

Members of the **Lambeth Schools Forum** are invited to the meeting due to be held at

4pm-6pm, Thursday 16 January 2025

Will be held online (via Microsoft Teams) You can join the meeting [by clicking this link](#).

Agenda

Time*	Item	
	1. Welcome & Apologies	Chair
	2. Membership, Register of Interests and Declaration of Interests	Chair
	3. Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held 12 December 2024, and matters arising	Chair
	4. DSG Settlement and Schools Block 2025-26 Funding Formula	Dominique Johnston -Franklin
	5. Free school Meals – De Delegation	Dominique Johnston -Franklin
	6. High Needs Block 2024/25 update and 2025/26 budget setting	Adam Yarnold
	7. Early Years Block 2025/26 budget setting	Kathryn Shaw
	8. Licensed Deficits	Mark Whiffin
	9. Any other business	Chair
	10. Agreed dates of next meetings to date and location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th March 2025 4-6pm • 19th June 2025 – 4-6pm • 23rd October 2025 4-6pm • 11th December 2025 TBC These meetings will be online, unless agreed otherwise by SF. See outline forward plan of agendas to follow	Chair

Forward Plan for Schools Forum - Summary

Item (* note for Planning some DSG Item will be merged in papers depending on amount of changes required in reporting)	27th March 2025	19th June 2025	23rd Oct 2025	11th Dec 2025	15th Jan 2026
Election of Chair / Vice-Chair	✓	✓			
Standing items (membership issues, declaration of interests, minutes of last meeting, matters arising, AOB etc)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DSG Update and block papers depending on information required for decision may be 1 paper or separate papers for each block					✓
Schools Block	✓	✓	✓	✓	
High Needs Block					
Early Years Block					
Central School Services Block				✓	✓
De-delegated services and Education Functions				✓	✓
Licensed Deficits / Schools Balances		✓			✓
School Places Strategy	✓			✓	
Scheme for Financing Schools	✓				
Updates on Education and HR issues	✓	✓			
Other Topics	TBC				

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held online on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 4:00pm

School Forum Members and Attendance			
Schools:	Present		Present
Primary (9)			
Andrew Chaplin (AC) Walnut Tree Walk Primary School (Vice-Chair)	Present	Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew's Primary	Apologies
Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Present	Alison Moller (AM) Julian's Primary School (Chair)	Present
Nicole Lyon Holy Trinity Primary School	Present	Tom Prestwich Jubilee Primary School	Present
Gay Wenban-Smith (GWS) Henry Cavendish Primary School	Apologies	Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra Primary School	Absent
Secondary (2)		Nursery (1)	
Eleanor Donegan (ED) Woodmansterne School	Present	Melanie Miah (MM) Lambeth Nursery Schools' Federation	Present
1 Vacancy		Special (1) - 1 Vacancy	
Academies:			
	Present		Present
Primary (1) - 1 Vacancy		PRU (1) - 1 Vacancy ???	
Secondary (3) - 3 Vacancies			
Non-schools members:			
	Present		Present
Jane Christofi Coin Street Community Centre - PVI	Apologies	1 Vacancy – 16-19 Partnership	
Coral Hayes Ruskin House School – PVI	Present	1 Vacancy – Faith Body	
Observers:			
	Present		Present
Lorna Burg (LB) Henry Cavendish	Absent	Brian Hazell (BH) NAHT Union	Present
Patricia Ennis GMB	Present	Andrew Tullis (AT) Unison Union	Absent
Ryan Foster (RF) NASUWT Union	Absent	Diane Wilkinson (DW) NEU	Present
Christine Golding (CG) GMB Union	Apologies		
LA Officers and Members:			
	Present		Present
Cllr Judith Cavanagh	Absent	Cllr Ben Kind	Present
Monique Bertrand - Assistant Director, Standards, Safeguarding and Partnerships	Absent	Dominique Johnston- Franklin (DJF) - Finance	Present
Claire Cobbold (CC) – Schools HR	Absent	Gerald Mehrtens (GM) - Interim AD, Standards, Safeguarding and Partnerships	Present
Bunmi Idowu (BI) Early Years	Present	Abrilli Phillip (AP) Director, E&L	Present

Sophie Garner (SG) Assistant Director Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion	Present	Kathryn Shaw (KS) School Quality Improvement Lead	Present
Sarah Hockly (SH) – Finance SEND Accountant	Present	Neeral Vadgama (NV) - Finance	Absent
Lucy Jarvis (LJ) - Finance	Present	Mark Whiffin (MW)- Finance	Present
Debbie Johnston- Schools Finance & Strategy Consultant	Present	Adam Yarnold Lead, SEND	Present

Clerk: Peter Compton pcompton@lambeth.gov.uk

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees, and it was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Apologies were received and accepted from Jayne Mitchell and Gay Wenban-Smith.

2. Membership, Register of Interests and Declaration of Business Interests

It was noted that the Clerk was not present to report on membership matters, however, any outstanding vacancies would be advertised in the New Year.

Declaration of Interest forms had been shared with Members for completion and return to the Clerk.

ACTION: SF MEMBERS/Clerk

3. Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 10th October 2024 and matters arising

The minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

- Update on the Lambeth Schools Partnership (LSP) - it was noted that the query regarding the Early Years offer was unclear and could not be verified. It was agreed to delete this item from the minutes.

The Forum **agreed** to amend the minutes accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk

4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Update

This report was for information, providing an update on the 2024/25 DSG and the context and intentions for the 2025/26 High Needs Block. Introduced by MW.

In November 2024, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) had updated the 2024/25 DSG to take account of falling numbers in the August 2024 early years census, as well as high needs changes, resulting in a net decrease of £645k to 2024/25 DSG funding. Detailed figures were included in the report.

Overall, a carry forward of £7.54m from 2024/25 was anticipated, as reported previously.

Regarding 2025/26 DSG, final figures from the DfE were not expected until 20 December, but increased funding for the Schools and High Needs blocks was anticipated.

Overall affordability would be considered at the January 2025 Schools Forum meeting, following the outcome of the discussions on the papers.

Regarding school budget deficits, a Licensed Deficit reported would be presented to the Council's Lead Member for approval in the new year and it was likely that at least 25 schools would have a licensed deficit. Further details would be provided at the January 2025 meeting.

The report was **noted**.

5. **Schools Block Funding 2025-26**

This report was for decision and included three recommendations. Introduced by DJF, who reminded the Forum that information from the DfE had been very late this year. Normally some financial modelling would have been carried out prior to this meeting, and she apologised for not having been able to do so this time because of the late announcement.

The report set out the current financial position regarding the Schools Block for 2025/26 and the issues that Schools Forum would need to consider at the January 2025 meeting, when making recommendations to Cabinet and Council about the mainstream funding formula for 2025/26. It also included feedback from the consultation with schools and recommendations regarding the impact on funding for schools.

She also reported that there had been an uplift of funding, but only by rolling in grants that were currently separate. Later on, there would be an announcement regarding the grant to meet increased costs arising from the National Insurance threshold increase, and some changes were expected in the future following mergers and closures arising from the Council's Pupil Place Planning decisions.

Q. What was the alternative to the exceptional circumstances factor?

A. The alternative was to leave in a falling rolls fund, and ask for permission to use it for something else.

The following three proposals were considered and **agreed** by the Forum unanimously:

- Agree Lambeth's continued adoption of 2025/26 ACA adjusted National Funding formula values.
- Agree to 0.0% MFG be set for Schools funding formula (subject to affordability in December Settlement)
- Agree to distribute remaining schools block funding via exceptional circumstance factor at an amount to be agreed in the January Forum after the settlement announcement and noting Secretary of state approval would be required.

6. **De-delegated Services and Education Functions 2025/26**

This report was for decision and included feedback from consultation. Introduced by DJF.

Local Authorities are able to provide some services centrally, but funded by a process called de-delegation, which only applies to mainstream schools, not academies. Because of this, the agreed funding levels will reduce if any school converts to academy status following finalisation of the budget process. The de-delegated sums would be reduced in 2025/26, relative to 2024/25, because two schools had become academies during 2024/25.

De-delegated Items for 2025/26

At the previous meeting in October 2024, Schools Forum had agreed to consult maintained schools regarding pooled funding for particular services and functions:

- **Trade Union Facilities Arrangement (TUFA)** (de-delegation within the mainstream funding formula for maintained primary/ secondary only)
- **Additional School Improvement Services** (de-delegation within the mainstream funding formula for primary/secondary schools).
- **Education Functions** (treated as de-delegation in the mainstream funding formula for maintained primary/secondary schools, but also applying to special schools).

Q. Had trades union representations been considered regarding TUFA?

A. A report on the consultation had been considered at the previous meeting and the report to this meeting followed that consultation.

Q. Although in agreement in principle on FSM, the overall cost was slightly more than the current year's SLA, so and querying whether the constituent elements could be broken up if that was popular.

A. In addition to academisation, because the figures were linked to school rolls and pupil numbers were decreasing, the amounts would change, but the components could not be split. However, the LA would not want to disadvantage some schools, so officers would look at the figures and bring back the proposal at the January 2025 meeting, if possible.

There was further discussion regarding the inclusion of payment for Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility checking with the Research and Statistics data information via an SLA, as some felt that the FSM checking was unnecessary, because it was easy to do at no cost to the school.

It was highlighted that many local authorities provided an FSM eligibility checking service, as it enabled identification of all eligible, including those who had not informed the school. AP reported that Lambeth was at the forefront in this offer, which had brought in hundreds of thousands of extra funding to schools. She also pointed out that the traded services funded the R&S team and its services, which could be affected by any reduction in funding.

The Forum considered the following recommendations:

1. **Maintained primary and secondary school representatives** were asked to agree de-delegated amounts for 2025-26, as set out in the report's Table 1.
There were seven votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.
The proposal was **agreed**.
2. **Maintained primary, secondary, all-through and special school** representatives were asked to agree to de-delegate for Education Functions for 5–16-year-olds in 2025-26, to be adjusted in line with funding announcements, as set out in the report's Table 1.
There were seven votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.
The proposal was **agreed**.
3. **Maintained primary and secondary school representatives** were asked to agree to the FSM de-delegation element for the 2025-26 formula at a rate of £5.70 per pupil.

It was **agreed** to defer consideration of this item to the January 2025 meeting and that officers would seek more information and report back on any possible changes.

4. **Maintained primary and secondary school representatives** are invited to agree to the Vulnerable Schools Fund de-delegation element for the 2025-26 formula. There were seven votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.

The proposal was **agreed**.

ACTION: DJF to bring a paper to January Schools Forum to re-consider FSM de-delegation.

7. **Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)**

This report was for decision: Schools Forum had been asked to agree the proposed budget for the Central School Services Block for 2025/26. Introduced by MW.

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) within the DSG provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. The services it funded include Admissions and Education Welfare – a full list was included in the appendix. It would continue to comprise two distinct elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments (noting LBL receive no funding under historic commitments).

The DfE had confirmed that the formula for allocating this funding in 2025/26 followed the same approach as in 2024/25. In 2025/26 it was funding of £1.4m, 5% more than 2024/25.

The recommendations were considered and **agreed** by the Forum unanimously.

8. **Early Years Block**

The report was for information. Introduced by KS.

The report provided an update, building on previous reports and taking into account the October 2024 census. As risks and context remain the same as reported previously, KS focussed on the detail provided in Appendix 1 whereby the agreed process and distribution of the revenue and capital grants made available to local authorities for the Early Years Extended Entitlements and the National Wraparound Childcare Programme was presented. The overall budget for 2025/26 will be discussed in more detail at the next Schools Forum in the new year.

The Government had continued the commitment to the expansion of the early years entitlements to support working parents. This will mean that eligible working parents of children over the age of nine months will be entitled to 30 free hours of childcare by September 2025.

- Q.** Wraparound provided by private providers, is proving to be difficult and there appears to be sustainability issues. Is the funding going to continue in future years?
- A.** The National Wraparound Programme is funded until September 2026. The purpose of the funding is to introduce or expand before and after school childcare provision where there is a gap in availability. The level of funding for 2025/2026 has yet to be confirmed.

Cllr Kind commented that if any school was out of pocket because of a policy decision beyond its control, he would be happy to make representations on their behalf or support an approach to the relevant Minister.

The Forum thanked Cllr Kind for his offer and **noted** the report.

