

# SCHOOLS FORUM

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**WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.00 PM**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE**

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## **MEMBERS**

**Katy Forsdyke (Chair)**

**Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair)**

**Jen Allan, Mark Anthony, Jules Belton, Rob Earrey, John Hayes, Nick Hewlett, Perina Holness, Bob House, Deborah Issacs, Nicholas John, Kateryna Law, Vijita Patel, Luca Salice, Jacob Sam and Alex Wilson**

## **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

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

Issued on: Thursday, 30 January 2025

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**ENDS**

# **SCHOOLS FORUM 5 FEBRUARY 2025**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. APOLOGIES**

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Broadcast of the meeting**

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

If you have asked to address the meeting, you are deemed to be consenting to having your contributions recorded and broadcast, including video when switched on, and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes'.

#### **Any other announcements**

### **4. MINUTES**

(Pages 7 -  
12)

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024.

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

### **6. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST**

(Pages 13 -  
14)

To note the Schools Forum membership list and any updates.

- 7. SCHOOL FUNDING 2025/26 - UPDATE** (Pages 15 - 50)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2025/26 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools early years and high needs. It then outlines future funding pressures the current DSG reserves position, de-delegation and the latest ESFA support.
- 8. EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS FUNDING 2025-26** (Pages 51 - 58)
- Report of the Director of Children’s Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding.
- This report details the proposed allocation of national free entitlement funding using Camden’s local funding formula. It seeks approval from School’s Forum for the proposed hourly rates payable to providers and for the retained element of funding used by the local authority to administer the schemes.
- 9. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): UPDATE ON 2024/25 PROJECTION AND PROPOSALS FOR 2025/26** (Pages 59 - 68)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- This report provides an updated financial projection on High Needs Block (HNB) spend for 2024/25 and reports a further increase in the deficit projection since the last report.
- Proposals for the 2025/26 HNB budget are made against this background and that are sustainable whilst also working to improve life outcomes for children/young people with high needs.
- 10. SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS UPDATE** (Pages 69 - 74)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- At its meeting of 11th September 2024, an update was presented to the Schools Forum on the procurement of the new school meals contract. The current contract with Cater Link is due to expire on 31st March 2025. A further update is now available.

Following a successful tendering process, tenders were received on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for a new service that is due to commence on 1st April 2025 for a period of three years, with option for two extensions of one year each, with a total estimated aggregate value of £24m. The new contract will include an option to break after two years (April 2027), which will allow the Council to move to an in-house arrangement, if possible.

**11. SCHOOLS FORUM WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2024/25** (Pages 75 - 82)

Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.

This report sets out the work plan for the Schools Forum for the remainder of the 2024/25 school year (Appendix 1) and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings (Appendix 2).

**12. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The final meeting of the academic year is at 6pm, Wednesday 4 June 2025.

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

**AGENDA ENDS**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 4 June 2025 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

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## THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** held on **WEDNESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2024** at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

### MEMBERS OF THE FORUM PRESENT

Katy Forsdyke, Christ Church School (Hampstead) (Chair)  
Daniel Silverstone, Parliament Hill (Vice-Chair)  
Jen Allan, Eleanor Palmer Primary School  
Mark Anthony, Maria Fidelis School  
Jules Belton, St Mary & St Pancras Primary  
John Hayes, Gospel Oak Primary School  
Perina Holness, Thomas Coram Centre  
Bob House, Camden School for Girls  
Deborah Issacs, Edith Neville Primary, Richard Cobden Primary, Primrose Hill Primary  
Nicholas John, Acland Burghley School  
Kateryna Law, Camden School for Girls  
Vijita Patel, Swiss Cottage School  
Alex Wilson, Heath School

### MEMBERS OF THE FORUM ABSENT

Rob Earrey, Fitzjohns Primary School  
Nick Hewlett, Hawley Primary  
Jacob Sam, Hampstead School

### ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Marcus Boyland  
Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion  
Victor Saunders, Schools Budget Financial Advisor  
Nick Smith, Head of Education Commission & School Organisation

**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. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST

#### RESOLVED –

THAT the membership list be noted.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were noted from Rob Earrey, Nick Hewlett, and Jacob Sam.

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

There were no declarations.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**5. MINUTES**

**Correction – Minute Item 5**

An error was identified that incorrectly stated that the minutes of the meeting on the 5 November 2024 had been approved, this should have stated that the minutes of the meeting that took place on 11 September 2024.

**Correction – Attendance**

Jen Allan and Deborah Isaacs confirmed that they had been in attendance at the meeting that took place on 5 November 2024.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 November 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendments above.

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

There was no urgent business.

**7. SCHOOL FUNDING 2025/26**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.



### *Schools Forum - Wednesday, 4th December, 2024*

Victor Saunders, Team Leader Schools and Designated Schools Grant, introduced the report which provided an overview of proposals for the local funding formula for 2025/26. The following information was highlighted:

- Due to the timing of the October Budget by the new government there had been a delay in the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding announcements for 2025/6, however, it was confirmed the final National Funding Formual (NFF) structure would not change significantly.
- Tools had been provided to each school, outlining estimated cost increases, which would the support budget setting process. The tool accounted for projected increases in inflation, which as of November 2024, the Bank of England had projected that inflation would about 2%, by the end of 2026.
- The report had provided an update on the core schools budget which would increase by £2.3 billion, £1 billion of which was committed to supporting special educational needs and disabilities.
- The government had also committed to providing £6.7 billion of capital funding in 2025/26, which would go towards rebuilding, renovation and maintenance.
- The report had stated that the high needs block (HNB) allocation would increase by an estimated £2.85 million, however further modelling had found this increase to be around £3.8 million. This was a stronger position, as this projected figure would mean the 2025/26 HNB would be within budget.
- The funding formula had previously been agreed every six years; however, the regulations had changed, and it was a requirement for the funding formula to be consulted upon each year. Therefore, a standing item would be on the School's Forum agenda every September. It was not envisaged there would be yearly changes, it was intended to fulfil statutory obligations.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and invited questions and comments from the Forum. Responding to questions, officers provided the following information:

- To determine the estimated grant, the per pupil figure was uplifted by 2.3% and then multiplied by the enrolment figures.
- Projected figures were based on the roll figures census as of October 2023, as the data for October 2024 had not yet been updated.
- In terms of longer-term financial planning, it was noted that a spending review would take place later in the year, which would provide further detail, including the forecast level of inflation, which was estimated to be 2%.
- The Government was expected to fund the National Insurance increase through a separate grant. However, it had not yet confirmed whether any grant would be provided for teachers' pay rises from September 2025.
- Sometimes it was necessary for SEND pupils to go to independent non-maintained placements out of borough, these were typically high-cost and low-incidence.
- A detailed analysis of placements was anticipated and further information on this would be provided later, which would provide more detailed information on the profile of need.

## *Schools Forum - Wednesday, 4th December, 2024*

- Updated figures were expected to be available to schools by the end of December, similar to the previous year, with further updates in January. Figures would then be finalised in late January or early February, pending ESFA approval.

Forum members emphasised that the figures needed to account for the significant impact of falling rolls, with some schools having pupils leave weekly, due to moves out of the Borough. Therefore, although budgets appeared to be increasing, for some schools, budgets might remain the same or decrease due to decreasing pupils on roll. Fixed costs would remain the same for schools despite a decline in pupils, which would cause additional financial strain.

### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the Schools Forum:

- a) Note the estimated National Funding Formula allocations, which are indicative allocations to support budget planning and are not yet the final school budgets, to individual schools as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) Note the level of deductions and reserves to be used to support the funding allocations to schools;
- c) Note the Education and Skills Funding Agency's continued use of the Central Schools Block replacement of the former top sliced amounts;
- d) Approve the de-delegated budgets as set out in section 2.1 of the report;
- e) Note the current forecast spending plans and funding for the high needs and early years blocks;
- f) Note the potential effects of the future funding and cost pressures outlined on schools' budgets; and
- g) Agree to the disapplication request to the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the 2025/26 local authority proforma tool to continue to include the existing "exception premises factors" for Holy Trinity and St Silas, Our Lady Roman Catholic Primary, and Regents High Schools.

## **8. SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Education and Inclusion.

Nick Smith, Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation, introduced and summarised the report which provided an update on the outcome of the tender process for the procurement of the new school meals contract.

It was reported that interim arrangements had been in place, and they had been advantageous in terms of price per meal.

The Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation advised that whilst the new contract was underway, potential insourcing of the service would be explored. Early engagement on insourcing had commenced and a session had been

## ***Schools Forum - Wednesday, 4th December, 2024***

arranged for 10 December 2024, which would inform potential opportunities for an in-house provision.

Responding to a question, the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation, reported that 15 schools had confirmed their attendance at the session, these were mostly primary schools due to the school meal arrangements being more diffuse in secondary settings. However, all schools were welcome to attend the session and any school that wished to join could contact the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

### **RESOLVED –**

That the Forum note the report.

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.

Nick Smith, Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation, introduced and summarised the report which outlined the work programme and action tracker. The Forum was informed that work on the Early Years Funding item, which was due for consideration at the February 2025 meeting, had commenced and colleagues in Early Years were contributing to this. An update on school place planning would also be provided at the February meeting.

### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the report be noted.

## **10. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The remaining meeting dates for the 2024-25 academic year were noted, as follows:

- Wednesday 5 February 2025
- Wednesday 4 June 2025

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 6.41 pm.

*Schools Forum - Wednesday, 4th December, 2024*

**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**

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
Jules Belton	H	St Mary & St Pancras Primary	July 2023	August 2027
Rob Earrey	H	Fitzjohns Primary	January 2025	February 2029
Katy Forsdyke (Chair)	H	Christ Church Primary (Hampstead)	January 2025	February 2029
John Hayes	H	Gospel Oak Primary	November 2022	December 2026
Nick Hewlett	G	Hawley Primary	December 2023	January 2027
Deborah Isaacs	G	Edith Neville Richard Cobden Primary Primrose Hill Primary	November 2022	December 2026
<b>Primary Substitutes</b>				
Jemima Wade	H	Argyle Primary	February 2022	March 2026
1 Vacancy	G			
<b>Secondary</b>				
Mark Anthony	H	Maria Fidelis School	December 2024	January 2029
Bob House	G	Camden School for Girls	February 2023	March 2027
Nicholas John	H	HT Acland Burghley School & EHT H3 Federation	January 2025	February 2029
Kateryna Law	H	Camden School for Girls	December 2024	January 2029
Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair)	G	Parliament Hill	March 2021	April 2025
Jacob Sam	G	Hampstead School	June 2024	July 2028
<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	January 2025	February 2029
Luca Salice	G	Robson House	January 2025	February 2029
<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>				
Alex Wilson	H	Heath School	December 2024	January 2029
<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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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: All</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> School Funding 2025/26 - Update	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>	
<p>This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2025/26 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools early years and high needs. It then outlines future funding pressures the current DSG reserves position, de-delegation and the latest ESFA support.</p> <p>The following documents were used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Schools operational guide: 2025 /26</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Schools To Be Fully Reimbursed for National Insurance Rise</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The notional Special Educational Needs budget for mainstream schools: operational guidance 2025 to 2026</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b></p> <p>Victor Saunders, Schools Budget Financial Advisor, Finance 5  Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG  020 7974 5254 / <a href="mailto:victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk">victor.saunders@camden.gov.uk</a>.</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<p>Schools Forum is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Note and agree the latest estimates of individual schools and growth budgets (section 3.7) and Appendix 1 and 2.</li> <li>(b) Note and agree (as per the Early Years Report) the provisional Early Years funding rates (section 3.10)</li> <li>(c) Provide any further comment regarding the 2025/26 funding (section 2.13)</li> <li>(d) Identify any areas of funding for review in autumn 2025 ahead of the funding year 2026/27</li> </ol>	

Signed by:



Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 1a. Purpose of the report

As per ESFA requirements - This report updates the schools forum on the estimated funding available for 2025/26 following the latest Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 18th December 2024, (section 2.3) and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools (section 3.2), early years (section 3.8) and high needs (section 3.12). It then outlines future funding pressures (section 4.1) the current DSG reserves position (section 5) de-delegation levels (section 6) and the latest advice on energy costs (section 7) Finally, the report sets out the latest timetable information from the ESFA on the funding for the schools DSG block and seeks the forum's approval on the amount of DSG de-delegation.

### Executive Summary of Report

- (a) This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2025/26 following the latest ESFA DSG finance settlement notification on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024, (section 2.3) and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools (section 3.2), early years (section 3.8) and high needs (section 3.12). It then outlines future funding pressures (section 4.1) the current DSG reserves position (section 5) de-delegation (section 6) and the latest advice on energy costs (section 7)
- (b) Total government funding for Camden is estimated at £251.1m which (after allowing for annual roll changes) is up by £20.29m from last year. The increase of 7.5% to total overall per pupil funding in Camden comprises increases in the per pupil rate of 2.25% with a further 5.3% uplift relating to the inclusion of the former Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) , Teachers Pension employers contribution grant (TPECG) and Core School Budget Grant (CSBG) grants into the NFF Schools Block DSG base budget (from 2025/26 onwards) - approximately £10m. Similarly, there was a 7% (£3.8m) Increase to the High Needs DSG Block. Also, revision to funding of 2-year-olds the Early Years budget has increased by nearly £4m in 2025/26. In addition, the 6<sup>th</sup> form funding grant increased by £0.6m although mainly due to numbers. The largest single item of funding is the schools DSG block which has been confirmed at £121.95m (plus an estimated £11.51m for Academies). Other elements of funding remain provisional although any change to the estimates is likely to be minor.
- (c) Following the governments agreement to a 6.5% Teachers pay rise for September 2023 it introduced the Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) from 2023/24 to fund the residual 3% of that award that it deemed not affordable in the NFF budgets. For 2024/25 schools received TPAG for the full financial year at the same rate as for 2023/24 but as a separate grant outside the DSG allocations. This grant has now finally been incorporated into the schools core DSG grant from 2025/26 along with the additional grants for TPECG and CSBG.
- (d) There is also expected to be some additional funding to schools outside the DSG allocations. The government has agreed to fund schools for the additional employers National Insurance (NI er's) costs that they will incur following the October 2024 Budget reforms to employers NI. The details of this additional budget are yet to be confirmed but it is expected that it will be based on the schools pupil numbers and NFF data (as per earlier supplementary grants to schools).
- (e) There was no major change to the Camden schools local funding formula. This will be used to distribute the total of the aggregated individual schools budgets generated by the



National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2025/26. The agreed inflationary uplift to Camden's local funding formula factors continues to fully allocate the increases to the final NFF aggregate Schools block allocation for Camden wherever possible. This remains subject to any ESFA's statutory NFF maximum or minimum "mirroring requirement" limitations. The government update of the October 2024 census and the Indices of Deprivation (IDACI) deprivation data is now fully incorporated into next year's 2025/26 budget.

