

Schools Forum Meeting

Microsoft Teams

Thursday 8th July, 2021 at 4.30 pm

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action of Schools Forum</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.	<u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u>		
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>		
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2021</u>		3 - 6
4.	<u>Matters arising from the minutes</u>		
5.	<u>Terms of Reference – Report</u>	Approval	7 - 14
6.	<u>School Balances 2020/21 – Report</u>	Information only	15 - 16
7.	<u>DSG Outturn 2020/21 – Report</u>	Decision	17 - 20
8.	<u>Any other business</u>		
9.	<u>Date and time of next meeting</u>		

This page is intentionally left blank

**ST. HELENS COUNCIL
SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Draft minutes of the Meeting of the Schools Forum
Held on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 4.30 p.m. via Teams**

Members:

Primary School Head Teachers

- Mr D McCann, The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools
- *Mrs S Birchall, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary
- Mr I Wellens, Bleak Hill Primary
- Mrs A Hymers, St Mary's Birchley
- *Mrs D Holcroft, Grange Valley Primary/Wargrave CE Primary

Secondary School Head Teachers and Representatives

- *Mr A Rannard, De La Salle
- *Mrs C Twist, St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

Special School Head Teacher

- *Mr W Brooks, Mill Green

Primary School Governors

- *Mr W Leatherbarrow, Birchley St Mary's Catholic Primary
- *Ms A Wardell, Willow Tree Primary
- *Mr F Taylor, Eccleston Lane Ends Primary
- *Ms L Moore, Broad Oak/Bleak Hill Primary
- *Cllr T Long, Carr Mill Primary

Secondary School Governors

- *Ms S Begum, Cowley International College

Special School Governor

- *Mr W Bradbury, Mill Green School

Nursery School Head Teacher/Governor

- *Ms E Nicholson, Rainhill Nursery

14-19 Partnership

- *Ms M Williams, Carmel College

Union Representative

- *Mr B McConnell

PVI Early Years Provider Representative

- *Ms H Lomas, Little Explorers Nursery, Rainford

Diocesan and Archdiocesan Representative

Vacant

Academy Representatives

- *Mr S Hughes, Hope Academy
- *Ms K Sawe, The Three Saints Academy Trust
- *Mr R Owens, Rainhill Learning Village Multi Academy Trust
- *Ms K Knowles, Rainford High School
- Vacant

PRU Representative

- *Ms Rachel Guyer, PRU

Elected Member Observer

*Councillor K Groucutt

*Denotes Members Present

Also Present: Mr G Tyrer, Business Support Manager
 Mr S Webb, Finance Manager
 Mrs J Davies, Senior Assistant Director, Education & Children's Health
 Mr A Chisnall, Assistant Director, Integrated Support Services
 Mrs D Gilchrist, Principal Accountant for Schools

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Wellens, Mrs Hymers and Mr McCann.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2020

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

Mr Leatherbarrow thanked everyone working in the school community for their hard work supporting schools across the borough during this difficult period.

5. School budget and Early Years Funding 2021/22

Mr Tyrer confirmed that there are no fundamental changes to the school funding arrangements for the next financial year. He referred to the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) which sets out the local funding formula for St Helens and how the funding is distributed to schools. Local Authorities are required to submit the APT to the Department for Education (DfE) by 21st Jan 2021. Mr Tyrer explained that there is still no date for a hard National Funding Formula to be introduced, but indications were that it would not be before 2024/25. The DfE may issue consultations before this date in relation to school funding arrangements.

The APT is set out at Appendix 1a, and Appendix 1b sets out the detailed school budget figures. Mr Tyrer reminded the Schools Forum that the APT does not cover all of the funding that makes up a school budget, it excludes SEND funding and Early Years funding for nursery class provision.

Section 3 of the report summarises the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement which was received just before Christmas. The settlement shows an increase of £13m from 2020/21. The Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG) will cease next financial year and the funds brought into the DSG which accounts for an increase of £5.5m. There is extra money due to an increase in pupil numbers and additional new money in the baseline. Minimum funding levels for schools have been confirmed and are included in budget shares.