9. Primary School Places Strategy – verbal update

AP reported that she had informed all schools about the decisions agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 4 November 2024 by email; a meeting for headteachers and governors had taken place the day before, 11 December 2024; and the Cabinet papers and a recording of the meeting [had been published on the Council's website](#).

However, the figures indicated that, overall, schools in Lambeth would have a cumulative deficit of £23m by 2027 if the Council did not take further action to reduce pupil numbers. Across all planning areas, numbers were forecast to reduce in the coming years, so the intention of the Strategy was to support Lambeth schools to be stronger and more sustainable.

The report was **noted**. AP was asked to circulate the slides from the previous day's meeting for headteachers and governors.

ACTION: AP/Clerk

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates for future meetings were agreed:

- **16th January 2025 – 4-6pm**
- **19th June 2025 – 4-6pm**
- **23rd October 2025 4-6pm**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 5.11pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Alison Moller
Chair of the School Forum

Agenda Item 4

Title: DSG Settlement and Schools Block 2025-26 Funding Formula

Date: 16th January 2025

Report to: Schools Forum

Report for: Information **Decision x** Consultation Action

Author: Dominique Johnston -Franklin – Group Manager -Education

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 This report sets out the financial position in the DSG Settlement including Schools Block for 2025-26 and takes decisions and recommendations to Cabinet and Council about the mainstream funding formula for 2025/26.

2. Background

2.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed in Nov 2024 (normally July of each year, but late due to timing of the election) key figures and operational guidance for the Schools Block National Funding Formula for 2025-26. The DSG settlement, allocation tables, technical notes and Authority Proforma Tools (APT) were issued to all Local Authorities (LAs) with their individual schools data sets on 18th December 2024. The LA is required to complete all school funding allocations via the ESFA's APT by 22nd January 2025 and this will be submitted on the basis of information within this report and to take account of decisions from this Forum for political ratification.

2.2 The headlines in the announcements were that core schools funding (including funding for both mainstream schools and high needs) is increasing nationally by £2.3bn in 2025-26 compared to the previous year. Within this £2.3bn, high needs funding is increasing by £1 billion in 2025/26, over £90 million of which is to fund the full year effect of 2024/25 teaching and support staff pay awards. Local authorities (LAs) will receive at least a 7% increase per head of their population aged 2-18 in their high needs block.

3. DSG Settlement 2025-26

3.1 The DSG allocations for 2025/26 are highlighted in **Table 1**. Lambeth has received an increase of £15.6m in the overall DSG settlement before academy recoupment within the Schools and High needs block.

3.2 **The High Needs Block** has an indicative increase of **£3.9m**, this will be updated in Spring 25 to following the agreement of numbers in the January 2025 census. Deductions will then be made to fund academies, free school and college places directly before the high needs block allocations are finalised. High needs budgets are detailed in the separate high needs paper to this Forum.

3.3 **The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)** provides funding for central services ongoing responsibilities and has a small increase of **£0.06m**.

- 3.4 **The Early Years Block** allocation is based on the January 2024 census and will be updated for the January 2025 and 2026 census in July 2025 and 2026. There has been an increase of **£11.2m**. The amount in the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) is subject to passporting at 96% (previously 95%) to providers. There has been a large increase in allocation based on the expansion of EY provision from 9 months and 30 hours for working 2 year old parents. Detail of the budget for 2025-26 is in a separate paper in this forum.

Table 1: 2025/26 and 2024/25 DSG block allocations

Block	DSG 2025/26 £'000	DSG 2024/25 £'000	Increase £'000	% Change
Schools Block – Incl. CSBG, TPAG and TPECG in 2024-25	241,075	240,671	404	0.17%
Central School Services Block	1,401	1,336	65	4.63%
Early Years Block	46,880	35,655	11,225	23.94%
High Needs Block	71,012	67,050	3,962	5.58%
Total	360,369	344,712	15,657	4.54%

4. Schools Block for 2025-26

- 4.1 School funding is increasing by 2.23% per pupil nationally, of which 1.28% is for the full year cost of the 2024 teachers and support staff pay awards - this was completed by rolling the 2024/25 teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG), the teachers' pensions employer contribution grant (TPECG) 2024, and the core schools budget grant (CSBG) into the NFF.

- 4.2 **The provisional Schools Block DSG for 2025-26 is set out in Table 2:**

Table 2: Provisional Schools Block DSG

Schools Block							Difference		
Component	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total 2025-26	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total 2024-25	Pupil Nos	PUF / SUF*	Total Funding
			£			£			£
Primary NFF	18,157.50	£ 6,982.83	126,790,735.73	18,776.50	£ 6,496.78	121,986,789.67	-619.00	486.05	4,803,946.05
Secondary NFF	11,297.50	£ 9,506.69	107,401,830.28	11,538.50	£ 8,845.92	102,068,647.92	-241.00	660.77	5,333,182.36
Premises NFF			5,524,631			5,432,710			91,921.00
TPAG, TPECG and CSBG						8,647,774.00			-8,647,774.00
Total Schools Block DSG			239,717,197.00			238,135,921.59			1,581,275.41
Growth Factor			1,358,099			2,534,977			-1,176,878.00
Total Schools Block funding			241,075,296.00			240,670,898.59	-860.00		404,397

- 4.3 The Schools block totals £241m for 2025-26, which is a net increase of £0.4m. There has been a net reduction of 860 pupil numbers across Lambeth in Primary and secondary. This

6% reduction impacts the overall funding of Schools block DSG, but as demonstrated in **Appendix 2** (Summary of Draft 2025-26 Funding Formula Allocations) there are some schools that are experiencing dramatic number reductions year on year, which significantly impacts the schools' core funding.

- 4.4 Local authorities were required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF from 2023 to 2024. This transition will continue in 2025 to 2026 with the expectation that all LAs should be mirroring with NFF values and annually moving 10% closer to the formula values within NFF.

5. Local Funding Formula 2025-26

- 5.1 Schools Forum agreed in December 2024 that the local funding formula factors and values would match those of the National Funding Formula. Local authorities were required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF from 2023 to 2024. This transition will continue in 2025 to 2026 with the expectation that all LAs should be mirroring with NFF values and annually moving 10% closer to the formula values of the NFF.

- 5.2 As part of the tightening requirement, local authorities have the ability to adjust the NFF values by no more than 2.5% and are still deemed to be mirroring the NFF threshold. In previous years Lambeth have historically stuck to the NFF values plus Area cost adjustment to remain within the parameters of the NFF. The direction of travel of schools forum members was to ensure for 2025-26 that the schools block is fully distributed to schools and none held centrally for falling rolls or Growth as in previous years.

- 5.3 Previous proposals recommended that this be completed via the Exceptional factors only, but in order to ensure there is a fair process and that funding is following pupils, the 2025-26 values have now been set at the highest level of 2.5% as demonstrated in **Appendix 1**. This has led to an increase of 9% on basic entitlement, to ensure the full allocation of the schools block is distributed to schools under the NFF.

- 5.4 **Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)** – the DfE requires the MFG to operate within the parameters of 0% to **minus 0.5%**. As the current guidance only allows the maximum of 0%, Lambeth formula is set at 0% for 2025/26. For 25-26 22 schools are being supported by MFG adjustments. This a reduction of 33 schools who now are fully funded on formula values.

- 5.5 **Transfers between blocks.** Although the schools block is ring-fenced in 2025-26, local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools Block funding into another block, with the approval of their Schools Forum. Lambeth has in the last 3 years always used this transfer to the High needs block to support ongoing uplifts in the distribution of funding linked to Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs). The agreement in December forum was to ensure that the schools block fully distributed funding to all schools and to pause for this year on a transfer of funding to the High Needs block.

- 5.6 Local authorities are required to identify a notional SEN budget for their mainstream schools, which helps them comply with their duty to meet the special educational needs (SEN) of their pupils. The notional SEN budget is not a separate budget, but is identified within the mainstream schools' formula budget share and is calculated by local authorities using their local mainstream schools funding formula factors.

- 5.7 The Notional SEN funding percentages remain unchanged for 2025/26 (AWPU 10%; 50%

deprivation factors and Low Prior Attainment 100%) and the figures for each school are shown for information in **Appendix 3** (APT 2025-26 Formula Values).

6. Exceptional Circumstance Disapplication Request

- 6.1 To support ongoing uplift within schools core budgets as discussed in previous forums – for 2025-26 a disapplication request is to be submitted as part of the submission of the APT to the Secretary of State for an **exceptional circumstances factor** as a one off amount up to a total of £1.4m to distribute additional funding per pupil outside the NFF. 79% of schools responded in agreement with this principle and it is recommended that this is initiated for 1 year only for the Lambeth schools funding formula.
- 6.2 In order to complete this, an amount of £48.29 has been allocated to all pupils to ensure there is a consistent and fair approach for all schools linked to roll numbers, and in addition an MFG Exemption adjustment is required to ensure all schools benefit from the additional amount per pupil. If the Secretary approves the adjustment of exceptional factor, the MFG will have to be adjusted in 2026-27 to ensure it does not form part of the schools base line budgets. **Appendix 4** (2025-26 Exceptional Circumstance NNF Formula Adjustments) sets out the adjustments required.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Schools Forum is asked to:
- a) **Agree National Funding Formula values as per Appendix 1.**
 - b) **Agree Schools Funding Formula Provisional Allocations as per Appendix 2 and 3.**
 - c) **Agree submission of Disapplication request for distribution of £1.4m in exceptional circumstance factor.**
 - d) **identify any points they may wish to convey to Cabinet as part of their deliberations on the Schools Block DSG budget for 2025-26.**

Appendix 1 – FINAL LAMBETH NFF Values 2025-26

NFF Funding Factors	Provisional 2025-26 Values Dec SF	25-26 NFF FINAL rates	Changes from Dec 24 Provisional	% movement	25-26 NFF value including ACA	25-26 APT minimum value	25-26 APT maximum value
Primary basic entitlement	£4,565.08	£4,670.38	£105.30	9%	£4,556.46	£4,442.55	£4,670.38
KS3 basic entitlement	£6,434.07	£6,582.47	£148.40	9%	£6,421.93	£6,261.38	£6,582.47
KS4 basic entitlement	£7,254.05	£7,421.37	£167.32	9%	£7,240.36	£7,059.35	£7,421.37
Primary FSM	£587.40	£600.95	£13.55	3%	£586.29	£571.63	£600.95
Secondary FSM	£587.40	£600.95	£13.55	3%	£586.29	£571.63	£600.95
Additional Needs Funding							
Primary FSM6	£1,257.86	£1,286.87	£29.01	24%	£1,255.49	£1,224.10	£1,286.87
Secondary FSM6	£1,845.26	£1,887.82	£42.56	25%	£1,841.77	£1,795.73	£1,887.82
Primary IDACI F	£278.87	£285.30	£6.43	2%	£278.34	£271.38	£285.30
Primary IDACI E	£338.20	£346.00	£7.80	2%	£337.56	£329.12	£346.00
Primary IDACI D	£528.06	£540.24	£12.18	2%	£527.07	£513.89	£540.24
Primary IDACI C	£581.46	£594.87	£13.41	3%	£580.37	£565.86	£594.87
Primary IDACI B	£617.06	£631.30	£14.24	3%	£615.90	£600.50	£631.30
Primary IDACI A	£812.86	£831.61	£18.75	3%	£811.33	£791.04	£831.61
Secondary IDACI F	£403.46	£412.77	£9.31	2%	£402.70	£392.64	£412.77
Secondary IDACI E	£534.00	£546.31	£12.31	2%	£532.99	£519.66	£546.31
Secondary IDACI D	£753.53	£770.91	£17.38	3%	£752.11	£733.30	£770.91
Secondary IDACI C	£824.73	£843.75	£19.02	3%	£823.17	£802.59	£843.75
Secondary IDACI B	£884.06	£904.45	£20.39	3%	£882.39	£860.33	£904.45
Secondary IDACI A	£1,127.33	£1,153.33	£26.00	3%	£1,125.20	£1,097.07	£1,153.33
Primary EAL3	£706.06	£722.35	£16.29	3%	£704.73	£687.11	£722.35
Secondary EAL3	£1,892.72	£1,936.38	£43.66	3%	£1,889.15	£1,841.92	£1,936.38
Primary LPA	£1,394.33	£1,426.49	£32.16	3%	£1,391.69	£1,356.90	£1,426.49
Secondary LPA	£2,118.19	£2,167.04	£48.85	3%	£2,114.19	£2,061.33	£2,167.04
Primary mobility	£1,145.13	£1,171.54	£26.41	3%	£1,142.97	£1,114.39	£1,171.54
Secondary mobility	£1,892.72	£1,681.43	£-211.29	3%	£1,640.42	£1,599.41	£1,681.43
Other Factors							
Primary lump sum	£172,184.37	£172,184.37	£0.00	7%	£171,859.34	£167,562.86	£176,155.83
Secondary lump sum	£172,184.37	£172,184.37	£0.00	7%	£171,859.34	£167,562.86	£176,155.83
Primary sparsity	£68,114.28	£68,114.28	£0.00	1%	£67,985.71	£66,286.07	£69,685.35
Secondary sparsity	£98,967.44	£98,967.44	£0.00	0%	£98,780.63	£96,311.11	£101,250.14
Middle-school sparsity	£98,967.44	£98,967.44	£0.00	0%	£98,780.63	£96,311.11	£101,250.14
All-through sparsity	£98,967.44	£98,967.44	£0.00	0%	£98,780.63	£96,311.11	£101,250.14
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£63,723.64	£63,958.68	£235.04	0%	£63,958.68	£62,359.71	£65,557.65
Split sites distance funding	£31,921.15	£31,979.34	£58.19	0%	£31,979.34	£31,179.86	£32,778.82
PFI (RPIX) %		10.40%	10.40%	0%			
London fringe					100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
MFG		0% - 5%					