- (f) Overall, 2025/26 DSG funding is set at £224.24m across all three blocks of DSG. With an additional £26.8m for 6<sup>th</sup> form and Pupil premium this provides £251.1m of total Government funding in order to fund the total proposed spending plans in those areas and requiring nil funding to be used from reserves.
- (g) This funding was uplifted to include all the former ESFA grant top ups to schools for Teachers pay awards, Teachers pension costs (£6.4m) and the additional Core Schools budget grants (£1.5m). Already incorporated into the base budgets from earlier years are the former Supplementary Health and Social Care levy funding for mainstream schools (£3.71m), the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) £4.5m and Additional High Needs Grant £2.06m.
- (h) There remain pressures on this funding going forward particularly in the High Needs area. Despite a minimum floor (7%) uplift of £3.8m to Camden's High Needs DSG for 2025/26 to £58.5m, the service in it's current forum report is indicating a £2.6m DSG overspend in 2024/25 and similar pressures in 2025/26 and possibly future years.

## **1b. Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the latest estimate of resources for the financial year 2025/26, incorporating earlier Schools Forum decisions to date regarding the allocation of these resources to individual schools. The allocations follow from the consultation undertaken with schools and discussion at previous meetings of the Schools Forum and reflect the levels announced in the ESFA funding settlement for 2025/26 (made on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024). The National Funding Formula (NFF) derives the total DSG Schools for each Council by the aggregation of its individual schools budgets as determined by application of the NFF factors to each school's October 2024 authority proforma tool (APT) Census data for 2025/26. In line with the ESFA guidance this report allocates the total DSG schools budget via the basic entitlement and the other agreed formula factors in Camden's local schools formula (as agreed by Schools Forum) to presents individual school budgets for 2025/26.- Appendix 2

## **2. ESFA Resources allocation to Camden**

- 2.1 Government funding for Camden's schools, high needs and early years is estimated at £251.1m for 2025/26. This is in line with the ESFA's delayed July 2024 NFF allocations finally issued on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 2.2 The new Chancellor's [2024 Autumn Budget and Spending Review](#) on 30 October 2024, indicated that the core schools budget (currently £61.6 billion in 2024/25) would increase by £2.3 bn, of which £1 bn would go towards supporting the special educational needs and disabilities system. For 2025/26 this funding has now been incorporated into core DSG budget allocations from the ESFA.
- 2.3 The latest ESFA 2024 DSG Notification (18<sup>th</sup> December) for 2025/26 results to an overall increase in funding of 7.55% for the per pupil rate in Camden Schools

(comprising 2.25% - from the NFF uplift and 5.3% from the inclusion into the Schools Block DSG base for 2025/26 onwards of the former TPAG TPECG and CSBG grants ref 2.4 below).

- 2.4 Following the governments agreement in 2023 to a 6.5% Teachers pay rise for September 2023 it introduced the Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) in 2023/24 to fund the residual 3% of that award that it deemed not affordable by schools from their NFF budgets. For 2024/25 schools received TPAG for the full financial year as a separate grant outside the DSG allocations. This grant has now been incorporated into the base budget for DSG schools block from 2025/26 along with the additional grants for TPECG and CSBG.
- 2.5 Additional funding to schools outside the DSG allocations is also expected. The government has agreed to fund schools for the additional National Insurance costs that schools will incur following the October 2024 Budget Reforms to employers NI. The details of this additional funding are yet to be confirmed but it is expected that it will be based on the schools pupil numbers and NFF data. (as per earlier supplementary grants to schools).

### **Camden Overall Education Budget**

- 2.6 In line with the to the national MFG (0% to -0.5%) and national levelling up arrangements the ESFA 2025/26 DSG notification on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 indicated an overall 7.55% for the per pupil rate in Camden Schools (comprising 2.25% - from the NFF uplift and 5.3% from the inclusion into the Schools Block DSG base for 2025/26 onwards of the former TPAG TPECG and CSBG grants). The ESFA operational guidance requires that Local Authorities mirror any additional DSG funding added to schools NFF baselines in their local formulas - subject to the statutory maximum and minimum requirements on local formula factors set by the ESFA.
- 2.7 Accordingly, in line with these requirements and in order to maximise the distribution of the total DSG uplift to Camden schools, the local formula factors have been uplifted by 7.55% (comprising the 5.3% base uplift and a further 2.25%) for 2025/26 wherever allowable by the statutory ESFA maximum and minimum requirements and then using the Camden APT local to determine individual school budgets for 2025/26 – detailed in Appendix 2
- 2.8 In addition, there is expected to be a new grant to schools to cover their additional Employer National Insurance costs resulting from the October 2024 budget. The details will be announced in due course
- 2.9 Schools should note that as the former TPAG TPECG and CSBG (5.3% per pupil) have now incorporated into the DSG base budget for 2025/26 along with the 2.25% annual uplift to factors in the local formula they will no longer be distributed as separate grants.
- 2.10 Camden's High Needs block DSG allocation has also increased by £3.8m from £54.7m in 2024/25 to £58.58m in 2025/26 in line with earlier ESFA announcements (although only at the 7% minimum level for historically highly resourced Council).
- 2.11 The Sixth Form funding grant is issued on an academic year basis, with funding for September 2025 to March 2026 announced in April 2025. The last major increase was the 4.7% for 2020/21. In last year's Autumn Budget, the government announced a £300 million cash-terms boost for colleges and sixth forms in 2025–26. However, rising student

numbers and inflation mean that, even if the entire amount were directed to 16–19 education, it is expected that this would only maintain funding per student at current levels in real terms. For mor details see [FE funding predictions for 2025 in colleges and sixth forms](#)

**Table 1: Total estimated schools funding 2025/26**

	Funding Type	2025/26	Comments
		£m	
(a)	Dedicated schools grant		
	Schools block excluding Academies	121.95	Excluding academies and free schools. Includes TPAG TPECG and CSBG now in Base budget. But less changes in pupil numbers
	National non-domestic rates (NNDR) within the premises factor (£s)	3.87	NNDR
	High Needs Places paid at source by ESFA from deduction to HN DSG.	2.53	
	- Academies and Free schools	11.51	
	Central Support Services block	1.24	
	- Early years block (EY)	24.55	included EY pupil premium and EY disability
	- High needs block	58.58	Includes 7% floor pupil led increase in HN DSG
	<b>Total DSG</b>	<b>224.24</b>	* Now includes the former 2024/25 TPAG TPECG & CSBG Grants now built into DSG base budgets from 2025/26
	TPAG and TPECG	0.00	now built into DSG base budgets from 2025/26
	CSBG	0.00	now built into DSG base budgets from 2025/26
(b)	Pupil premium	10.41	grant rates Not yet confirmed until April
(c)	6th form	16.44	October budget 300m addition to in grant levels expected to be consumed by increase in numbers rather than rate increases
	<b>Total From Government</b>	<b>251.10</b>	

2.12 Further changes may be made during the year as the early years, pupil premium and 6<sup>th</sup> form funding are only provisional allocations. These will be further updated to be based on January 2025 census data. Confirmation of final figures are expected to be made during the year by adjustment to the ESFA payments.

### Planning for Future Funding Pressures

2.13 The Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast a medium term forecast of 2 % over the next few years. [Inflation - Office for Budget Responsibility](#).

2.14 In the current economic climate, estimates of future public sector pay levels and costs remain uncertain. Details of longer-term future funding for schools have yet to be confirmed. However, if funding fails to increase in real terms combined with unusually sharp increases to costs from high levels of general inflation and utility costs then Camden schools may need to continue plan for a reduction in spending power.

2.15 The known cost increases that schools will need to provide for were outlined in the December 2024 Forum Report along with inflation tables already sent to schools separately to support and guide 3-year budget planning. In line with the earlier Schools Forum decision on financial sustainability to ensure that schools are funded entirely from government grant allocations, it is currently planned to continue to use nil DSG reserves in 2025/26 to fund schools formula budgets. The breakdown of expected funding for 2025/26 is shown in table 3 below.

## **Changes between the 2024/25 and the 2025/26 NFF Formula**

### **A. National NFF Formula**

2.16 The ESFA's guidance and Schools operational guide: 2025 /26 indicates that the main NFF formula for 2025/26 is broadly similar to the formula in 2024/25 subject to the following updates.

### **Schools NFF Formula changes**

1. The teachers pay additional grant (TPAG), teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) and the core schools budget grant (CSBG) have been included in the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for 2025/26. To ensure schools do not lose funding as a result of this change, additional funding has been added to each school's minimum funding guarantee (MFG) baseline. The amount added reflects the number of pupils included in the school's MFG baseline.
2. The MFG threshold can be set between -0.5% and 0%. To use a threshold outside of this range will require a disapplication.
3. Split sites and private finance initiative (PFI) funding will be removed from the MFG calculation. The amount deducted will be the amount of funding allocated for the respective year.
4. The reception uplift factor has been removed. Due to the late confirmation of this change reception uplift will still be shown on the 'APT Proforma' worksheet but the ability to apply it has been removed.
5. Continuation of the requirement for local formulas to move each mandatory factor 10% closer to the national funding formula (NFF) will apply again in 2025/26.

### **High Needs NFF for 2025/26**

- The structure of the NFF will remain the same and, with the exception of the funding floor and gains limit percentages, the same factor values and weightings will apply as in previous years because the government wants to take more time to consider what changes are needed to the NFF.
- In particular, the historic spend factor will remain at the same cash value as in 2024/25, which will be equivalent to an average of 25% of local authorities' 2025/26 allocations.
- The high needs NFF includes a funding floor that provides a minimum increase of 7% per head of a local authority's 2 to 18 population. Gains under the formula will be limited to 10% per head.

## **Local funding formulae requirements**

Requirements on local formulae require that from 2023/24 Local authorities are again required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF and this transition will continue in 2025 /26 and in particular local authorities must

- move their local formula factor values at least a further 10% closer to the NFF (building on the movement towards the NFF made in 2023 to 2024), except for rates, PFI or exceptional circumstances factors.
- use the new national formulaic approach to split sites
- follow the new local formula minimum 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
- follow the new 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 3 to 5 years. The restriction, that schools were previously only eligible for falling rolls funding if they were judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, was removed from 2024/25

### **B. Camden Local Formula – Individual Schools 2025/26**

The 2025/26 Local Funding formula Allocation levels to Camden.

2.17 In line with the ESFA requirements on the local funding formula for schools and following the Notification of 2025/26 DSG allocations to Councils on 18<sup>th</sup> December- the overall effect to the final funding to Camden schools are as follows.

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

- The aggregate amount received from the government Notification per pupil based on the NFF for 2025/26 has now been analysed between primary (£7,081) and secondary (£9,205). The funding allocations per school are set out in Appendix 2 and are in line with the government's overall intention indicated in the 28<sup>th</sup> of November NFF data for a 2.25 % per pupil increase to NFF Appendix 7 (with an additional 5.7% per pupil from the inclusion of the former TPAG TPECG and CSBG for 2025/26 into the base budget. These rates are not subject to any subsidy from London Borough of Camden's (LBC) DSG reserve which means that LBC schools are completely funded by government grant.
- The change in Camden's pupil rate for 2025/26 as allocated in ESFA Notification (18<sup>th</sup> December 2024) was an overall 7.55% increase. Once adjustment of 5.3% is made to for the inclusion of last year's TPAG, TPECG and CSBG grant into the base budget for 2025/26 (because the continuation of earlier year grant funding is not additional new funding), the real terms overall increase in new funding from the NFF is around 2.25%. – see Appendix 7
- Following the continuation of the ESFA's statutory NFF "factor mirroring " constraints for 2025/26 this increase has now been fully passed on to schools by a corresponding 7.55% uplift where possible to the local funding formula factors for 2025/26 in order to maximise the distribution of aggregate schools DSG block via the local funding formula to Camden school budgets.

In addition and outside the DSG allocations above - there is also expected to be some additional funding to schools in 2025/26. The government has agreed to fund schools

for the additional National Insurance (NI) costs that they will incur following the October 2024 Budget Reforms to employers NI. The details of this additional budget are yet to be confirmed but it is expected that it will be based on the schools pupil numbers and NFF data. (as per earlier supplementary grants to schools).

**In summary** - This will mean that for 2025/26 in overall terms L.B Camden schools will have received an overall total per pupil funding uplift of up to 7.55% (comprising 2.25% from the local APT Funding formula uplift and 5.3% from TPAG, TPECG and CSBG addition to base funding).

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

- The current government funding formula and regulations require the Council to pass through a minimum 96% of funding. The pass-through rates apply separately to each of the allocations for:
  - 9 -month-old children up to 2-year-olds of eligible working parents
  - 2-year-old children of eligible working parents
  - 2-year-old children from families receiving additional support
  - 3- and 4-year-olds (universal and additional hours for working parents)
- Last years EY funding rates for 2024/25 contained significant increases. These mainly related to the new funding for 2 year olds and an uplift to 3&4Year Old rates. However, this year's revised EY funding rates to Councils for 2025/26 issued in ESFA's 18th December Notification to Councils contained annual increases in funding rates which varied across the main allocation categories between 2% to 4%.
- The Early Years report to forum outlines how the Council have and propose to pass this funding to providers and how it has been able to apply a 96% pass-through rate for the 3- and 4-year-olds and have increased the 2-year-olds and under pass-through rate to 97%.- see Appendix 5

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

- The ESFA's December 2024 notification indicated that the Camden's HN DSG block will increase by £3.8m (7%) to £58.5m in 2025/26. This final figure may still subject to some minor adjustments relating to the new pupil import/export arrangements.
- It is anticipated that Camden will fully allocate the 2025/26 HN DSG budget sustainably and in line with any continuing ESFA requirements. The HN DSG allocations for 2025/26 DSG will be reported to this forum in a separate HN SEN Report.
- The SEN Team is working with schools and forum to ensure the ongoing and sustainable allocation of the HN DSG budget

**(d) Pupil premium funding** - for 2025/26 continues to be maintained as a separate grant and to be largely based on the free school meals (FSM6) data at January 2025. The rates were increased by 1.6% for 2024/25. Eligibility criteria are expected to remain unchanged in 2025/26. Current trends in FSM6 take up suggest that Camden may receive a marginally increased level to the current £10.4m pupil premium for 2025/26, but this will be confirmed by the ESFA later in the year.

