



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
Schools Forum

Date: Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Time: 1.45 pm

Place: Remotely via Zoom – livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

Members are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Clerk to the Forum: Mark Leavesley

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4302

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Declarations of interests	
3 Revenue Monitoring 2024/25 Report of Interim Corporate Director of Children’s and Education Services	3 - 8
4 High Needs Block Budget 2025/26 Report of Corporate Director for Finance and Resources	9 - 14
5 Early Years Budget 2025/26 Report of Interim Corporate Director of Children’s and Education Services	15 - 18
6 Schools Block Budget 2025/26 Report of Corporate Director for Finance and Resources	19 - 32
7 Central Expenditure Budget 2025/26 Report of Corporate Director for Finance and Resources	33 - 42
8 De-delegated Trade Unions Budget 2025/26 Report of Corporate Director for Finance and Resources	43 - 50
9 High Needs Recovery Plan and Inclusion Model Interim Head of Access to Learning to report	51 - 52
10 Schools Forum Working Group Interim Head of Access to Learning to report	53 - 54
11 Work Plan To note / discuss the work plan	55 - 56
12 Date of next meeting Remotely at 1.45pm on Tuesday 29 April 2025	

If you need any advice on declaring an interest in any item above, please contact the Clerk to the Forum shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum - 14 January 2025

Title of paper:	2024-25 Revenue Monitoring update
Corporate Director: Director:	Sarah Nardone - Childrens Integrated Services (Interim) Nicholas Lee – Education Services
Report author and contact details:	Sadrul Alam – Interim Strategic Business Partner sadrul.alam@Nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Donna Munday and Susan Woodland - Senior Commercial Business Partners
Summary To update Forum members on the current Revenue Monitoring forecast for the 2024-25 DSG.	
Recommendation:	
1	To note the current Revenue Monitoring forecast position for 2024-25 DSG.

1. Reasons for recommendation

1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the DSG income received for the Financial Year 2024/25, the likely expenditure incurred, and the indicative forecast for 2024-25 financial year-end outturn.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Schools Forum, on 16 January 2024, noted the following allocations for DSG for the year 2024-25:

SUMMARY OF 2024-25 DSG BUDGET BY BLOCK £m					
DSG BLOCK	DSG income	Block transfer	DSG reserves	ESFA reimburs.	2024/25 Budget
Schools	277.855	0	1.597	0.302	279.754
Central Schools	3.654	0.508	0	0	4.162
Early years	31.538	0	0	0	31.538
High Needs	61.208	-0.508	0	0	60.7
TOTAL	374.256	0	1.597	0.302	376.155

2.2 The allocation has since been revised on 19 November 2024 as follows:

SUMMARY OF 2024-25 DSG BUDGET BY BLOCK £m					
DSG BLOCK	DSG income	Block transfer	DSG reserves	ESFA reimburs.	2024/25 Budget
Schools	277.917	0	1.597	0.302	279.816

Central Schools	3.683	0.508	0	0	4.191
Early years	30.885	0	0	0	30.885
High Needs	61.091	-0.508	0	0	60.583
TOTAL	373.577	0	1.597	0.302	375.476

- 2.3 The schools block allocations have been passported to maintained schools and Academies and it is anticipated that the expenditure will be managed within the set allocations.
- 2.4 The Central Schools' allocations is anticipated to be delivered within budget.
- 2.5 Although the DfE have reduced their original allocation to £30.885m, it is expected that providers will still be able to deliver within the budget envelope and there is not expected to be an adverse negative impact.
- 2.6 The table below summarises the revised allocation for early years, and the actuals at year-end outturn for 2024-25 are expected to be delivered within this DfE budgetary allocation.

Description	£m
3 & 4 YO funding indicative funding - schools (universal)	14.302
3 & 4 YO funding indicative funding - schools additional 15 hours	4.565
3 & 4 YO Disability Access Funding (DAF)	0.167
3 & 4 YO EY Pupil Premium	0.309
2 Year Old funding - providers (disadvantaged)	4.443
2 Year Old funding - providers (working parents)	3.365
Under 2s (9 months 24months)	3.344
2 Year old Pupil premium	0.135
Under 2s Pupil Premium	0.015
2 year old DAF	0.050
under 2 DAF	0.020
Maintained nursery schools – Supplementary	0.171
Total budget allocation	30.885

- 2.6 There are expected to be significant pressures on the High Needs Block in line with issues that are being experienced in the sector both regionally and nationally. A detailed summary is included in the table below as at period 8 November 2024,

which is illustrating a net in-year deficit of £6.414m against a budget set at the beginning of the financial year for an overall surplus balance of £0.978m.