SUMMARY OF DRAFT 2025-26 FUNDING FORMULA ALLOCATIONS PENDING ESFA VALIDATION CHECKS

APPENDIX 2

URN	LAESTAB	School Name	Phase	Type	Total Number On Roll for 2025-26	Number On Roll in Primary for 2024-25	Number On Roll in Secondary for 2024-25	Total Number On Roll for 2024-25	Movement in Roll numbers	Basic Entitlement Total	AEN Total	School Factors total	MFG Adjustment	2025-26 Post MFG Budget	Post MFG Per Pupil Budget	De-delegation	Post De-delegation budget	Education functions for maintained schools	Post De-delegation Education functions budget	25-26 NFF NDR allocation	Post De-delegation Education functions budget after deduction of 25-26 NFF NDR allocation
100556	2082022	Ashmore Primary School	Primary	Maintained	203	203	0	201	2	€ 948,087.14	€ 301,598.73	€ 220,460.26	€ 20,955.53	€ 1,491,101.66	€ 7,345.33	€ 6,806.59	€ 1,484,295.07	€ 4,466.00	€ 1,479,829.07	€ 38,472.62	€ 1,411,356.45
100560	2082115	Clapham Manor Primary School	Primary	Maintained	343	343	0	365	-22	€ 1,601,940.34	€ 625,639.81	€ 261,632.52	€ -	€ 2,489,212.67	€ 7,257.18	€ 11,500.79	€ 2,477,711.88	€ 7,546.00	€ 2,470,165.88	€ 72,884.00	€ 2,397,281.88
100564	2082265	Granton Primary School	Primary	Maintained	598	598	0	583	15	€ 2,792,887.24	€ 1,070,611.69	€ 293,511.07	€ -	€ 4,157,016.00	€ 6,951.53	€ 20,050.94	€ 4,136,965.06	€ 13,156.00	€ 4,123,809.06	€ 92,448.10	€ 4,031,360.96
100566	2082292	Healthbridge Primary School	Primary	Maintained	379	379	0	379	0	€ 1,770,074.02	€ 691,029.03	€ 235,565.58	€ -	€ 2,696,764.62	€ 7,115.47	€ 12,707.87	€ 2,684,056.75	€ 8,338.00	€ 2,675,718.75	€ 45,175.55	€ 2,630,543.20
100567	2082295	Henry Cavendish Primary School	Primary	Maintained	776	776	0	754	22	€ 3,624,214.88	€ 791,803.45	€ 478,342.06	€ 163,905.01	€ 5,058,266.60	€ 6,518.38	€ 26,019.28	€ 5,032,247.32	€ 17,072.00	€ 5,015,175.32	€ 172,746.30	€ 4,842,429.02
100572	2082331	Jessop Primary School	Primary	Maintained	273	273	0	286	-13	€ 1,275,013.74	€ 360,703.43	€ 241,228.08	€ 51,521.84	€ 1,928,466.08	€ 7,068.98	€ 9,153.69	€ 1,919,312.39	€ 6,006.00	€ 1,913,306.39	€ 55,860.00	€ 1,857,446.39
100574	2082359	Kingswood Primary School	Primary	Maintained	378	378	0	446	-68	€ 1,765,403.64	€ 665,183.85	€ 341,982.71	€ -	€ 2,770,570.20	€ 7,329.55	€ 12,674.34	€ 2,757,895.86	€ 8,316.00	€ 2,749,579.86	€ 62,750.30	€ 2,686,829.56
100576	2082371	Larkhall Primary Campus	Primary	Maintained	310	310	0	283	27	€ 1,447,817.80	€ 825,698.87	€ 230,024.88	€ 73,779.20	€ 2,586,300.84	€ 8,249.97	€ 10,934.30	€ 2,575,366.54	€ 6,820.00	€ 2,568,546.54	€ 51,870.00	€ 2,516,676.54
100577	2082459	Paxton Primary School	Primary	Maintained	404	404	0	430	-26	€ 1,886,833.52	€ 432,284.32	€ 285,150.33	€ 92,071.77	€ 2,697,339.83	€ 6,676.58	€ 13,546.12	€ 2,683,793.71	€ 8,888.00	€ 2,674,905.71	€ 94,455.90	€ 2,580,449.81
100578	2082504	Richard Atkins Primary School	Primary	Maintained	230	230	0	244	-14	€ 1,074,187.40	€ 462,366.39	€ 258,303.52	€ -	€ 1,794,857.31	€ 7,803.73	€ 7,711.90	€ 1,787,145.41	€ 5,060.00	€ 1,782,085.41	€ 75,012.00	€ 1,707,073.41
100584	2082575	Sudbourne Primary School	Primary	Maintained	261	261	0	272	-11	€ 1,218,969.18	€ 463,169.32	€ 340,380.47	€ -	€ 2,022,518.97	€ 7,749.11	€ 8,751.33	€ 2,013,767.64	€ 5,742.00	€ 2,008,025.64	€ 155,591.90	€ 1,852,433.74
100585	2082578	Sunhill Primary School	Primary	Maintained	360	360	0	369	-9	€ 1,681,336.80	€ 697,791.68	€ 301,821.48	€ -	€ 2,680,949.96	€ 7,447.08	€ 12,070.80	€ 2,668,879.16	€ 7,920.00	€ 2,660,959.16	€ 112,252.00	€ 2,548,707.16
100586	2082591	Telfordcot Primary School	Primary	Maintained	383	383	0	377	6	€ 1,788,755.54	€ 295,479.92	€ 234,894.96	€ 86,368.71	€ 2,405,499.13	€ 6,280.68	€ 12,841.99	€ 2,392,657.14	€ 8,426.00	€ 2,384,231.14	€ 44,214.77	€ 2,340,016.37
100588	2082617	Vauxhall Primary School	Primary	Maintained	181	181	0	196	-15	€ 845,338.78	€ 412,730.78	€ 189,028.04	€ -	€ 1,447,097.60	€ 7,995.01	€ 6,068.93	€ 1,441,028.67	€ 3,982.00	€ 1,437,046.67	€ 8,102.82	€ 1,428,943.85
100589	2082626	Walnut Tree Walk Primary School	Primary	Maintained	368	368	0	336	32	€ 1,718,699.84	€ 534,845.14	€ 228,791.43	€ 85,045.55	€ 2,567,381.96	€ 6,976.58	€ 12,339.04	€ 2,555,042.92	€ 8,096.00	€ 2,546,946.92	€ 38,832.62	€ 2,508,114.30
100591	2082664	Wvill Primary School and Resource Bases for Speech, Language and Commun	Primary	Maintained	428	428	0	434	-6	€ 1,998,922.64	€ 996,378.12	€ 329,685.32	€ -	€ 3,324,986.08	€ 7,668.66	€ 14,350.84	€ 3,310,635.24	€ 9,416.00	€ 3,301,219.24	€ 51,500.58	€ 3,249,718.66
100593	2082783	Crown Lane Primary School	Primary	Maintained	244	244	0	230	14	€ 999,461.32	€ 417,292.36	€ 269,234.85	€ -	€ 1,685,988.53	€ 7,878.45	€ 7,175.42	€ 1,678,813.11	€ 4,708.00	€ 1,674,105.11	€ 86,716.00	€ 1,587,389.11
100595	2082785	Fenstanton Primary School	Primary	Maintained	226	226	0	269	-43	€ 1,055,508.88	€ 493,043.68	€ 395,898.35	€ -	€ 1,944,447.92	€ 8,603.75	€ 7,577.78	€ 1,936,870.14	€ 4,972.00	€ 1,931,898.14	€ 212,800.00	€ 1,719,098.14
100597	2082794	Elm Wood School	Primary	Maintained	356	356	0	372	-16	€ 1,662,655.28	€ 506,089.81	€ 259,548.01	€ -	€ 2,428,293.10	€ 6,821.05	€ 11,936.68	€ 2,416,356.42	€ 7,832.00	€ 2,408,524.42	€ 70,171.70	€ 2,338,352.72
100598	2082808	Alan Edwards Primary School	Primary	Maintained	349	349	0	349	0	€ 1,629,962.62	€ 758,926.87	€ 241,440.27	€ -	€ 2,630,329.76	€ 7,536.76	€ 11,701.97	€ 2,618,627.79	€ 7,678.00	€ 2,610,949.79	€ 52,402.00	€ 2,558,547.79
100601	2082836	Glenbrook Primary School	Primary	Maintained	125	125	0	135	-10	€ 583,797.50	€ 349,911.60	€ 251,548.37	€ -	€ 1,185,337.46	€ 4,882.70	€ 4,191.25	€ 1,181,146.21	€ 2,750.00	€ 1,178,396.21	€ 73,372.50	€ 1,105,023.71
100604	2082868	Herbert Morrison Primary School	Primary	Maintained	200	200	0	196	4	€ 934,076.00	€ 331,991.61	€ 210,514.76	€ 41,862.52	€ 1,506,584.39	€ 7,532.92	€ 6,706.00	€ 1,499,878.39	€ 4,400.00	€ 1,495,478.39	€ 28,672.00	€ 1,466,806.39
131247	2082897	Bonneville Primary School	Primary	Maintained	320	320	0	332	-12	€ 1,494,521.60	€ 537,138.62	€ 241,901.80	€ -	€ 2,253,562.02	€ 7,042.38	€ 10,729.60	€ 2,242,832.42	€ 7,040.00	€ 2,235,792.42	€ 54,264.00	€ 2,181,528.42
131340	2082898	Hill Mead Primary School	Primary	Maintained	221	221	0	263	-42	€ 1,032,153.98	€ 532,778.47	€ 242,440.90	€ -	€ 1,807,373.35	€ 8,178.16	€ 7,410.13	€ 1,799,963.22	€ 4,862.00	€ 1,795,101.22	€ 59,584.00	€ 1,735,517.22
131324	2082900	Whitfield Primary School	Primary	Maintained	562	562	0	575	-13	€ 2,624,753.56	€ 688,498.74	€ 365,881.16	€ 145,101.78	€ 3,825,235.24	€ 6,806.47	€ 18,843.86	€ 3,806,391.38	€ 12,364.00	€ 3,794,027.38	€ 167,556.70	€ 3,626,470.68
131874	2082901	Henry Fawcett Primary School	Primary	Maintained	208	208	0	207	1	€ 971,439.04	€ 466,766.01	€ 229,567.05	€ -	€ 1,667,772.10	€ 8,018.14	€ 6,974.24	€ 1,660,797.86	€ 4,576.00	€ 1,656,221.86	€ 47,337.95	€ 1,608,883.91
100582	2082902	Stockwell Primary School	Primary	Maintained	349	349	0	366	-17	€ 1,629,962.62	€ 677,961.88	€ 321,118.77	€ -	€ 2,629,037.27	€ 7,533.08	€ 11,701.97	€ 2,617,335.30	€ 7,678.00	€ 2,609,657.30	€ 133,080.50	€ 2,476,576.80
133315	2082903	Kings Avenue School	Primary	Maintained	134	134	0	138	-4	€ 625,830.92	€ 298,336.42	€ 216,031.49	€ -	€ 1,140,198.84	€ 5,808.95	€ 4,493.02	€ 1,135,705.82	€ 2,948.00	€ 1,132,757.82	€ 37,376.00	€ 1,095,381.82
133584	2082905	Loughborough Primary School	Primary	Maintained	285	285	0	320	-35	€ 1,331,058.30	€ 635,927.42	€ 287,668.58	€ -	€ 2,256,674.36	€ 7,918.16	€ 9,556.05	€ 2,247,118.31	€ 6,270.00	€ 2,240,848.31	€ 103,740.00	€ 2,137,108.31
133662	2083000	Jubilee Primary School	Primary	Maintained	253	253	0	295	-42	€ 1,181,606.14	€ 447,490.87	€ 293,639.36	€ -	€ 1,922,736.37	€ 7,599.75	€ 8,483.09	€ 1,914,253.28	€ 5,566.00	€ 1,908,687.28	€ 23,439.07	€ 1,885,248.21
100609	2083307	Archbishop Sumner Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	155	155	0	169	-14	€ 723,908.90	€ 268,719.98	€ 188,378.01	€ 17,342.09	€ 1,198,348.97	€ 7,731.28	€ 5,197.15	€ 1,193,151.82	€ 3,410.00	€ 1,189,741.82	€ 8,708.38	€ 1,181,033.44
100610	2083324	Christ Church Primary SW9	Primary	Maintained	154	154	0	162	-8	€ 719,238.52	€ 211,811.12	€ 185,253.33	€ 4,138.00	€ 1,120,440.96	€ 7,275.59	€ 5,163.62	€ 1,115,277.34	€ 3,388.00	€ 1,111,889.34	€ 5,632.00	€ 1,106,257.34
100612	2083375	Ma caulay Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	161	161	0	169	-8	€ 751,931.18	€ 305,248.79	€ 185,284.18	€ -	€ 1,242,464.15	€ 7,717.17	€ 5,398.33	€ 1,237,065.82	€ 3,540.00	€ 1,233,525.82	€ 5,324.80	€ 1,228,199.02
100613	2083403	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	126	126	0	115	11	€ 586,467.88	€ 236,118.23	€ 135,658.76	€ -	€ 1,017,644.87	€ 8,076.55	€ 4,224.78	€ 1,013,420.09	€ 2,772.00	€ 1,010,648.09	€ 14,789.60	€ 995,858.49
100614	2083457	St John the Divine Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	176	176	0	178	-2	€ 821,986.88	€ 360,616.81	€ 203,683.76	€ -	€ 1,385,287.45	€ 7,745.95	€ 5,901.28	€ 1,379,386.17	€ 3,972.00	€ 1,375,414.17	€ 1,353,514.17	€ -
100615	2083456	St John's Angell Town Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	160	160	0	169	-9	€ 747,280.60	€ 317,808.46	€ 185,567.08	€ -	€ 1,131,536.35	€ 7,072.73	€ 5,364.80	€ 1,126,171.55	€ 3,520.00	€ 1,122,651.55	€ 6,566.00	€ 1,116,085.55
100616	2083491	St Jude's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	183	183	0	188	-5	€ 854,679.54	€ 418,055.55	€ 187,049.27	€ -	€ 1,459,780.36	€ 7,976.94	€ 6,135.99	€ 1,453,644.37	€ 4,026.00	€ 1,449,618.37	€ 6,027.47	€ 1,443,590.90
100619	2083502	St Mark's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	148	148	0	181	-33	€ 691,216.24	€ 236,584.33	€ 188,047.24	€ -	€ 1,110,647.31	€ 7,504.37	€ 4,962.44	€ 1,105,684.87	€ 3,256.00	€ 1,102,428.87	€ 3,515.16	€ 1,098,913.71
100620	2083589	St Stephen's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Maintained	175	175	0	176	-1	€ 817,316.50											