Early years pupil premium for 3- and 4-year-olds in nursery (15 hours per week) is currently £387 per eligible pupil and will increase. It is currently estimated that the Council will receive a total of £0.221m for 3&4YOs with an additional £0.052m for "2-

year-olds and under” in 2025/26. Final allocations will be updated following termly headcounts in summer and autumn 2025, and the January 2026 census.

- (e) **The 6<sup>th</sup> form funding** grant is issued on an academic year basis. Funding for September 2024 to March 2025 will be finalised in March 2025. The last change in the 16 to 19 funding rates was a 4.7% increase for 2020/21. Despite last year's Autumn Budget announcement of a £300 million cash-terms boost for colleges and sixth forms in 2025–26 due to rising student numbers and inflation (even if the entire amount were directed to 16–19 education) it is expected that this would only maintain funding per student at current levels in real terms.

### National Comparison of London boroughs funding

2.18 Using a similar approach to earlier London Councils reports gives the following analysis of London Councils position in the overall national DSG funding allocations for 2025/26:

- **Nationally** in 2025-26, £67.1 billion will be allocated through the total DSG across England, an increase of 10.54% since 2024/25. London Boroughs will receive £11.23 billion, an increase of 8.42% from 2024/25: the lowest increase of all authority types with Upper Shire Counties increasing the most by 11.61%. London’s share of the total DSG blocks will fall by -0.33%, and Upper Shire Counties’ share will increase the most by up to +0.33% (see table 2 below).
- **For Schools Block**, there was a national increase of 7.25% from 2024-25. London boroughs will receive £7.85 billion in funding, representing an increase of 6.27% when compared to 2024-25, the lowest of all authority types with Metropolitan Districts receiving the highest annual increase of 7.48%. London’s share of the total national schools block (£48.23 billion) will decrease again by -0.15%: with the Shire Counties having the highest change of + 0.06%.
- **For High Needs block** in 2025/26 there was a national increase of 7.84% - up from last years increase of 3.78%. London boroughs will receive a total of £1.96 billion, representing an improvement to last year’s increase of 3.08% The London HN increase is still the lowest for all authority types with Metropolitan Districts receiving the highest increase of 8.29%. London’s share of the total national High Needs block will again fall by - 0.20%, with the Metropolitan Districts increasing the most by 0.10%.
- **For the Early Years Block** In 2026-26, £8.48 billion will be allocated nationally compared £6.09 billion last year. London will see an increase of 26.62% from last year. London Boroughs share of EY DSG will be £1,34 billion, an increase of 26.62% remains the lowest increase with Upper Shire Counties at the top with a 47.65% increase. Despite the national increase London Boroughs share of the total EY DSG will again reduce by -1.58% with the Upper Shire Counties increasing the most by 2.08% in 2025/26.

**Table 2: 2025-26 Total DSG funding allocations for schools, central schools services, high needs and early years in London Councils**

ENGLAND	Total DSG allocations (£m)	Total DSG allocations (£m)	Total DSG allocations (£m)	Total DSG	Total DSG	Total DSG
	Budget £m	Budget £m	% age change	National Share	National Share	change in share
	2024-25	2025-26	0	2024-25	2025-26	0

London	£10,356	£11,228	8.42%	17.06%	16.73%	0.33%
Metropolitan District	£14,298	£15,757	10.20%	23.55%	23.48%	0.07%
Unitary Authority	£15,352	£17,014	10.83%	25.29%	25.36%	0.07%
Upper tier/ Shire County	£20,696	£23,100	11.61%	34.09%	34.43%	0.33%
England total	£60,703	£67,099	10.54%			

### 3. Distribution of Resources in Camden 2025/26

#### Overall distribution

3.1 The majority of the £251.1m total funding (table1 above) will go to Camden schools as shown in column 2 of the following table.

**Table 3: Analysis of DSG funding 2025/26 (including any planned use of HN reserves)**

Funding Area	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	
Funding Area	Camden schools	Services provided by Camden including children's centres	External providers Academies & EY	Totals
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools DSG	124.87	0.95	11.51	<b>137.33</b>
New Central Support Services Block	0.00	1.24	0.00	<b>1.24</b>
Early years DSG	6.78	11.04	6.73	<b>24.55</b>
High needs DSG	45.88	3.00	12.23	<b>61.11</b>
Pupil premium	10.41	0.00	0.00	<b>10.41</b>
6th form	16.44	0.00	0.00	<b>16.44</b>
<b>Total government funding</b>	<b>204.39</b>	<b>16.23</b>	<b>30.47</b>	<b>251.10</b>
Camden Contribution	0	0	0	<b>0.00</b>
Use of Reserves	0	0	0	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>204.39</b>	<b>16.23</b>	<b>30.47</b>	<b>251.10</b>

Notes:

- 1) Children's centres are those operated direct by the authority only
- 2) Funding to academies and free schools is shown under 'external providers'
- 3) Early Years split is not yet confirmed so remains as per last year
- 4) Before any use of reserves or LBC contribution

### Distribution Rates of Local Funding Formula by Camden in 2025/26

#### Schools block DSG

3.2 The 2025/26 NFF Schools block, as in the previous year ensures that any significant effects on individual school allocations have been mitigated by the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) now set in line with ESFA guidance at 0% to -0.5% (thus ensuring a



minimum protected -0.5% change in the per pupil rate for all schools). The MFG provides protection to any school that loses funding following changes to the formula. Details of changes to the current IDACI 2019 data calculations (which is due to be updated in 2025) can be found at the following [loD link](#) and are summarised in Appendix 6. [Updating the English Indices of Deprivation in 2025](#)

- 3.3 For 2025/26 the NFF uplift in per pupil funding resulted in an overall 7.55% increase in the per pupil rate for Camden Schools (comprising 2.25% annual uplift and 5.3% inclusion of Pay Grants into base budgets) and hence its total schools block funding. There have been no significant changes to the local schools block DSG formula allocation. (which now include the 2024/25 TPAG, TPECG and CSBG Grant in its base budget at approximately 5.3% of the Camden per pupil rate).
- 3.4 Subject to the continuing ESFA statutory NFF “transitional mirroring “constraints” for 2025/26 the increase has been fully passed on to schools by a corresponding 7.55% uplift to the local funding formula factors where applicable for 2025/26 individual school budgets. As indicated above the overall 7.55% increase comprised of 2.25% from annual NFF uplift and 5.3% from the incorporation of last year’s pay grant funding into the mainstream base DSG schools block budget.
- 3.5 Subject to continuation of its current local exceptions for Rent the council has made no further applications to the ESFA to change its local formula and has ensured that its local formula factors comply with the ESFA statutory bands stipulated for Camden’s formula factors. It has included all mandatory factors (to comply with the NFF minimum levels for the FSM and Mobility factors). This continues forum’s earlier changes to simplify and maintain its funding formula in line with national average allocations in preparation for the implementation of the national funding formula.
- 3.6 The NFF allocation to LBC in 2025/26 under its revised process now identifies and allocates Schools Business Rates (NNDR) under “premises funding” to Camden using “actual spend in the Jan 2024/25 APT”. Whilst appearing in the DSG budget figures there will be no cash transfers to schools budgets for this item. From 2022/23 (NNDR) has been paid by the ESFA directly to billing authorities. An ESFA policy document (July 2018) indicated that they are “continuing to consider” the long-term approach to all other premises factors in the NFF”.
- 3.7 The local schools formula proposed for 2025/26 after allowing provision for growth costs of £0.250m related to potential planned reorganisation activity is set out at Appendix 1. The allocations per school together with the increase / decrease compared to the previous year’s totals are shown in Appendix 2.

### **Early years DSG distribution**

- 3.8 Camden’s early years provision will be reported in the Early Years team report to this forum. The key features are
- 3.9 For 2025/26 the ESFA have funded Camden at the following basic levels.

**Table 4: Early years ESFA funding rates 2025/26 - per 18.Dec 2024 ESFA Notification**

<b>2025/26 ESFA FUNDING RATE</b>	<b>2024-25 £ / hr)</b>	<b>2025/26 £/ hr</b>	<b>difference</b>	<b>percentage change</b>
ESFA EY NFF hourly rate for 3-4 year olds for 2025/26	<b>£9.04</b>	£9.23	£0.19	<b>2.10%</b>
ESFA Hourly rate for 2 year olds for 2025/26	<b>£11.83</b>	£12.23	£0.40	<b>3.38%</b>

3.10 The 2025/26 distribution of DSG Early years funding is outlined by Camden’s early years team in their schools forum report. After adjustments for any dis-applications, deprivation and inclusion funding the proposed hourly rate to providers for 2025/26 will be £7.42 for 3 to 4 year olds and £14.19 for 2 year olds per hour as set out in table 5 below and Appendix 5.

**Table 5: Proposed Hourly Rates to providers for 2025/26 pending approval**

	<b>2024-25</b>	2025-26
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Hourly Rate £</b>	Hourly Rate £
3&4 Year Olds	£7.22	£7.42
2Year Olds	£9.50	£9.78
under 2's	£12.66	£14.19
Maintained Nursery School (Universal 3&4YOs only)	£4.64	
Camden Enhanced Offer	£5.30	

**High needs DSG distribution**

3.11 Camden’s current funding distribution of HN DSG to schools will continue with mainstream schools receiving part of the top up as a fixed cash allocation (covering the first 10 to 20 hours of support) with further top ups on an individual pupil basis where support is required over 20 hours. All special schools (and pupil referral units) will receive place funding of £10,000 with top ups at agreed rates for individual placements. For schools with resource units, this place funding will continue but (as from April 2018) at the rate of £6,000 plus basic entitlement via pupil led funding for each place provided. In addition, there will continue to be top ups at agreed rates for individual placements.

3.12 The SEN team continue to caution that spending pressures are still expected to continue to rise against post-16 costs and increasing mainstream top up costs as numbers increase. The current High Needs DSG report to schools forum currently forecasts a £2.6m overspend in the 2024/25 budget with the potential for this to continue into 2025/26.

3.13 The service will continue to work to ensure that forecast spending is within the annual funding available. This now includes the progression of a school-led exceptional needs framework and an ongoing review of the current service offer to schools.

## **Pupil premium distribution**

- 3.14 To receive this grant schools must demonstrate how they are using the funding to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils identified as eligible to receive free school meals at some stage over the previous six years. They cannot use it to replace cuts in other funding.
- 3.15 Pupil premium for 2025/26 will be largely based on the free school meals (FSM6) data at October 2023. Initial estimates suggest that Camden may receive a slightly increased level to the current £10.6m in 2023/24 based on an expected increased uptake in free school meals following the current cost of living emergency and the longer term effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, but the final allocation will be confirmed by the ESFA in the new year.
- 3.16 The premium was extended to covers 3 and 4 year olds under the early years pupil premium and from April 2024 it now also covers 2 year olds and under. The rates were uplifted by 1.6% for 2024/25. The current rates for 2024/25 remain as follows:
- Primary FSM6 pupils: £1,480
  - Secondary FSM6 pupils: £1,050
  - Pupils previously looked after by a local authority or other state care £2,570
  - Children who are looked after by the local authority £2,570
  - Service children: £340
  - Early years 3/ 4 and 2year olds and under £387

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

- 3.17 The allocation of the expected funding between the 6<sup>th</sup> forms is determined by the government's formula. The authority has no discretion over the allocations. The funding period covers the academic year with funding for September 2025 to March 2026 expected to be announced in April 2025.
- 3.18 Despite last year's Autumn Budget announcement of a £300 million cash-terms boost for colleges and sixth forms it is expected that this would only maintain funding per student at current levels in real terms An Institute for Fiscal studies (IFS) [Further Education Report](#) stated that for school sixth forms, current spending per student in 2024–25 will still be 15% lower in real terms than it was over 20 years earlier in 2002–03. There is currently no detailed announcement on the variance to these factors for next year.

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

- 4.1 The October 2024 Budget announced an additional £2.3bn to the core schools budget with £1billion for SEN and £1.3bn extra for mainstream schools. This funding has now been rolled into the schools national funding formula in 2025/26. This resulted in a net 2.25% per pupil uplift to Camden's NFF schools block budget (net of 5.3% uplift for building past pay grants into the base budgets for 2025/26). The High needs budget also saw a 7% (£3.8m) uplift to the 2025/26 budget.
- 4.2 Some commentators have indicated that these rises will still not redress the historic real terms funding reduction to core school budgets since 2010 and that this additional funding will still only continue the path to "restore per pupil funding to 2010 levels in real terms".

- 4.3 Since the funding freeze in 2010 Camden schools have received a cumulative total increase of 26.07% to DSG in the 7 years from 2018/19 to 2024/25. With all the increases to DSG schools block only starting from 2018/19 it is estimated that Camden schools suffered by 2024 a net real terms spending pressure from rising inflation alone of approximately -22% (net of the total 26.07% DSG increases between the 7 years above). This is equivalent to nearly £25m based on the current levels of schools block DSG income (as measured on the CPI, the government's preferred measure).
- 4.4 In addition, Camden Schools were historically and comparatively well funded by per pupil measure nationally (5<sup>th</sup> by Local Authority at Primary and 6<sup>th</sup> Secondary in 2024/25). This position via the "levelling up" of national schools funding continued to influence Camden's share of national funding. Camden Schools, especially primary have also seen falling demand for places, reflecting wider demographic trends. As funding for schools is driven primarily by the number of pupils on roll at the school, the already significant pressure on school budgets will be further exacerbated by the prevalence of surplus places. There are currently six schools (of which one is secondary) with a licensed deficit with Camden.
- 4.5 In order that schools are able to develop adequate financial plans to deal with these pressures on their funding, they will continue to be advised to maintain three year financial forecasts of costs and income. This information will be important in supporting the schools longer term financial planning. The authority has regularly issued detailed guidance to support this process, and annual updates on cost pressures are provided to schools each year with the most recent update being sent to schools in July and updated in December's report.