Mr Tyrer explained that a small allocation of TPG and TPECG will still come through as a separate grant relating to early years pupils – the Local Authority are still awaiting details for this.

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) has been retained at 1.84%, and £689k has been earmarked for the growth fund.

Mr Tyrer confirmed that there will be no change to Pupil Premium rates, though the DfE will now use Oct 2020 census data rather than Jan data.

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) includes a small element which is allocated to Local Authorities for central school costs. St Helens had an allocation in this block for historical commitments which was managed centrally on behalf of maintained schools. Recent funding changes has meant that the DfE no longer recognise historical commitments and therefore this will be removed from the funding allocation. Non-Voluntary Aided schools will no longer have larger costs of repairs picked up by the Local Authority, and these costs will need to be met from Delegated Budgets. Voluntary Aided schools are not affected.

Service contracts e.g. legionella will continue to be funded in the next financial year, but discussions will need to be had with schools for the year after.

Mr Tyrer explained that schools as a phase need to decide whether they wish to continue to de-delegate funds to the Local Authority to provide certain services; or retain the funds and provide the services themselves. Appendix 3 sets out the services which can be de-delegated. Academies are not part of the de-delegation arrangements.

Mr Tyrer explained that the Early Years funding is subject to amendment as this is based on termly headcounts. Section 7.4 of the report sets out how the funding will be allocated to early years providers. Mr Tyrer confirmed that there is extra funding in the system this year which will be passported to providers in the hourly rates.

Recommendations are set out at section 8 of the report.

Mr Rannard queried if the Pay Grants which had been transferred to the DSG are at the same rate as 20/21. Mr Tyrer confirmed that they are at the same rate.

Mrs Holcroft asked if the de-delegation arrangements could be amended due to some schools using other systems besides Capita SIMS. Mr Tyrer explained that it was too late to give notice for leaving the contract with Capita for 2021/22, but that if maintained schools no longer required the SIMS package then a discussion would be needed for 2022/23. If schools decide not to de-delegate the licences and subscriptions next year, and retain the funding, schools could make their own arrangement for licences or a combined arrangement could continue. Mr Tyrer stated that it would be more difficult if schools wanted to use a range of different suppliers, and the Local Authority may then take the view that schools would need to make their own arrangements. The actual costs for individual contracts may then be more expensive.

Mrs Holcroft stated that she would also like to look at a different financial system. Mr Tyrer explained that the Local Authority would still need to check any financial system as schools' income and expenditure form part of the Council's accounts, and so the Director of Finance would need assurance on any finance system used by schools.

Mr Leatherbarrow requested that this issue is discussed at headteacher meetings so that it is not too late to make any changes again next year.

Mr Bradbury raised a concern that if early years children do not attend their setting then funding will be reduced. Mr Tyrer explained that the guidance received from the DfE before Christmas was written before the current lockdown arrangements. Early years settings are expected to be open, but many parents have decided not to send their children. The DfE have stated that for census purposes schools and early years settings are expected to record attendance rather than children registered which would lead to a significant reduction in income. Further clarification from the DfE had been received today, which indicated that children who are registered at settings and would have attended if Covid had not happened should be recorded on the census. Mr Tyrer confirmed that the detail was still being looked at and would be communicated to all schools as soon as possible.

Mr Taylor queried if there was any information on capital allocations. Mr Tyrer confirmed that no allocations had been received yet but that he wouldn't expect any significant increase on previous years allocations.

Mr Taylor asked if there had been any announcements regarding additional funding for digital infrastructure. Mr Tyrer confirmed that there had been no new funding streams yet, though the government had provided laptops for certain pupil cohorts.

Mr Leatherbarrow referred to the additional funding announced relating to exceptional costs for Covid, and queried if a second claims window would be opened shortly. Mr Tyrer explained that there had already been two claims windows for additional costs relating to Covid, but only for costs incurred during the summer term. Schools had been contacted to encourage them to claim any costs that they had not claimed the first time around.

Mr Tyrer explained that there had been a new grant announced last term for additional staff costs relating to Covid, though the detail on how schools can claim had not yet been released.