High Needs Block Budget Monitoring as at 30th November 2024				
Expenditure	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Narrative
	2024/25 £	2024/25 £	under/ (overspend)	
High Level Needs Support in Mainstream Schools	11,552,000	12,808,557	(1,256,557)	Continued growth is being experienced in both the increase in EHCP's and those pupils requiring SEN support without an EHCP
SEN Resource Units	1,059,000	1,219,952	(160,952)	
Academy Special Schools	3,303,477	6,059,476	(2,755,999)	Increase demand in places required
Rosehill Special Schools	4,641,099	4,883,699	(242,600)	
Oakfield Special School	5,863,425	5,936,725	(73,300)	
Special Schools Transitional Funding	252,000	252,000	0	
Cross-border top ups (net)	357,000	357,000	0	
Post 16 Mainstream FE/ILP	2,066,000	1,491,763	574,237	Increased demand in the sector as a whole
Independent/Non Maintained Special Schools	1,714,000	3,615,803	(1,901,803)	Increased cfees and charges as well as volume of placements
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for Academy Special		25,395	(25,395)	
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for Mainstream settings		48,802	(48,802)	These costs are now being split out so that better analysis can take place to better understand and control these costs going forward.
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for EOTAS		252,794	(252,794)	
Post 16 INMS FE		1,515,410	(1,515,410)	
Post 16 Bespoke AP/SEN Packages		626,468	(626,468)	
High Needs settings TPG/TPECG (AP Free Schools)	95,000	95,000	0	
AP free schools additional funding	117,000	294,028	(177,028)	
PRU - HHE Indicative hospital funding excluding NEST	2,355,000	2,355,000	0	
HHE contingency	174,000	174,000	0	
PRU - UDLC Indicative	5,992,000	6,709,867	(717,867)	Volume of P'Ex pupils increasing, and at a younger age range
Exclusions statutory recharges	(289,800)	(389,800)	100,000	
AP Devolved Allocation net of FCR estimate	3,383,000	2,472,000	911,000	An exercise has now concluded to invoice schools that have excluded above and beyond their allowance under the AP Inclusion Model Agreement
AP Contingency	629,000	629,000	0	
1 SUB TOTAL PROVISION BUDGETS	43,263,201	51,432,938	(8,169,738)	
Fair Access - Primary	53,000	53,000	0	
Fair Access - Secondary	263,000	263,000	0	
Fair access complex casework now in Ed Welfare	117,000	117,000	0	
Other AP - Teenage Parents casework now in Ed Welfare	45,000	45,000	0	
Fair Access/Inclusion staff in Access to Learning	206,000	200,000	6,000	
Other Inclusion staff	56,500	56,500	0	
SLT - 70% Heads of Service, 20% Director of Education	155,000	155,000	0	
NEST (See Above)	416,000	416,000	0	
Other AP - Education cost of residential placements	1,631,700	1,631,700	0	
Other AP - Statemented boys behaviour	115,500	115,500	0	
Oakfield Outreach	169,500	169,500	0	
SEN support services - SEN team	393,600	374,914	18,686	
SEN support services - SEN specialist equipment	53,500	50,977	2,523	
Support for Inclusion - Sensory Team	731,500	731,500	0	
Support for Inclusion - Learning Support Team	432,100	432,100	0	
Support for Inclusion - Autism Team (incl Ed Psych)	593,000	593,000	0	
Support for Inclusion - General & Overall Management	109,000	104,092	4,908	
EYFS SEN staffing	187,000	187,000	0	
Special Education Needs Transport	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	
Therapy costs	84,000	80,000	4,000	
Disability Access- managed by Oakfield	200,000	0	200,000	
IST - BST	580,700	553,000	27,700	
Special school outreach - independent travel trainers	94,500	90,000	4,500	
Habilitation Officer	52,500	50,000	2,500	
2 SUB TOTAL CENTRAL EXPENDITURE	7,739,600	7,468,783	270,817	Please note some central charges are made at the end of the financial year
3=1+2 High Needs TOTAL Block Expenditure before Recoupment	51,002,801	58,901,721		
adjst Recoupment	6,497,835	6,497,835		
adjst Transfer to Schools Block from Reserves	1,597,000	1,597,000		
adjst Transfer to Central Schools Services Block from HNB	508,000	508,000		
4 Planned HNB Expenditure	59,605,636	67,504,556		
5 Allocation	61,091,473	61,091,473		
6=5-4 Surplus / (Deficit)	1,485,837	(6,413,083)	(7,898,921)	Movement between planned surplus and overspend

