.

#### Academy members

Shall be elected by the governing bodies of the academies in the authority area.

#### Non-school members

Appointment of non-school members and observers shall be made by the authority from nominations received from those organisations and groups invited to be members of the Schools Forum.

#### Notification to schools

The clerk to the forum will notify schools of any changes to the membership within one month of such changes being agreed.

### **2.6 Term of Office**

A schools member ceases to be a member of the Schools Forum if he or she resigns from the forum or no longer occupies the office that he or she was nominated to represent. The term of office for school members shall be four years from date of appointment unless the Schools Forum determines a shorter period is required for individual appointments to maintain a regular turnover of members. The period of membership will be stipulated at the time of appointment.

Non-school members shall remain in office until they resign or until the authority makes a further appointment to replace the non-school member on nomination from the relevant body.

### **2.7 Failure to Attend Forum Meetings**

If a member fails to attend any meeting for a period of twelve months commencing with the date of the last attendance, whether represented by a substitute or not, they shall be deemed to have resigned from the Forum unless the forum consent to the absence.

### **2.8 Training**

All new members will receive an introduction email from the clerk to the forum to include a copy of the terms of reference, a list of members and any relevant government guidance. The Local Authority will arrange training opportunities, at the request of the Forum.

## **3 Procedures**

### **3.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Forum shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its voting membership at the first meeting of the academic year. The maximum

period that any member can serve as chair shall be four years during their total period of membership of the Forum.

At any meeting of the Forum at which the election of chair is before the meeting, the clerk shall act as chairman during the election of the chair. At any meeting where both the chair and vice-chair are absent, the forum shall elect, from those voting members present, a person to take the chair for that meeting only.

### **3.2 Appointment of Clerk**

The authority shall appoint a clerk for the Schools Forum.

### **3.3 Meetings**

Schools Forum shall meet at least five times a year in accordance with a schedule of meetings determined by the authority to align with the timing of decisions required for issues relating to school funding. The forum will be consulted on the planned dates for the year ahead at the meeting preceding the start of academic year. An agenda together with supporting papers will be issued at least five days prior to the meeting.

Additional meetings may be called by the clerk in consultation with the chair. At least two weeks notice will be given of any additional meetings except in the case of an emergency. In exceptional circumstances and subject to approval of the chair, it may be necessary to seek the views of members outside of a formal meeting of the forum. Where this is necessary, the issue and any decision taken will be reported to the next meeting of the forum.

### **3.4 Public/Private Meetings**

All meetings of the Schools Forum will be held in public with the minutes and papers, except where confidential, made available to the public.

### **3.5 Quorum**

The Forum shall be quorate if at least forty percentage (8 members) of the total voting membership are present. If a meeting is inquorate it can proceed but any decisions (e.g. election of a chair, or a decision relating to funding conferred by the funding regulations) would need to be ratified at the next meeting. An inquorate meeting can respond to authority consultation, and give views to the authority.

### **3.6 Declaration of Interests**

Forum members must declare at the start of the meeting any relevant personal, financial or business interest, which they or any person closely associated with them has in any matter to be considered by the forum. The member must withdraw from the meeting for the relevant item unless expressly invited to remain.

Where the interest is pecuniary only, the member shall be required to declare the interest but, subject to the approval of the forum, will be permitted to speak and vote on the matter.

### **3.7 Voting Procedure**

Where necessary, decisions of the forum shall be taken by a majority of voting members present when voting on a proposal. If there are an equal number of votes for and against a proposal, the chair shall have a second or casting vote. Representatives with observer/advisor status are not entitled to vote.

Non school members, other than those who represent early years providers, must not vote on matters relating to the funding formula that determines the amount to be allocated to schools and academies.

### **3.8 Working Groups**

The forum may establish sub-committees or working groups to consider particular issues. Any recommendations of such groups require approval by the forum before they become formal advice to the authority.

### **3.9 Confidentiality**

In the case of particular matters to be discussed by the forum, information of a confidential nature may be provided at the forum meetings. Members of the forum, substitutes, observers and officers must observe the confidentiality of such items. Prior to the discussion of any confidential items, any person in attendance who is not a voting member may be asked to withdraw from the meeting.

### **3.10 Members Expenses**

The authority will reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by members attending meetings of the forum. Members are asked to note that the whole cost of operating the Forum is charged against the schools budget.

## **4 Functions of the Schools Forum**

### **4.1 Consultation**

The authority will consult the Schools Forum on:

(a) Formula changes - any proposed changes to the factors & criteria and the methods, principles and rules that are contained within the Funding Formula and the financial impact of any such changes. Consultation shall take place in sufficient time to allow the views expressed by the forum to be taken into account in the determination of the formula and in the initial determination of schools budget shares before the beginning of the financial year.

(b) Contracts - at least one month prior to the issue of invitations to tender consult the forum on the terms of any proposed contract for supplies or services being a contract paid or to be paid out of the local authority's schools budget where either:

- the estimated value of the proposed public services contract is not less than the specific threshold which applies to the local authority in pursuance of Regulation 7(1) of the Public Services Contracts Regulations 1993; or
- the estimated value of the proposed public supply contract is not less than the specific threshold which applies to the local authority in pursuance of Regulation 7(2) of the Public Supply Contracts Regulations 1995.

(c) Financial issues - the local authority shall consult the forum annually in respect of the authority's functions relating to the schools budget, in connection with the following:

- Arrangements to be made for
  - the education of pupils with special educational needs;
  - the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school;
  - early years education;
  - insurance;
  - free school meals.
- Prospective revisions to the local authority's scheme for the financing of schools;
- Administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the local authority;
- Arrangements for the implementation of support to schools in financial difficulty.
- such other matters concerning the funding of schools as the local authority sees

(d) the authority may consult the Forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit, and shall take into account any views expressed by the forum.

## **5. The Role of the Local Authority**

The authority shall take into account the views expressed by the Forum in setting its schools budget or, where appropriate, taking other decisions in relation to the funding of schools or the provision for pupils.

**Role of Education Funding Agency on Schools Forum**



*Chairs and Clerks of Schools Forums.*

31 August 2012

Dear Colleague,

As you may recall from our previous announcements about the reformed funding system, we will have observer status on schools forums. We believe that this will enable us to support the local process and provide a national perspective. We have said that an EFA representative will not attend every meeting but may want to see how the Forum is working, and could be asked to attend specific meetings if members thought it helpful or if there were any concerns about the running or composition of the forum.

It might be helpful if we clarify our role. This is to be impartial and ensure local authorities are compliant with the requirements of the new system and are behaving reasonably.

We have already explained in our previous announcements that we will not investigate general representations from individual schools that have lost funding under the new formula arrangements. What we will investigate is complaints from maintained schools or Academies that suggest they will be unreasonably funded as a result of the local authority not applying an allowable formula factor or not requesting an exceptional factor. We will also monitor the impact of the new formulae on different types of schools to inform future funding policy.

We thought it would be helpful if forums had a named contact for each region. We already have service delivery teams in place but for more technical queries and issues, there is a Funding Reform team, which will be able to offer advice and attend where there are particularly complex issues. The team includes two experienced local authority secondees and already has close contact with local authorities through regional finance officer meetings. If you have any general queries about the reforms or if you would like someone from the EFA to attend because there are particular concerns of the nature set out above, please contact

[:reformteam.funding@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:reformteam.funding@education.gsi.gov.uk)

The table below shows the contact in each team for each region.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Service Delivery Team</b>	<b>Funding Reform Team</b>
London	Sue Samson	Bev Pennekett
SE	Sue Samson	Bev Pennekett
SW	Sue Reekie	Bev Pennekett
East	Martin Lamb	Keith Howkins
West Midlands	Sue Reekie	Keith Howkins
East Midlands	Martin Lamb	Keith Howkins
North-west	Liz Butcher	Gavin Monument
Yorkshire and Humberside	Liz Butcher	Gavin Monument
North-east	Liz Butcher	Gavin Monument

As we move towards the implementation of the reformed system, we believe that you and your forums play a critical role in the scrutiny of local authority proposals. We hope that forum members will be actively engaged and we will be stressing to both maintained schools and Academies the importance of communicating with their representatives on their forum.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Howkins,  
Team Leader, Funding Reform Team  
Education Funding Agency, Department for Education

Copied to  
Chief Finance Officers,  
Finance Officers,

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: ALL</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Funding Update and Schools Funding Consultation: 2024/25	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 13 September 2023
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>  <p>This report updates Schools Forum on the national funding position following the latest July 2023 ESFA technical updates and guidance on schools funding for 2024/25. It provides forum with estimates of the possible impacts on resources up to and beyond 2023/24. It then sets out a draft consultation document for comment by the Forum, seeking the views of schools and other interested parties about any changes to the school funding arrangements for 2024/25.</p> <p>The report recaps that the schools national funding formula (NFF) was introduced in April 2018 with transitional arrangements whereby local authorities maintain a local funding formula for the distribution of schools and high needs block grants, until 2019/20. It then explains how the updated Education Schools Funding Agency (ESFA) July Guidance for 2023 2024-25 on NFF has now extended this arrangement to 2024/25 and continued its “mirroring” requirement to reduce the difference between individual local formulas and the NFF factors annually by 10%. This now makes 2025/26 the earliest year for the completed national funding formula proposals.</p> <p>The report also indicates the current budget pressures and the position regarding any possible draw down or addition to Designated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves following the uplifted DSG allocations for 2024/25 announced in July 2023.</p> <p>The draft consultation section of the report outlines the current and any proposed changes or ESFA statutory requirements to the local Camden funding formula (primary and secondary schools) used for the distribution of the schools DSG block. The recommendation is that there be no changes to the current formula beyond uplifting the local formula factors in line with the general DSG inflation increase for 2024/25 (currently 2.64%) subject to the new ESFA statutory “mirroring” requirements. These ESFA requirements are mainly maximum and minimum factor value requirements introduced to reduce any difference between individual local formula and NFF factors by 10% per year. This approach continues forums earlier aim to wherever possible continue with its current agreed local formula with minimal changes. This is to enable schools to concentrate on dealing with the real terms funding reductions to school budgets (caused by ongoing high levels of inflation and a significant period of below inflation increases to per pupil funding in past years) without introducing new redistributive effects from changes to the local formula at this stage.</p>	

The report also explains the timetable leading up to a decision on the funding formula by the authority, which is required prior to the end of October in order to comply with a requirement to inform the government of any changes by 30th November.

### **Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information**

The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:

- Operational Guide Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Schools block funding formulae 2023 to 2024: Analysis of local authorities' schools block funding formulae - GOV.UK
- [NFF schools block technical note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Allowable factor value ranges\_2024/25
- P re-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2024 to 2025

### **Contact Officer:**

Victor Saunders, Schools Budget Financial Advisor  
5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG  
020 7974 5254 / E-mail: [victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk](mailto:victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) To note the developments regarding the planned implementation of the national funding formula, as set out in sections 1 to 4.
- b) To also note the current pressures on schools budgets and the support being provided by the Council in sections 5 to 8. The timetable for consultation on the local funding formula is outlined in section 9.
- c) To comment on the draft 2024/25 budget consultation document prior to circulation to schools and other relevant parties, as described in sections 9 and set out in Appendix 1.