The Schools Forum:

- Noted the contents of the report
- Approved the APT for submission to the DfE
- Confirmed the utilisation of the CSSB
- Confirmed de-delegation arrangements on the same basis as last year for primaries and secondaries
- Approved the allocation of the 2021/22 early years block and funding rates

9. Any other business

Cllr Groucutt echoed the Chair's earlier comments, understands the daily challenges that schools are facing and thanked everyone for their hard work. Cllr Groucutt hopes to be able to visit a lot of schools at some time in the future and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr Leatherbarrow thanked Mr Tyrer and his team for their hard work and continued support at this difficult time.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 4th March 2021 at 4.30pm



ST HELENS COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aims and Objectives

The Schools Forum is established in accordance with the requirements of Section 47A and 138(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

The purpose of the Schools Forum is to act as either a consultative or decision-making body in respect of particular aspects of school funding.

The establishment, constitution, arrangement of meetings, proceedings and functions of the Schools Forum shall be subject to and in accordance with regulations made from time to time.

1 Terms Of Reference

The role of the Forum is:

- a) to be consulted on changes and redistributions to the school funding formula and the financial effect of any such change;
- b) to be consulted on any proposed contract which is funded from the Schools Budget and is in excess of EU procurement thresholds;
- c) to approve changes proposed by the Local Authority to the Scheme for Financing Schools following consultation between the Local Authority, schools and governing bodies;
- d) to be consulted on any proposals to the Department for Education in respect of exclusions from the Minimum Funding Guarantee;
- e) to approve the carry forward of a deficit on central Dedicated Schools Grant expenditure in order for it to be funded from the following year's Schools Budget;
- f) to approve the de-delegation of mainstream school funding in respect of contingencies, administration of free school meals, licences and subscriptions, supply cover, support for minority ethnic pupils / underachieving groups and behaviour support services;
- g) to approve the level of central expenditure and the associated criteria in respect of funding for growth in pupil numbers to meet requirements for basic need including pre-opening and diseconomy of scale costs, and support for schools with falling rolls for surplus places in good or outstanding schools where a population bulge is expected in 2-3 years;



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

- h) to approve the level of central expenditure in respect of pre-16 pupil growth, equal pay back-pay, independent schools for non-SEN pupils, early years expenditure, capital expenditure funded from revenue, contribution to combined budgets, termination of employment costs, prudential borrowing costs, special educational needs transport costs, licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State, children and young people with high needs, admissions and servicing of schools forum;
- i) to be consulted on:
 - the commissioning of educational places for pupils with special educational needs and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
 - the commissioning of places and arrangements for paying top-up funding for children in Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision settings;
 - arrangements for early years provision;
 - administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants.
- j) to determine voting procedures in respect of the Forum;
- k) to elect a Chair of the Forum;
- l) to determine the length of office of members.

2 Membership

The Schools Forum shall comprise the following members.

2.1 School Governor Representatives

- a) Five Primary School Governor Representatives elected by governors who are themselves members of a governing body of a primary school maintained by the Authority at the time of the election.
- b) One Secondary School Governors Representative elected by governors who are themselves members of a governing body of a secondary school maintained by the Authority at the time of the election.
- c) One Special School Governor Representative elected by governors who are themselves members of a governing body of a special school maintained by the Authority at the time of the election.
- d) A governor who is employed as a head teacher at a school maintained by the Authority shall not be eligible for appointment as a school governor representative.
- e) The Local Authority shall conduct elections, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Local Authority and approved by the Schools Forum, having



received nominations for the position of governor representative and shall appoint governors elected.

2.2 Head Teacher Representatives

- a) Five Primary School Head Teachers recommended for appointment by individuals who are themselves head teachers of primary schools maintained by the Authority at the time of appointment.
- b) Two Secondary School Head Teachers or senior members of staff representing the head teachers recommended for appointment by individuals who are themselves head teachers of secondary schools maintained by the Authority at the time of appointment.
- c) One Special School Head Teacher recommended for appointment by individuals who are themselves head teachers of special schools maintained by the Authority at the time of appointment.
- d) One Nursery School Head Teacher or Governor Representative elected by Governors who is a member of a governing body of a Nursery School maintained by the Authority at the time of the election.