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma										
LA Name:	Lambeth									
LA Number:	208									
Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level	Disapplication number where alternative MPPL values are used						
£4,955.00	£6,221.00	£6,831.00	£6,465.00							
Pupil Led Factors										
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00					
	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	
	Primary (Years R-6)	£4,670.38		18,161.00		£84,818,771	£163,094,212	35.51%	10.00%	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£6,582.47		6,703.00		£44,122,296		18.47%	10.00%	
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£7,421.37		4,602.00		£34,153,145	14.30%		10.00%		
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
	FSM	£600.95	£600.95	6,499.00	4,896.00	£6,847,825	£37,196,111	15.57%	50.00%	50.00%
	FSM6	£1,286.87	£1,887.82	6,731.00	5,430.00	£18,912,785			50.00%	50.00%
	IDACI Band F	£285.30	£412.77	2,736.16	1,778.84	£1,514,877			50.00%	50.00%
	IDACI Band E	£346.00	£546.31	3,268.27	2,101.82	£2,279,063			50.00%	50.00%
	IDACI Band D	£540.24	£770.91	2,651.15	1,658.39	£2,710,726			50.00%	50.00%
	IDACI Band C	£594.87	£843.75	3,073.46	2,148.01	£3,640,698			50.00%	50.00%
	IDACI Band B	£631.30	£904.45	768.75	618.81	£1,044,996			50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Band A	£831.61	£1,153.33	146.18	107.15	£245,141	50.00%			50.00%	
3) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
	EAL 3 Primary	£722.35		4,342.83		£3,137,045	£4,961,284	1.91%	50.00%	
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,936.38		738.83	£1,430,654			50.00%	
Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£1,142.97	£1,640.42	201.35	99.64	£393,585					
4) Mobility	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
5) Low prior attainment	Primary low prior attainment		£1,426.49	31.56%	5,731.94	£8,176,555	£13,576,144	5.68%	100.00%	
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	57.71%		21.23%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	55.77%		21.21%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	54.47%	£2,167.04	23.06%	2,491.69	£5,399,589				100.00%
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	54.47%		23.17%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)	64.53%		21.49%						
Other Factors										
Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)			
6) Lump Sum	£172,184.37	£172,184.37			£13,086,012	5.48%	0.00%	0.00%		
7) Sparsity factor	£68,114.28	£98,967.44	£98,967.44	£98,967.44	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
Rows 45 to 48 are populated with the NFF methodology, please leave this as is if you wish to follow the NFF. As per the Operational Guidance, the distance thresholds can be increased or the year group size thresholds decreased and the distance threshold taper is optional. An alternative method of allocation to the NFF's average year group size taper can be chosen: the continuous taper (Tapered) or fixed sum (Fixed). Examples of each are provided in the Operational Guidance.										
Primary distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Primary pupil number average year group threshold	21.40	Apply primary distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity primary lump sum?	NFF			
Secondary distance threshold (miles)	3.00	Secondary pupil number average year group threshold	120.00	Apply secondary distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity secondary lump sum?	NFF			
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Middle school pupil number average year group threshold	69.20	Apply middle school distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity middle school lump sum?	NFF			
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	All-through pupil number average year group threshold	62.50	Apply all-through distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity all-through lump sum?	NFF			
8) Fringe Payments				Fringe multiplier	1.0000	£0	0.00%			
9) Split Sites		Basic eligibility funding	£63,958.68	Distance funding rate	£31,979.34	£677,994	0.28%	0.00%		
10) Rates						£4,538,929	1.90%	0.00%		
11) PFI funding						£296,528	0.12%	0.00%		
12) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)										
Circumstance						Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY24-25						£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
One Off Distribution Per pupil amount - Supporting schools Falling Rolls						£1,422,971	0.60%	10.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance4						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance5						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance6						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance7						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)						£238,850,185	100.00%			
13) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level						£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)						£238,850,185	100.00%			
14) Minimum Funding Guarantee						0.00%	£2,225,112			
Where a value less than -0.5% or greater than 0% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value										
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)										
No										
Capping Factor (%)	Scaling Factor (%)									

Appendix 3
APT 2025-26 Formula Values

Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied				£0		
				Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)	Notional SEN (%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)				£2,225,112	0.92%	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula				£241,075,297		£51,303,352
Notional SEN	Top-up - proportion of NOR	4.51%	SEN support plus EHCP minus Top-up - proportion of NOR	15.12%	Notional SEN funding per eligible pupil	
						£9,724
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)						
Additional funding from the high needs budget						
Growth fund (if applicable)						
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)						
Other Adjustment to 24-25 Budget Shares				£0		
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)				£241,075,297		
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement				68.28%		
% Pupil Led Funding				91.62%		
Primary: Secondary Ratio				1 :	1.35	
25-26 NFF NNDR allocation, excluding prior year adjustments				£4,538,929		
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding) after deduction of 25-26 NFF NNDR allocation				£236,536,368		

Appendix 4

2025-26 Exceptional Circumstance NNF Formula Adjustments

URN	LAESTAB	School Name	Exceptional Circumstance £48.29 per pupil	Adjustment to MFG
100556	2082022	Ashmole Primary School	£9,803.27	£9,803.27
100560	2082115	Clapham Manor Primary School	£16,564.15	£0.00
100564	2082265	Granton Primary School	£28,878.60	£0.00
100566	2082292	Heathbrook Primary School	£18,302.66	£0.00
100567	2082295	Henry Cavendish Primary School	£37,474.57	£37,474.57
100572	2082331	Jessop Primary School	£13,183.71	£13,183.71
100574	2082359	Kingswood Primary School	£18,254.36	£0.00
100576	2082371	Larkhall Primary Campus	£14,970.51	£14,970.51
100577	2082459	Paxton Primary School	£19,509.96	£19,509.96
100578	2082504	Richard Atkins Primary School	£11,107.15	£0.00
100584	2082575	Sudbourne Primary School	£12,604.20	£0.00
100585	2082578	Sunnyhill Primary School	£17,385.11	£0.00
100586	2082591	Telferscot Primary School	£18,495.82	£18,495.82
100588	2082617	Vauxhall Primary School	£8,740.85	£0.00
100589	2082626	Walnut Tree Walk Primary School	£17,771.44	£17,771.44
100591	2082664	Wyvil Primary School and Resource Bases for Speech	£20,668.96	£0.00
100593	2082783	Crown Lane Primary School	£10,334.48	£0.00
100595	2082785	Fenstanton Primary School	£10,913.98	£0.00
100597	2082794	Elm Wood School	£17,191.94	£0.00
100598	2082808	Allen Edwards Primary School	£16,853.90	£0.00
100601	2082836	Glenbrook Primary School	£6,036.50	£0.00
100604	2082868	Herbert Morrison Primary School	£9,658.39	£9,658.39
131247	2082897	Bonneville Primary School	£15,453.43	£0.00
131340	2082898	Hill Mead Primary School	£10,672.53	£0.00
131824	2082900	Hitherfield Primary School	£27,140.09	£27,140.09
131874	2082901	Henry Fawcett Primary School	£10,044.73	£0.00
100582	2082902	Stockwell Primary School	£16,853.90	£0.00
133315	2082903	Kings Avenue School	£6,471.12	£0.00
133662	2083000	Jubilee Primary School	£13,763.21	£0.00
100609	2083307	Archbishop Sumner Church of England Primary School	£12,217.87	£0.00
100610	2083324	Christ Church Primary SW9	£7,485.26	£7,485.26
100612	2083375	Macaulay Church of England Primary School	£7,436.96	£4,137.00
100613	2083403	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	£7,775.01	£0.00
100614	2083457	St John the Divine Church of England Primary School	£6,084.79	£0.00
100615	2083466	St John's Angell Town Church of England Primary School	£8,499.39	£0.00
100616	2083491	St Jude's Church of England Primary School	£7,726.71	£0.00
100619	2083502	St Mark's Church of England Primary School	£8,837.43	£0.00
100620	2083589	St Saviour's Church of England Primary School	£7,147.21	£0.00
100621	2083596	St Stephen's Church of England Primary School	£8,451.09	£0.00
100622	2083621	Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School	£8,692.55	£0.00
100623	2083641	St Helen's Catholic Primary School	£12,121.28	£0.00
134507	2083642	The Orchard School	£10,141.31	£0.00
135614	2083643	Iqra Primary School	£10,044.73	£10,044.73
100628	2085200	St Bernadette Catholic Junior School	£5,601.87	£0.00
100629	2085201	St Anne's Catholic Primary School	£9,803.27	£0.00
100631	2085203	St Bede's Catholic Infant School	£2,511.18	£2,511.18
100632	2085204	St Andrew's Catholic Primary School	£19,171.91	£12,511.07
100633	2085205	Immanuel and St Andrew Church of England Primary School	£18,978.74	£18,978.74
100634	2085206	Reay Primary School	£9,899.85	£0.00
100636	2085208	St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School	£12,990.54	£0.00
100602	2085209	Julian's School	£43,511.06	£43,511.06
100624	2084223	The Norwood School	£42,834.98	£42,834.98
100625	2084321	Lilian Baylis Technology School	£29,796.14	£0.00
100627	2084509	Saint Gabriel's College	£28,637.14	£0.00
100637	2085400	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls' School	£40,275.50	£0.00
100638	2085401	Bishop Thomas Grant Catholic Secondary School	£43,704.23	£43,704.23
100642	2085405	London Nautical School	£17,723.15	£0.00
100590	2082657	Woodmansterne School	£70,216.52	£70,216.52
146368	2082001	Van Gogh Primary	£11,831.53	£0.00
137430	2082332	Oasis Academy Johanna	£7,581.84	£0.00
149556	2082895	Streatham Wells Primary	£9,851.56	£9,851.56
144308	2082899	Rosendale Primary School	£29,023.47	£29,023.47
150830	2082905	Loughborough Primary School	£11,783.24	£0.00
145614	2083329	Christ Church, Streatham Church of England Primary School	£7,485.26	£0.00
145615	2083493	St Leonard's Church of England Primary School	£18,447.53	£0.00
145616	2083499	St Luke's Church of England Primary School	£7,968.17	£0.00
137295	2085202	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	£18,302.66	£0.00
139659	2084000	Oasis Academy South Bank	£28,685.43	£0.00
140966	2084003	Trinity Academy	£26,850.33	£0.00
147543	2084007	Harris Academy Clapham	£44,428.61	£0.00
136450	2084322	Platanos College	£37,957.49	£0.00
144309	2084731	The Elmgreen School	£42,593.52	£42,593.52
134815	2086905	The Elms Academy	£30,761.98	£0.00
135389	2086906	Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	£16,805.61	£0.00
137954	2086907	City Heights E-ACT Academy	£23,373.31	£0.00
137093	2085402	Dunraven School	£75,818.39	£0.00
			£1,422,971.14	£505,411.08