Signed by:

Nick Smith, Head of Education Commissioning & School Organisation

Dated: 1 September 2023



## 1. **Changes in level of Total national Funding 2024/25 – from July 2023**

### **Overall Funding**

- 1.1. As announced by the ESFA in July 2023 the total core schools budget is increasing to over £59.6 billion in 2024 to 2025 - the highest ever level per pupil, in real terms, as measured by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). This delivers the third year of the governments earlier three year funding settlement which had committed a £7 billion cash increase by 2024/25.
- 1.2. Overall, core schools funding (including funding for mainstream schools and high needs) will be increasing by over £1.8 billion in 2024 to 2025 compared to the previous year, on top of the £3.9 billion increase in 2023 to 2024.

### **Schools Block National funding 2024/25**

- 1.3. The 2023 to 2024 Mainstream Additional Grant MSAG has also been rolled into the schools NFF for 2024 to 2025. (introduced to meet the rising costs faced by schools ). Adding this new additional grant funding to the NFF now ensures that it now forms part of schools' base core budgets and will continue to be provided. The year-on-year increases in the value of the NFF, and the value of NFF factors, that ESFA are quoting have now been adjusted to take this into account.
- 1.4. The ESFA states that funding for mainstream schools through the schools NFF is increasing by 2.7% per pupil compared with 2023/24. Combined with the funding increases seen in 2023 to 2024 (including MSAG), this means that funding through the schools NFF will be 14.8% higher per pupil in 2024 to 2025, compared to 2021 to 2022.
- 1.5. The ESFA 's July 2023 notional NFF calculations for 2024-25 are based on the most up-to-date school and pupil characteristics data. These are taken from the (Jan) 2023/24 authority pro forma tool (APT) data and the 2023/24 general annual grant (GAG) data. This used pupil numbers from the October 2022 census (or agreed pupil numbers from last year) as the most recent data available for its calculations. Schools' final allocations for 2024/25 as determined by their local authority will of course be based on pupil numbers from the upcoming October 2023 school census.

### 1.6. **Schools per pupil funding levels 2024/25**

The ESFA have summarised the following key features and changes for the NFF funding levels for 2024/25 as:

- i. They have now introduced a formulaic approach to allocating split sites funding. This ensures that funding for schools which operate across more than one site will be provided on a consistent basis across the country.
- ii. The core factors in the schools NFF (such as basic per-pupil funding, additional needs factors, and the lump sum that all schools attract) will increase by 2.4%.
- iii. The minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPLs) will also increase by 2.4% compared to 2023 to 2024. This will mean that, next year, every primary school will receive at least £4,655 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £6,050. (Academy trusts continue to have flexibilities over how they allocate funding across academies in their trust. This means, in some cases,

an individual academy could receive a lower per-pupil funding amount than the MPPL value).

- iv. The funding floor will ensure that every school attracts at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its 2023 to 2024 allocation.
- v. The 2023 to 2024 mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) has now been rolled into the schools NFF for 2024 to 2025. This ensures that the additional funding schools attract through the NFF is as close as possible to the funding they would have received if the MSAG funding was continuing as a separate grant in 2024/25, without adding significant complexity to the formula. Adding the grant funding to the NFF also provides reassurance to schools that this funding forms part of schools' core budgets and will continue to be provided going forward.
- vi. For the first time, in 2024/25 the ESFA will allocate funding to local authorities on the basis of falling rolls, as well as growth. Local authorities can use this funding to support schools which see a short-term fall in the number of pupils on roll.

### 1.7. **High Needs National Funding formula features**

- i. High needs funding in the NFF is increasing by a further £440 million, or 4.3% in 2024/25. This brings the total high needs budget to over £10.5 billion – an increase of over 60% compared to 2019 to 2020 allocations.
- ii. All local authorities will receive at least a 3% increase per head of their aged 2 to 18 population, compared to their 2023 to 2024 allocations, with some authorities seeing gains of up to 5%. As an historically well funded Council Camden is expected to receive the 3% funding floor for 2024/25.
- iii. The total £10.5 billion funding includes the continuation of the £400 million high needs funding allocated to local authorities following the 2022 autumn statement, and the further £440 million increase is provided on top of that. All special and alternative provision schools will continue to receive their share of that funding in 2024/25.

### **new Split Sites factor 2024/25 - (up to a maximum of 3 additional sites per school)**

- 1.8. Following from their consultation on implementing the direct national funding formula the ESFA have now introduced from 2024/25 that split sites funding will be determined through a national "split sites factor". As part of the preparation for this proposed change, the ESFA asked local authorities to enter the details of mainstream split site schools and their addresses on the split site data collection. Those Camden schools concerned were advised and contacted by schools finance for their completion details last year.
- 1.9. The **ESFA proposed** to set the maximum total amount schools can receive for a split site at **60% of** the NFF lump sum £135,700 = £81,400. Split site conditions are as follows:

- 1.10. **Under Basic eligibility** 20% of the NFF lump sum value (£81k) allocated under the split sites factor is for sites which qualify thus:
- 1) are **separated** by a public road or railway as a clear marker of separateness.
  - 2) used primarily for the education of 5-16-year-olds, and must share a **single unique reference number (URN)** (this ensures we would only fund shared premises once).
  - 3) site must have a **building** which is maintained by the school, using the same definition as the CDC (The Condition Data Collection (CDC) which collects data on buildings' conditions as part of work to improve the school estate) and exclude sites which only contain 'ancillary buildings', such as storage sheds, as they are not used primarily for the education of 5-16-year-olds
  - 4) The requirement for a building on the site would **exclude playing fields** from triggering eligibility for split sites funding. We do not believe playing fields incur the same costs as a building.
- 1.11. **DISTANCE ELIGIBILITY** - 40% of the NFF split sites lump sum value is allocated under "split sites distance eligibility".- for which the site would have to meet the basic criterion above and also meet a distance threshold of 500 metres (0.3 miles) by road.
- 1.12. **Teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG) 2023/4/5**
- i. On top of these funding increases through these formulae, in July 2023 the ESFA also announced additional funding for schools' teachers' pay costs. This additional funding will be paid on top of the national funding formula in both 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025. Further information about the teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG) is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-additional-grant-2023-to-2024>
  - ii. In July 2023 the government announced £525 million to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award, with a further £900 million in 2024 to 2025. This funding is being split between mainstream schools, special schools and alternative provision (AP), early years, and 16 to 19 provision. The split reflects relative pupil numbers, and core funding amounts, across these different types of provision.
  - iii. In 2023 to 2024, funding through TPAG will cover the 7 month period from September 2023 to March 2024. TPAG will continue for the whole of the financial year 2024 to 2025. Allocations for 2024 to 2025 will therefore be calculated using twelve sevenths of the funding rates in 2023 to 2024.
  - iv. The ESFA have provided the following analysis of the TPAG indicating that it represents a grant to support any excess cost beyond 3.5% resulting from the final 2023 Teachers pay award. As this was finally settled at 6.5% this grant will now in effect cover the residual 3% Teachers pay award for September 2023.

## Extract ESFA - School Teachers' Pay Additional Grant – total funding.

2023-24	<b>£525 million</b>
of which:	£432.5 million for mainstream schools
	£50.0 million for special schools and AP
	£12.5 million for early years
	£30.0 million for school sixth forms.
2024-25	<b>£900 million</b>

- Calculated to equal the cost of the pay award, over 3.5%
  - This increase comes on top of the funding provided at the last Spending Review, and the additional £2 billion a year provided at the Autumn Statement. Taking all these together, the Core Schools Budget will now be £59.6 billion in 2024-25
- v. Further details are summarised in Appendix 6 and at the following ESFA webinar link: [School Teacher's and School Leader's 2023/24 Pay Award Update](#)
- vi. TPAG will continue for the whole of the financial year 2024 to 2025. Allocations for 2024 to 2025 will therefore be calculated using twelve sevenths of the funding rates in 2023 to 2024.

### 1.13. **Central school services funding (CSSB)**

- i. Central school services funding is provided to local authorities for the ongoing responsibilities they have for all schools. The total provisional funding for ongoing responsibilities is £304 million in 2024/25. This includes £5 million to cover the exceptional increase in copyright licence costs in 2023 to 2024, as licences were updated following the increased use of digital technology.
- ii. In line with the process introduced for 2020/21, to withdraw funding over time for the historic commitments that local authorities entered into before 2013/14, funding for historic commitments will decrease by a further 20% in 2024 to 2025. This is subject to the same protections as in previous years related to any ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs.
- iii. Updated allocations of schools, high needs and central schools services funding for 2024 to 2025 will be published in December, taking account of the latest pupil data at that point.

### 1.14. **Direct national funding formula transition**

1.15. 2023/24 was the first year of transition to the “direct” schools NFF, with the ESFA’s end point being a system in which, to ensure full fairness and consistency in funding, every mainstream school in England is funded through a single national formula without adjustment through local funding formulae. Following a successful first year of transition, they will continue with the same “mirroring” approach to transition in 2024/25. The July 2023 ESFA Operational Guidance states “In 2024-25, local authorities will remain responsible for determining final allocations to schools, in consultation with the Schools Forum”.

1.16. This “mirroring” approach means that as in 2023/24, local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae, and must use all NFF factors,

except any locally determined premises factors. Local authorities will also be required to move their local formulae factors a further 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2023/24, unless they are classed as already “mirroring” the NFF (that is, within +/- 2.5% of the NFF values).

- 1.17. The ESFA have also published local authority funding formula data for 2024/25 and allowable factor ranges on the following link:  
[Allowable factor value ranges 2024/5](#)
- 1.18. Following the first year of transition, the number of local authorities that mirror the schools NFF increased significantly from just over half in 2022/23, to just over two-thirds in 2023/24. Of the 72 local authorities that were not mirroring the NFF in 2022 to 2023, 61 chose to move their local formula closer to the NFF than required. The method is as below.

### **Methodology**

- 1.19. The ESFAs July 2023 NFF Policy Guidance document explains how the ESFA will “continue to move forward with its plans to implement a direct NFF, whereby funding will be allocated directly to schools based on a single, national formula by taking a gradual approach to transition to avoid any unnecessary or unexpected disruption to schools”. This transition towards the direct NFF began in 2023-24 and will continue in 2024/25 by introducing and maintaining the following requirements that:
  - i. Local authorities continue to move their local formula factor values at least a further 10% closer to the NFF until they ultimately “mirror” the NFF.
  - ii. From 2024/25 Local authorities must use the new national formulaic approach to split sites funding. This will replace the current local authority-led approach.
  - iii. Local authorities must use the new NFF requirements for growth funding, whereby additional classes (driven by basic need) must be funded by at least the minimum funding level set out in the funding calculation.
  - iv. Local authorities must also follow the new NFF requirements for falling rolls funding, whereby local authorities can only provide falling rolls funding to schools where school capacity survey (SCAP) data shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. The restriction that schools must be judged Good or Outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection to be eligible for funding is also being removed from 2024/25

## **2. Recap on the national funding formula proposals**

- 2.1. Whilst the schools national funding formula was introduced in April 2018/19 the final distribution of funding to individual primary and secondary schools is still currently determined by a local funding formula. Local authorities still have a statutory duty to maintain a local formula and consult with their schools forum and schools on any changes to the formula. Separate funding rules apply to high needs and for early years, where from April 2017 the authority now sets funding in line with the government’s national funding formula and new directive on working parents.
- 2.2. The original December 2016 NFF proposals planned to make the shift to the new formula through a transition year in 2018/19 in which a “soft” DSG schools block

would apply with funding distributed to schools by the Council's local funding formula. This was then planned to be followed by the introduction of a "hard" DSG from 2019/20 with each school receiving funding directly from the EFA according to the calculated NFF formula.