2.3 Other Representatives

- a) One union representative nominated for appointment by the teacher associations that are members of the Joint Union Forum not including those associations that represent head teachers.
- b) One representative nominated for appointment by the private, voluntary and independent providers of the free entitlement to early years education.
- c) One representative nominated by providers of 16 – 19 education.
- d) One representative nominated jointly by the Archdiocesan Authority, Diocesan Authority, Methodist and United Reformed Church Authorities.
- e) Five representatives nominated by the Governing Bodies of the Academies in the Local Authority's area.
- f) One representative nominated by the Local Authority Pupil Referral Units

2.4 Observer Status

- a) One elected member representative being the Executive Member of Council who is the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills & Business with the right to participate in discussions.



- b) The Education and Skills Funding Agency may be represented at meetings with the right to participate in discussions.

2.5 Substitute Representation

Substitute representatives shall be eligible to attend and vote at meetings. This applies to schools members, academies members and non-schools members.

2.6 Disqualification from membership for failure to attend meetings

The Schools Forum may determine to disqualify from its membership any member who has failed to attend three or more consecutive meetings thereof.

- 2.7 Proceedings of the Schools Forum are not invalidated by defects in the election or appointment of any member, or the appointment of the Chair. Nor does the existence of any vacancy on the Schools Forum invalidate proceedings.

3 Term of Office

- 3.1 All members of the Schools Forum shall be appointed for a period of two financial years from 1st April to 31st March of the following year.
- 3.2 Where a member of the Schools Forum ceases to be a member of the Governing Body or ceases to be a head teacher within the Authority, s/he will thereupon cease to be a member of the Schools Forum and, upon the election of a successor, that individual shall be invited to hold office for the remainder of the term of office in question.
- 3.3.1 Where a member of the Schools Forum ceases to be the Executive Member of the Council who is the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills & Business or the Union, PVI or Church Authority, the nominated successor shall be invited to hold office for the remainder of the term of office in question.

4 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- 4.1 Each meeting of the Forum will have a Chairperson.
- 4.2 The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Schools Forum shall be elected at the first meeting held during each financial year and on ceasing to hold office they will be eligible for re-election. The members of the Forum may not elect as Chair any member or the Forum who is an elected member or officer of the Authority.
- 4.3 In the event of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson being absent from a meeting, one of the other representatives shall be elected to chair the proceedings.



- 4.4 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of either Chairperson or Vice Chairperson the Forum will elect one of the members to fill that vacancy. A member so elected will hold office for a period to be determined by the Forum.
- 4.5 A Chairperson or Vice Chairperson will cease to hold office if they resign their office by giving written notice to the Clerk to the Schools Forum.

5 Meetings

- 5.1 The Schools Forum shall meet at least four times during the year.
- 5.2 All members shall be given, at least seven days before the date of a meeting:
- a) written notice thereof signed by the Clerk; and
 - b) a copy of the agenda for the meeting.
- 5.3 Any member of the Schools Forum shall be empowered to notify the Chairperson at the commencement of a meeting of the Schools Forum any additional item of business demanding urgent attention, which has not appeared on the written notice thereof.
- 5.4 The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted thereat shall not be invalidated by reason of an individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda.

6 Proceedings and Minutes

- 6.1 Any recommendation coming or arising before the Schools Forum shall be decided by a majority of the members present and where there is an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.2 Only school members (which include mainstream schools, Academies, special schools and PRU's) and representatives of the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector will be able to vote on the funding formula.
- 6.3 De-delegation will be limited to the specific primary and secondary phase of maintained schools members.
- 6.4 Minutes of proceedings of meetings of the School Forum shall be drawn up and signed at the next meeting by the person who is the Chairperson.
- 6.5 The Clerk to the Schools Forum shall ensure that-
- a) the draft minutes of every meeting, if they have been approved by the person acting as chairperson for each meeting, shall be distributed to members of the Schools Forum and the Director of Children's Services.