#### **Support and ESFA Announcements since December 2024**

- 4.6 The ESFA continues to be very supportive to schools through free training sessions for schools staff and regular updates of its most recent announcements on a wide variety of issues that it wishes to inform schools and Councils of- accessible at - [ESFA Update - GOV.UK](#)
- 4.7 A major issue for schools since the October 2024 Budget may be the impact of the National Insurance costs on schools.
- 4.8 The October Budget confirmed that employers will see their National Insurance contributions rise by 1.2 to 15 per cent from April 2025. Also, the level at which employers pay contributions on each employee's salary would be lowered £9,100 per year to £5,000, as part of a package of tax rises expected to raise £40bn. The news had triggered concern in the education sector about the added costs this would mean for schools that already face financial pressures and a struggle to recruit and retain staff.
- 4.9 The government has announced that State schools will be fully reimbursed for the rise in National Insurance for employers announced in the Budget. The ESFA has indicated that this is likely to take the form of a separate grant. They have not yet indicated the position for Early Years provider's funding for 2025/26 [Schools to be funded for national insurance rise Tes](#)

#### **5. Reserves**

- 5.1 The table below outlines the historic and proposed use of reserves (one-off cash balances) in 2024/25 and the level of reserves available beyond that. The table shows the movement from the opening cumulative 2013/16 DSG reserve balance to the

current forecast position at the end of the current year, which remains subject to future schools forum decisions. It reflects the reduction in the use of DSG reserves in accordance with the objective of improving sustainability in schools budgets by reducing reliance on one-off balances. It also now shows the planned drawdown of £2.6m to the HN DSG reserves element to cover the current HN DSG overspend in 2024/25. The tabled High Needs report to this forum in section 2.4 indicate that this level of overspend is expected to continue in 2025/26 despite the net £3.8m increase to HN DSG for 2025/26 and that cumulative reserves HN DSG will still be exhausted by 2026/27. The projections are of course subject to change as decisions are made in response to changing circumstances over time.

**Table 5: DSG Reserve and movements at February 2025**

	Schools	CSSB Central Support Services block	High Needs	Early years (inc 2 year olds)	Movement in year	Final end of year balance
<i>Opening Bal from 2013 to 2016</i>	<b>-279,966</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,681,841</b>	<b>1,916,142</b>		<b>4,318,017</b>
<i>2018/19 actual movement</i>	780,715	738,437	-1,259,399	0	259,753	4,577,770
<i>2019/20 actual movement</i>	1,072,016	746,568	-1,084,099	125	734,609	5,312,379
<i>2020/21 actual movement</i>	1,116,391	622,653	1,686,405	-1	3,425,449	8,737,827
<i>2021/22 actual movement</i>	1,158,792	644,246	2,660,550	0	4,463,588	13,201,416
<i>2022/23 actual movement</i>	468,636	588,931	4,017,244	978,803	6,053,614	19,255,029
<i>2023/24 actual movement</i>	686,180	283,607	1,408,500	709,450	3,087,737	22,342,767
<i>sub total - Current balance</i>	<b>5,002,764</b>	<b>3,624,442</b>	<b>10,111,042</b>	<b>3,604,518</b>	<b>22,342,767</b>	
Planned 2024/25 HNB Drawdown from DSG Reseve 24/25 estimated 21.01.25			-2,600,000		-2,600,000	
ESG deduction from 2022/23	-250,000				-250,000	
<i>sub total of planned use 2024/25</i>	<b>4,752,764</b>	<b>3,624,442</b>	<b>7,511,042</b>	<b>3,604,518</b>	<b>19,492,767</b>	<b>19,492,767</b>

5.2 It is noted that the historic build up of the DSG reserve by the HN DSG from unexpected and significant increases in grant income is no longer expected to continue and that the current level of HN DSG expenditure is forecast to exhaust the current HN DSG reserves by 2026/27. The High Needs team will need to continue to work with stakeholders and forum on an ongoing basis to ensure that they bring the HN DSG expenditure in line with the annual DSG block allocation.

5.3 As agreed in previous years by the Council and Forum, other elements of the DSG reserve will continue to be used to support schools in the current economic climate by relieving them of the former charge of £15 per pupil as schools contribution to discontinued Education Support Grant (ESG) central duties grant from 2017. This application of DSG reserve will continue to be used to support schools budgets in 2025/26 and continue to remove the approximately £250,000 that would have historically been chargeable to their budgets

5.4 This overall position may change beyond 2024/25 due to potential pressures from inflation, possible future school and class reorganisations in response to falling rolls and other potential exigencies that may also require a call on these reserves. Currently - as agreed in earlier school Forum, any reserve remaining in the Schools or Central Schools Services block continues to remain available to offset any schools block deficit arising from pressures on schools budgets following future reorganisations or cost pressures.

## 6 De-Delegated Schools Budget

6.1 In the past, the annual DSG was top sliced for the authority to provide the central functions outlined below. Changes introduced by the government in 2013 required funding for these central services provided by the Council to be given (delegated) to schools and then subject to agreement charged back (via de-delegation) from their individual budgets. School forums have the authority on behalf of all schools to approve which services should be provided centrally by the authority. December 2024 Forum previously approved services to be delivered centrally which will total £0.982m in 2025/26 subject any changes outlined within this report. The current cost distribution as requested is as follows:

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

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

**Table 6: 2025/26 Budget De-delegated rate per pupil**

Primary:	Rolls	Total Rate per pupil	Behaviour Support (Primary Only)	Assessment of FSM Applications	Union Duties	Contingency Bulge Class Pupils / Falling Rolls	Licences
Primary Rate Per pupil	8,556	£86.61	£51.19	£2.33	£8.24	£15.96	£8.89
Secondary Rate Per Pupil	6,486	£35.42	£0.00	£2.33	£8.24	£15.96	£8.89
Total Charge per heading	15,042	£982,703	£449,998	£35,001	£123,997	£239,997	£133,710

6.3 The ESFA plans that following the introduction of the “hard” NFF (now postponed from 2025/26) that Councils will no longer be able to de-delegate the aggregated NFF from schools via the Councils local formula and that individual schools will be free to choose which former de-delegated services they buy” with their NFF budgets.

## **7. Energy Costs**

7.1 For most schools in Camden Energy bills are subject to the Councils contract with its energy provider LAZER. Energy prices saw steep rises from July 2022 and there still remains variability in the market.

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

## **8 Schools Funding Timetable**

8.1 To help keep schools informed of key school funding dates a summary of the key steps towards the finalisation of the 2025/26 schools high needs and early years final funding positions is outlined in Appendix 3.

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

9.1 The report outlines the proposed allocation of DSG budget allocations for 2025/26 based on the ESFA notification and guidance of 18 December 2024 and invites forum for comments.

9.2 The distribution of the DSG funding is made within the available ESFA funding for 2025/26 and in accord with ESFA guidance requirements and earlier Forum approval of the local budget formula and advice from the Education Service.

9.3 Forum will need to take note of the level of funding in context of the expected spending pressures for 2025/26 and changing levels of DSG reserves and continue to consider the appropriate actions to manage this level of DSG reserves in the context of spending pressures.

9.4 Subject to the above comments, so far as the ESFA regulations have been met and the approved allocation is within the available funding levels here are no additional finance comments.

9.5 The finance reports to schools forum are written by the Finance team and as such the views of the Exec Director Corporate services are included with the report.

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

10.1 The report has set out how it has arranged the 2025/26 schools funding allocations in accordance with the ESFA Guidance and requirements for 2025/26 and in accord with earlier forum agreement on the local funding formula mechanism that was used.

10.2 The basic structure of the national funding formula (NFF) has not significantly changed for 2025/26. Local Authorities must make sure all schools receive at least the minimum per-pupil funding levels. The schools block is ring-fenced so the vast majority of the block is passed directly to schools. Schools Forum have limited flexibility over the

structure of the formula and decisions on transferring. Money between the mainstream schools budget and the high needs budget.

## **11. Environmental Implications**

11.1 This report is not expected to result in any environmental impacts

## **12. Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Camden's School Funding Formula 2025/26

**Appendix 2:** Funding Formula Allocations 2025/26 – Primary and Secondary Schools (provisional)

**Appendix 3:** Timetable (extract) - ESFA DSG: Operational Guide 2025/26 section 47.1 Timetable

**Appendix 4:** De-delegation 2025-26 -Totals per school and Per-Pupil Rates.

**Appendix 5:** (Extract) - Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant Local Funding Formula 2025/26

**Appendix 6:** Extract From ESFA - How are the Indices of Deprivation 2019 different to the Indices of Deprivation 2015

**Appendix 7:** The schools national funding formula (NFF): 2025/26 -Schools Block allocations for LAs – published 28th November 2024

**REPORT ENDS**





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## Appendix 1 - Camden's School Funding Formula 2025/26

<b>Primary and Secondary schools only, reception to year 11.</b>	<b>£'m</b>
Pupil lead factors	
(1) Base entitlement - number of pupils x fixed amount. Primary £4,671, secondary KS3 £6,519 secondary KS4 £7,350	92.72
(2) Deprivation - number of pupils Free School Meals and IDACI x fixed amount. FSM = primary £360 secondary £360 FSM6 = primary £1,352 secondary £1,796 IDACI 1 Band F = primary £285, secondary £409 IDACI 2 Band E = primary £346, secondary £537 IDACI 3 Band D = primary £500, secondary £674 IDACI 4 Band C = primary £594, secondary £789 IDACI 5 Band B = primary £631, secondary £869 IDACI 6 Band A = primary £859, secondary £1,205	21.48
Special needs - number eligible pupils x fixed amount	
(5) Low Prior Attainment - eligibility measured by Prior Attainment using EYFSP in primary x £1027 and key stage 2 at secondary, failure to achieve level 4 in maths or English x £1,497	4.85
(*) Looked after children - number eligible pupils x £0	0.00
(3) English as additional language - number eligible pupils x £664 primary, £1,630 secondary. Payable for first three years.	2.39
4) Mobility - Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates = Eligible proportion of NOR x £344 Primary and £492 - Secondary	0.09
Non pupil led factors	
(9) Split site (relevant schools only) - Basic eligibility £65,557, Distance Funding £32,778	0.26
(10) Rates -full cost of rates less charitable relief where applicable.	4.09
(11) PFI (relevant schools only) - additional cost of premises and related services compared to non PFI school.	0.24
(6) Lump sum per school - £176,155 primary, £190,320 secondary.	8.60
Total funding allocated before transition	134.73
(14) Transition - Minimum Funding Guarantee n - funding reductions limited to 0% to - 0.5% change 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).	0.47
<b>Total funding allocated</b>	<b>135.19</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.	
Primary: Secondary Ratio	1.30

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## Appendix 2 - Funding Formula Allocations 2025/26 – Primary and Secondary Schools (provisional)

Estimated funding per school for 2025/26 using up to 7.55% pp factor increases in the January 2025 APT where possible to maximise distribution (subject to ESFA maximum and minimum band constraints) applied to October 2024 pupil numbers. Assuming nil funding from the schools block of the DSG reserve. Figures are subject to any further ESFA amendments (which will be advised)- Note that this now includes the earlier TPAG, TPECG and CSBG Grant which has now been included into the base budgets for 2025/26 DSG.

### De-delegation 2025-26 -Totals per school and Per-Pupil Rates

	2025-26 Including TPAG, TPECG & CSBG -& Falling Rolls	2024-2025 APT ISB Budgets Adjusted to include in base TPAG , TPECG & CSBG for comparison	2023-2024 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Supplementary Grant & MSAG	2022-2023 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Adjusted for Supplementary Grant	Total Budget Increase/ (Decrease)	%
Argyle	2,100,241	2,226,601	2,122,160	2,033,730	(126,360)	-5.68%
West Hampstead (Beckford)	2,642,316	2,499,057	2,332,844	2,283,402	143,259	5.73%
Brecknock	2,042,352	2,047,387	1,998,721	1,930,478	(5,035)	-0.25%
Brookfield	2,261,089	2,228,497	2,063,493	2,088,527	32,592	1.46%
		-	-	-	0	
Edith Neville	1,502,300	1,439,037	1,276,246	1,346,734	63,263	4.40%
Fleet	1,452,005	1,473,878	1,344,604	1,285,889	(21,873)	-1.48%
Hawley	1,602,423	1,525,132	1,405,360	1,341,154	77,291	5.07%
Netley	2,689,855	2,517,853	2,449,040	2,313,081	172,002	6.83%
New End	1,952,305	2,037,815	1,850,507	1,778,363	(85,510)	-4.20%
Primrose Hill	2,587,723	2,681,314	2,444,638	2,352,780	(93,591)	-3.49%
Rhyl	2,739,455	2,900,550	2,761,576	3,076,122	(161,095)	-5.55%
Richard Cobden	2,722,232	2,770,435	2,532,647	2,393,537	(48,203)	-1.74%
Torriano	2,780,261	2,776,017	2,580,217	2,519,162	4,244	0.15%
Gospel Oak	2,735,609	2,799,784	2,527,435	2,445,650	(64,175)	-2.29%
Fitzjohns	1,302,341	1,312,164	1,232,710	1,179,851	(9,823)	-0.75%
Eleanor Palmer	1,366,616	1,363,454	1,270,924	1,231,821	3,162	0.23%
Christopher Hatton	1,451,449	1,477,918	1,382,978	1,289,441	(26,469)	-1.79%
Kingsgate	4,243,869	4,123,641	4,029,440	4,017,052	120,228	2.92%
Christ Church NW3	1,184,714	1,153,032	1,080,660	1,029,433	31,682	2.75%
Christ Church NW1	1,268,925	1,397,186	1,285,748	1,232,382	(128,261)	-9.18%
Emmanuel	1,353,890	1,369,484	1,193,147	1,116,461	(15,594)	-1.14%
Hampstead Parochial	1,236,126	1,240,167	1,154,309	1,110,549	(4,041)	-0.33%
Holy Trinity NW3	1,244,070	1,275,854	1,148,910	1,118,703	(31,784)	-2.49%
Holy Trinity & St. Silas	1,470,814	1,483,263	1,341,950	1,297,100	(12,449)	-0.84%
Kentish Town	1,464,496	1,480,677	1,340,806	1,300,519	(16,181)	-1.09%
Rosary	1,851,704	1,945,485	1,647,540	1,595,634	(93,781)	-4.82%