- 2.3. ESFA then indicated that so as not to disrupt local authorities' planning processes and to ensure a smooth transition to NFF, that local authorities would continue to determine local formulae in consultation with local schools to distribute schools block funding in the 2023-24 financial year. "However, Local authorities will be required to start bringing their own formulae closer to the schools NFF from 2023-24 by using all and only NFF factors and by moving local factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF." As detailed above this process has continued for 2024/25 and now makes 2025/26 the earliest possible year for the completed national funding formula proposals.
- 2.4. The July 2022 NFF policy document the ESFA stated that "local authorities will remain responsible for determining final allocations to schools, in consultation with the Schools Forum and subject to ESFA constraints to move local formulas closer to the NFF factor values. It's July 2023 Policy document then stated that it will continue this method of allocation for 2024/25. - "Following a successful first year of transition (2023/24), we will continue with the same approach to tightening in 2024-25. As in 2023-24, local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae, and must use all NFF factors, except any locally determined premises factors.

### **Summary**

- 2.5. In summary the basic structure of the schools national funding formula (NFF) is not significantly changing in 2024/25. The ESFA are continuing to set an aggregate NFF schools block funding total for Councils to distribute by local formula. However, to enable the ESFA to move forward with its plans to implement a direct NFF, as set out in its recent consultation response (where that funding will be allocated directly to schools based on a single, national formula) - Local authorities are now required to start bringing their own formulae closer to the national schools NFF from 2023-24 by "using all and only NFF factors and by moving local factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF" each year. This will continue for 2024/25. The main updates in the schools NFF for 2024/25 are summarised above and detailed below and in the following link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>

### **Technical Details** - FIO

3. **Detailed National funding Formula changes in 2024/25 – from July 2023**
- 3.1. Section 3 merely explains the funding formula changes in more technical detail than sections 1 and 2 above.
- 3.2. The most recent changes to the NFF formula were announced in the ESFA's National funding formulae Guidance for schools and high needs 2024/25 published July 2023 which are summarised above. This section 3 just expands into more detail from that information summarised above.

- 3.3. The basic structure of the schools national funding formula (NFF) is not significantly changing in 2024/25. The ESFA are continuing to set an aggregate NFF schools block funding total for Councils to distribute by local formula. However, to enable the ESFA to move forward with its plans to implement a direct NFF, as set out in its consultation response (where that funding will be allocated directly to schools based on a single, national formula) - Local authorities are now required to start bringing their own formulae closer to the national schools NFF from 2023-24 by “using all and only NFF factors and by moving local factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF” each year. This will continue for 2024/25. The main updates in the schools NFF for 2023 to 2024 are summarised above and detailed below and in the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>

#### 3.4. **Schools block NFF key features in 2024/25**

- a) Local authorities must move their local formula factor values at least a further 10% closer to the NFF, except where local formulae are already “mirroring” the NFF. For this purpose, local factor values within 2.5% of the respective NFF values are deemed to be “mirroring” the NFF. From 2024/25, this 10% requirement will also apply to the “fringe factor” for local authorities on the London fringe.
- b) Local authorities must use the new national formulaic approach to split sites funding. This will replace the current local authority-led approaches.
- c) Local authorities must use the new NFF requirements for growth funding, whereby additional classes (driven by basic need) must be funded by at least the minimum funding level set out in the funding calculation.
- d) Local authorities must also follow the new NFF requirements for falling rolls funding, whereby local authorities can only provide falling rolls funding to schools where school capacity survey (SCAP) data shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. The restriction that schools must be judged Good or Outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection to be eligible for funding is also being removed from 2024-25

#### **Rolling in of the Schools Supplementary Grant funding and Manstream SAchools Additional Grant (MSAG) into the base budgets for 2024-25 NFF**

- 3.5. Rolling the schools supplementary grant funding and MSAG into the NFF- The schools supplementary grant was introduced to support schools to meet the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs in 2022/23. Funding at 2.9% per pupil was based on pupils from reception to year 11 (inclusive). It was rolled into the schools NFF from 2023/24 and the same approach was taken for the 2024/25 base budget. This is to ensure that the additional funding schools attract through the NFF is as close as possible to the funding they would have received if this funding was continuing as a separate grant in 2024-25, without adding significant additional complexity to the formula. It has been done to reflect the 3 different ways in which schools attract funding through the NFF. MSAG was then introduced in 2023/24 for additional costs in schools. It too has also been adjusted into 2024/25 base budgets as follows:

1. NFF Factors- by adding £119, £168 and £190 to the primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4 per pupil funding factors respectively; £104 and £152 to the

- primary and secondary FSM6 factors; and £4,510 to the school lump sum – re Supplementary grant
2. Uplifting Minimum Funding levels – by adding £143, £186 and £208 to the minimum per pupil (MPP) funding levels for primary, KS3 and KS4 respectively– re Supplementary grant
  3. MSAG - Adding an amount representing the total funding schools receive through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) on to their baselines, which is used to calculate funding protection for the schools through the funding floor. This increases the amount that schools whose allocations are determined by the funding floor will attract.

The rolling in of these grants into the schools' notional NFF allocations will affect the core budgets that maintained schools will receive from April 2024, and that academies will receive from September 2024

### 3.6. Other key features of the schools block local funding formulae

1. Local authorities will continue to set a minimum funding guarantee in local formulae, which in 2024-25 must be between +0.0% and +0.5%. This will allow all of them to match the protection in the NFF, which the ESFA expect local authorities to continue to do where possible.
2. Local authorities will again be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their total schools block allocations to other blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with schools forum approval. A disapplication will continue to be required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without schools forum approval. The criteria the department apply when considering such requests are available in the school funding operational guide.
3. Following the cancellation or incompleteness of assessments in summer 2020 and summer 2021 due to coronavirus (COVID-19), local authorities will not be able to use this data as part of setting a low prior attainment factor in local funding formulae. Instead, local authorities will use 2019 assessment data as a proxy for assessments which would have taken place in 2020 and 2022 and 2022 attainment data as a proxy for the missing assessments in 2021
4. Permits local formulas to retain any existing bespoke local premises (rent) factors – (which LBC was allowed to continue into this year)

### 3.7. The high needs NFF formula changes in 2024/25

All local authorities will receive at least a 3% increase per head of their 2 to 18 population, compared to their 2023/24 allocations, with some authorities seeing gains of up to 5%. The key changes to the formula for 2024/25 are as follows:

1. **The funding floor** – this ensures that all local authorities' allocations per head of population will increase by a minimum percentage compared to the baseline. For 2024-25 the ESFA are setting the funding floor at 3%, having adjusted the baseline to include the supplementary high needs funding that was allocated to local authorities in December 2021.
2. All local authorities will receive **at least a 3% increase per head** of their 2 to 18 population, compared to their 2023 to 2024 allocations, with some authorities seeing gains of up to 5%.



### 3.8. Central schools services block formula (CSSB)

The central school services block (CSSB) within the DSG provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. The block will continue to comprise two distinct elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments.

- 1) Within the central schools services block, total provisional funding for ongoing responsibilities is £304 million in 2024/25, up from £292million in 2023/24. Local authorities will continue to be protected so that the maximum per-pupil year-on-year reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities is at 2.5% as in the previous year, while the year-on-year gains cap will be set at the highest affordable rate of 5.51%.
- 2) In line with the process introduced for 2020/21, to withdraw funding over time for the historic commitments that local authorities entered into before 2013/14, funding for historic commitments will decrease by a further 20% in 2024/25. The Department will continue to protect any local authority from having a reduction that takes their total historic commitments funding below the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind.

### Direct national funding formula transition – Hard Formula

3.9. In the Government's response to the consultation on completing its reforms to the NFF it confirmed that 2023/24 would be the first year of transition towards the "direct" schools NFF. The NFF policy document of July 2022/23 set out the requirements on local authorities to move their formulae closer to the NFF. These are broadly as follows:

1. Going forward from 2022/23 - that local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae, and must use all NFF factors, except the locally determined premises factors.
2. Each year from 2022/23 – Local authorities will also be required to move their local formula factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2022/23, unless their local formulae are already so close to the NFF that they are classed as mirroring (within 2.5%) the NFF.

3.10. The maximum and minimum bands for LBC local funding formula 2024/25 are set out in Appendix 4

## 4. Impact on L.B. Camden Overall Funding

4.1. The detailed changes and impact of this requirement on LB Camden's local funding formula are indicated in Appendix 4.

4.2. However, the operation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee is expected to mitigate any significant redistributive effect or changes to the per pupil allocations generated from the LB Camden local funding formula by ensuring (as required by the ESFA regulations) that all schools are protected and that no school will receive **an increase less than 0.5%** of its 2023/24 per pupil budget allocation.- see section 3.6(1) above.

- 4.3. Following last year's consultation on [Implementing the direct national funding formula](#), the ESFA confirmed that it will continue to move forward with its plans to implement a direct NFF, whereby funding will be allocated directly to schools based on a single, national formula. As set out in the consultation [response](#), they are taking a gradual approach to transition to avoid any unnecessary or unexpected disruption to schools. This transition towards the direct NFF began in 2023-24 and will continue in 2024-25.

#### **Impact on L.B. Camden per pupil funding**

- 4.4. The ESFA indicate that after including the 2022/23 supplementary Grant and the 2023/24 MSAG into the base figure and then uplifting the NFF factors by 2.4% this has resulted for LB Camden in an overall increase of 2.64% to the Notional NFF per pupil funding rates published in the July 2023 Notional NFF school budget allocations for 2024/25 (see Appendix 5) - in line with the increased national funding (section 1.2). However, Camden's per pupil rate are historically and remain above the minimum NFF per pupil rates and some schools NFF figures will only remain with the minimum 0.5% protected increase and not be fully impacted by any national levelling up increases yet.
- 4.5. The 2024/25 Notional NFF allocations do however show that some Camden schools will now receive more than the minimum 0.5% increase in their per pupil funding for 2024/25. This is again due to protection under the NFF "funding floor" (section 1.6) which ensures that every school will attract at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared with its 2023/24 NFF allocation and changes in the schools pupil numbers and characteristics.
- 4.6. For 2024/25 Camden propose to continue to uplift its local formula factors by the final stated NFF inflation uplift to ISB schools budgets (which determines its aggregated DSG schools block) to the 2024/25 local formula (final rate to be confirmed by the ESFA in January). This will be set within the maximum and minimum values of the ESFA determined bands for moving local factor values annually at least 10% closer to the NFF until they are deemed to "mirror" the NFF factors by being within 2.5% of them. (see section 3.9 (a) and Appendix 4).

#### **Impact on L.B. Camden High Needs Funding**

- 4.7. Camden's High Needs DSG budget for 2024/25 will also see a positive impact from the further 4.3% increase in national High needs funding in 2024/25. The ESFA's July Guidance for 2024/25 states that the NFF will ensure that every local authority receives increases of at least 3% per head of population, compared to 2023/24, and up to 5% before capping. The July NFF allocations indicates that Camden HN notional NFF DSG will increase by 3% from £53m in 2023/24 to £55m in 2024/25 (before deductions for Hospital school and Import / export adjustments).