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

- b) the signed minutes of every meeting be distributed to all head teachers and governing body chairpersons.
- 6.6 The minutes of any part of a meeting that are confidential shall be kept separately and will not be available for inspection.
- 6.7 Members of the Schools Forum shall respect the confidentiality of items of business which members consider are confidential.

7 Clerk

- 7.1 The Clerk to the Schools Forum shall be an officer of the Authority.

8 Restriction on Local Authority members and officers

- 8.1 Participation is limited to the lead member for Education, Skills & Business, Director of Children's Services (or their representative), Chief Finance Officer (or their representative) or officers who are providing specific financial or technical advice to Schools Forum. Other officers will be able to participate where they are presenting a report, but their participation will be limited to their specific agenda item.

9 Access to Meetings

- 9.1 Meetings will be open to the public and Schools Forum papers, minutes and decisions will be published in public areas of the Local Authority website.

10 Quorum

- 10.1 The Forum shall be quorate if at least 40% of the membership (excluding vacancies) is present at the meeting.
- 10.2 Should the meeting be inquorate, it may still go ahead but the Forum cannot legally take decisions. An inquorate Forum may respond to Local Authority consultations and submit views to the Local Authority, however the Local Authority is not legally obliged to take account of these views.

11 Establishment of working groups

- 11.1 The Forum may set up working groups of members to discuss specific issues, and to produce draft advice and decisions for the Forum itself to consider and approve.
- 11.2 Urgent matters will be dealt with either through an unscheduled meeting or through alternative arrangements such as clearance by email correspondence or some other means. In these instances, all members of the Forum will have an opportunity to participate through reasonable opportunity for consideration.



- 11.3 The chair may not take a decision on behalf of the Forum, no matter how urgent the matter in question. The Forum may however agree a procedure for the Chair to give the authority a view on an urgent issue.

12 Declaration of Interest

- 12.1 If a member of the Schools Forum has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter and is present at a meeting of the Schools Forum at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, s/he shall at the meeting, and as soon as practicable after its commencement, disclose that fact and withdraw from the meeting during the consideration or discussion of the contract or matter and s/he shall not vote on any question with respect to the contract or matter.

This page is intentionally left blank

School Balances 2019/20 and 2020/21

School Name	Delegated Budget closing balance 2019/20	Delegated Budget closing balance 2020/21	2020/21 closing balance as a percentage of total budget share
	£	£	%
Rainhill Nursery	34,158	49,783	14.17
Allanson Street	115,243	277,023	11.24
Ashurst	22,413	75,733	7.49
Bleak Hill	30,660	64,845	3.24
Rainford Brook Lodge	59,491	57,895	6.76
Broad Oak	376,234	636,531	19.01
St Mary's Blackbrook	136,717	193,823	9.71
Carr Mill Primary	89,022	174,181	10.28
Chapel End	47,730	25,691	2.58
Corpus Christi	151,454	141,863	18.27
The District	243,829	331,287	19.51
Eaves	178,522	248,732	22.36
Eccleston Lane Ends	80,984	89,783	9.01
Eccleston Mere	-22,008	14,555	0.83
Haydock English Martyrs	148,482	151,528	10.21
Garswood	69,599	76,190	8.91
Grange Valley	103,247	125,494	7.36
Holy Cross	73,888	67,523	6.59
Holy Spirit	118,402	176,844	15.37
Lagh Vale	220,048	300,601	13.67
Longton Lane	41,801	87,157	8.00
Lyme	13,030	81,226	7.60
Merton Bank	164,156	222,103	18.18
Newton le Willows Primary	131,051	285,402	10.90
Oakdene	53,213	96,276	10.95
Queen's Park	166,297	301,062	14.97
Rectory	74,204	133,508	15.67
Rivington	216,867	237,689	21.84
Robins Lane	-20,585	7,158	0.65
Rainford CE	22,670	N/A	N/A
St Aidan's	-11,589	33,296	3.59
St Anne's	188,533	197,785	14.96
St Austin's	-21,086	-43,270	-4.57
St Bartholomew's	94,418	140,552	11.93
St John Vianney	19,299	19,249	2.18
St Julie's	19,672	58,475	6.07
The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools - Infants	48,895	124,620	14.05
The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools - Juniors	21,988	69,211	6.88
St Mary's Birchley	87,741	120,510	14.65
St Peter's	146,653	178,900	18.53
St Peter & St Paul	40,708	37,862	4.09
St Teresa's	95,874	206,253	23.43
St Theresa's	20,601	75,832	6.62
Sherdley	128,962	149,384	7.62
Sutton Manor	112,284	83,963	7.17
Thatto Heath	43,366	177,916	5.46
Sutton Oak	212,178	221,026	13.77
Wargrave	177,657	255,531	12.94
Willow Tree	150,259	244,428	17.63
St Thomas of Canterbury	78,896	111,801	13.14
Total Primary Schools	4,796,128	7,194,809	
Cowley	753,518	1,298,222	13.80
Haydock	14,540	556,178	11.06
De La Salle	377,191	852,101	12.59
St Augustine of Canterbury	43,943	192,710	5.23
St Cuthbert's	173,052	428,992	7.47
Total Secondary Schools	1,362,244	3,328,202	
Penkford	102,223	156,028	9.72
Mill Green	319,337	435,228	19.60
Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College	190,984	216,136	4.56
Pupil Referral Unit	336,347	147,258	5.19
Total Special Schools	948,891	954,650	
Grand Total	7,107,263	11,477,662	