	2025-26 Including TPAG, TPECG & CSBG -& Falling Rolls	2024-2025 APT ISB Budgets Adjusted to include in base TPAG , TPECG & CSBG for comparison	2023-2024 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Supplementa ry Grant & MSAG	2022-2023 Including Teachers Pay, Pension Grants & Adjusted for Supplement ary Grant	Total Budget Increase/ (Decrease)	%
St Alban's	837,867	1,014,426	1,100,578	1,046,992	(176,559)	-17.40%
St George the Martyr	1,339,736	1,319,863	1,275,300	1,237,681	19,873	1.51%
St Joseph's	1,073,868	1,158,985	1,162,253	1,072,731	(85,117)	-7.34%
St Mary's Kilburn	1,561,461	1,500,640	1,344,891	1,276,752	60,821	4.05%
St Mary Pancras	1,392,587	1,403,458	1,300,457	1,298,197	(10,871)	-0.77%
St Michael's	0	-	-	842,117	0	
St Patrick's	1,010,170	1,133,983	1,040,368	1,139,483	(123,813)	-10.92%
St Paul's	1,312,226	1,312,225	1,152,744	1,137,100	1	0.00%
St Eugene de Mazenod	1,462,129	1,430,298	1,296,245	1,243,557	31,831	2.23%
Our Lady's	1,805,862	1,937,208	2,028,868	1,397,421	(131,346)	-6.78%
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>63,045,086</b>	<b>63,756,768</b>	<b>60,404,424</b>	<b>59,419,778</b>	<b>(711,682)</b>	
Haverstock	6,714,356	7,483,837	6,977,898	6,146,935	(769,481)	-10.28%
Parliament Hill	8,037,001	8,022,099	7,279,618	6,899,567	14,902	0.19%
Regent High School	9,640,730	9,204,478	8,291,496	7,744,906	436,252	4.74%
Hampstead	9,306,600	9,441,479	8,726,259	8,252,751	(134,879)	-1.43%
Acland Burghley	8,140,236	8,162,294	7,468,795	7,152,432	(22,058)	-0.27%
Camden School for Girls	5,020,608	5,036,790	4,589,340	4,398,474	(16,182)	-0.32%
Maria Fidelis	6,577,130	6,556,919	6,018,814	5,660,137	20,211	0.31%
William Ellis	4,984,049	5,283,856	4,984,128	4,830,659	(299,807)	-5.67%
La Sainte Union Convent	3,721,463	4,638,179	5,096,273	5,530,794	(916,716)	-19.76%
Total Secondary	62,142,173	63,829,931	59,432,621	56,616,655	- 1,687,758	-
<b>Total Camden Maintained</b>	<b>125,187,259</b>	<b>127,586,699</b>	<b>119,837,045</b>	<b>116,036,433</b>	<b>(2,399,440)</b>	
St Luke's Cof E School	718,826	739,098	666,776	646,216	(20,272)	-2.74%
Abacus Belsize	1,069,929	1,014,474	949,631	911,167	55,455	5.47%
Kings Cross Academy	2,530,241	2,498,103	2,295,789	2,240,490	32,138	1.29%
The UCL Academy	7,546,220	7,980,828	7,500,011	6,979,295	(434,608)	-5.45%
<b>Total Academy &amp; Free</b>	<b>11,865,216</b>	<b>12,232,503</b>	<b>11,412,207</b>	<b>10,777,168</b>	<b>- 367,287</b>	
<b>Total All Camden Schools</b>	<b>137,052,475</b>	<b>139,819,202</b>	<b>131,249,252</b>	<b>126,813,601</b>	<b>(2,766,727)</b>	

**Appendix 3 - Timetable (extract) - ESFA DSG: Operational Guide 2025/26 section 47.1 Timetable**

Date	Action
	<b>1.ESFA Activities</b>
January 2025	laying the annual Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations
By 31 March 2025	confirmation of 2025 to 2026 general annual grant for academies open by 9 January 2025
	2025 to 2026 allocation statements issued to post-16 institutions, academies, and non-maintained special schools
	publication of 2025 to 2026 high needs place numbers at school level
April 2025	first DSG payments to local authorities based on 2025 to 2026 allocations, including academies recoupment (DSG allocations updated termly for in-year academy conversions), further education (FE) high needs place funding deductions, and other adjustments
Summer 2025	early years block updated for January 2025 early years pupil numbers (pro rata seven-twelfths, as this relates only to the period September 2024 to March 2025)
	<b>2. Local authority activity</b>
9 January 2025	schools block disapplication submission amendment date
22 January 2025	schools forum consultation and political approval from local authorities required in line with APT submission deadline for final 2025 to 2026 funding formulae
	deadline for submission of final 2025 to 2026 APT to the department
31 January 2025	deadline for local authorities to provide evidence of the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, for this funding to be protected in 2025 to 2026 (this will be reflected in the March DSG allocations)
28 February 2025	confirmation of schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools
March 2025	final allocations to mainstream maintained schools (includes de-delegation)

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## Appendix 4 - De-delegation 2025-26 -Totals per school and Per-Pupil Rates

Primary:	NOR	Total	Behaviour Support (Primary Only)	Assessment of FSM Applications	Union Duties	Contingency Bulge Class Pupils / Falling Rolls	Licences
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>£982,714</b>	<b>£450,000</b>	<b>£35,000</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>£240,000</b>	<b>£133,714</b>
Argyle	259.00	22,794	13,622	603	2,135	4,132	2,302
West Hampstead	386.00	33,972	20,302	898	3,182	6,159	3,431
Brecknock	253.00	22,267	13,306	589	2,086	4,037	2,249
Brookfield	335.00	29,483	17,619	779	2,762	5,345	2,978
Edith Neville	191.00	16,810	10,046	444	1,575	3,047	1,698
Fleet	195.00	17,161	10,256	454	1,607	3,111	1,733
Hawley	205.00	18,042	10,782	477	1,690	3,271	1,822
Netley	332.00	29,219	17,461	773	2,737	5,297	2,951
New End	288.00	25,346	15,147	670	2,374	4,595	2,560
Primrose Hill	379.00	33,355	19,933	882	3,124	6,047	3,369
Rhyl	330.00	29,042	17,356	768	2,720	5,265	2,933
Richard Cobden	350.00	30,802	18,408	814	2,885	5,584	3,111
Torriano	404.00	35,555	21,248	940	3,330	6,446	3,591
Gospel Oak	396.00	34,850	20,827	921	3,264	6,318	3,520
Fitzjohns	199.00	17,513	10,466	463	1,640	3,175	1,769
Eleanor Palmer	210.00	18,483	11,045	489	1,731	3,351	1,867
Christopher Hatton	199.00	17,513	10,466	463	1,640	3,175	1,769
Kingsgate	555.00	48,845	29,190	1,291	4,575	8,855	4,934
Christ Church NW3	191.00	16,810	10,046	444	1,575	3,047	1,698
Christ Church NW1	160.00	14,081	8,415	372	1,319	2,553	1,422
Emmanuel	207.00	18,218	10,887	482	1,706	3,303	1,840
Hampstead Parochial	198.00	17,426	10,414	461	1,632	3,159	1,760
Holy Trinity NW3	168.00	14,785	8,836	391	1,385	2,680	1,493
Holy Trinity & St. Silas	208.00	18,307	10,940	484	1,715	3,319	1,849
Kentish Town	205.00	18,042	10,782	477	1,690	3,271	1,822
Rosary	268.00	23,586	14,095	624	2,209	4,276	2,382

St Alban's	85.00	7,482	4,471	198	701	1,356	756
St George the Martyr	185.00	16,282	9,730	430	1,525	2,952	1,645
St Joseph's	129.00	11,353	6,785	300	1,063	2,058	1,147
St Mary's Kilburn	207.00	18,218	10,887	482	1,706	3,303	1,840
St Mary Pancras	175.00	15,402	9,204	407	1,443	2,792	1,556
St Patrick's	115.00	10,121	6,048	268	948	1,835	1,022
St Paul's	189.00	16,634	9,940	440	1,558	3,016	1,680
St Eugene de Mazonod	202.00	17,778	10,624	470	1,665	3,223	1,796
Our Lady's	198.00	17,426	10,414	461	1,632	3,159	1,760
		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>753,003</b>	<b>449,998</b>	<b>19,909</b>	<b>70,529</b>	<b>136,512</b>	<b>76,055</b>
Charge Rate BS - per re primary			£52.59				
Secondary:			NIL Participation in Secondary				
Haverstock	594.00	21,036		1,382	4,897	9,477	5,280
Parliament Hill	900.00	31,873		2,094	7,419	14,360	8,000
Regent High School	941.00	33,326		2,190	7,757	15,014	8,365
Hampstead	984.00	34,849		2,290	8,112	15,700	8,747
Acland Burghley	910.00	32,227		2,117	7,502	14,519	8,089
Camden School for Girls	597.00	21,142		1,389	4,921	9,525	5,307
Maria Fidelis	692.00	24,507		1,610	5,705	11,041	6,151
William Ellis	519.00	18,381		1,208	4,278	8,281	4,614
La Sainte Union Convent	349.00	12,359		812	2,877	5,568	3,102
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>6,486</b>	<b>229,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,092</b>	<b>53,468</b>	<b>103,485</b>	<b>57,655</b>
Charge Rate BS - per re primary			£52.59				
Charge Rate per Schools				£2.33	£8.24	£15.96	£8.89
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>15,042</b>	<b>982,703</b>	<b>449,998</b>	<b>35,001</b>	<b>123,997</b>	<b>239,997</b>	<b>133,710</b>



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## Appendix 5 - (Extract)- Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant Local Funding Formula 2025/26

### Proposed Hourly rates 2025/26

Camden administers the funding for the Early Years Free Entitlements on behalf of the government. Funding is deployed to local providers using a local funding formula that includes an allocation to support the costs of the scheme administration, a supplement for deprivation and for teachers' pension contributions (TPPG) and, a contribution to create a funding stream to support providers to meet the needs of children with SEND known in Camden as Camden Local Inclusion Fund (CLIF).

2025-2026		2024-2025	
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£9.23	DfE allocation	£9.04
less 4% central costs	-£0.37	less 5% central costs	-£0.45
less deprivation supplement	-£0.92	less deprivation supplement	-£0.72
less quality supplement TPPG	-£0.18	less quality supplement TPPG	-£0.15
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£0.33	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£0.50
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£7.42</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£7.22</b>
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 2 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 2 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£12.23	DfE allocation	£11.83
less 3% central costs	-£0.37	less 3% central costs	-£0.35
less deprivation supplement	-£1.01	less deprivation supplement	-£0.95
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.07	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.03
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£9.78</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£9.50</b>
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 9 months to 2 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 9 months to 2 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£16.83	DfE allocation	£16.15
less 3% central costs	-£0.50	less 3% central costs	-£0.48
less deprivation supplement	-£0.16	less deprivation supplement	-£1.27
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.98	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.74
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£14.19</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£12.66</b>

Entitlement	Pass through %	Retained Funding
3&4 YOs	96%	£510,890.00
2YOs	97%	£119,441.00
Under 2's	97%	£144,641.00
<b>Total retained</b>		<b>£774,972.00</b>

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## Appendix 6 - Extract From ESFA

### 26. How are the Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019) different to the Indices of Deprivation 2015?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Appendix 7 - The schools national funding formula (NFF): 2025/26 -Schools Block allocations for LAs – published 28th November 2024

### The schools national funding formula (NFF): Schools block allocations for LAs

KEY:	Baseline funding	Provisional NFF funding in 2025-26
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			Schools block baseline funding					Provisional schools NFF funding in 2025-26						
Region (alphabetical order)	LA number	LA name (alphabetical order within region)	2024-25 schools block pupil numbers	Amount allocated to the LA in 2024-25 through the DSG (excluding growth and falling rolls and premises factors)	Amount allocated to the LA in 2024-25 through the DSG premises funding	Amount allocated through the 2024-25 additional grants	Total 2024-25 baseline for the schools block (excluding growth and falling rolls factor)  (total cash)	Total 2024-25 baseline for the schools block (excluding growth and falling rolls factor)  (£ per pupil)	2024-25 schools block pupil numbers [will be updated]	Provisional 2025-26 NFF funding through the core NFF factors (excluding growth and falling rolls and premises factors) [will be updated]  (2025-26 PUFs and SUFs multiplied by 2024-25 DSG pupil numbers)	Actual 2025-26 funding through the premises factors	Provisional funding in 2025-26 (excluding growth and falling rolls factor) [will be updated]  (total cash)	Provisional funding in 2025-26 (excluding growth and falling rolls factor) [will be updated]  (£ per pupil)	Provisional percentage change in 2025-26 over 2024-25 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]
England total			7,567,929	£44,335,625,930	£742,978,561	£2,585,510,365	£47,664,114,856	£6,298	7,567,929	£47,952,464,311	£775,715,349	£48,728,179,661	£6,439	2.23%
Inner London	202	Camden	17,034	£126,514,786	£4,089,852	£7,831,580	£138,436,218	£8,127	17,034	£136,851,699	£4,701,549	£141,553,248	£8,310	2.25%

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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Early Years Entitlements Funding 2025-26	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Children’s Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report details the proposed allocation of national free entitlement funding using Camden’s local funding formula. It seeks approval from School’s Forum for the proposed hourly rates payable to providers and for the retained element of funding used by the local authority to administer the schemes.</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b>  Debbie Adams – Head of Early Years and Family Hubs  5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG.  <a href="mailto:Debbie.adams@camden.gov.uk">Debbie.adams@camden.gov.uk</a> 020 7974 6706</p> <p>Anita Kemsley – Free Entitlement Manager  5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG.  <a href="mailto:Anita.kemsley@camden.gov.uk">Anita.kemsley@camden.gov.uk</a> 020 7974 2948</p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>School’s forum is asked to agree the following hourly funding rates for 2025/26 and the retained funding required to administer the free entitlement schemes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed Hourly rates for 2025/26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 2’s: £14.19</li> <li>• 2 year olds: £9.78</li> <li>• 3 and 4 year olds: £7.42</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Proposed pass-through rates which values total £774,972.00. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 2’s 96%: £144,641.00</li> <li>• 2-Year-olds 97%: £119,441.00</li> <li>• 3- and 4-year-olds 97%: £510,890.00</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	



Signed:  
Rashida Baig, Director of Children’s prevention, Family help and safeguarding

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report describes the proposed hourly funding rates for Early Education providers in the borough and the amount to be retained to fund the administration of the schemes. Section 2.5 provides some information about the increase in demand for local inclusion fund support for children with special educational needs or disability.