#### **Future Funding**

- 4.8. In summary - Camden schools NFF DSG budget allocations previously had per pupil cash increases of 0.5% per year over 2018 to 2020 and 2% over 2020 to 2023. The recently released (July 2023) NFF Allocations indicate that for 2024/25 some Camden schools will still receive the minimum 0.5% NFF funding floor uplift,

but in aggregate Camden schools NFF budgets will receive an overall 2.64% uplift in the aggregate NFF Schools block budget (Appendix 5 ) the minimum 0.5.% increase in their pupil led funding. Only when its schools historically higher per pupil funding rates are in line with those required by levelling up is it likely that no Camden schools receive the minimum 0.5% NFF funding floor increases.

- 4.9. With regard to future national funding levels the July 2023 ESFA Policy document states that the total core schools budget will total over £59.6 billion in 2024-25 – the highest ever level per pupil, in real terms, as measured by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). This total includes the additional funding for teachers’ pay announced in July 2023. The Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) provides an additional £482.5m in 2023/24, and £827.5m for 2024/25 for mainstream, special and alternative provision schools. Overall, core schools funding (including funding for mainstream schools and high needs) is increasing by over £1.8 billion in 2024/25 compared to the previous year, on top of the £3.9 billion increase in 2023/24.
- 4.10. The ESFA states that funding for mainstream schools through the schools NFF is increasing by 2.7% per pupil compared with 2023/24. Combined with the funding increases seen in 2023 to 2024 (including MSAG), this means that funding through the schools NFF will be 14.8% higher per pupil in 2024 to 2025, compared to 2021/22.
- 4.11. With earlier government commitments to fund future additional Teachers pension costs, there may still be further funding to come and future funding intentions may also still be revised following the next major government spending review. However, to date there are not yet any further funding details beyond 2024/25.
- 4.12. The ([ESFA Schools Funding Operational Guide 2024-25](#)) provides further information about changes to the national formula. These changes, and further detail about local funding arrangements in 2024 to 2025, are also outlined in the latest schools funding [NFF schools block technical note 2024-25](#)

## 5. Pressures on Camden Schools Spending Power

### Levelling Up of National Funding Formula

- 5.1 Following the government changes over the past years it remains challenging to fully estimate the precise future financial impact of the NFF at school and local authority level. However, the governments reaffirmation of its levelling up approach to future increases in schools funding indicate that the longer term impact of future funding proposals on historically well-funded areas (like Camden) may see their funding continue to be restricted to compensate less well-funded areas. (see section 4.8)

### **Teachers pay award from September 2023 – 6.5%**

- 5.2 In July Teachers voted to accept the governments pay offer from September 2023. The deal includes an across-the-board 6.5% rise from September, with a slightly higher increase for new teachers.

- 5.3 Funding to cover past increases to teacher pay and pensions, currently worth £2 billion in separate grant funding, has now been included in the national funding formula.
- 5.4 In July 2023 the government announced an additional £525 million to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award, with a further £900 million in 2024 /25 for schools through the Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG). They are allocating this funding to support schools to meet the costs of the 2023 teachers pay award.
- 5.5 The ESFA's analysis of the TPAG indicates that the grant to will support any excess cost beyond 3.5% resulting from the final 2023 Teachers pay award. As this was finally settled at 6.5% this grant covers the residual 3% of the September 2023 Teachers pay award costs to schools.
- 5.6 TPAG will continue as a separate grant in 2024/25. From 2025/26, TPAG funding will be incorporated into core budget allocations by being rolled into the schools and high needs national funding formulae (NFFs).

### **Support Staff Pay award 2023/24 – £1,925 and 3.88% above spine point 43**

- 5.7 The National Joint Council pay offer for April 2023 was for a flat rate increase of £1,925 pa for all SCP points from 2 to 43 (SCP1 being abolished) and 3.88% for all above, effective from 1 April 2023.
- 5.8 The rate is expected to be higher for inner London at £2,355

### **Current RPI forecasts 6.8%**

- 5.9 The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have shown CPI inflation rose by 6.8 per cent in the 12 months to July 2023, down from 7.9 per cent in June . Schools are currently expected to manage these inflationary pressures along with those of unprecedented fuel prices from within existing allocations. This position may possibly be revised following future national spending reviews and budgets.

## **6. Existing Spending Pressures**

- 6.1 The current pressures faced by Camden schools for 2022/23 and expected to continue into 2024/25 are outlined below.

(a) **Early Years block: £-0.47m call on DSG reserves.**

- Following the introduction of the new Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) from April 2017 Camden's revised offer continued to deliver an enhanced offer above the statutory minimum to "disadvantaged" 2 year olds in the borough of an additional 15 hours of funded early education as 3 & 4 year olds in whichever provision they choose .
- An amount of £0.470m of DSG reserve was committed by forum to support the enhanced Camden offer in 2018/19. To date there has been no request to draw down this DSG reserve by the Early Years team.

- (b) High needs: Future DSG HN Block forecast £3.6m addition to reserves
- The SEN June report indicated that planned spend for 2023/24 is £48.9m. This is a substantial increase from the outturn spend in 2022/23 of £43.7m. The increased spend reflects.
    - Increased top-up rates for all Camden special schools
    - increase in the hospital school budgets
    - Provision for fee increases from all external providers
    - Increased funding for early years settings
    - Increases in spend on central services and planned increase in outreach services
  - However, the report's forecast indicated that provisional spending plans for 2023/24 are not expected to exceed the £52.6m to be received from the government and the team's current forecast was for a £3.6m underspend in this area by the end of 2023/24 (as of June). This is in the main due to the effects of unexpected one off and ongoing increases in the national HN block DSG allocations since 2020/21 on service planning which had been expecting a significant shortage of resources for future periods.
  - The additional increase in funding allocations has placed Camden in the fortunate position of being one of a small number of Local Authorities that are no longer in a HN DSG deficit position. To maintain this position the report supported the use of this new additional funding to support schools capacity to meet the needs of children with SEND. The priority remains 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.
  - The SEN team has also advised of the importance of a prudent approach by ensuring sufficiency in the DSG reserves to accommodate future pressure and to allow for further development as part of the ongoing transformation work.
- (c) Pupil premium Grant (PPG) - £10.35m funding - Schools must demonstrate how they are using this funding to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils that have been 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. Final PPG allocations were confirmed in June 2023 once eligible pupil number data from the October 2022 census had been validated and agreed.
- (d) 6th form funding £15.45m – The grant is issued on an academic year basis, with funding for September 2023 to March 2024 announced in April 2023. The ESFA determines the funding rate for each student by the size of their study programme based on their planned hours. The authority has no discretion over the allocations. The ESFA announced the final allocations for 2023/24 to all post 16 institutions in March 2023. Camden's funding has increased by £1.23m from last year. However, whilst changes in roll numbers and the last 4.7% increase in rates (2020/21) has generated the increased funding of £1.23m (FY) in the 2023/24 allocations, a continuation of the below inflation increases to the pupil funding rate will continue to result in a further real terms reduction in this funding going forward. The Institute for Fiscal studies (IFS) FE Report in 2021 stated that the current trajectory for

school sixth forms, spending per student in 2024–25 will be 15% lower in real terms than it was over 20 years earlier in 2002–03.

- (e) MTFs Savings - Consideration should continue to be given to increasing pressure on the Councils general fund budgets and the potential impacts that the resulting Medium Term Financial Savings (MTFS) programme may have on some of the services and support provided by the Council to schools. Past programmes have introduced savings on Camden Learning and schools pension contributions.

6.2 In summary – Officers' calculations indicate that since per pupil funding was frozen from 2010/2011, schools will have suffered by 2023 real terms spending pressures from rising inflation alone of 29% (this is net of the total 15.66% DSG increases between the 6 years 2018/19 to 2023/24), equivalent to nearly £32m based on the current level of schools DSG income (as measured on the Consumer Price Index of inflation, the government's preferred measure).

6.3 After a decade of austerity cuts, ministers pledged to restore per pupil funding to 2010 levels by the end of the current parliament, but the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has previously indicated that "The big fiscal choice for policymakers going forward is whether or not to provide more funding to public services to compensate for rising costs and the significant challenges they face. It will be that much harder for schools to meaningfully contribute to levelling up ambitions if they face real-terms cuts from next year onwards.

## **7. Further Support to Schools**

7.1 As outlined in earlier reports pupil intake numbers into Camden primary schools have fallen by around 9% from 2015 and are projected to continue to fall into the future. In response the Council has taken a range of actions in recent years including

- The permanent removal of two forms of entry by the closure of St Aloysius Primary School
- Removed two forms of entry with the closure of Carlton Primary school in September 2021
- Reduction 0.5 forms of entry by changing St Dominics from 1.5 to 1 form of entry
- Removed one form of entry by closing St Michaels Primary School in 2022 and transferring pupils to Our Lady's Primary School.
- Removed one planned form of entry from Kingsgate
- For a period Temporarily capped the admission number at other schools.

7.2 Under the current economic conditions and a background of falling rolls it is possible that adjustments or reductions in spending will need to be made across all DSG blocks, with the majority of the potential reduction falling on schools. The Council will continue to work closely with schools, head teachers and chairs to explore different options for future school places.

- 7.3 The Council will continue to work with schools and school forum to support schools from any available DSG reserves in a managed and sustainable way as was done by relieving the former contribution charge to schools for loss of ESG grant to Camden.
- 7.4 The ESFA continue to offer support to schools with the helpful [ESFA's Schools financial benchmarking](#) website and nationally funded School Resource Management Advisors (SRMA's) similar to an earlier scheme offered by Camden. Camden continues to encourage the take up of these services in its schools.
- 7.5 Work is also continuing by Camden Officers and Headteachers to address current and future pressures in SEN and where possible to achieve the most effective use of HN DSG resources in the High Needs area. The SEN Team recently reported to schools forum in June 2023 and will continue to report back to future Schools forums on progress to date in this area
- 7.6 The schools forum is requested to consider what further advice and support may be useful to Camden schools over the next three years to assist schools in adjusting spending to the lower level as well as ensuring they continue to achieve best value with their reduced funding.

## **8. Recent ESFA Support and Announcements**

### **School led-tutoring (SLT) grant returns 2021-22**

- 8.1 Further helpful financial updates, support and advice for schools from the ESFA can be found on the ESFA updates page at the following link. [ESFA Update on GOV.UK](#). Camden schools are encouraged to utilise this useful source of support.

## **9. Consultation Proposals on LB Camden Local formula.**

- 9.1 As outlined in previous reports significant changes were made in 2015/16 to the distribution of funding within Camden's local formula to bring the Authority closer to the averages for all authorities in England (see appendix 2 for current formula). It is still expected that this action has served to minimise the changes required and provide for a smoother transition when the national funding formula is fully introduced. The government's delay in fully introducing national funding formula (i.e. with no protection) now until 2025/26 at the earliest provides further time for the agreed Camden school's local formula factors to transition to those of the National Funding Formula.