2.7 The overall DSG position on 8 November 2024 for the in-year position is a forecast deficit of £6.414m (as per the table below).

SUMMARY OF 2024-25 DSG BUDGET FORECAST BY BLOCK £m							
DSG block	DSG Budget	Block trans.	DSG reserves	ESFA reimb.	24/25 Budget	Forecast 24-25	Variance
Schools	277.917	0.000	1.597	0.302	279.816	279.816	-0.000
Central Schools	3.683	0.508	0.000	0.000	4.191	4.191	-0.000
Early years	30.885	0.000	0.000	0.000	30.885	30.885	0.000
High Needs	61.091	-0.508	0.000	0.000	60.583	66.997	-6.414
TOTAL	373.577	0.000	1.597	0.302	375.476	381.889	-6.414

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 None.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

4.1 None.

5. Consideration of Risk

5.1 None.

6. Other relevant comments

6.1 None.

7. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

7.1 None.

8. Published documents referred to in this report

8.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum - 14 January 2025

Title:	High Needs Block Budget 2025-26
Corporate Director: Director:	Stuart Fair - Finance and Resources Nicholas Lee – Education Services
Report author and contact details:	Donna Munday - Senior Commercial Business Partner (High Needs) Donna.Munday@Nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Summary
Schools Forum are requested to note the Provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (HNB) Budget described herein.

The figures contained within this report are provisional and indicative and will be finalised following the finalisation of 2025/26 Service Budgets, which are formally agreed at the full Council meeting in March 2025.

Recommendations:	
1	To note a deficit budget is being set for the financial year 2025/26 that will reduce Reserves by a further £2m minimum.
2	To agree expenditure of £1m to be allocated as a contribution to SEN Transport. Noting that a proposal will be submitted to full Council in March 2025 to reduce this by £500k in 2025/26, a further £500k in 2026/27, and for the charges to be picked up by the Local Authority General Fund and, that should agreement be reached, then this will provide a contingency of £500k for 2025/26. (2024/25 contingency = £600k).
3	To note a: (a) 3% Inflationary uplift for Special Schools, Resource Bases and PRU's; (b) 3% Growth uplift for Post 16 provision, and 0% Inflationary uplift; (c) 0% Growth uplift for independent/non-maintained special schools (INMSS) provision, and 0% Inflationary uplift.

1. Funding Allocation from ESFA

Table 1 below shows the indicative High Needs Block Funding Allocation for 2025/26 and its prior year comparators

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
High Needs Block Allocation	£ 45,000,700	£ 52,140,715	£ 58,282,086	£ 61,091,473	£ 66,892,744
Recoupment Deductions	£ 5,836,835	£ 6,018,002	£ 6,273,668	£ 6,497,835	£ 6,602,000
Available for distribution	£ 39,163,865	£ 46,122,713	£ 52,008,418	£ 54,593,638	£ 60,290,744
Year on Year Uplift		£ 6,958,848	£ 5,885,705	£ 2,585,220	£ 5,697,106
% Uplift		15%	11%	4%	9%