## 2. Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant Local Funding Formula

### 2.1 Proposed Hourly rates

Camden administers the funding for the Early Years Free Entitlements on behalf of the government. Funding is deployed to local providers using a local funding formula that includes an allocation to support the costs of the scheme administration, a supplement for deprivation and for teachers' pension contributions (TPPG) and, a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF), known locally as Camden Local Inclusion Fund (CLIF), which provides a contribution to support providers to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Camden's funding formula is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1**

2025-2026		2024-2025	
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£9.23	DfE allocation	£9.04
less 4% central costs	-£0.37	less 5% central costs	-£0.45
less deprivation supplement	-£0.92	less deprivation supplement	-£0.72
less quality supplement TPPG	-£0.18	less quality supplement TPPG	-£0.15
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£0.33	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£0.50
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£7.42</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£7.22</b>
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 2 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 2 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£12.23	DfE allocation	£11.83
less 3% central costs	-£0.37	less 3% central costs	-£0.35
less deprivation supplement	-£1.01	less deprivation supplement	-£0.95
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.07	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.03
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£9.78</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£9.50</b>
<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 9 months to 2 Year Olds</b>		<b>Camden's Hourly Rate 9 months to 2 Year Olds</b>	
DfE allocation	£16.83	DfE allocation	£16.15
less 3% central costs	-£0.50	less 3% central costs	-£0.48
less deprivation supplement	-£0.16	less deprivation supplement	-£1.27
SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.98	SENIF (inclusion funding)	-£1.74
<b>Provider Hourly Rate 25-26</b>	<b>£14.19</b>	<b>Provider Hourly Rate 24-25</b>	<b>£12.66</b>

## 2.2 Designated Schools Grant (DSG) Retained funding – local administration

Retained funding is essential to fund the administration of the free entitlements, which include headcount/census management, eligibility assessments, advice, support and training providers on the free entitlement, distribution of the DSG funding, compliance with legislation, financial management and project management. Camden's retained funding also funds the cost of staff for the Training and Quality Team who provide services to the Camden childcare providers as directed under Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006.

### 2.2.1 Required pass through rates

The government require us to pass through a minimum 96% of each of our hourly rates, the pass-through rates apply separately to the entitlements for:

- 9-month-old children up to 2-year-olds of eligible working parents
- 2-year-old children of eligible working parents
- 2-year-old children from families receiving additional support
- 3- and 4-year-olds (universal and additional hours for working parents)

We have calculated the pass-through rate for the 3- and 4-year-olds at 96% and have increased the pass-through rate for the 2-year-olds and under to 97%.

The proposed pass-through funding for 2025/26 is shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**

<b>Entitlement</b>	<b>Pass through %</b>	<b>Retained Funding</b>
3&4 YOs	96%	£510,890.00
2YOs	97%	£119,441.00
Under 2's	97%	£144,641.00
<b>Total retained</b>		<b>£774,972.00</b>

Year-olds is abbreviated as YOs.

The funding required for central services is £780,000, any shortfall between the retained funding and the outturn will be met by general fund budgets.

## 2.3 Deprivation supplement and TPPG

Deprivation is a mandatory 10% supplement across all of the free entitlement schemes. We propose to combine the 2YOs and under 2's element with the payment made against our 3 & 4-year-olds in 24-25, this will be funded against each funding stream in 25-26 based on the actual data from the spring 2025 census. TPPG is a 2% supplement for 3 & 4-year-olds for providers with qualified teachers where they pay the higher rate of pension contributions and is a one-off annual payment.

The breakdown of funding paid to providers for their free entitlement in the autumn 2024 term is shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**

Funding Breakdown - Autumn 2024					
Funding Scheme	No. of children	Amount funded	EYPP	Deprivation	DAF
3&4 Year Old Universal	1697	£2,452,843	£38,495	£452,556	£6,370
3&4 Year Old Working Parent	386	£562,557.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
2YO Disadvantaged	404	£758,024.00	£18,697.00	<i>included in 3&amp;4YO funding</i>	£910
2YO Working Parents	346	£664,411.00	£846.60	<i>included in 3&amp;4YO funding</i>	0
9 months to 2 years Working Parents	329	£845,021.00	£142.80	<i>included in 3&amp;4YO funding</i>	0

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium      DAF – Disability Access Fund

## 2.4 Camden Local Inclusion Fund

Local authorities are required to have a Local Inclusion Fund that supports providers to meet the needs of individual children with Special Educational Needs who are taking up the entitlements. The statutory guidance that applies to the Local Inclusion Fund is set out in Figure 4.

**Figure 4**

### **Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funds**

#### Eligibility

Local authorities should target SENIFs at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and with an education, health and care plan (EHC) plan continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG. As with other elements of early years funding, SENIFs should apply to children attending settings in the relevant local authority area, regardless of where they live.

#### Sources of funding

Local authorities should establish their SENIFs using funding from the early years block and/or the high needs block of their DSG allocation.

#### Allocation of funding

Local authorities should pass the majority of their SENIF to providers in the form of top-up grants on a case-by-case basis. Local authorities can also support specialist SEN services in their local area. Funding used for these local authority-wide support services will not count towards the 95% pass-through; they will be counted within the 5% centrally retained funding.

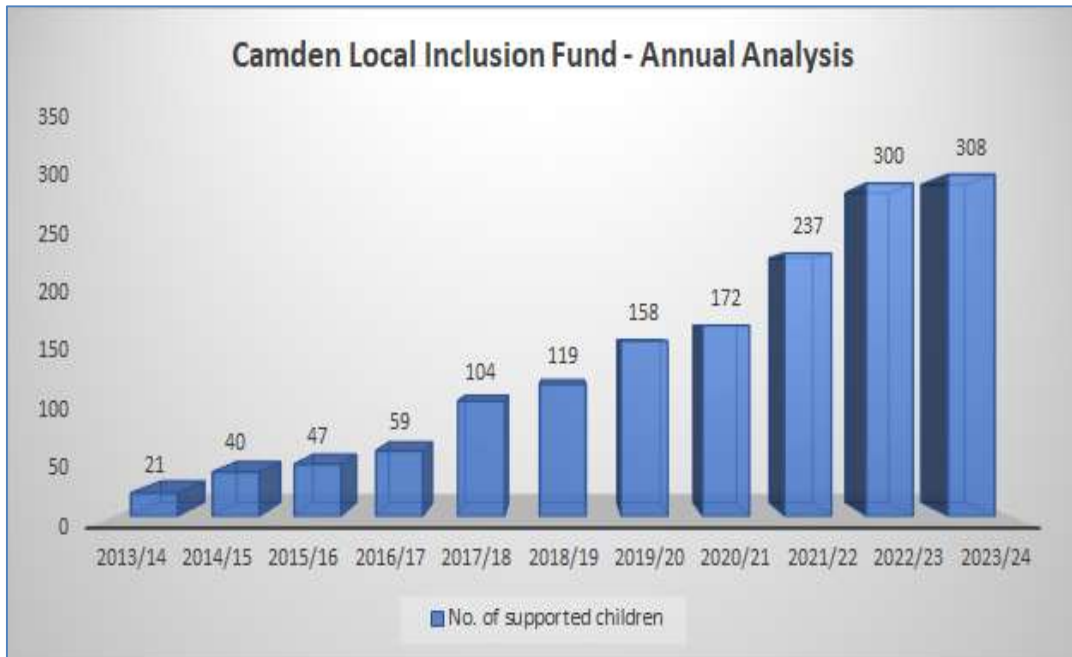
#### Eligible providers

All early years providers that are eligible to receive funding for the entitlements are eligible to receive funding from the SENIF to support

The number of children for which early education providers require support to meet need has increased significantly in the last 10 years as shown in figure 5.

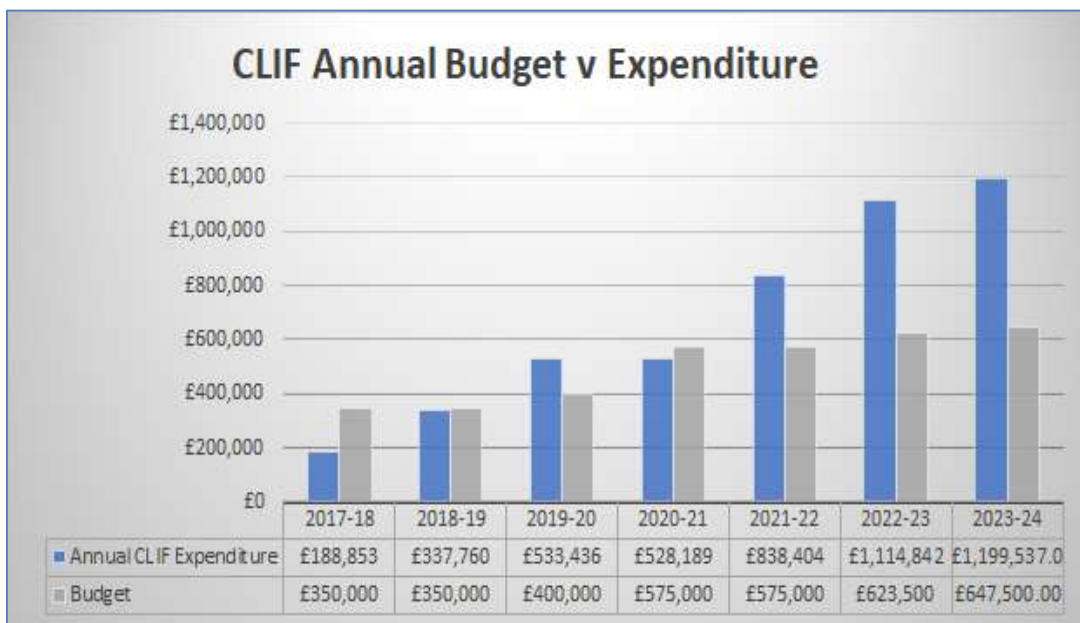


**Figure 5**



The service has responded by increasing the budget available to allocate to providers to meet the needs of these children. The application of the funding formula means that any increase in the element of the overall allocation assigned to the Inclusion fund results on a decrease in the universal hourly rate. The increase in expenditure is shown in Figure 6.

**Figure 6**



From autumn 2024 Camden's inclusion funding has been allocated by banding based on the level of need of each child as shown in figure 5. The allocation of funding is to support providers to meet the needs of the child for a proportion of their nursery hours dependent on the level of need. The higher child / staff ratio in early years provision makes a direct comparison to funding provided to schools though the Exceptional Needs Grant impossible.

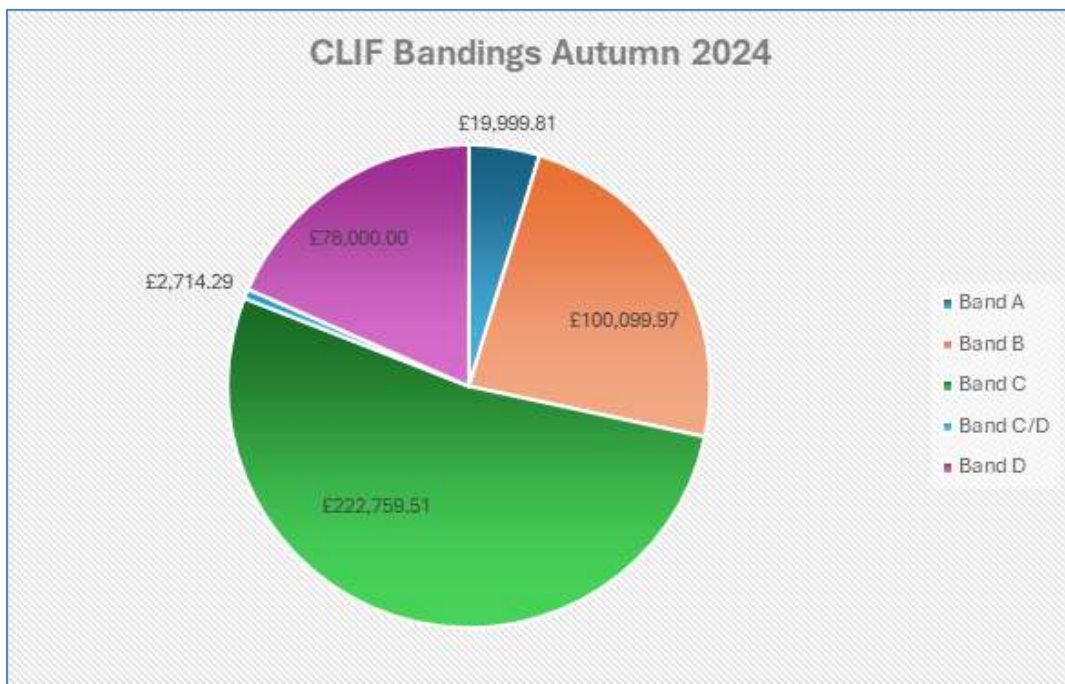
**Figure 7**

Band	Criteria
<b>A- child with emerging needs</b>	Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS small group work and/or occasional additional adult support is required for 25% of the child's nursery hours. May have involvement from an external agency (child may be on waiting list) Individualised targets that require some adult support.
<b>B - child with developing needs</b>	Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS small group work and/or additional adult support is required for 50% of the child's nursery hours. Involvement from external agencies (child may be on waiting list). Individualised targets that require additional adult support.
<b>C - child with significant and complex needs</b>	Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS additional intensive support or vigilance is required for 75% of the child's nursery hours. Involvement from external agencies – child likely to have a diagnosis or be on an assessment pathway waiting list. Individualised targets that require a high level of additional adult support.
<b>D - child with profound and complex permanent needs</b>	Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS additional intensive support or vigilance is required for 100% of the child's nursery hours. Involvement from external agencies – child likely to have a diagnosis/be on an assessment pathway waiting list or have an identified medical diagnosis (eg. epilepsy, diabetes). Individualised targets that require intensive additional adult support.

The 2024-25 local inclusion fund budget from early years DSG is £804,000 with a contribution from HNB of £500,000 making a total budget of £1.304m.

The total allocations made in the 2024 Autumn term for each band is shown in Figure 8.

**Figure 8**





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

The report details the proposed allocation of Early Years DSG funding for 2025/26 and it seeks Schools Forum approval for the proposed hourly rates payable to providers and for the retained element of funding used by the local authority to administer the schemes.

Early years DSG funding must be passed to providers in accordance with the ESFA conditions of grant which also allows for a level of retention for administration.

So far as the proposed expenditure levels continue to remain within the annual grant allocation and continue to comply with the grant conditions, there are no additional finance comments

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

Local Authorities have duties under the Childcare Act 2016 and 2006 on early years provision. The main change in 2025 to 2026 is an increase of one percent in the pass-through requirement for local authorities to 96%.