### **ESFA Requirements**

- 9.2 For 2024/25 the ESFA has now further smoothed this transition by requiring that local funding formulas that are not deemed to mirror the factors of the NFF (i.e. within 2.5% of difference for each factor value), will now be required each year to reduce the difference of their factors by 10% of the difference of their previous years factors from those of the NFF. Appendix 4 indicates the difference between the factors in the current local funding formula and those of the NFF for 2024/25. It also shows the ESFA determined maximum and minimum values within which the LBC factors need to be set to comply with the ESFA's requirement to reduce any current difference from the NFF factors by 10% for 2024/25. (see section 3.4(a)).

- 9.3 The ESFA also require that in 2024/25 the local funding formula “must use all NFF factors” and “that local authorities will have to use all three deprivation factors (FSM, FSM6 and IDACI) as well as low prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL)” (see section 3.3). This now requires the LBC local formula to now include FSM along side its current use of FSM6. This will likely be set at the NFF factor rate of £130 per eligible unit.
- 9.4 As indicated in section 4.2 above any redistributive effects of the ESFA required adjustments to the local funding formula on Camden schools per pupil budgets for 2024/25 is expected to be mitigated and overridden by the effect of the 0.5% national NFF funding floor requirement that all schools per pupil budgets increase by at least 0.05% from 2023/24.

### **Camden Local Funding Formula**

- 9.1 As an historically higher funded Council, Camden will continue to receive the minimum funding floor protection from the NFF during a process of national “levelling up”. The July 2023 notional NFF notifications indicate that total Camden schools aggregate schools block DSG budget for 2023/24 will be uplifted by 2.64% in line with the minimum funding floor requirement for 2024/25 – ref Appendix 5.
- 9.2 It is proposed to continue the required transition from local to national NFF factors in 2024/25, subject to the NFF requirements and as far as possible avoiding any additional disruption to schools budget planning in the current uncertain economic climate. This aims to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes and to allow changes in pupil characteristics (for example, reducing levels of deprivation in a school) to gradually flow through.
- 9.3 It is advised that Camden continues with the ESFA requirement to “continue to set a minimum funding guarantee in local formulae, which in 2024/25 must be between +0.0% and +0.5% to allow Camden to match the 0.5% funding floor protection in the NFF (which the ESFA require local authorities to continue to do where possible) - see section 3.6 item 1. This is in line with ESFA guidance and also in continuation of earlier schools forum work in adjusting the local formula to move schools towards the expected national NFF and removing any dependence for affordability on the use of DSG reserves.
- 9.4 The ESFA now require that the local funding formula be changed in line with ESFA statutory maximum and minimum factor values requirements for 2024/25. This may involve revised factors in line with the ESFA funding floor requirements (+0.5%) and then adjustment in line with the ESFA maximum and minimum required local formula values. These are now required by the ESFA to move towards mirroring the NFF (by reducing any individual factor difference from those in the NFF figure by a further 10%) in 2024/25. They are set out by the ESFA and outlined in Appendix 4
- 9.5 **In summary** - After uplifting its local formula factors by the DSG inflation uplift for 2024/25 the Council will then apply any adjustment required by the ESFA’s statutory minimums and maximum factor levels which have been determined by the ESFA for Camden to move its local funding formulas 10% closer towards “mirroring” (i.e. to within 2,5%) the NFF factor rates. These are outlined in Appendix 4. Any Camden school with pupil characteristics not benefitting from the required 10% movement



towards the NFF factors will be protected by the funding floor 0.5% per pupil uplift whilst any that benefit will retain any excess uplift in its per pupil rate – subject to affordability of the MFG protection costs.

- 9.6 This process continues the earlier forum aim of not making changes to the local funding formula (other than those required by the ESFA regulations) which might have unforeseen long-term impacts on individual schools funding levels following the implementation of the “hard” national funding formula. This is to ensure that schools can concentrate on addressing the real terms funding reductions away from changes caused by local formula revisions. The draft consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Timetable**

- 9.7 The consultation with schools will run for a four week period beginning on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 ending on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The responses to date will be reported to the schools forum for consideration and agreement on any changes to the proposed formula. This will enable the authority to inform the government of any requests for exemptions to normal formula rules as soon as possible.
- 9.8 Schools and other interested parties that require more information on the impact of the formula for their school will be able to contact the Authority during the consultation period for separate briefing. Time has been set aside for these meetings on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September (morning) and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September (afternoon). Other times may be arranged subject to availability.

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

- 10.1 The finance reports to schools forum are written by the Finance team and incorporate the views of the Exec Director Corporate services which are included with the report.
- 10.2 The report updates forum on the latest funding position for schools for 2024/25 following the latest July 2023 ESFA guidance and technical updates. It also explains the ESFA statutory requirements for local funding of schools outlines the draft consultation process and document for Camden’s local funding formula. It finally invites forum for comments on future and ongoing support requirements.
- 10.3 The reports advice is made within the current ESFA funding for requirements 2024/25 and is in accord with ESFA guidance and requirements as well as earlier Forum approval of the local budget formula.
- 10.4 Forum is advised to note the level of funding in context of the expected spending pressures for 2024/25 in the context of increasing levels of DSG reserves and consider the appropriate actions going forward to manage this level of DSG reserves.
- 10.5 Subject to noting of 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 outlined the schools DSG funding position and regulations for 2024/25 in line with the requirements and guidance of the most recent ESFA Operational Guidance and requirements.
- 11.2 The basic structure of the national funding formula (NFF) has not changed for 2024/25. 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 funding between the mainstream schools budget and the high needs budget.



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## Consultation re: the allocation of funding to schools in 2024/25

### For the attention of all Camden schools

The government introduced the national funding formula for schools in April 2018. In July 2018 it announced that it would be extending its 2 year transition period into 2020/21 where the formula would be calculated for each school, aggregated and then passed to local councils to distribute according to their own local formulas. In July 2023 this was extended to 2024/25 now making 2025/26 the earliest year for a full transition to the direct funding by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of the national funding formula to schools. Since 2017 and confirmed in July 2018 the government has indicated that the per-pupil funding for each authority will not decrease as a result of the formula. This has continued to be the case with the NFF funding floor again being applied in 2024/25.

Camden had already made significant changes to its local formula from 2015/16 to bring it in line with the expected impacts of the national formula. This was to make it reflect average national funding levels. Consequently, there have been minimum adjustments since in order to allow schools to steadily transition to their new funding levels and to create a period of stability to enable schools to concentrate on the real-terms funding reductions caused by rising costs (away from any distractions and confusion of any redistributive effects caused by changes to the local formula). It is again proposed that no major changes are made to the formula for 2024/25 other than to (i) fully increase each local factor by the general DSG increase (currently 2.64%) subject to (ii) applying the ESFA determined local formula "mirroring" requirements to reduce any difference between local and national NFF factors by 10% in 2024/25.

It is also proposed that the local funding formula only be changed in line with ESFA statutory maximum and minimum factor values requirements for 2024/25. This will involve revised factors to meet the ESFA minimum funding floor requirements (+0.5%) and then adjustment in line with the ESFA maximum and minimum required local formula values. These have been determined and are required by the ESFA to move the local funding formula towards "mirroring" (i.e. "to within 2.5% of") the NFF (by reducing the gap of any individual local formula factor difference from those NFF factor values by 10% per annum) in 2024/25. These are set out by the ESFA and outlined in Appendix 1b

In accord with ESFA requirements this consultation paper therefore requests school forum approval that the council makes amends and uplifts its local funding formula and factors in line with ESFA mirroring requirements for 2024/25 and making no application to the EFA for variations beyond that for 2024/25. It asks to continue its earlier year's decision to continue the nil use of DSG reserves so that LBC's formula's funding of

schools budgets remains entirely affordable and sustainable from the annual DSG grant alone.

The Council welcome comments from all schools, individuals and interested parties. The consultation ends on the Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Comments cannot be accepted after this date due to the need to confirm the final formula with the next schools forum. Please include your responses in this document and e-mail back to [Joe.Lynch@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Joe.Lynch@camden.gov.uk)

## **SECTION A – Update on Government Policy Regarding Funding for Schools**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The government started a process back in 2012 to reform the school funding system with the aim of providing a fairer, more consistent and transparent funding system nationally. Initially the reforms focused on changes to how local authorities determine the distribution of funding for individual schools and included:
- separating the dedicated schools grant into three blocks – schools, high needs and early years
  - restricting the factors that can be used to determine the level of funding for individual primary and secondary schools that reflects the needs of pupils
  - implementing a place led funding system for pupils with special educational needs
- 1.2 The next stage of the government reforms was to change the distribution of funding to local authorities so that funding to schools is based on a standard formulaic approach (referred to as a 'national funding formula or NFF) rather than via local authorities based on historic spending. The ongoing implementation of this approach from historic to formulaic allocation has inevitably seen a shift of funding between areas, creating significant turbulence in funding for schools in some authorities.
- 1.3 While the government has been keen to move ahead with a national funding formula as soon as possible, it has continually expressed concerns at the impact on the stability of individual schools. As a consequence, the government announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 that in 2018/19, all local authorities would receive some increase over the baseline amount they planned to spend on schools and high needs in 2017/18 through the protection of its national minimum funding floor. In July 2018 it repeated this with a 0.5% minimum per pupil funding increase for 2019/20 and continued this with a further 1.84% increase in 2020/21, a 2% in 2021/23 and 0.5% in 2023/24. The ESFA's July 2023 NFF allocations for Camden has again indicated that the minimum per pupil funding floor rate protection for 2024/25 will be a minimum increase of at least 0.5%. It has confirmed this protection in its minimum funding floor requirement in the July 2023 DSG guidance papers.
- 1.4 Since the government's introduction of the national funding formula in April 2018 to allocate the Councils DSG funding the ESFA now sets out each July the indicative "notional" NFF budgets for each school and hence the total ("aggregate") schools funding to be received by each Local Authority using a national funding formula (NFF) based on the aggregation of the derived Individual school NFF budgets (ISB). It explains that this is based on transitional protection adjustments and its minimum per pupil funding rates (funding floor) as indicated above. Until further notice Local authorities are required to continue to set a local formula, in consultation with schools in the area, for determining individual schools' budgets for 2024/25 to distribute this aggregate NFF funding to schools. (extended in July 2023).

- 1.5 Camden has historically been funded above the expected NFF levels and in earlier consultation proposals prior to the July 2017 government announcement of £1.3bn additional national funding to core school budgets was expecting to lose 2.8% of its school budget by 2019/20. Fortunately, this and subsequent government announcements of additional national core school budget funding have resulted in a transitional protection (funding floors) from 2018/19 to 2024/25 for Camden of protected annual increases ranging from 0.5% to 2% per year. This annual transitional protection of minimum per pupil funding rates has resulted in Camden aggregate schools block increasing 1.84% during 2020/21, 2% in 2021/23 and 1.6% in 2023/24. A “notional aggregate increase of 2.64% was indicated for 2024/25 in the July 2023 “notional” NFF notifications. However, this may be revised following the input of the October 2023 schools census data by the ESFA.
- 1.1. In delivering the third year of the three-year funding settlement announced at the spending review in 2021 The government indicates for 2024/25 that it has now increased the total core school budget to £59.6 billion by 2024-25 (a £1.8 billion cash increase compared with 2023/24). Overall, core schools funding (including funding for mainstream schools and high needs) is increasing by £1.8 billion in 2024/25 compared with the £3.9 billion increase in 2023/24.
- 1.7 Future funding intentions are now expected following the next major government spending review. There has been no detailed indication of funding levels beyond 2024/25. Whilst Camden has historically received per pupil funding above the national average its schools budget has however between 2011 and 2018 like many others suffered from a real terms freezing on funding per pupil. For some schools it continues to receive the minimum per pupil uplift.
-



**SECTION B – Primary and Secondary Schools Local Funding Formula**

**1. Introduction**

This section of the consultation covers options to change or amend the local formula used to distribute funding for pupils in reception to year 11. The local formula provides the main funding source for primary and secondary schools and is one of four funding streams that primary and secondary schools receive i.e. – schools formula funding + high needs + pupil premium + nursery + 6<sup>th</sup> form.