Agenda Item 5

Title: De-Delegation FSM Eligibility Service 2025-26
Date: 16th January 2025
Report to: Schools Forum
Author: James Mc Donald - Schools Research & Statistics Manager
Dominique Johnston -Franklin – Group Manger -Education

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 This report follows on from the December 2024 Schools forum item on De-delegation where it was requested by members to postpone the decision to de- delegate the FSM checking service and the request to provide modelling to ensure schools were not at a disadvantage in terms of cost to 25-26 budgets.

2. Background

2.1 The DfE guidance enables Local Authorities to provide services centrally which are funded by a process known as de-delegation. This only applies to mainstream schools and not academies. As such, funding levels agreed will reduce should any school convert following finalisation of the budget process. The de-delegated values will reduce relative to 2024/25 figures due to academisation of 2 schools in 2024-25.

2.2 Free school meals eligibility is currently delivered via the LA's Research and Statistics team. Schools currently purchase this service directly from the LA, but there has been work with the LA's Cost-of-Living team to also identify families who are not currently defined as FSM in schools' budgets, but who are eligible.

2.3 The service that is currently offered provides support and advice to schools, academies, and governors in the effective use of data to raise achievement. The areas that are covered by the current SLA are:

- A Free School Meal Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) in data held within HMRC government database to ensure that all FSM pupils are identified to maximise all schools funding.
- Support to ensure that pupils eligible for FSM transitional protection are identified in schools' data, especially those newly joined.
- GCSEs Data and KS2 Data outcomes advice and support in the use of assessment data for delivery and support for schools improvement.
- Provide advice and guidance to schools, School Business Mangers, and SAOs on the procedure of FSM application and qualifying benefits.
- School Profile to support governors and headteachers in school self-evaluation. Data that examines schools' performance data together with local authority and national comparisons.
- Providing individual EYFS, Phonics, KS1 and KS2 school contextual performance reports by socio-economic factors (including FSM, PP, SEN, gender, English fluency and ethnic background) to help governors, teachers and headteachers to identify underperforming groups and ensure social inclusion.
- Data support and advice to schools to make best use of teacher assessments for all

year groups.

- Analysis groups in schools, with three-year trend data examined by contextual factors of the impact of COVID-19 on pupils, particularly vulnerable and underperforming pupils.
- Provision of pupil information, including historic attainment data for all pupils in schools and UPN searches.

2.4 Currently 80% of Lambeth Maintained schools purchase the Traded SLA annually and for those who do not purchase they still receive support from the team in terms of data support and reach out for data analysis or ad hoc support.

3. De-Delegation Agreement

3.1 The proposal to offer the full research and statistics Service Level Agreement as a de-delegated item was presented to schools forum members in December 2024. The LA consulted with all schools in November 2024 and received positive responses to agree proposal of FSM as de-delegated item.

3.2 The consultation proposed an amount of **£5.70 per** pupil based on 21,628 pupils which would give a total allocation of £0.123m based on 2024-25 pupil numbers. Schools forum requested that prior to a decision that that the amount per pupil could be reviewed to ensure that it was not at an overall higher cost for a 1FE school to not disadvantage schools.

3.3 In a review of the rates for the last 3 years it was identified by the service that there has not been an inflationary uplift since 2022/23. **Table 1:** shows the proposal for Primary and Secondary De delegation of FSM amounts.

TABLE 1: FSM De Delegation				
	Annual fee since 2022-23	Proposed SLA Rates for 2025-26 Addition of Inflation @2.5% since 2022-23	De delegation £4.16 Prim £4.40 Sec	Movement in Costs
	£	£	£	£
Primary				
1FE	1,250	1,346	749	-597
1.5FE	1,575	1,696	1,123	-573
2FE	1,900	2,046	1,498	-548
3FE	2,200	2,369	2,246	-123
Secondary (based on 5 FE)	2,850	3,069	3,916	847

- 3.4 As part of de-delegation, the amount will vary per school as it will only be based on number of pupils on census and supports where there is schools with a larger Planned admission number vs actual numbers of the term. To ensure that there is a balance between current rates in the SLA and fairness across economies of scales within schools, the proposal is to set de -delegation at the rates of **£4.16 per Primary Pupil** and **£4.40 per secondary Pupil**.
- 3.5 The research and Statistic teams currently have SLAs with Lambeth maintained schools totaling £80,075, the de delegation for 2025-26 will total £85,038. This allows a small contingency of £5k depending on schools who may convert to an academy part year where de delegation would be removed.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 **Maintained primary representatives** are invited to approve a rate of £4.16 per primary pupil for FSM de delegation.
- 4.2 **Maintained secondary representatives** are invited to approve a rate of £4.40 per primary pupil for FSM de delegation.

Agenda Item 6

Title: High Needs Block 2024/25 and 2025/26

Date: 16th January 2025

Report to: Schools Forum

Report for: Information x Decision Consultation x Action

Authors: Sophie Garner – AD: Education Strategy, Access & Inclusion
Sarah Hockly – SEND Accountant

1. Purpose of this report.

- 1.1 This report sets out how the LA proposes to set the High Needs Block (HNB) budget for 2025/26 in the context of the forecast, carried forward HNB surplus from the current year and the current basis for using the High Needs Block.
- 1.2 Decisions on the High Needs budget are for Cabinet and Council to make, but the LA is formally consulting Schools Forum on its proposals before they are presented for political decision.

2. High Needs budget 2024/25

- 2.1 As a result of an underspend in the High Needs Block (HNB) in 2023/24, the 2024/25 budget was set to utilise a portion of the £5.639m surplus brought forward, to leave a year end surplus of £2.795m. **Table1** below indicates that the latest forecast position is pointing to a **forecast cumulative surplus of £2.768m at the end of 2024/25**, a small adverse variance of £27k to budget.

Table 1. High Needs DSG budget 2024/25 and latest forecast (P09)

Component	Latest Budget 2024-25 £'000	Forecast net spend (P09) 2024-25 £'000	Forecast Variance Period 9 £'000
1. Places only	12,730	12,940	210
2. SEND Top-Ups	52,722	52,889	167
3. AP Top-Ups	1,400	1,375	(25)
4. Other High Needs provision	4,202	3,877	(325)
Total Commitment (gross)	71,054	71,081	27
Balance brought forward	5,639	5,639	0
Funding transfer from Schools Block	1,160	1,160	0
High Needs DSG Funding (gross)	67,050	67,050	0
Total funding	73,849	73,849	0
Net position P09 Forecast	(2,795)	(2,768)	27
Forecast adj ENG & data validation	0	(1,000)	(1,000)
Revised expected net position P10	(2,795)	(3,768)	(973)

- 2.2 Table 1 also shows that further to P09 forecasts, there are a couple of areas being looked into which are expected to result in a favourable movement in outturn, but which have yet to be finalised and included in the P09 forecast. The current estimate is that these may result in an in-year favourable movement of approximately £1m, giving a revised forecast **cumulative surplus of £3.768m at the end of 2024/25**, a variance of £973k compared to the budget of £2.795m.
- 2.3 **Outturn adjustment not included in P09 forecast.** Due to the volatile nature of adjustments within the high needs block, investigations are underway regarding the incurred and expected costs for SEND top-ups and Exceptional Needs Grant. Early indications are that there will be a favourable movement in the top-ups once the exercise is completed, although it is not possible to quantify at this point. The outturn of the Exceptional Needs Grant, currently forecast as £970k, may be closer to £100k due to a large accrual from previous years. Many of the grants are paid out over 12 months so as the year progresses and the programme matures, costs being committed increasingly relate to the financial year 2025/26.

3. High Needs budget proposal for 2025/26

- 3.1 The DfE schools funding announcement confirmed that High Needs DSG for 2025/26 will increase by at least 7% per head for the 2-18 population at local authority level, up to a gains limit of 10%.
- 3.2 The provisional High Needs DSG for 2025/26 is £71.012m, an increase of £3.962m (5.9%) compared to the 2024/25 HN DSG of £67.050m. **Table 2** lays out the proposed budget for 2025/26, including spending £3.760m in excess of the allocated High Needs Block funding. This additional requirement will be funded by the forecast brought forward reserves of £3.768m. Based on the stated assumptions, the forecast cumulative surplus at the end of 2025/26 would be £7k.

Table 2: Summary High Needs Forecast 2024/25 and proposed budget build for 2025/26

Component	Forecast net spend (P09) 2024-25 £'000	Budgeted net spend 2025-26 £'000	Year on year forecast variance £'000	Comments
1. Places only	12,940	13,646	706	71 additional high needs places in Sep25
2. SEND Top-Ups	52,889	55,900	3,011	Increase top-ups 1%, plus 4.4% EHCP growth
3. AP Top-Ups	1,375	1,582	207	Increase top-ups 1%, full year of International School
4. Other High Needs provision	3,877	3,644	(233)	Reduce ENG £470k offset by full year impact of outreach staffing
Total Commitment (gross)	71,081	74,773	3,691	
5. Forecast adjustment	(1,000)	0	1,000	In respect of SEND Top-ups and ENG in 2024/25
Revised Total Commitment	70,081	74,773	4,691	
Funding transfer from Schools Block	1,160	0	(1,160)	No Schools Block transfer 2025/26
High Needs DSG Funding (gross)	67,050	71,012	3,962	Budgets updated to reflect Dec 2024 ESFA notification.
Total in-year funding	68,210	71,012	2,802	
Net in-year position	2,871	3,760	889	Spend in excess of DSG funding
Brought forward (surplus)/deficit	(5,639)	(3,768)	2,871	Balance BF inclusive of forecast adjustment
In-year over/(under) spend	2,871	3,760	889	Net in-year position above
Carry forward (surplus)/deficit	(3,768)	(7)	3,760	Carry forward £7k reserve surplus

3.3 **Place Funding.** Overall, the net increase in the places budget is £706k. This includes 40 new high-needs places at Lambeth’s special schools and resource bases from September 2025, and a provision for 30 additional unspecified places in September 2025. The import-export adjustment remains the same as the 2025/26 DSG allocation published in December 2024, which agrees to the July 2024 import/ export figures.