* Includes £37,748 Schools Direct balance

** Includes £13,019 ASD/MLD balances

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum

8th July 2021

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020/21

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the final expenditure position in relation to the 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

2. Background

- 2.1 The DSG funding regulations require that any surplus arising from a particular year is carried forward and spent on items within the schools budget. The Authority, in consultation with the Schools Forum, is required to decide how the surplus should be used. Similarly, any deficit within the DSG should be carried forward and be dealt with from future DSG income. In the event that a local authority has an overall deficit on its DSG at the end of the financial year, or if any prior year surplus has substantially reduced during the year, the Authority must work with the Department for Education (DfE) as required to effectively manage the situation.

3. Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21

- 3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the outturn position in respect of the DSG for 2020/21 (subject to external audit). The table below summarises the final position:

Summary of DSG outturn 2020/21	£m
Total budget 2020/21 (after academies and high needs block recoupment)	119.376
Total expenditure 2020/21	120.350
In year (2020/21) DSG pressure / (surplus) (prior to the 2020/21 Early Years Block adjustment)	0.974
Prior year adjustment	(0.050)
Prior year balance brought forward	(0.182)
Total DSG pressure / (surplus) (prior to the 2020/21 Early Years Block adjustment)	0.742

- 3.2 There was a significant pressure within the high needs block of the DSG (£2.120m). Funding within this block was not sufficient to meet the underlying level of demand for pupils with Statements or Education, Health and Care Plans, and those pupils who cannot be educated in a mainstream setting and require a place in a specialist

independent provision The cost of these independent school fees also includes educational provision for children looked after where the nature of the placement necessitates alternative educational arrangements. .

- 3.3 Budget provision for non-maintained, independent and further education providers (line 1.2.3) was overspent by £2.226m whilst top up funding for maintained schools and academies was overspent by £0.374m (lines 1.2.1 and 1.2.2). These overspends were partially offset by underspends of £0.336m in respect of SEND support services (line 1.2.5) and £0.144m relating to other alternative provision services (line 1.2.7).
- 3.4 There is an initial overall underspend of £0.694m in relation to the early years block. However, the funding in support of the Free Education Early Years Entitlement within this block is provisional as it is based on historic data. A final adjustment relating to the 2020/21 early years block will be made during the 2021/22 financial year utilising the January 2021 census figures. Normally, the DfE would use the January 2021 census numbers to update the final funding allocation to cover the September 2020 to March 2021 period. Instead it is currently intended that final funding will be updated as follows:
- provisional allocations will be updated based on nine-twelfths of the January 2020 census numbers (to cover the April 2020 to December 2020 period); and
 - the remaining three-twelfths of the year will be updated using the January 2021 census numbers (to cover the January 2021 to March 2021 period).