**2. What was reviewed last year?**

The consultation issued this time last year considered the following recommendation regarding the review of the local funding formula;

(a) **That there should be no changes to the formula -**. In line with the need to continue a period of stability in order to concentrate on the expected funding changes at national level, no further major changes are being requested in the formula at this stage.

Item (a) did not required any further application to EFA for approval to “dis-apply from the EFA regulations”.

**3. What is being reviewed this year?**

A quite extensive review of the local funding formula was taken in past years to take its factors closer to the national average funding levels and hence a similar direction to the NFF. In line with the aim for a continued period of stability in order to concentrate on any real terms or national level funding reductions no further major changes are being requested in the formula at this stage other than those statutory requirements of the ESFA to mirror the NFF factors and to reduce any difference between local and national factors by 10% in 2024/25. See appendix 1b

(a) **No further major changes are being requested in the formula at this stage beyond the statutory and mirroring requirements of the ESFA**

Question 1:	Please tick one box
(a) Do you agree that there should be no changes to the formula <b>beyond the statutory requirements of the ESFA ?</b>	
(b) Do you disagree that there should be no changes to the formula <b>beyond the statutory requirements of the ESFA?</b>	
(c) I have no view on the proposal.	

Question 2: General	Please tick box
(a) Are there any changes that you would like to make to any of the proposals?	

(b) Do you have any comments relating to the local funding formula for primary and secondary schools?	
Comments:	

## **SECTION C - High Needs Pupils - For Information purposes only**

### **1. Introduction – all schools**

The high needs block continues to be subject to review in light of growing spend pressures and changes in national funding levels. A SEN team report on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to Schools forum provided an update on the ongoing review of the pressures and changes to the High Needs Block of the DSG in LBC.

The report updated forum on the progress of the ongoing HN Block transformation and the progress on the following earlier declared broad areas of development and ongoing transformation :

- i. Greater devolution of funds to mainstream schools with associated changes in operational practice (greater monitoring of HNB delegated and devolved monies in mainstream, cluster based allocations).
- ii. Review of Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) to ensure value for money and that children and young people accessing those provisions are the most in need of this type of provision
- iii. Review of special school funding
- iv. Use of additional new funding and Planned spending commitments and projects going forward

The work remains ongoing and will now operate in the context of the recent government announcement (July 2023) of a further increase of £440m or 4.3% of national SEN funding resulting in a minimum funding floor 3% increased funding to Camden's High Needs budget for 2024/25.

As there is currently no proposal to change the current high needs funding rates this information is not for consultation but for information purposes only. The high needs funding stream covers pupils in the following education provision:

Education provision	Funding
Early years providers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individualised top-up funding for those with EHC plans</li> <li>2. Contribution from HNB to Camden Local Inclusion Fund (CLIF) funding to support children with SEND</li> </ol>
Mainstream schools – additional funding for pupils with high needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £10,000 notional funding in the funding formula – place plus first £6,000.</li> <li>2. Top up funding – equivalent to 10- 20 hours LSA per week provided via high needs formula</li> <li>3. Top up funding over 20 hours per week – banded funding based on pupils individual needs</li> <li>4. An Exceptional Needs Grant providing banded top-up funding for children with high needs and requiring support over 20 hours per week but without the need for a statutory EHC plan.</li> </ol>
Mainstream schools – resource bases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £10,000 notional funding in the funding formula - i.e basic entitlement plus £6,000 place funding</li> </ol>

Education provision	Funding
	2. Top up funding – based on agreed rates per resource provision.
Special schools	£10,000 per place plus top up for individual pupils
Pupil referral units	£10,000 per place plus top up for individual pupils
Post 16 provision for special needs – all providers	£10,000 notional funding comprising basic entitlement plus £6,000 place plus top up for individual pupils

The introduction of the NFF for the HNB in 2017 judged that Camden, and many other London authorities, were relatively well funded. However, the government announced in 2017 that under NFF there would “not be a cash terms reduction in the high needs block” and this has been maintained with 0.5% per pupil rate increases in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Camden also received a £0.534m increase to its 2018/19 and 2019/20 HN budgets from the additional £350m additional national SEN funding announced by the ESFA in December 2018.

Significant 8% HN DSG budget increases (although at the national minimum) in 2021/22 and for 2022/23 have seen Camden HNB grow in excess of planned expectation. As indicated above 2024/25 will increase by a further 3%. This growth however, has at all times been at the minimum percentage increase in the Government’s effort to gradually erode the perceived national disparity in funding from the NFF.

Despite this increase in funding , local issues around the need to contain the growth in needs and costs remain and this maintains pressure for the authority to reflect this in the rates to providers. Although National SEN funding increases for 2024/25 will support the delivery of this service, the Council will continue to work with a group of headteachers, governors and stakeholders to consider the future arrangements for the high needs block in the light of the requirement to most effectively utilise Camden’s future HN block allocations and to ensure sustainability of service provision going forward.

## 2. Primary and Secondary schools – funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Funding to primary and secondary schools for pupils that require additional support is provided as follows:

- (a) **Under £6,000 (roughly 10 hours)** – no additional funding provided as schools have to fund this cost from their formula allocation.
- (b) **10 to 20 hours** - £1.8m is delegated to individual schools and paid as a separate fixed amount from that included in the main formula. This funding only covers pupils who are resident in Camden. Schools must claim funding for out of borough pupils from the relevant borough. The amount each school receives is calculated using 60% prior attainment, 20% free school meals, and 20% number of pupils on roll (Camden residents only).
- (c) **Over 20 hours** – separate funding is provided on a per pupil basis to cover all support costs over the first £11,000. Funding is provided either as band 1 or band 2.

- (d) Exceptional needs grant - From September 2018 mainstream schools are able to apply to Camden for an exceptional needs grant, to the same value as bands 1 and 2 but without the need for an EHC plan. Such funding would be agreed until a specified date at which time schools would have to apply for it's renewal explaining why this is necessary. From March 2022 this process has been gradually transferring to a cluster based review and approval system.

### **3. Special Schools and Resource Units**

No changes are yet planned to the funding system for places in special schools and resource units. The funding system is driven by an early agreement as to the number of places to be provided for the coming year for both children resident in Camden and out of borough pupils. Proposals to open further resource provision led to the opening of an autism resource base at Primrose Hill primary initially with 2 places in September 2019 which will continue to grow by 2 places per year each September, until it reaches capacity of 14 places. The funding of special schools and resource bases will be the subject of working parties being established as part of the HNB review. The need for more resource bases is also being considered as part of the review and a needs analysis which is to be consulted on and used in formulating an SEN commissioning strategy.

**SECTION D - Early Years pupils in nursery provision (For Information purposes only)**

1. From April 2017 local authorities were required to implement the Early years national funding formula proposals with national formula funding rates to all providers in effect from September 2017.
2. The hourly rates payable to all Camden providers was revised from September 2017 to reflect the government’s national formula funding rates for Camden. The new Camden offer and rates were reported in the February 2022 Schools Forum Report)
3. Local Authorities are required to apply the principles set out in national guidance in the development of a local funding formula.
4. 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.
5. The table below shows Camden’s current Early Years hourly funding rates The Camden Enhanced Offer is currently £5.25. These rates may change subject to any current disapplication by the Early years team to the ESFA.
6. Any revised rates for 2024/25 will be notified under separate cover when any change is advised.

**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>

**Rates to providers**

7. As LB Camden’s EY funding rates from the ESFA are no longer constrained by protection under “loss Cap” arrangements the early years team expects their current Council payment rates 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 old providers to eventually reflect the modest increase in the ESFA funding rates for 2023/24. They will inform Forum and Camden providers of the final rates for 2024/25 once the disapplication process has been completed by the ESFA and the outcome confirmed to Camden.

## Appendix 1a - 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. Primary £4,233, secondary KS3 £5,879 secondary KS4 £6,444	89.63
(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 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	16.43
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 1b - ESFA DETERMINED - MAXIMUM and MINIMUM LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA FACTORS Required for MIRRORING NFF in 2024/25- issued by ESFA on 17 July 2023**

Allowable Factor Value Ranges 2024/25 ESFA NFF dd 17 July 2023 for LB Camden

Factor	2024 to 2025 national funding formula (NFF) value including area cost adjustment (ACA)	2024 to 2025 authority proforma tool (APT) minimum value	2024 to 2025 authority proforma tool (APT) maximum value
<b>area cost adjustment (ACA) – LB Camden</b>	1.18666		
Primary basic entitlement	£4,268.42	£4,161.71	£4,446.44
KS3 basic entitlement	£6,018.74	£5,868.27	£6,189.76
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,784.14	£6,614.53	£6,953.74
Primary FSM	£581.46	£129.95	£596.00
Secondary FSM	£581.46	£129.95	£596.00
Primary FSM6	£984.93	£960.30	£1,158.46
Secondary FSM6	£1,435.86	£1,399.96	£1,474.03
Primary IDACI F	£278.87	£271.89	£285.84
Primary IDACI E	£338.20	£329.74	£346.65
Primary IDACI D	£534.00	£479.88	£547.35
Primary IDACI C	£581.46	£564.65	£596.00
Primary IDACI B	£617.06	£601.64	£632.49
Primary IDACI A	£812.86	£792.54	£867.24
Secondary IDACI F	£409.40	£391.14	£419.63
Secondary IDACI E	£539.93	£511.97	£553.43
Secondary IDACI D	£753.53	£651.71	£772.37
Secondary IDACI C	£824.73	£754.11	£845.35
Secondary IDACI B	£890.00	£832.47	£912.24
Secondary IDACI A	£1,127.33	£1,099.14	£1,217.60
Primary EAL3	£706.06	£638.95	£723.71
Secondary EAL3	£1,904.59	£1,585.40	£1,952.20
Primary LPA	£1,406.19	£1,001.01	£1,441.35
Secondary LPA	£2,124.12	£1,438.67	£2,177.22
Primary mobility	£1,151.06	£262.28	£1,179.84
Secondary mobility	£1,655.39	£378.35	£1,696.78
Primary lump sum	£161,029.76	£157,004.02	£165,055.51
Secondary lump sum	£161,029.76	£157,004.02	£181,566.18
Primary sparsity	£68,470.28	£15,623.91	£70,182.04
Secondary sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
Middle-school sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
All-through sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£64,435.64	£62,824.75	£66,046.53
Split sites distance funding	£32,158.49	£31,354.52	£32,962.45
London Fringe	1	1	1