### **5. Environmental Implications**

These proposals have no environmental impacts

**REPORT ENDS**

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<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> High Needs Block (HNB): Update on 2024/25 projection and proposals for 2025/26	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>	
<p>This report provides an updated financial projection on High Needs Block (HNB) spend for 2024/25 and reports a further increase in the deficit projection since the last report.</p> <p>Proposals for the 2025/26 HNB budget are made against this background and that are sustainable whilst also working to improve life outcomes for children/young people with high needs.</p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Local authority guidance on high needs sustainability</a> June 2022</li> <li>• <a href="#">Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations 2025-to-2026</a> published 18 December 2024</li> <li>• <a href="#">High needs funding: 2025 to 2026 operational guide</a> updated 15 January 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b>            Di Osbourne, Head of SEND &amp; Inclusion            5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG.            020 7974 8056 / <a href="mailto:di.osbourne@camden.gov.uk">di.osbourne@camden.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Paul Tanton, SEN Finance and Commissioning Manager            5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG.            020 7974 8007 / <a href="mailto:paul.tanton@camden.gov.uk">paul.tanton@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<p>The Schools' Forum is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note the updated HNB position for 2024/25;</li> <li>b) agree the HNB Subgroup to oversee a review of key areas including ARP admission criteria and funding, the growth in our use of independent and non-maintained special schools, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) packages and alternative provision</li> <li>c) agree an interim change to the formula for devolved funding to Camden mainstream schools pending a fuller review of mainstream high needs funding.</li> </ol>	

Signed:



Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 1 PART (A) Projected High Needs Block spend 2024/25

1.1 The report to Schools Forum in November 2024 projected an increased in-year overspend in 2024/25 of £2.1m and presented a model, based on assumptions over growth in spend and funding increases, seeing the cumulative HNB reserves eroded by 2026/27. This report updates that position based on continued monitoring and reports an increased projection of an in-year overspend for 2024/25 to £2.6m. This higher projection is summarised in the following table.

**Table 1: High Needs Block spend summary 2020/21 to 2023/24 with updated 2024/25 projection:**

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 projection
Camden Early Years (incl PVLs: Private, Voluntary & Independent settings)	229,139	248,756	531,315	8,914	525,000
Camden mainstream	7,652,592	7,961,996	9,898,599	13,097,058	16,013,050
Camden additionally resourced provision	1,540,495	1,631,166	1,912,684	2,612,905	2,737,100
Camden special	9,270,303	9,883,194	10,434,532	11,275,619	11,727,340
Camden Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)	2,961,165	3,059,136	3,459,343	3,560,916	3,662,629
Camden hospital schools	2,850,852	3,339,621	3,731,216	4,027,525	4,142,239
<b>total (direct) Camden schools</b>	<b>24,504,546</b>	<b>26,123,869</b>	<b>29,967,688</b>	<b>34,582,937</b>	<b>38,807,358</b>
other Local Authority maintained (mainstream & special)	2,542,350	2,768,445	3,230,649	3,432,026	3,500,000
independent & non-maintained special schools	2,889,003	3,491,264	3,807,974	5,130,960	5,516,000
independent mainstream schools	214,838	315,523	265,665	354,736	400,000
<b>total non Camden schools</b>	<b>5,646,190</b>	<b>6,575,232</b>	<b>7,304,288</b>	<b>8,917,722</b>	<b>9,416,000</b>
Further Education	2,837,520	3,167,165	3,307,705	3,401,959	3,500,000
other support (therapy/individual tuition/equipment)	655,351	789,788	994,627	1,381,368	2,181,314
Transformation support to Camden schools		176,255	239,457	224,025	185,870
outreach services	275,963	275,963	275,963	430,201	490,000
central services	1,625,545	1,697,237	1,576,975	1,924,876	2,363,885
<b>Total HNB spend</b>	<b>35,545,115</b>	<b>38,805,510</b>	<b>43,666,704</b>	<b>50,863,089</b>	<b>56,944,427</b>
High Needs Block funding received	-37,543,927	-41,721,841	-47,683,948	-52,271,590	-54,345,488
DSG Reserve (- addition/+ withdrawal) (Dedicated Schools Grant)	-1,998,812	-2,916,331	-4,017,244	-1,408,501	2,598,939
Contribution to PRU projects from HNB reserves	151,754	72,506			
<b>cumulative HNB reserves balance</b>	<b>2,024,735</b>	<b>4,868,561</b>	<b>8,885,805</b>	<b>10,294,306</b>	<b>7,695,367</b>

1.2 The total projected HNB spend for 2024/25 as shown is £56.94m (up £0.5m from the £56.4m predicted in November 2024). This represents a 12.0% increase on the £50.86m spent in 2023/24. This increase in spend comes from both inflationary pressure and increased numbers of children/young people being identified as high needs and their placements, as well as spend on additional initiatives. Table 2 shows an overall increase in numbers of Camden residents (age 0-25) identified as high needs have increased 9.5% in the last year.

Table 2: Total Numbers of EHC plans and ENG 2024 to 2025

	Jan-24	09/01/2025	
EHCp	1,532	1,609	5.0%
ENG	200	288	44.0%
	<u>1,732</u>	<u>1,897</u>	9.5%

In addition, as table 3 shows there has been an 20% increase in pupil accessing high needs funding (whether with Education Health & Care (EHC) plans or an Exceptional Need Grant (ENG)) in Camden mainstream schools (not including Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs)) in the last year.

Table 3: Total Number of EHC plans and ENGs in mainstream schools (excluding ARPs) 2024 to 2025

	Jan-24	09/01/2025	growth
EHCp	473	521	10.1%
ENG	199	288	44.7%
	<u>672</u>	<u>809</u>	20.4%

1.3 More specifically the additional £0.5m in the in-year projection relates to:

- Projected payments to Camden schools increased by £271,870. Much of this relates to an increase in the projected proportionality payments to Camden mainstream schools (see paragraph 2.7 onwards below). This reflects higher numbers in Camden mainstream schools (as table 3 above).
- An increase in projected spend on independent schools (special and mainstream) by £296,000. This reflects 3 new SEN placements, agreement to joint funding of 3 residential care placements as well as some minor price adjustments/movements.
- An increase in projected spend on individual tuition by £130,000 (to £1.48m).
- Some small reductions in the projections for therapy, training and recharges to other SEND & Inclusion services
- This is also offset by a slight increase in HNB funding (£24,000) and other miscellaneous grant income.

## 2 PART (B) Proposals for 2025/26

2.1 The latest allocations published by the DfE (issued 18 December 2024) show Camden's HNB for 2025/26 rising to £58,584,622. This figure however includes some elements that will be adjusted in due course. Adjustments will relate to:

- the outcome of high need place change process (confirmed 16 January 2025 and expected to result in a reduction of £80,000).
- relevant census returns, and.
- the import/export adjustment (drawn from the census returns and which should increase to compensate for some of the additional £80k place funding deduction).

It is recommended that at this stage we budget on receiving £58.2m. This represents an increase of £3.85m over the 2024/25 figure (£54,345,488 as shown in section 1 above).

2.2 As set out in section 1, the projected overspend for the current year is £2.6m. The increasing numbers and inflationary pressures we have seen in 2024/25 will continue to impact. Currently in Camden the child population is at best static and maintained school rolls are falling, there is a key question whether the growth in children/young people identified as high needs highlighted in paragraph 1.2 above (9.5% overall and 20% in Camden mainstream schools in the last year alone) will/can continue.

2.3 Assuming the £2.6m overspend from 2024/25 is repeated next year it would leave £1.25m for further growth. The current year overspend will include part year impact of growing numbers and hence we would start 2025/26 expecting the £2.6m to grow even if numbers of high need children/young people remain the same. Additionally, the increase in funding has to allow for the allocation to hospital schools, which has been increase by £267,000 and Camden is required to passport this onto the 2 schools.

2.4 Previous reports (most recently that to September 2024 Schools Forum) have included modelling of the impact of future growth on cumulative reserves and projected that reserves would be exhausted by financial year 2026/27. This modelling is based on loose assumptions on future growth in children/young people with high need inflation and Government funding. Forecasting remains challenging given the number of potentially changing variables. The funding settlement for 2025/26 and increase of £3.85m is more than expected and this should slow the decline in use of the cumulative reserves. However, the worst case spend projection in that model was for 7% year on year increase in spend but as pointed out in paragraph 1.2, the projected 2024/25 HNB spend is 12% higher than the 2023/24 outturn. Continuing the previous assumptions of:

- growth in spend is limited to 7% per annum, and.
- HNB funding grows at 3% (equivalent to an addition of only £1.75m for 26/27),

The HNB will still overspend in-year in 2025/26 by £2.7 and cumulative reserves will still be exhausted by 2026/27.

- 2.5 The SEND & Inclusion Phase 2 redesign will commence late February 2025 and consider support services to schools and review commissioning arrangements. In the interim the PLSS and Primary PRU satellite at Rhyl will continue to be funded.
- 2.6 Section 1 of this report has highlighted growing spend in a number of areas that have already been identified for review:
- Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) admission criteria and funding.
  - Consideration of the growth in our use of independent and non-maintained special schools
  - Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) packages
  - Similar consideration of the range of alternative provision funded from the HNB.

It is recommended that these reviews will be overseen by the HNB Subgroup, before being reported to Schools Forum.

- 2.7 Additionally, it is recommended that the HNB Subgroup oversee a review of the devolved funding formula for Camden mainstream schools, exploring alternative options in consultation with mainstream schools. In the interim it is recommended that the balance between devolved and proportionality funding paid to Camden mainstream schools is adjusted.
- 2.8 As shown in table 4, when first introduced in 2020/21 a relatively small number of schools triggered a proportionality payment and the total allocated was £337,000. By spring term 2024, 41 out of 48 mainstream schools received funding and the projection for 2024/25 is over £2m and the proportionality, which was envisaged as a supplement to devolved, now exceeds the devolved pot. The updated figure on current high need pupil numbers is proportionality of £2.17m which combined with the £1.9m devolved sees total devolved of almost £4.1m.

Table 4: A breakdown of HNB spend on Camden mainstream (not including ARPs) 2021/12 – 2023/24 with projection for 2024/25

<b>Camden mainstream</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25 projection</b>
top-up (EHC & ENG)	6,106,180	6,032,125	6,660,974	9,190,920	11,709,721
sixth form place funding	180,000	236,001	276,000	318,000	318,000
devolved	1,366,412	1,356,455	1,904,581	1,902,109	1,899,609
proportionality	0	337,416	1,057,044	1,686,029	2,085,720
	7,652,592	7,961,996	9,898,599	13,097,058	16,013,050

- 2.9 The recommended solution in the interim is to increase the devolved pot. This would provide certainty for Camden mainstream schools by giving them a larger devolved figure upfront at the beginning of the year and would reduce the need for the termly proportionality payments. To remind the Forum, the model that has been in place for many years uses “proxy indicators”, namely prior attainment (60% weighting), free school meals (20%) and the number of

Camden residents in Camden schools (20%). The advantage of using proxy indicators is they are largely objective rather than using numbers of children identified with SEN which would create perverse incentives to identify more children. These proxy factors are applied to apportion a fixed devolved pot currently set at £1.8m. In addition, there is a minimum floor for schools that would get a low amount. This is currently £22,000 per annum. With 13 primary schools triggering such a minimum in 24/25 the amount actually devolved was almost £1.9m (see table 4 above).

- 2.10. Having modelled some different options, rather than increasing the amount going through the existing model the proposal is to add a 4<sup>th</sup> factor taking the methodology for the current proportionality payments. The proposal would calculate the full year effect of proportionality payments in the spring term and add 75% of this to the devolved amount as currently calculated. The £22,000 funding floor would still apply. An illustration of the impact of this is included as appendix to this report. This merely reworks the current figures as an example. The total of £4m remains unchanged but the balance between devolved and proportionality changes. Instead of £1.9m being paid upfront at beginning of the year this would increase to almost £3.5m but that the proportionality, paid termly in arrears reflecting latest roll data would reduce to under £600k. As stated this is just an example and as normal the formulas would be remodelled for 25/26 based on updated roll data. This proposal is for 2025/26 whilst a more thorough review of the funding to support mainstream inclusion.

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

- 3.1 This report is providing an update on the High Needs Block (HNB) projected year end position (£2.6m overspend) and for interim changes to the devolved funding pot to mainstream schools.
- 3.2 The report updates the earlier November projection of a HN DSG overspend from £2.1m to £2.6m due to the causes outlined in section 1 of the report.
- 3.3 The report now indicates that as the full year effect of the growth in cost activity transfers from 2024/25 into the next financial year 2025/26 that this is expected to result in a continued overspend position for that year.
- 3.4 Whilst this in year overspend can be adequately funded by the current HN DSG reserve of £10.1m, if unresolved going forward it is possible that this level of overspend will deplete the HN DSG reserves by the end of 2026/27.
- 3.5 The service in future reports will need to address the proposed mitigating actions by the service to bring in year HN DSG spend back to within the annual funded budget as soon as possible.

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

- 4.1 High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant which enables it to meet its statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Education Act 1996.