It is our understanding that use of the January 2021 census numbers for the spring term remains under review and is subject to final confirmation. However, it is anticipated that the DfE will revise the 2020/21 early years block allocation downwards overall for the Authority, thereby significantly reducing this underspend.

- 3.5 There was an underspend of £0.426m in respect of the schools block which was primarily related to pupil growth / infant class sizes (line 1.4.10 and 1.4.13). However, it should be noted that the funding allocated within the schools block for this purpose is prescribed by the DfE and that for the 2021/22 financial year, this has been significantly reduced from £0.932m to £0.689m (a reduction of £0.243m).
- 3.6 There was a small underspend of £0.026m in respect of the central school services block of the DSG. Schools Forum have previously been informed that from 2020/21 there have been significant changes to the historical commitments element of this block. There had been a longstanding arrangement with schools where an amount of funding is set aside to be managed on behalf of schools (included in 1.4.6 – Capital Expenditure from Revenue). This funding predominately relates to statutory servicing contracts and lower value landlord repairs for non-voluntary aided maintained schools. In February 2021, the Authority wrote to schools to advise them of the budgetary arrangements they will need to consider in this regard for future years.

4. Funding the in-year budget deficit

- 4.1 As set out at Section 3, in 2020/21 expenditure exceeded in year resources by £0.974m. Accumulated prior year reserves total £0.182m and as previously approved by Schools Forum, these have been used to part fund this pressure, together with the £0.050m prior year adjustment. This results in an overall deficit

position on the DSG of £0.742m, however as reported at paragraph 3.4, it is anticipated that this deficit will increase following the final adjustment to the 2020/21 early years block by the DfE.

- 4.2 It is anticipated that because there is an overall deficit on the DSG, the Authority will be required to prepare and submit to the DfE, a Deficit Management Plan that sets out how we intend to address this issue. Provisions included in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020, establish a statutory basis that a deficit must be carried forward to be dealt with from future DSG income, unless the Secretary of State authorises the local authority not to do this.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Schools Forum:

- notes the contents of the report; and
- approves that in year 2020/21 underspends against the schools and central services blocks of the DSG, together with any underspend that may result against the early years block following the final budget adjustment by the DfE, are used to help mitigate the pressures associated with the high needs block.

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT OUTTURN 2020/21

s251 Line	S251 Narration	Original Budget £m	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
1.0.1	Individual schools budget (excl. academy recoupment)	93.252	93.286	92.723	-0.563
1.0.2	High needs place funding (ISB)	5.478	5.478	5.478	0
1.2.1	Top up funding – maintained schools	10.671	10.515	10.896	0.381
1.2.2	Top up funding - academies	0.680	0.680	0.673	-0.007
1.2.3	Top up funding – non-maintained & independent providers	3.923	3.923	6.149	2.226
1.2.5	SEN support services	1.885	1.885	1.549	-0.336
1.2.7	Other alternative provision services	0.466	0.466	0.322	-0.144
1.3.1	Central expenditure on early years entitlement	0.715	0.715	0.559	-0.156
1.4.2	School admissions	0.201	0.201	0.201	0
1.4.3	Servicing of schools forums	0.023	0.023	0.013	-0.010
1.4.6	Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	0.722	0.722	0.738	0.016
1.4.10 / 1.4.13	Pupil growth / Infant class sizes	0.932	0.932	0.532	-0.400
1.4.11	SEN transport	0.050	0.050	0.050	0
1.4.14	Other items	0.120	0.120	0.129	0.009
1.5.1	Education welfare service	0.104	0.104	0.104	0
1.5.3	Statutory / regulatory duties	0.276	0.276	0.234	-0.042
		119.498	119.376	120.350	0.974
	Prior year adjustment	0	0	-0.050	-0.050
	DSG b/fwd from prior years	0	0	-0.182	-0.182
		119.498	119.376	120.118	0.742