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## Appendix 2 - 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 3 - Summary of Schools Block Funding 2023/24- APT(Jan23) Camden  
Formula Calculation compared with notional ISB NFF Calculation as at July2023 for  
2024/25 - Notification from ESFA <sup>1</sup>**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>NOR (Oct 2022)</b>	<b>Total 2023-2024 Schools Block Allocations incld Falling Rolls</b>	<b>Individual Notional NFF Rate <sub>1</sub> at July 2023 for 2024/25</b>	<b>NFF Rate x NOR per Jan 2023 APT</b>	<b>Diff APT from NNF</b>	<b>% age Diff APT from NNF</b>
Argyle Primary School	316	<b>2,049,339</b>	£7,263	<b>2,295,265</b>	245,926	12.00%
West Hampstead Primary School	362	<b>2,255,741</b>	£6,666	<b>2,413,143</b>	157,402	6.98%
Brecknock Primary School	283	<b>1,930,692</b>	£7,298	<b>2,065,455</b>	134,763	6.98%
Brookfield Primary School	340	<b>1,997,664</b>	£6,077	<b>2,066,246</b>	68,582	3.43%
Edith Neville Primary School	179	<b>1,233,318</b>	£7,451	<b>1,333,660</b>	100,342	8.14%
Fleet Primary School	202	<b>1,299,040</b>	£6,914	<b>1,396,542</b>	97,502	7.51%
Hawley Primary School	198	<b>1,361,721</b>	£7,406	<b>1,466,378</b>	104,657	7.69%
Netley Primary School & Centre for Autism	353	<b>2,365,173</b>	£7,273	<b>2,567,333</b>	202,160	8.55%
New End Primary School	305	<b>1,793,956</b>	£6,219	<b>1,896,885</b>	102,929	5.74%
Primrose Hill School	392	<b>2,365,763</b>	£6,358	<b>2,492,254</b>	126,491	5.35%
Rhyl Community Primary School	354	<b>2,682,389</b>	£7,561	<b>2,676,573</b>	-5,816	-0.22%
Richard Cobden Primary School	370	<b>2,448,971</b>	£7,255	<b>2,684,213</b>	235,242	9.61%
Torriano Primary School	409	<b>2,495,226</b>	£6,381	<b>2,609,766</b>	114,540	4.59%
Gospel Oak Primary School	405	<b>2,446,473</b>	£6,516	<b>2,639,087</b>	192,614	7.87%
Fitzjohn's Primary School	208	<b>1,194,705</b>	£6,049	<b>1,258,202</b>	63,497	5.31%
Eleanor Palmer Primary School	210	<b>1,230,905</b>	£6,039	<b>1,268,155</b>	37,250	3.03%
Christopher Hatton Primary School	208	<b>1,336,937</b>	£6,974	<b>1,450,556</b>	113,619	8.50%
Kingsgate Primary School	590	<b>3,904,500</b>	£7,004	<b>4,132,635</b>	228,135	5.84%
Christ Church Primary School, Hampstead	190	<b>1,047,180</b>	£5,771	<b>1,096,417</b>	49,237	4.70%
Christ Church School	191	<b>1,241,246</b>	£7,063	<b>1,348,991</b>	107,745	8.68%
Emmanuel Church of England Primary School	205	<b>1,156,308</b>	£6,104	<b>1,251,339</b>	95,031	8.22%
Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School	203	<b>1,118,002</b>	£5,761	<b>1,169,412</b>	51,410	4.60%
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, NW3	170	<b>1,107,256</b>	£7,148	<b>1,215,220</b>	107,964	9.75%
Holy Trinity and Saint Silas CofE Primary School, NW1	208	<b>1,298,505</b>	£6,678	<b>1,388,984</b>	90,479	6.97%
Kentish Town Church of England Primary School	208	<b>1,295,259</b>	£6,631	<b>1,379,232</b>	83,973	6.48%
Rosary Catholic Primary School	265	<b>1,591,333</b>	£6,481	<b>1,717,353</b>	126,020	7.92%

School Name	NOR (Oct 2022)	Total 2023-2024 Schools Block Allocations incld Falling Rolls		Individual Notional NFF Rate <sup>1</sup> at July 2023 for 2024/25	NFF Rate x NOR per Jan 2023 APT	Diff APT from NNF	% age Diff APT from NNF
St Alban's Church of England Primary School	158	1,060,003		£7,510	1,186,645	126,642	11.95%
St Dominic's Catholic Primary School	121	904,109		£7,467	903,546	-563	-0.06%
St George the Martyr Church of England Primary School	201	1,232,351		£6,580	1,322,512	90,161	7.32%
St Josephs Catholic Primary School	175	1,122,364		£7,064	1,236,273	113,909	10.15%
St Mary's Kilburn Church of England Primary School	199	1,298,020		£7,069	1,406,649	108,629	8.37%
St Mary and St Pancras Church of England Primary School	192	1,252,968		£7,184	1,379,255	126,287	10.08%
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	142	1,004,282		£7,297	1,036,169	31,887	3.18%
St Paul's Church of England Primary School	180	1,113,631		£6,453	1,161,487	47,856	4.30%
St Eugene de Mazenod Roman Catholic Primary School	198	1,251,865		£6,879	1,362,100	110,235	8.81%
Our Lady Roman Catholic Primary School	276	1,961,335		£8,023	2,214,314	252,979	12.90%
Haverstock School	726	6,726,163		£10,458	7,592,510	866,347	12.88%
Parliament Hill School	896	7,024,536		£8,539	7,650,507	625,971	8.91%
Regent High School	893	7,991,290		£9,684	8,648,043	656,753	8.22%
Hampstead School	1,041	8,406,956		£8,735	9,093,071	686,115	8.16%
Acland Burghley School	921	7,204,118		£8,358	7,697,638	493,520	6.85%
The Camden School for Girls	598	4,425,418		£7,832	4,683,605	258,187	5.83%
Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ	701	5,793,338		£8,917	6,251,028	457,690	7.90%
William Ellis School	616	4,796,187		£8,411	5,181,374	385,187	8.03%
La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School	581	4,921,374		£8,555	4,970,386	49,012	1.00%
St Luke's Church of England School	100	643,805		£6,724	672,381	28,576	4.44%
Abacus Belsize Primary School	156	919,725		£6,185	964,900	45,175	4.91%
Kings Cross Academy	370	2,217,801		£6,955	2,573,466	355,665	16.04%
The UCL Academy	911	7,220,842		£11,054	10,070,585	2,849,743	39.47%
	17,676	126,740,083	0		138,537,735	11,797,652	

<sup>1</sup> In 2023-24, core schools funding was allocated through a mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) in addition to the NFF. MSAG funding has been incorporated in the NFF for 2024-25, and year-on-year funding comparisons include the funding from the MSAG for 2023-24.

**Appendix 4 - ESFA DETERMINED - MAXIMUM and MINIMUM LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA FACTORS Required for MIRRORING NFF in 2024/25- issued by ESFA on 17 July 2023 - For the purpose of the tightening requirements local factor values within 2.5% of the respective NFF values are deemed to be mirroring the NFF.**

Allowable Factor Value Ranges 2024/25 ESFA NFF dd 17 July 2023 for LB Camden

<b>Factor</b>	<b>2024 to 2025 national funding formula (NFF) value including area cost adjustment (ACA)</b>	<b>2024 to 2025 authority proforma tool (APT) minimum value</b>	<b>2024 to 2025 authority proforma tool (APT) maximum value</b>
<b>area cost adjustment (ACA) – LB Camden</b>	1.18666		
Primary basic entitlement	£4,268.42	£4,161.71	£4,446.44
KS3 basic entitlement	£6,018.74	£5,868.27	£6,189.76
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,784.14	£6,614.53	£6,953.74
Primary FSM	£581.46	£129.95	£596.00
Secondary FSM	£581.46	£129.95	£596.00
Primary FSM6	£984.93	£960.30	£1,158.46
Secondary FSM6	£1,435.86	£1,399.96	£1,474.03
Primary IDACI F	£278.87	£271.89	£285.84
Primary IDACI E	£338.20	£329.74	£346.65
Primary IDACI D	£534.00	£479.88	£547.35
Primary IDACI C	£581.46	£564.65	£596.00
Primary IDACI B	£617.06	£601.64	£632.49
Primary IDACI A	£812.86	£792.54	£867.24
Secondary IDACI F	£409.40	£391.14	£419.63
Secondary IDACI E	£539.93	£511.97	£553.43
Secondary IDACI D	£753.53	£651.71	£772.37
Secondary IDACI C	£824.73	£754.11	£845.35
Secondary IDACI B	£890.00	£832.47	£912.24
Secondary IDACI A	£1,127.33	£1,099.14	£1,217.60
Primary EAL3	£706.06	£638.95	£723.71
Secondary EAL3	£1,904.59	£1,585.40	£1,952.20
Primary LPA	£1,406.19	£1,001.01	£1,441.35
Secondary LPA	£2,124.12	£1,438.67	£2,177.22
Primary mobility	£1,151.06	£262.28	£1,179.84
Secondary mobility	£1,655.39	£378.35	£1,696.78
Primary lump sum	£161,029.76	£157,004.02	£165,055.51
Secondary lump sum	£161,029.76	£157,004.02	£181,566.18
Primary sparsity	£68,470.28	£15,623.91	£70,182.04
Secondary sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
Middle-school sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
All-through sparsity	£99,560.77	£22,693.08	£102,049.79
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£64,435.64	£62,824.75	£66,046.53
Split sites distance funding	£32,158.49	£31,354.52	£32,962.45
London Fringe	1	1	1

**For the purpose of the tightening requirements local factor values within 2.5% of the respective NFF values are deemed to be mirroring the NFF**

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**Appendix 4a - NFF PROFORMA - Factor values and total spend in 2024- 25**

	Unit Values	Total Funding (incl. ACA)	Proportion of core total
<b>Basic per pupil Funding</b>		<b>£33,696m</b>	<b>75.7%</b>
<b>Basic entitlement</b>		<b>£33,505m</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
Primary basic entitlement	£3,597	£16,419m	36.9%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,072	£9,904m	22.2%
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,717	£7,183m	16.1%
<b>Minimum per pupil</b>		<b>£191m</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Primary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£4,655	£150m	0.3%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil funding	£6,050	£40m	0.1%
<b>Additional Needs Funding</b>		<b>£7,917m</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Deprivation</b>		<b>£4,511m</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
Primary FSM	£490	£540m	1.2%
Secondary FSM	£490	£376m	0.8%
Primary FSM6	£830	£951m	2.1%
Secondary FSM6	£1,210	£1,067m	2.4%
Primary IDACI A	£685	£104m	0.2%
Primary IDACI B	£520	£152m	0.3%
Primary IDACI C	£490	£140m	0.3%
Primary IDACI D	£450	£124m	0.3%
Primary IDACI E	£285	£147m	0.3%
Primary IDACI F	£235	£115m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI A	£950	£97m	0.2%
Secondary IDACI B	£750	£151m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI C	£695	£140m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI D	£635	£122m	0.3%
Secondary IDACI E	£455	£165m	0.4%
Secondary IDACI F	£345	£117m	0.3%
<b>Low Prior Attainment</b>		<b>£2,857m</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
Primary LPA	£1,185	£1,617m	3.6%
Secondary LPA	£1,790	£1,240m	2.8%
<b>English as an Additional Language</b>		<b>£488m</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Primary EAL	£595	£346m	0.8%
Secondary EAL	£1,605	£142m	0.3%
<b>Mobility</b>		<b>£61m</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Primary Mobility	£970	£48m	0.1%
Secondary Mobility	£1,395	£13m	0.0%
<b>School-Led Funding</b>		<b>£2,900m</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Lump Sum</b>		<b>£2,801m</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Primary lump sum	£135,700	£2,339m	5.3%
Secondary lump sum	£135,700	£462m	1.0%
<b>Sparsity</b>		<b>£99m</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Primary sparsity	£57,700	£94m	0.2%
Secondary sparsity	£83,900	£5m	0.0%
<b>Area Cost Adjustment:</b> Multiplier applied to basic entitlement, additional needs and school-led funding (It is included in the factor subtotals)		£1,123m	
<b>Core total (excl. funding floor and premises)</b>		<b>£44,513m</b>	
<b>Floor</b>		<b>£223m</b>	
Primary floor funding		£109m	
Secondary floor funding		£114m	
<b>Premises</b>		£595m	
Split sites	£81,400	£33m	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£45,331m.</b>	