3.4 **High Needs Provision Capital Allocations.** Whilst not the subject of this paper, it is pertinent to note that additional high needs spaces in September 2024 and 2025 have been facilitated through capital awards to support the provision of new places and improve existing provision. This includes new or extended provision at Platanos College, Allen Edwards Primary, Van Gogh Primary, La Retraite, and others.

3.5 **SEND and AP Top-up Funding.** Estimates of top-up funding have assumed an increase in pupils of 4.4% across the board, taking into account leavers and new demand. This is in line with a

detailed EHCP cohort model developed for Lambeth by consultants using population projections and EHCP data.

- 3.6 Per pupil funding has been budgeted as an increase of 1% of place funding + top-up for Lambeth Schools, and the increase will be applied to the top-up bandings due to the fixed nature of the place funding as defined by ESFA. As a result, the top-up banding percentage increase will vary between types of provision and banding, but on average it will be an increase of approximately 1.5%. See **Appendix 1** for more detail. Indexation is also assumed at 1.5% for FE colleges and out of borough settings.
- 3.7 The average per pupil cost for independent special schools, home tuition, personal budgets and therapies has been increased by 5.5% compared to the latest 2024/25 forecast - to reflect price increases, the impact of recent tax changes and prior year adjustments in 2024/25 which have significantly suppressed the forecast average costs in 2024/25. The reconciliation of these costs is part of an ongoing project.
- 3.8 **Additional High Needs DSG.** For the third year in a row LAs are mandated to allocate additional funding to special and AP schools and academies by a condition of grant attached to the DSG. For 2023/24 the allocation was 3.4% of the place and top-up funding paid in 2022/23. For 2024/25 and 2025/26 the allocation is based on the per-place rate calculated for 2023/24, adjusted for any changes in agreed high needs places for September 2025. This allocation is in the form of a lump sum of £845k for special schools and £100k for AP academies. This is equivalent to the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG), which was absorbed into the Schools Block.
- 3.9 Similarly, the historic Teachers Pay and Pension funding remains at £785 per special and AP school place. The equivalent adjustment was absorbed into the Schools Block for mainstream schools.
- 3.10 There will be a separate Core Schools Budget Grant in 2025 which will cover the ongoing costs previously covered in 2024/25 by the teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG), the 2024 teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPEG24) and a full year allocation of the CSBG to help with schools' overall costs, including the 2024 teachers' pay award and support staff costs.
- 3.11 Further information about the distribution of additional funding to compensate employers for the planned increase in their National Insurance contributions from April 2025 will be published by ESFA as soon as possible in early 2025.
- 3.12 **The Exceptional Needs Fund**, created at the end of 2023/24, will be continued in 2025/26 with an allocation of £500k. The awards are payable over a 3- or 12-month period. To date approximately £157k of spend has already been committed for 2025/26, although this may be reduced/ recouped if an EHCP is subsequently approved.
- 3.13 **Outreach support** for Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Sensory Impairment, Early Years SEN, and Behavioural support are funded from the High Needs budget. The budgets are predominantly staffing costs and have been uplifted according to the published pay awards.

- 3.14 Behavioural outreach was separately budgeted for the first time in 2024/25, and in that time the team has grown, including outreach teachers and family support mentors. As a result, the 2025/26 budget, which includes a full year of costs for the new posts, has increased by £117k. Similarly, High Needs Outreach has had a number of vacancies in 2024/25 which are now filled and budgeted for the full year in 2025/26, resulting in an increase of £102k.
- 3.15 The proposed budget for **specialist equipment** (from CENMAC and from other providers) has decreased to £540k compared to the current 2024/25 forecast of £572k. This is in line with the latest actuals.

4. Risks

- 4.1 The 2024/25 forecast and the 2025/26 budget both show planned in-year overspends in relation to funding, which reduces the surplus High Needs Block reserves to £7k at the end of 2025/26. This level of spending is not sustainable, even if the Schools Block transfer of 0.5% was re-instated in future years. To prevent the DSG moving into deficit in 2026/27 and beyond, spending would need to be curtailed from current levels.
- 4.2 Despite falling rolls, the numbers of EHCPs continue to rise across all age ranges. This model assumes a 4.4% increase in pupils being supported, which erodes the benefits of the published extension of funding by a minimum of 7%. If this trend continues it will be difficult to contain costs within the High Needs DSG going forwards.
- 4.3 High Needs budget is volatile due to the lag in data from panel and pace of changes across the year. The costs of out of borough and private provision are not within the control of the authority, and recent changes to national insurance rates and bandings, and VAT treatment for independent schools are expected to impact the demands and costs faced by Lambeth. Whilst the forecast attempts to anticipate these changes, there are inevitably risks that the mix of provision and prevailing costs may vary from those assumed in the model.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 This report outlines the proposed detailed High Needs budget for 2025/26. The LA will take these proposals, with Schools Forum comments as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council for final decisions as part of the Council's budget build process in January and February 2025.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 **Schools Forum is invited to:**
- a) **note the High Needs forecast position for 2024/25; and**
 - b) **indicate if there are any comments to relay to Cabinet/ Council ahead of their consideration of the budget proposals for 2025/26.**

Workings for 2025/26 high needs top-ups

Appendix 1

Increase for S & R bands	1.00%
Increase for M & A bands	1.00%

Special Schools (1% uplift)					
Band (S)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S4+
Core	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Addition for TPG / TPPG	785	785	785	785	785
Top Up (current rates)	13,223	15,289	18,959	24,520	30,140
Total	24,008	26,074	29,744	35,305	40,925
Revised top-ups after 1% increase on combined place and top-up (ie not TPG /TTPG)	£13,455	£15,542	£19,249	£24,865	£30,541
Change in top-up	£232	£253	£290	£345	£401
Actual increase top-up v top-up	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%

Resource Bases (1% uplift)				
Bespoke is currently based on actual expected costs, so increases should be tailored to real circumstances.				
Band (R)	R1	R2	R3	R3+
Core	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Top Up (current rates)	6,407	9,352	14,006	Bespoke
Total	16,407	19,352	24,006	Bespoke
Revised top-ups after 1% increase on combined place and top-up	£6,571	£9,546	£14,246	
Change in top-up	£164	£194	£240	
Actual increase top-up v top-up	2.6%	2.1%	1.7%	

Mainstream (1% uplift)						
Bespoke is currently based on actual expected costs, so increases should be tailored to real circumstances.						
Band (M)	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M5+
Core	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-up at current rates	£4,096	£7,066	£11,223	£15,379	£20,131	Bespoke
Total	£10,096	£13,066	£17,223	£21,379	£26,131	Bespoke
Revised top-ups after 1% increase on combined place and top-up	£4,197	£7,197	£11,395	£15,593	£20,392	Bespoke
Change in top-up	£101	£131	£172	£214	£261	
Actual increase top-up v top-up	2.5%	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	

Alternative Provision (1% uplift)		
Band (A)	A1	A2
Core	£10,000	£10,000
Addition for TPG / TPPG	£785	£785
Top Up (current rates)	£11,685	£12,262
Total	£22,470	£23,047
Revised top-ups after 1% increase on combined place and top-up (ie not TPG /TTPG)	£11,902	£12,485
Change in top-up	£217	£223
Actual increase top-up v top-up	1.9%	1.8%

Agenda Item 7

Title: Early Years Update

Date: 16th January 2025

Report to: Schools Forum

Report for: Information Decision X Consultation Action

Author: Kathryn Shaw - Early Years and Out of School Quality Improvement Lead

1 Purpose of this paper

- 1.1 This report provides details on the initial allocation of Early Years Block funding for 2025/26 published by the DfE in December 2024. This allocation will be further updated during 2025/26 to take account of the latest census data as it becomes available.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum is presented with proposed central budgets to agree for 2025/26 and is being consulted on the proposed formula and formula values for 2025/26, ahead of Cabinet and Council taking final decisions next month.

2 Background

- 2.1 For 2025/26 there have been a small number of changes made by the DfE when comparing to 2024/25. The main changes can be summarised as follows:
 - an increased minimum pass-through requirement for local authorities in 2025/26 – the pass-through rate will increase from 95% to 96%, thus reducing the amount the Local Authority may retain to manage the service and promote good practice from 5% to 4%.
 - an expectation that local authorities will announce their funding rates to childcare providers by 28 February 2025 - which is intended to be mandated as a requirement in the regulations from the financial year 2026/27.
 - increased guidance on expectations around the special educational needs inclusion fund (SENI) and greater detail on how the disability access fund (DAF) should be allocated and distributed.
 - From 1 September 2025, two entitlement categories will have increases to their hours as follows:
 - **Eligible working parents of 2-year-old children:** 15 hours entitlement will be extended to 30 hours.
 - **Working parents of children from 9 months up to 2 years old:** 15 hours entitlement will be extended to 30 hours.
- 2.2 Local authorities continue to be required to set a local formula for all entitlements in 2025/26 as has been the case for 2024/25.
- 2.3 There continues to be a limit on the amounts that can be distributed through the local formula for supplements i.e. deprivation, quality and specific support for maintained nursery schools, which remains at **no more than 12%** of the total hourly rate.

3 Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) Allocation 2025/26

- 3.1 In 2024/25 the DfE introduced a new national funding formula to determine the hourly rates for each of the new working parent entitlements, and for the entitlement for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support. For 2025/26, the DfE have made no changes to either the 3 and 4-year-old formula, or the formula for 2-year-old and under, other than updating for the latest available data for the formula factors and accounting for the expansion to 30-hours of the working parent entitlement.
- 3.2 As in 2024/25, the DfE will continue to use the historic allocation basis set up in April 2017 for the existing entitlements and will also continue to use termly methodology for the new entitlements set up in 2024/25. **Table 1** below summarises the allocation basis for each entitlement type.

Table 1: Summary of the basis for funding allocations for each of the early years' entitlements

Entitlement	Data used for funding purposes	Methodology for funding allocations
The universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds	January 2025 and 2026 early years, school, and alternative provision censuses	Allocations will be based on a five-twelfths and seven-twelfths split:
The additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds		five-twelfths of January 2025 child numbers and seven-twelfths of the January 2026 child numbers
The 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children (due to be extended to 30 hours from 1 September 2025)	Summer and autumn 2025 termly headcounts and January 2026 censuses	Allocations will be based on a 13/ 14 /11 split, that is: thirteen-thirty-eighths of 2025 summer headcount, fourteen-thirty-eighths in the 2025 autumn headcount and eleven-thirty-eighths of the January 2026 censuses
The 15 hours entitlement for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support (formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement)	January 2025 and 2026 early years, school, and alternative provision censuses	Allocations will be based on a five-twelfths and seven-twelfths split: five-twelfths of January 2025 child numbers and seven-twelfths of the January 2026 child numbers.
The 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months up to 2 years old (due to be extended to 30 hours from 1 September 2025)	Summer and autumn 2025 termly headcounts and January 2026 censuses	Allocations will be based on a 13/ 14 /11 split, that is: thirteen-thirty-eighths of 2025 summer headcount, fourteen-thirty-eighths in the 2025 autumn headcount and eleven-thirty-eighths of the January 2026 censuses

- 3.3 The initial EYNFF hourly rates released by the DfE for 2025/26 have been compared to the equivalent rates from 2024/25. To clarify, these are the rates at which the DfE allocates funding to the Local Authority i.e. prior to any local formula adjustments for top slicing and redistribution as supplements.
- 3.4 The EYNFF rates are multiplied by the total number of children expected to access the relevant hourly entitlements of free childcare across the borough to produce the entitlement budgets. As new termly data becomes available in time these budgets are updated by the DfE.
- 3.5 The **3 and 4-year-olds** EYNFF hourly rate has increased from £7.92 to £8.07 in 2025/26, an increase of **only 1.9%**.

Note: the 2024/25 rate above is made up of the EYNFF of £7.80 and the separate EYBG of £0.12 which has been rolled into the EYNFF for 2025/26.

- 3.6 The **families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support** (FRAS - formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement) EYNFF hourly rate has increased from £11.18 to £11.61 in 2025/26, an increase of **3.8%**.

The hourly rate for **2-year-old working family entitlement** is the same as the FRAS rate above at £11.61 for 2025/26.

- 3.7 The **9 months to 2-year-old working family entitlement** EYNFF hourly rate has increased from £15.27 to £15.95 in 2025/26, an increase of **4.5%**.

4 Early Years Local Formula and Budget 2025/26

- 4.1 The local formula takes the EYNFF allocation for each entitlement and redistributes up to 12% of it as supplements, after first taking 4% to retain centrally for management and oversight of the service and the promotion of good practice.