## **5 Environmental Implications**

5.1 There are none.

## **6 Appendices**

Appendix: Illustrative impact of proposal to rebalance devolved and proportionality payments to Camden mainstream

**REPORT ENDS**

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## Appendix 1: Illustrative impact of proposal to rebalance devolved and proportionality payments to Camden mainstream

School	Number of Camden HN pupils			Current split		Proposed split	
	No of Current ENG pupils	Camden EHCPs (Excl ARPs)	Total	devolved 2425	so approx proportionality	devolved becomes	so approx proportionality
			@£5000				
Abacus Belsize Primary School	2	3	5	£22,000	£3,000	£22,000	£3,000
Argyle Primary School	12	10	22	£40,615	£69,385	£92,654	£17,346
Brecknock Primary School	11	13	24	£27,967	£92,033	£96,992	£23,008
Brookfield Primary School	9	6	15	£28,307	£46,693	£63,327	£11,673
Christ Church C of E School (Camden NW1)	5	7	12	£28,909	£31,091	£52,227	£7,773
Christ Church Primary School (Camden NW3)	3	1	4	£22,000	£0	£22,000	£0
Christopher Hatton Primary School	4	3	7	£22,227	£12,773	£31,807	£3,193
Edith Neville Primary School	17	7	24	£29,188	£90,812	£97,297	£22,703
Eleanor Palmer Primary School	4	5	9	£22,000	£23,000	£28,019	£16,981
Emmanuel C of E School	3	6	9	£22,000	£23,000	£32,178	£12,822
Fitzjohn's Primary School	3	8	11	£22,000	£33,000	£44,927	£10,073
Fleet Primary School	7	4	11	£22,491	£32,509	£46,873	£8,127
Gospel Oak Primary School	11	14	25	£65,182	£59,818	£110,046	£14,955
Hampstead Parochial C of E School	2	2	4	£22,000	£0	£22,000	£0
Hawley Primary School	12	4	16	£27,227	£52,773	£66,807	£13,193
Holy Trinity & St. Silas C of E Primary School	6	4	10	£23,035	£26,965	£43,259	£6,741
Holy Trinity C of E School (NW3)	4	6	10	£22,000	£28,000	£42,450	£7,550
Kentish Town C of E Primary School	3	1	4	£32,564	£0	£32,564	£0
Kings Cross Academy	0	11	11	£30,784	£24,216	£48,946	£6,054
Kingsgate Primary School	8	16	24	£47,547	£72,453	£101,887	£18,113
Netley Primary School & Centre for Autism	21	12	33	£70,423	£94,577	£141,356	£23,644
New End Primary School	1	6	7	£25,711	£9,289	£32,678	£2,322
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	3	11	14	£33,741	£36,259	£60,935	£9,065
Primrose Hill School	13	23	36	£46,456	£133,544	£146,614	£33,386
Rhyl Community Primary School	10	19	29	£43,973	£101,027	£119,743	£25,257
Richard Cobden Primary School	11	9	20	£69,104	£30,896	£92,276	£7,724

Rosary Catholic Primary School	10	4	14	£70,000	£34,187	£35,813	£61,047	£8,953
St Alban's C of E Primary School	4	9	13	£65,000	£22,000	£43,000	£46,203	£18,797
St Eugene de Mazenod RC School	0	4	4	£20,000	£22,000	£0	£22,000	£0
St George The Martyr Primary School	6	4	10	£50,000	£22,561	£27,439	£43,140	£6,860
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	2	4	6	£30,000	£22,000	£8,000	£22,000	£8,000
St Luke's CofE Primary School	0	2	2	£10,000	£22,000	£0	£22,000	£0
St Mary and St Pancras CofE School	6	10	16	£80,000	£24,909	£55,091	£66,227	£13,773
St Mary's Kilburn CofE Primary School	4	7	11	£55,000	£22,000	£33,000	£46,190	£8,810
St Patrick's Roman Catholic Primary School	4	10	14	£70,000	£22,000	£48,000	£56,335	£13,665
St Paul's CofE School	3	2	5	£25,000	£23,170	£1,830	£24,543	£458
Torriano Primary School	9	13	22	£110,000	£37,713	£72,287	£91,928	£18,072
West Hampstead Primary School	10	13	23	£115,000	£37,085	£77,915	£95,521	£19,479
Acland Burghley School	14	31	45	£225,000	£71,567	£153,433	£186,642	£38,358
Camden School for Girls	1	7	8	£40,000	£44,946	£0	£44,946	£0
Hampstead School	0	8	8	£40,000	£76,571	£0	£76,571	£0
Haverstock School	6	39	45	£225,000	£91,152	£133,848	£191,538	£33,462
La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School	0	2	2	£10,000	£47,050	£0	£47,050	£0
Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ	1	24	25	£125,000	£67,491	£57,509	£110,623	£14,377
Parliament Hill School	3	22	25	£125,000	£73,890	£51,110	£112,223	£12,778
Regent High School	7	42	49	£245,000	£104,649	£140,351	£209,912	£35,088
The UCL Academy	3	30	33	£165,000	£85,508	£79,492	£145,127	£19,873
William Ellis School	2	15	17	£85,000	£55,709	£29,291	£77,677	£7,323
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>£3,965,000</b>	<b>£1,899,609</b>	<b>£2,174,522</b>	<b>£3,491,302</b>	<b>£582,829</b>
<b>Combined total devolved and proportionality</b>					<b>£4,074,131</b>			<b>£4,074,131</b>
								£0

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> School Meals Delivery in Schools Update	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>  <p>At its meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, an update was presented to the Schools Forum on the procurement of the new school meals contract. The current contract with Cater Link is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. A further update is now available.</p> <p>Following a successful tendering process, tenders were received on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for a new service that is due to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 for a period of three years, with option for two extensions of one year each, with a total estimated aggregate value of £24m. The new contract will include an option to break after two years (April 2027), which will allow the Council to move to an in-house arrangement, if possible.</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b>            Steve Harris, Head of Facilities Management            020 7974 5651 / <a href="mailto:steve.harris@camden.gov.uk">steve.harris@camden.gov.uk</a>            5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG            Shola Matiluko, Contracts Performance Manager            020 7974 4518 / <a href="mailto:shola.matiluko@camden.gov.uk">shola.matiluko@camden.gov.uk</a>            5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG            Nicholas Smith, Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation            020 7974 1149 / <a href="mailto:Nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk">Nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk</a>            5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>  The Forum is asked to note the report.	

Signed by:



Vikram Hansrani Director of Education and Inclusion

Date: 27 January 2025

## **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing is to further update Schools Forum on the outcome and detail of the tender following its award by the Executive Director, Children and Learning following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families in line with the procurement strategy agreed by the Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **2 Background**

- 1.1 The school meals service is a delegated service, which is procured and managed by the Council on behalf of schools on the basis of a service level agreement (SLA). 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. Whilst schools have autonomy on the use of their budgets, the Council is supporting them in securing value for money for their contracted services.
- 1.2 As a result, the Council through its procurement processes allows schools to have access to contracts at competitively tendered price and quality.
- 1.3 The current contract procured jointly with the London Borough of Islington for the initial five-year period was extended for another two years is due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The current price per meal in primary, secondary, and adult meal is £2.87.
- 1.4 The Council advertised the tender on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Tenders were received, which were evaluated based on 50/50 price / quality ratio.
- 1.5 Bidders were asked to submit the labour element of the meal price based on the current labour rate, which will be uplifted by the new London Living Wage rate that is due to take place with effect from April 2025.

## **2 Tender evaluation**

- 3.1 The evaluation criteria as agreed the Cabinet was based on 50/50 price / quality ratio of which the quality element is broken down as:
- Mobilisation and quality assurance 6%
  - Food quality and nutrition 15%
  - Sample menus 5%
  - Sustainability 3%
  - Management and staffing, and Equality and Diversity 4%
  - Kitchen staffing 2%
  - Stakeholder engagement 5%
  - Social Value 10%

3.2 The tender process has been completed and a report setting out a recommendation to award a contract to a school meals provider was considered by the Executive Director Children and Learning following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families. This included school commentary on specific standards and contract specification documentation and consultation responses reflecting operational concerns about communication and escalation procedures.

3.3 Overall outcome of the evaluation

Tenderer	Total Quality Score (/50)	Total Price Score (/50)	TOTAL SCORE (/100)
Tenderer A	33.30%	50.00%	83.20%
Tenderer B	32.20%	41.56%	73.76%
Tenderer C	25.40%	46.36%	71.76%
Tenderer D	39.00%	37.65%	76.65%
Tenderer E	27.60%	44.14%	71.74%

*Tenderers failing to meet the quality threshold are highlighted in red.*

3.4 Social value:

Social value was one of the key elements of the quality criteria apart from Food quality, nutrition, and menu. The social value that was included in the tender is as follows, with the measures offered by the recommended tenderer in bold below.

- Provide cookery classes for pupils and parents/carers – to be delivered in schools (1 class per month during term time in focussed schools (4 schools)) **1 per month during term time in 10 schools pa.**
- Local employment – vacancies for any roles recruited to would be advertised to Camden residents in conjunction with GWC (and schools) for a minimum of 2 weeks, before wider advertising (90% of staff to be Camden residents) **Committed to 90% local employment target.**
- Apprenticeships to be created for Camden residents in conjunction with Camden Apprenticeship Team, for new recruits or existing staff – 2 per year. **5 per annum.**
- Career development training for existing staff (to be determined by bidder) **25 training opportunities over the contract term.**
- 100% of surplus food left at the end of the week that would be out of date on Monday to be transferred to food banks on Friday. **Committed to 100% of surplus food to be transferred to food banks.**

Optional measures:

- A number of staff to receive Make Every Contact Count training (to be determined by bidder) **56 staff; one employee per school plus the central operations team (minimum).**
- Volunteer time to create/maintain raised beds for plants/crops/herb garden/sensory garden (to be determined by bidder in consultation with schools' availability of space) **150 volunteer hours over the contract term.**

Some of the additional measures offered:

- Supporting those with disabilities into work – recruiting 10 such employees over the contract term
- Nutritional workshops – providing 12 health and wellbeing activities with local community/volunteer/support groups pa.
- Camden Food Partnership – running 12 two-hour community cookery courses pa.
- Training opportunities – delivering a minimum of 2,000 hours of training to Camden residents / volunteer groups.
- Reducing energy consumption - All schools will be audited to assess energy/water consumption and given appropriate targets to reduce.

### **3 Savings**

- 4.1 Schools are currently paying £2.87 per meal in primary, secondary and for adults in both primary and secondary. The successful tenderer's price is £2.65 per primary meal and £2.75 for secondary free, and adult meals in both primary and secondary.
- 4.2 Based on the tendered meal numbers, this will see an estimated reduction in cost of £396,737 per annum or £1.983m over a five-year period compared to the current price from the successful tenderer against the current annual cost of £4,338,297. This constitutes a reduction of 9.1% on the current cost. In comparison with the other Tenders received, who offered prices that would have delivered increases of between 2.91% and 20.66% from three of the tenderers, and a decrease of 2% from one tenderer.

### **4 Price**

- 5.1 The successful tenderer's price for both primary and secondary will be within budget.

### **6 Reasons for recommendation**

- 6.1 The Council conducted a competitive procurement process in a market with multiple experienced providers to ensure that value for money is



achieved. The balance of price and quality (50/50) aims to ensure that high quality service provision is assured, including delivery of social value measures, whilst also giving consideration to price and the financial circumstances of schools to pay for the contract. The pricing schedule included detailed numbers of meals required for each school site, and price has been assessed by comparing price per meal, per pupil for each tenderer.

## 5 Key milestones

5.1 The following table summarises the key tasks and activities.

Key activity date	Key tasks
December 2024	Contract award report to be considered by Executive Director, Children and Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families, in line with the delegation agreed by Cabinet. Schools Forum update.
February 2025	Schools Forum – Procurement report update
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Contract start date

## 6 Future Developments

- 6.1 The Council is continuing to investigate alternatives to the delivery of food within schools and wider council services alongside the delivery of the existing and future contract considered within this report.
- 6.2 Three initial individual consultation activities have been undertaken in the Autumn Term, including with Food providers, Third Sector Partners and Schools. These and further consultation exercises will continue in the spring term that will culminate in a prospectus document outlining the opportunities, key risks and operational framework necessary for transition to a different model of food delivery.
- 6.3 Whilst supportive of the initial vision School partners have indicated three key areas of consideration and confidence required through any changed service, these are
- i. Quality of the food and offer to pupils must be safeguarded and improved.
  - ii. Operational excellence must be ensured with schools having confidence in the ability of a service to manage the statutory functions of providing school meals.
  - iii. Any additional cost that results from changes to delivery of service cannot be borne by school budgets.

## **7 Legal Comments**

- 7.1 Any potential contract award will comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Council Standing Orders (CSOs). CSOs require that the Executive Director makes the Decision to award.

## **8. Environmental Impacts**

- 8.1 There are none.

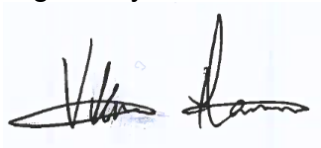
## **9. Financial Comments**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 Schools can be varied into or out of the contract by giving a reasonable notice.

**REPORT ENDS**

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> Schools Forum Work Programme and Action Tracker 2024/25	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Schools Forum	<b>DATE:</b> 5 February 2025
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>  This report sets out the work plan for the Schools Forum for the remainder of the 2024/25 school year (Appendix 1) and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings (Appendix 2).  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Nick Smith Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Tel: 020 7974 1149 Email: <a href="mailto:nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk">nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk</a>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>  The Schools Forum is asked to note the Work Programme for 2024-25 at Appendix 1 and the Action Tracker at Appendix 2.	

Signed by:



Vikram Hansrani Director of Education and Inclusion

Date: 27 January 2025

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 A work programme of key reports that officers intend to submit to the Schools Forum during the 2024/25 is set out in Appendix 1. Suggestions and proposals from each meeting can be incorporated into the programme as the year progresses.
- 1.2 In considering additions to the work programme, the Forum should have regard to its functions, which are set out in its Terms of Reference as follows:-

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.

1.3 An action tracker of actions arising at meetings is set out in Appendix 2.

## **2. Meeting dates in 2024/25 school year**

- Wednesday, 11 September 2024
- Tuesday, 5 November 2024
- Wednesday, 4 December 2024
- **Wednesday, 5 February 2025**
- Wednesday, 4 June 2025

## **3. Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor**

The Borough Solicitor has considered the report and has no comments to add.

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

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to make.

## **5. Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

## **6. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

Appendix 2 – Action Tracker

**ENDS**

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## Appendix 1 – Schools Forum Work Programme 2024/25

### 5 February 2025

Education Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note and agree the latest estimates of individual schools and growth budgets</li> <li>To note and the provisional Early Years funding rates if available</li> <li>To provide any comment or concerns regarding the anticipated funding levels.</li> <li>To identify any areas of funding for review in autumn.</li> </ul>
Early Years Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide Forum with a report on Early Years Funding including CLIF</li> </ul>
SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report of the High Needs Sub-group and update of the High Needs Block spending.</li> </ul>
School Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Food Contract award</li> </ul>

### 4 June 2025

Education Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the outturn for all the blocks of the DSG</li> <li>To note the current level of funding and the range of current and future funding challenges regarding schools' funding</li> <li>To note the issues and support around any additional government support</li> <li>To provide advice to the authority regarding the type of any ongoing support that would assist schools in improving financial planning</li> <li>To agree the use of any reserve remaining in the Schools and Central Schools Services block.</li> </ul>
SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report from the High Needs Subgroup</li> <li>Funding position and Banding rates</li> </ul>
School Place Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Place Planning Implementation Plan</li> </ul>

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## Appendix 2 – Schools Forum Action Tracker 2024-25

Number	Meeting Date	Item	Action	Action By	Status
24/25-1	11 September 2024	6 - Minutes	Officers confirmed they would provide a written response on why the HNB was not required to contribute £500,000 to the Early Years Block.	Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	Complete Further review at February Meeting
24/25-2	11 September 2024	6 - Minutes	Members requested a future report to the Forum explaining the Early Years funding mechanisms and for the Head of Early Years to be invited to the meeting.	Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	Complete Further Review at February Meeting
24/25-3	11 September 2024	10 - High Needs Block: Update on 2024/25 Financial Position	Members requested that the High Needs Subgroup terms of reference be appended to the Schools Forum terms of reference.	Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion	Complete
24/25 - 4	5 November 2024	8 – Camden Local Inclusion Fund	Members requested a more detailed report on Early Years Funding, responding to points raised at the meeting, and for an Early Years representative to attend the meeting to be available to ask questions.	Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding	Added to work programme for February Meeting

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