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## Appendix 5 - The schools national funding formula (NFF): schools block allocations for LAs 2024/25- as at 17 July 2023

### The national funding formulae (NFF): 2024-25 allocations

The note numbers succeeding column headers in row 6 correspond to full explanations found in the "Notes" sheet

			Schools block baseline funding [Note 5]					Provisional schools NFF funding in 2024-25 [Note 6]						
Region (alphabetical order)	LA numbe r	LA name (alphabetical order within region)	2023-24 schools block pupil numbers	Amount allocated to the LA in 2023-24 through the DSG (excluding growth and premises factors)	Amount allocated to the LA in 2023- 24 through the DSG premises funding	Amount allocated through the 2023- 24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	Total 2023-24 baseline for the schools block (excluding growth factor)  (total cash)	Total 2023-24 baseline for the schools block (excluding growth factor)  (£ per pupil)	Pupil numbers (2023-24 DSG schools block figures) [will be updated]	Provisional 2024-25 NFF funding through the core NFF factors (excluding premises and growth factors) [will be updated]  (2024-25 PUFs and SUFs multiplied by 2023-24 DSG pupil numbers)	Actual 2024-25 funding through the premises factors	Provisional funding in 2024-25 (excluding growth factor) [will be updated]  (total cash)	Provisional funding in 2024- 25 (excluding growth factor) [will be updated]  (£ per pupil)	Provisional percentage change in 2024-25 over 2023-24 DSG baseline [will be updated]  (per pupil)
			[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e] = [b] + [c] + [d]	[f] = [e] / [a]	[g]	[h]	[i]	[j] = [h] + [i]	[k] = [j] / [g]	[l] = ([k] - [f]) / [f]
<b>England total</b>			<b>7,549,384</b>	<b>£41,967,486,648</b>	<b>£668,717,979</b>	<b>£1,447,953,921</b>	<b>£44,084,158,548</b>	<b>£5,839</b>	<b>7,549,384</b>	<b>£44,552,233,243</b>	<b>£742,984,861</b>	<b>£45,295,218,104</b>	<b>£6,000</b>	<b>2.75%</b>
Inner London	202	Camden	17,674	£124,097,296	£4,028,671	£4,530,182	£132,656,149	£7,506	17,674	£132,061,893	£4,092,450	£136,154,344	£7,704	2.64%

<sup>1</sup>In 2023-24, core schools funding was allocated through a mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) in addition to the NFF. MSAG funding has been incorporated in the NFF for 2024-25, and year-on-year funding comparisons include the funding from the MSAG for 2023-24.

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## Appendix 6 - TPAG 2023/24 Allocation Rates – Sept 2023 to March 2024 – 7/12ths

### School Teachers' Pay Additional Grant - distribution

#### Mainstream Schools (September 2023 to March 2024)

£36	for each primary pupil
£50	for each Key Stage 3 pupil
£57	for each Key Stage 4 pupil
£31	for each Ever6 FSM primary pupil
£45	for each Ever6 FSM6 secondary pupil
£1,345	lump sum for every school.
All multiplied by the relevant Area Cost Adjustment	

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-additional-grant-2023-to-2024](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-additional-grant-2023-to-2024)

#### Special Schools and AP (September 2023 to March 2024)

Funding distribution to Local Authorities:	
£260	per place
Multiplied by the relevant Area Cost Adjustment	
Local Authorities determine local distribution, with 100% to be passed on to special and AP schools	

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## Appendix 7 - Extract-52. Annex 5: split site eligibility criteria – Extract ESFA Operational Guidance

For the NFF, an additional site attracts split sites funding if it meets the following conditions (up to a maximum of 3 additional sites per school):

1. It does **not** have a different URN to the school's main site. The URN is the [unique reference number allocated to every school and can be found on Get Information about Schools \(GIAS\) \(https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Search\)](https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Search). **If a site has a different URN, we count it as a different school for funding purposes because they receive a separate lump sum payment.**
2. It is separated from the school's main site by a road or a railway. If separated by a road, it must be a road with 24-hour access to through traffic. This includes where, in order to access the school's additional site, you have to leave the school site and walk alongside a road. If a school's sites are separated by a feature not covered in the eligibility criteria, but you believe they should be eligible for split sites funding, please contact us with details of the school's circumstances at [LA.Disapplications@education.gov.uk](mailto:LA.Disapplications@education.gov.uk).
3. It has a building on it which is maintained by the school. We are following the definition of a building used by the DfE Condition Data Collection program (CDC) a block located on a school site which is owned, controlled
4. and/or maintained by the school and which is primarily used for educational purposes. This excludes any 'ancillary' buildings<sup>1</sup>, swimming pools or playing fields.
5. If a building is rented by the school from another entity, but the school has maintenance responsibilities for the building, it is eligible for split sites funding if it meets the other criteria. Conversely, if the school is leasing out a building to another entity full time, the school would not be eligible to receive split sites funding.
6. It is used primarily for the educational purposes of 5 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education. By primarily, we mean that the site is used by 5 to 16-year-old pupils that attend the school during school hours for the majority of those hours. This excludes any sites used solely for special schools (for example, within the same multi-academy trust), nurseries, or school sixth forms. However, it does include sites used to support 5 to 16-year-old mainstream pupils on the school roll who have SEND, including a site used exclusively for a special unit or resourced provision

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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Schools Forum High Needs Block Sub-group: Recommended Terms of Reference	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 13 September 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>Following discussion at July Schools Forum, this report sets out proposals for the development of a High Needs Block sub-group of the Schools Forum. The purpose would be to allow more in-depth consideration of the use of the HNB in partnership with the local authority, bringing high level recommendations back to the Schools Forum.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b>            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>            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 consider and agree the terms of reference put forward in this report.</p>	



Signed:

Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion

Date: 5 September 2023

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. Following discussion at July Schools Forum, this report sets out proposals for the development of a High Needs Block (HNB) sub-group of the Schools' Forum. The purpose would be to allow more in-depth consideration of the use of the HNB in partnership with the local authority, bringing high level recommendations back to the Schools' Forum. Camden is currently in the fortunate position of being one of a small number of Local Authorities that are no longer in deficit position and can therefore allocate extra funding to improve outcomes of children/young people with SEND.
- 1.2. Our vision is that every Camden mainstream school can meet the needs of any children in their area, to ensure quality first teaching for all children including those with SEND through continuous improvement, development and curious pursuance of best practice pedagogy.
- 1.3. The sub-group would be a time limited "task and finish" group looking at how the HNB is spent. This could be for 2 terms across the 2023/24 academic year.
- 1.4. It would reflect the fact that the HNB is to meet special educational needs of Camden residents 0-25: not just Camden schools but also children in schools in other boroughs/independent and private schools and young people in colleges/other post-16 provision. Camden has a good baseline on which to build however we know that not all children are included socially in our schools and prepared for adulthood adequately. The link with local colleges is essential. Schools and colleges must have high aspirations around employment leading to the opportunities that exist for supported internships and other employment pathways. Whilst these need to be developed, we know the current opportunities are not fully utilised.
- 1.5. Specific tasks for the sub-group would be:
  - To look at how Camden schools can optimise ENG & cluster working (this would build on existing ENG steering group).
  - To consider the recommendations in the report by Peter Gray when he looked at the current provision in Camden for children and young people with special educational needs.
  - To explore sufficiency of places across Camden schools, including considering the need for new provision and use of vacant space. This would consider the role of specialist provision (special schools and resourced provision) reflecting the legal assumption of mainstream, Camden's commitment to inclusion.
  - How a learning support service can support Camden mainstream schools to include children, enabling all schools to be confident in meeting needs, and spreading good practice across all schools. This should be not only in terms of teaching and learning but in the context of inclusion, welcoming and the intentional building of relationships with a focus on meeting the requirements of the Children & Families Act 2014 and associated code of practice to prepare children for adulthood.

## **2. Terms of Reference**

### **2.1 Responsibilities**

The High Needs Block Sub-group will:

- a) Review and monitor the use of the HNB to ensure that funding is allocated appropriately to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- b) Provide regular updates to Schools Forum, offering advice and recommendations to the Schools Forum regarding the use of High Needs Funding. Through clear reporting this would ensure:
  - ongoing cognisance of issues related to the High Needs Block, and;
  - Schools' Forum members have a proactive role in HNB decision-making.
- c) Review and make recommendations to Schools Forum on directing the allocation of High Needs Funding in relation to:
  - Top-up rates, number of places and support services
  - The wider strategic agenda which underpins Camden's approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND set out within the Camden Local Area SEND Strategy 2022 to 2027.

### **2.2 Membership**

- a) Schools Forum representative members including headteachers and governors (mainstream, special and PRU)
- b) SEND service management representatives including Director of Education Commissioning & Inclusion, Head of Special Education and Inclusive Intervention Service, SEN Finance & Commissioning Manager and other officers as necessary to advise the group.

### **2.3 Chair**

High Needs Block sub-group member voted by head teachers and school governors on the Schools Forum.

### **2.4 Frequency**

The Sub-Group will meet on a half-termly basis as a minimum and with extra-ordinary meetings as required

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

3.1 At this stage the report just sets out proposals for the development of a High Needs Block sub-group of the Schools Forum.

3.2 As the process develops into significant work streams and proposals there will be further finance comments- However, at this planning and proposal stage there are no significant finance comments.

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


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

**5. Environmental Implications**

There are none.

**REPORT ENDS**

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> School Meals Delivery in Schools	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Nicholas Smith, Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 13 September 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>Camden Council reported to Schools Forum in February 2023 concerning the development of the School Meals contract.</p> <p>This paper sets out the Council's current position with regard to the future of school meals delivery and the range of options available to the Council.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Shola Matiluko, Contracts Performance Manager 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG 020 7974 4518 / <a href="mailto:Shola.Matiluko@camden.gov.uk">Shola.Matiluko@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>The Schools' Forum is asked to note the current position and the timeline of activity over the next period.</p>	

Signed: 

Date: 5 September 2023

## **1 Summary**

This paper sets out the commercial considerations and approach for the Council in relation to the delivery of food in schools and as such is considered in part two of this item.

## **2. Legal Implications (comments from the Borough Solicitor)**

Any potential contract award will comply with the PCR 2015 and CSOs. CSOs require that the Executive Director makes the Decision to award.

## **3. Environmental Impacts**

There are 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.

**REPORT ENDS**

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

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