- 4.2 The components of the local formula for 2025/26 are set out below.

- **Universal and Extended 3 and 4-year-olds hourly rate** to rise by 20p to £6.78 per hour.
- **2-year-old rate for families receiving additional support** (FRAS - formerly known as the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement) to rise by 93p to £10.55. This category has been specifically targeted by the EY Team for a higher increase than the 2-year-old working parents' rate to incentivise providers to increase their uptake of children within this category.
- **2-year-old rate for working parents** to rise by 25p to £9.87 per hour
- **9 months to 2-year-old rate for working parents** to rise by 42p to £13.55 per hour.
- **Deprivation funding** to be allocated based on IDACI weightings for those pupils in each entitlement on a termly basis, to be set at:
 - 35p per hour for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - 50p per hour for 2-year-old working parents and FRAS
 - 68p per hour for 9 months to 2-year-olds
- **Quality supplement for OFSTED grading** for those pupils in each entitlement on a termly basis, to be set at:
 - 15p per hour for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - 21p per hour for 2-year-old working parents and FRAS
 - 28p per hour for 9 months to 2-year-olds
- **Quality supplement for Teachers Pay and Pension Grant.** The TPPG for Maintained Nursery Schools is incorporated within their national supplement uplift. Others to be set at:
 - 12p per hour for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - 17p per hour for 2-year-old working parents and FRAS
 - 23p per hour for 9 months to 2-year-olds

- **Maintained nursery school supplement** is 23p per hour. This element of the 3 and 4-year-olds allocation is to be combined with the national MNS supplement of £0.817m.
 - **SEND Inclusion Fund** to be set at:
 - 13p per hour for **3 and 4-year-olds**
 - 18p per hour for **2-year-old working parents** and **FRAS**
 - 25p per hour for **9 months to 2-year-olds**
 - **Centrally retained funding** for management and oversight of the service and the promotion of good practice represents the maximum allowable of 4% of the total funding for each category and has therefore been set at:
 - 32p per hour for **3 and 4-year-olds**
 - 46p per hour for **2-year-old working parents** and **FRAS**
 - 64p per hour for **9 months to 2-year-olds**
- 4.3 The **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)** will be paid as a supplement at a rate of £1.00 per hour for each eligible child.
- 4.4 **Disability Access Fund** will be paid at a rate of £938 per eligible child.
- 4.5 **Table 2 in Appendix 1** shows the proposed 2025/26 Early Years Block Initial Budget for 2025/26 at £46.880m. This is based on January 2024 census figures and DfE estimated activity for new offerings from 2024/25 and updated funding rates for 2025/26. The figures presented are indicative and will be updated later using census data from January 2025 and January 2026.
- 4.6 The 3.6% centrally retained will be used as per **Table 3 in Appendix 1**, £1.682m. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy includes a phased shift of funding for Children's Centres onto the General Fund, rather than from DSG. The proposal is to reduce funding by 1% for 2025-26 and then reduce by larger increments in future years. This needs to be discussed with the children's centre lead going forward.
- 4.7 **Table 4 in Appendix 1** shows the amount of funding (£362k) that has been allocated to a contingency for variations in pupil numbers throughout the year and equates to less than 1% of total funding. It is worth noting this funding is part of the 96% pass through and will therefore ultimately be passed on to providers, but it is prudent to hold a reserve where demand history for the new categories is very short and may therefore fluctuate more than expected.
- 5 National Wraparound Childcare Programme**
- 5.1 The national wraparound childcare programme is part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget.
- 5.2 The Government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.
- 5.3 The programme is now underway in Lambeth and, while, indicative allocations have been provided for 2025/26, further details and requirements are awaited from the DfE.

6 Risks

- 6.1 Lambeth are still being protected by the loss cap, meaning they are being funded (at a higher level) by reference to historic funding decisions, rather than in line with the funding formula. Lambeth will therefore continue to see minimal increases in the per hour rate compared to national increases.
- 6.2 Pupil numbers are continuing to see a downward trend, and this, in conjunction with inflationary pressures, is impacting sufficiency in the EY sector. The Sector continues to have recruitment issues, which impacts the ability to expand their provision in future.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Schools Forum is requested to
- a. **Agree** to the proposed budget plans for the Early Years Block 2025/26 including the <1% contingency £0.362m for variations in pupil numbers;
 - b. **Agree** to the proposal to retain £1.682m (3.6%) of the under 2s, 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds funding for managing the service and promoting good practice; and
 - c. **To provide any comments it may wish to make to Cabinet/ Council on these proposals.**

Agenda Item 7

Appendix 1 Early Years Initial Budget Allocations 2025/26 and 4% Maximum Allowable Retention

Table 2: Early Years proposed allocations 2025/26, compared to 2024/25

Age Group	Planned Spending Component	Comparative Dec 24 data			Total Planned			Change £k
		PTE Pupils as at Dec 24	Rate / Hr	at 24/25 rates	PTE Pupils as at Dec 24	Rate / Hr	2025-26	
		570 hrs	£	£k	570 hrs	£	£k	
<2-year-olds	Base funding rate	1,270.83	£13.136	£9,516	1,270.83	£13.558	£9,821	£305
<2-year-olds	Deprivation supplement	1,270.83	£0.662	£479	1,270.83	£0.686	£497	£18
<2-year-olds	Quality 1 (OFSTED) supplement	1,270.83	£0.275	£199	1,270.83	£0.283	£205	£6
<2-year-olds	Quality 2 (TPPG) supplement	1,270.83	£0.224	£162	1,270.83	£0.230	£167	£5
<2-year-olds	SEND inclusion fund	1,270.83	£0.244	£177	1,270.83	£0.251	£182	£5
<2-year-olds	Retained central support	1,270.83	£0.000	£0	1,270.83	£0.638	£462	£462
<2-year-olds	Contingency for variations in pupils, etc	1,270.83	£0.729	£528	1,270.83	£0.305	£221	-£307
Total for: Under 2-year-olds			£15.270	£11,061		£15.950	£11,555	£494
2-year-olds	Base funding rate	1,166.71	£9.618	£6,396	1,166.7	£9.869	£6,563	£167
2-year-olds	Deprivation supplement	1,166.71	£0.484	£322	1,166.7	£0.499	£332	£10
2-year-olds	Quality 1 (OFSTED) supplement	1,166.71	£0.201	£134	1,166.7	£0.209	£139	£5
2-year-olds	Quality 2 (TPPG) supplement	1,166.71	£0.164	£109	1,166.7	£0.170	£113	£4
2-year-olds	SEND inclusion fund	1,166.71	£0.179	£119	1,166.7	£0.186	£124	£5
2-year-olds	Retained central support	1,166.71	£0.267	£177	1,166.7	£0.464	£309	£132
2-year-olds	Contingency for variations in pupils, etc	1,166.71	£0.267	£177	1,166.7	£0.213	£142	-£35
Total for: 2-year-olds working parents			£11.180	£7,434		£11.610	£7,722	£288
2-year-olds	Base funding rate	524.00	£9.618	£2,873	524.0	£10.546	£3,150	£277
2-year-olds	Deprivation supplement	524.00	£0.484	£145	524.0	£0.499	£149	£4
2-year-olds	Quality 1 (OFSTED) supplement	524.00	£0.201	£60	524.0	£0.209	£62	£2
2-year-olds	Quality 2 (TPPG) supplement	524.00	£0.164	£49	524.0	£0.170	£51	£2
2-year-olds	SEND inclusion fund	524.00	£0.179	£53	524.0	£0.186	£55	£2
2-year-olds	Retained central support	524.00	£0.267	£80	524.0	£0.000	£0	-£80
2-year-olds	Contingency for variations in pupils, etc	524.00	£0.267	£80	524.0	£0.000	£0	-£80
Total for: 2-year-old Families Receiving Additional Support (FRAS)**			£11.180	£3,340		£11.610	£3,467	£127
3 and 4-year-olds	Base funding rate	4,948.90	£6.583	£18,570	4,948.90	£6.779	£19,122	£552
3 and 4-year-olds	Deprivation supplement	4,948.90	£0.338	£953	4,948.90	£0.347	£979	£26
3 and 4-year-olds	Quality 1 (OFSTED) supplement	4,948.90	£0.140	£396	4,948.90	£0.145	£410	£14
3 and 4-year-olds	Quality 2 (TPPG) supplement	4,948.90	£0.114	£323	4,948.90	£0.118	£334	£11
3 and 4-year-olds	Maintained nursery supplement	4,948.90	£0.127	£358	4,948.90	£0.229	£645	£287
3 and 4-year-olds	SEND inclusion fund	4,948.90	£0.125	£352	4,948.90	£0.129	£364	£12
3 and 4-year-olds	Retained central support	4,948.90	£0.372	£1,050	4,948.90	£0.323	£911	-£139
3 and 4-year-olds	Contingency for variations in pupils, etc	4,948.90	£0.000	£0	4,948.90	£0.000	£0	£0
Total for: 3 and 4-year-olds			£7.800	£22,002		£8.070	£22,765	£763
<2-year-olds	EY pupil premium	13.41	£0.680	£5	13.410	£1.000	£8	£3
<2-year-olds	Disability access fund	11.00	£910.000	£10	11.000	£938.000	£10	£0
2-year-olds	EY pupil premium	149.00	£0.680	£58	149.000	£1.000	£85	£27
2-year-olds	Disability access fund	31.00	£910.000	£28	31.000	£938.000	£29	£1
3 and 4-year-olds	EY pupil premium	586.50	£0.680	£227	586.500	£1.000	£334	£107
3 and 4-year-olds	Disability access fund	96.00	£910.000	£87	96.000	£938.000	£90	£3
3 and 4-year-olds	Maintained nursery supplements (national)	272.00	£4.640	£719	272.000	£5.270	£817	£98
Total spend at the same participation level				£44,971			£46,880	£1,909

* Disability access fund rate is per child per year

** FRAS was previously referred to as the '2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement'

Table 3: Components of the allowable 4% Maximum retention within the Early Years allocation

Planned Spending Component	Purpose	Total Planned 2024/25 £'000	Total Planned 2025/26 £'000	Difference £'000
Central Early Years Team	Administering Early Years funding, supporting settings and Continuing Professional Development for staff at early years settings.	£960	£1,064	£104
Central Retention Reserve to manage the 96% pass through rule	A non-operational reserve within the allowable 4% retention to maintain the 96% pass through rate as headcount reduces during the year	£0	£300	£300
Children's Centres	Funding for each Children's Centre to assist them with the support they provide for Under 5s in their service offer.	£321	£318	-£3
Total		£1,281	£1,682	£401

Note: the allowable 4% has been allocated for each category except FRAS, where the 4% plus 1% contingency for variations in pupils has been used to increase the base funding rate. This makes the overall retention effectively 3.6%

Table 4: Other contingencies allowable within the 96% pass through rate

Contingency for variations in pupils, etc	We have held back just under 1% of the total pot as contingency for variations in headcount and changes that will occur outside census headcounts timings	£440	£362	-£78
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Agenda Item 8**Title:** Licensed Deficits 2025-26**Date:** 16th January 2025**Report to:** Schools Forum**Report for:** Information Decision Consultation Action**Author:** Mark Whiffin – AD Children and Young People - Finance**1.1 Background**

1.2 Governing Boards of maintained schools are required to set a balanced budget each year. In circumstances where they are unable to do so, they may apply to the local authority for a licensed deficit. If approved, this authorises them to operate within their forecast deficit. 23 schools out of 66 local authority (LA) maintained schools are in a position where they have been unable to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. This compares to 19 out of 68 schools for 2023/24.

1.3 Officers have worked with these schools to ensure that they have a recovery plan that can get back to balance within a reasonable period. Although the requirement is for this to be within three years, officers have advised schools to submit realistic budgets even if this criterion cannot be met, or to plan for recovery over a longer period, eg 5 years.

1.4 Lambeth has very significant falling pupil numbers, so schools have been advised that the overarching priority is to balance their budgets in-year before addressing the cumulative deficit. In some cases, an essential restructure will increase the deficit in the short term but will lead to financial stability and security in the longer term.

1.5 The LA continues a systematic approach to supporting and challenging schools' resource management. This includes an acknowledgement and thanks to schools with balanced budgets, and a more intense focus on schools that forecast deficits. It also includes ongoing collaboration with schools via face-to-face meetings with school staff, leadership and governors to review monthly and quarterly reporting and performance and school progress in line with their deficit recovery plans.

1.6 The school deficit recovery plans are a requirement if a school is to be granted a licensed deficit and authorisation by the Corporate Director for Children's Services and the Director of Education and Learning. These recovery plans then seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, which is currently being progressed via the Forward Plan for cabinet approval by 28th Feb 2025.

Summary position for all Lambeth maintained schools

1.7 In August 2024 the Director of Education and Learning issued letters to each of the maintained schools in Lambeth to comment on the 3-year budget plans which had been submitted that term (68 letters were issued but two schools have since academised, both would have required a licensed deficit). Based on the budget submissions in the summer term, 23 of 66 schools forecast a deficit budget. Since that time, 2 schools now forecast a

surplus and 2 further schools forecast a deficit, bringing the number of schools requiring a licensed deficit to 23.

1.8 Schools are categorised by type of letter sent, and the number of categories was increased further in 2024/25 as officers are focusing on supporting schools with future deficits to try to prevent a cumulative deficit. An in-year deficit can often be an indicator that steps are required for a school to remain in cumulative surplus. SRMA deployments (the DfE's School Resource Management Advisers programme) have been offered to many deficit schools and this year we have also been offering deployments to surplus schools who are forecasting future deficits to try to prevent the deficits.

1.9 **Table 1** summarises the contents of these letters.

Table 1: Number of schools receiving different types of letter regarding their 3-year budget submissions

Type of letter sent	Number of schools 23/24	Number of schools 24/25	Notes
Letter 1A (a) - All well	18	5	Cumulative surplus in all 3 years forecast, separated as those with in-year deficits may need more support
Letter 1A (b) - All well cumulatively, but in-year deficit in at least one year		15	
Letter 1B (a) - All well now in-year and cumulatively, but concerns about future	17	1	Cumulative surplus in 24/25 with future cumulative deficits
Letter 1B (b) - All well now cumulatively, but in-year deficit and concerns about future		12	
Letter 1C - All well, but concerns about large surplus	7	2	Both schools forecast in-year deficits which will use reserves, they remain in surplus cumulatively
Letter 2A - DRP showing recovery within 3 years	5	5	Deficit budget submitted with a Deficit Recovery Plan, in some cases the position for these schools has since been revised
Letter 2B – DRP, but recovery not possible within 3 years		5	
Letter 3A - Surplus in 2024/25, but need reassurance about future	5	6	Cumulative surplus in 24/25 but very large and significant deficit in future years
Letter 3B - Further work needed	16	15	Cumulative deficit in 24/25, Deficit Recovery Plan not submitted – 13 schools including MNS and GHF. 2 schools received this letter due to submitting surplus budgets of less than £1k.
Total	68	66	

1.10 Emerging themes

- 1.11 The majority of Lambeth schools (79%) are forecasting an in-year deficit in 24/25, with 7% forecasting an in-year surplus of less than £1k and 14% forecasting a surplus of over £1k. The 79% is a significant increase from the 23/24 outturn when 45% had an in-year deficit.
- 1.12 Declining pupil rolls is a major theme adversely impacting LB Lambeth school balances. Sometimes that is because falling rolls has left schools with unhelpful year-group sizes that can be uneconomic if more flexible class resourcing is not adopted. Sometimes it is because schools have been slow to recognise their circumstances or have expected an upturn that has not subsequently appeared.
- 1.13 The current funding arrangements give schools time to adapt to lower pupil numbers and lower funding. If pupil numbers are lower in October 2024, this may have been because the Published Admission Number was reduced and that would have been known a couple of terms earlier. Early indications of likely pupil numbers in October 2024 would have been provided when the national school place offers were made on 1 March 2024. Each school will have been aware of its on-off roll numbers. Final numbers will fluctuate, and funding is based on the October 2024 census day, but the leadership team would have had an indication of likely numbers in the period leading up to that point. This means the school would have two terms to make any necessary decisions and changes to staffing levels before funding, based on the October 2024 pupil numbers, took effect. Deferring such decisions only compounds the problem and means that more has to be done to address a bigger budget pressure later.

Schools requiring a licensed deficit

- 1.14 The schedule of licensed deficits being sought is in **Appendix 1**.

Schools with recovery plans

- 1.15 Of the 23 schools seeking a licensed deficit, 19 have produced recovery plans which appear to be reasonable, given the circumstances of the school. The production of three-year budgets has helped schools identify and quantify the issues they face and plans to instigate changes to resolve them. It is inevitable that each of those schools will have to revisit their three-year plan next year, but the plans they have put in place should assist them in adapting rather than having to begin all over again. All deficit schools were also encouraged to revisit their budgets in the Autumn term of 2024 to ensure that the latest pupil numbers and forecasts were included in their final submission.

Schools without recovery plans - Maintained Nursery Schools

- 1.16 There are four nursery schools (that form one federation with a fifth nursery school that is in surplus) that have been unable to produce recovery plans - Effra, Ethelred, Maytree and Triangle are part of the Lambeth Nursery Federation. While only four of the five maintained nursery schools in the federation are requesting licensed deficits, the remaining nursery school initially set a deficit budget, but subsequently submitted forecasts showing a surplus. However, they have a large in-year deficit in 24/25 and a significant and growing cumulative deficit in future years.

- 1.17 Maintained nursery schools are different in comparison to all other settings. Nursery classes in mainstream infant and primary schools have a leadership structure that is shared with the rest of the school and their rates are funded through the mainstream funding formula. Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) early years settings do not have the same requirements for a headteacher and qualified teachers to support all classes, nor is there the same expectation that the most vulnerable pupils are supported there.

Schools with De- delegation of Budgets

- 1.18 **Gipsy Hill Federation (GHF)** consists of 5 schools within Lambeth and at the end of 2023-24 the federation were issued a notice for LA intervention and budget de delegation was removed from the federation to secure spending controls across the federation. Over the last year the LA has been working closely with the schools to restabilise governance and leadership which did not have adequate financial control and that financial compliance over the previous years.
- 1.19 The initial process has been working on realigning budgets and operations linked to heavy staffing structures in comparison to pupil numbers. The government target for staff spending in schools is 70%, total staff spending in 2024/25 has been 87%. This has increased by 10% since 2023/24. Staff have not been reduced in line with reductions in funding.
- 1.20 2 of the schools within the federation are also part of the Pupil Place Planning strategy agreed by cabinet which has significantly impacted the initial adjustment of staffing structures to ensure stability for pupils and staff in the implementation of mergers and closures of sites.
- 1.21 There has been agreement in January 2025 of the de-federation of the schools, allowing each school to operate within an individual budget as much of the cost pressures identified was due to the Central recharging model of the federation and the historic apportionment across the federation and Southwark schools. The LA is also in negotiation with Southwark to support historical debts being honoured which are currently impacting the overall position of the schools.
- 1.22 The impact of ongoing reorganisational change within the federation over the past year has impacted the overall position of the school. Continued review of structural changes within the schools to be sustainable as individual schools is being completed with the intention for budgets to be delegated back to individual governing bodies in 2025-26.

Conclusions

- 1.23 It must be noted that the aggregate request for licensed deficits has significantly increased, and this is clearly a high risk. Under the Lambeth Scheme for Financing Schools, section 4.9.6, schools that expect to incur a deficit are obliged to seek a licensed deficit from the Local Authority. The LA may grant licensed deficits up to the equivalent of 40% of the surplus balances held by schools.
- 1.24 At the end of 2022/23 and 2023/24 the net outturn deficits were within the 40% threshold as shown in **Table 2** below. Separate figures are shown with Nursery Schools excluded - this is because they are not linked to the DSG specific Schools Block funding. The threshold

set in the Scheme for Financing Schools is specific to Schools Block funding and therefore, Nursery School deficit balances can be excluded from the calculation of the threshold balance.

- 1.25 For 2024/25, the 40% threshold will not be sufficient (based on current forecasts) to cover the aggregate licensed deficit request even if nursery schools are excluded. By 26/27, the difference over the threshold is forecast to be over £20m (over £15m with nursery schools excluded). It must be noted that the aggregate request for licensed deficits has significantly increased, and this is clearly a high risk, flagged by the difference in the set threshold limit. Consideration to future set thresholds must be given.

Table 2: Balances to award Licensed Deficits at 40% of surplus balances:

	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2026/27	2026/27
	£000's	Including Nurseries £000's	Excluding Nurseries £000's	(forecast) Including Nurseries £000's	(forecast) Excluding Nurseries £000's	(forecast) Including Nurseries £000's	(forecast) Excluding Nurseries £000's
Surplus balances held by schools	£23,384	£22,849	£22,518	£14,992	£14,964	£6,631	£6,631
40% of surplus balance	£9,354	£9,140	£9,007	£5,997	£5,986	£2,653	£2,653
Aggregate request	£4,440	£7,392	£5,001	£11,300	£8,549	£23,187	£17,782
Aggregate outturn	£5,512	£6,387	£4,687				
<i>Difference (over)/ under 40% threshold</i>	£3,842	£2,753	£4,320	(£5,303)	(£2,563)	(£20,535)	(£15,129)

1.26 Recommendations.

- a) Schools Forum is invited to note and comment on the contents of this report.

Appendix 1 - School Licensed Deficits Sought 2024/25

	School Name	Approved Licensed Deficit (LD) 2023/24 (revenue only)	Outturn 2023/24 (revenue only)	Outturn 2023/24 (revenue and capital)	Licensed Deficit sought 2024/25 (revenue and capital)	Note
Maintained Nursery Schools	Effra	(1,424,000)	(1,520,414)	(1,489,131)	(1,949,104)	
	Ethelred	(219,000)	(86,028)	(85,572)	(301,579)	
	Maytree	(231,000)	52,872	93,709	(320,363)	
	Triangle	(241,000)	(150,858)	(124,515)	(180,375)	
	MNS total	(2,115,000)	(1,704,428)	(1,605,509)	(2,751,421)	
Gipsy Hill Federation	Elm Wood	(145,000)	(106,017)	(100,334)	(283,536)	
	Fenstanton	<i>N/A - surplus school in 23/24</i>	97,395	130,589	(676,868)	
	Glenbrook	(191,000)	(83,029)	(58,965)	(261,955)	
	Kingswood	(1,632,000)	(1,611,461)	(1,576,081)	(2,499,092)	
	Paxton	(170,000)	(481,731)	(394,618)	(925,600)	
	GHF total	(2,138,000)	(2,184,843)	(1,999,409)	(4,647,050)	
Primary Schools	Archbishop Sumner	(515,000)	420,237	420,237	(272,227)	Surplus forecast from 25/26
	Christchurch SW9	(455,000)	(419,364)	(419,364)	(577,900)	
	Henry Cavendish	<i>Unlicensed deficit</i>	(287,210)	(230,284)	(288,087)	
	Hill Mead	<i>N/A - surplus school in 23/24</i>	286,729	297,042	(63,463)	
	Holy Trinity	(595,000)	(292,314)	(273,381)	(102,385)	
	Jessop	(182,000)	(174,291)	(174,291)	(230,067)	Surplus forecast from 26/27
	Jubilee	(548,000)	(617,749)	(584,436)	(498,050)	
	Larkhall	(135,000)	(162,166)	(140,921)	(222,517)	
	Loughborough	(86,000)	(104,729)	(86,190)	N/A	Academised 1/10/24
	St Andrews CE	(270,000)	(339,653)	(339,653)	(439,516)	
	St Bernadette	<i>N/A - surplus school in 23/24</i>	12,762	59,543	(61,636)	
	St John the Divine	<i>N/A - surplus school in 23/24</i>	81,734	81,734	(70,622)	Surplus forecast from 26/27
	St Mary's	<i>Unlicensed deficit</i>	(87,723)	(61,977)	(288,633)	
	St Saviours	(143,000)	(131,765)	(131,765)	(171,370)	
	Sudbourne	(280,000)	(115,936)	(115,201)	N/A	Surplus school in 24/25
Primary total	(3,209,000)	(1,931,438)	(1,698,908)	(3,286,473)		
Secondary Schools	Bishop Thomas Grant	<i>N/A - surplus school in 23/24</i>	197,923	260,125	(615,373)	
Secondary total	0	197,923	260,125	(615,373)		
Total		(7,462,000)	(5,622,786)	(5,043,702)	(11,300,317)	Total of 23 schools seeking a Licensed Deficit for 2024/25