2. Provisional budget and year on year comparators

2.1 Table 2 below shows the Indicative High Needs Block Expenditure Budget for 2025/26 and its prior year comparators.

Narrative	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Indicative	Report Note
	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	
High Level Needs Support in Mainstream Schools	£ 12,847,000	£ 11,002,184	£ 9,617,148	£ 11,552,000	£ 12,808,557	£ 12,808,557	2.1.1
SEN Resource Units	£ 831,960	£ 858,288	£ 447,460	£ 1,059,000	£ 1,219,952	£ 1,256,551	2.1.2
Academy Special Schools Top Up	£ 11,773,322	£ 3,202,624	£ 4,680,803	£ 3,303,477	£ 6,059,476	£ 6,241,260	2.1.3
Rosehill Special Schools		£ 4,501,286	£ 4,056,920	£ 4,641,099	£ 4,883,699	£ 5,030,210	2.1.3
Oakfield Special School		£ 5,688,011	£ 5,442,807	£ 5,863,425	£ 5,936,725	£ 6,114,827	2.1.3
Special Schools Transitional Funding	£ 200,000	£ 240,000	£ 214,306	£ 252,000	£ 252,000	£ 252,000	No Increase
Special Schools Contingency	£ -	£ -	£ 266,192	£ -	£ -	£ -	No Increase
Specials TPG & TPECG funding			£ 266,884	£ -	£ -	£ -	No Increase
Cross-border top ups (net)	£ 356,884	£ 357,000	£ -	£ 357,000	£ 357,000	£ 357,000	No Increase
Post 16 Mainstream FE/ILP	£ 1,848,000	£ 1,968,000	£ 2,302,156	£ 2,066,000	£ 1,491,763	£ 1,536,516	2.1.4
Post 16 INMS FE					£ 1,515,410	£ 1,560,872	2.1.4
Post 16 Bespoke AP/SEN Packages					£ 626,468	£ 645,262	2.1.4
Independent/Non Maintained Special Schools	£ 1,582,000	£ 1,632,000	£ 2,547,322	£ 1,714,000	£ 3,615,803	£ 3,615,803	2.1.5
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for Academy Special Schools.					£ 25,395	£ 25,395	2.1.6
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for Mainstream settings					£ 48,802	£ 48,802	2.1.6
Bespoke AP/ SEN Packages for EOTAS					£ 252,794	£ 252,794	2.1.6
High Needs settings TPG/TPECG (AP Free Schools)	£ 90,750	£ 90,750	£ 94,625	£ 95,000	£ 95,000	£ 95,000	No Increase
AP free schools additional funding	£ -	£ 111,679	£ 111,679	£ 117,000	£ 294,028	£ 294,028	No Increase
PRU - HHE Indicative hospital funding excluding NEST	£ 2,083,022	£ 2,243,112	£ 3,004,666	£ 2,355,000	£ 2,355,000	£ 2,425,650	2.1.7
HHE contingency	£ 53,000	£ -		£ 174,000	£ 174,000	£ 174,000	No Increase
PRU - UDLC Indicative	£ 4,486,299	£ 5,706,529	£ 7,461,874	£ 5,992,000	£ 6,709,867	£ 6,911,163	2.1.7
Pri Exclusions & Admissions	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	2.1.7
Sec Exclusions & Admissions	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	2.1.7
Exclusions statutory recharges	-£ 93,000	-£ 276,000		-£ 289,800	-£ 389,800	-£ 389,800	2.1.7
AP Devolved Allocation net of FCR estimate	£ 2,571,178	£ 1,711,125	£ 2,151,896	£ 3,383,000	£ 2,472,000	£ 3,383,000	2.1.8
AP Contingency	£ 259,350	£ 598,620	£ 19,425	£ 629,000	£ 629,000	£ 629,000	No Increase
New SEN Units including one-off set up	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
SUB TOTAL PROVISION BUDGETS	£ 38,889,766	£ 39,635,207	£ 42,686,163	£ 43,263,201	£ 51,432,938	£ 53,267,889	
Fair Access - Primary	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ 21,311	£ 53,000	£ 53,000	£ 54,590	2.1.9
Fair Access - Secondary	£ 250,000	£ 250,000	£ 12,945	£ 263,000	£ 263,000	£ 270,890	2.1.9
Fair access complex casework now in Ed Welfare	£ 108,577	£ 108,577	£ 764,000	£ 117,000	£ 117,000	£ 120,510	2.1.9
Other AP - Teenage Parents casework now in Ed Welfare	£ 41,032	£ 41,032		£ 45,000	£ 45,000	£ 46,350	2.1.9
Fair Access/Inclusion staff in Access to Learning	£ 196,221	£ 196,221	£ 156,372	£ 206,000	£ 200,000	£ 212,180	2.1.9
Other Inclusion staff	£ 53,867	£ 53,867	£ 53,867	£ 56,500	£ 56,500	£ 58,195	2.1.9
SLT - 70% Heads of Service, 20% Director of Education	£ 147,603	£ 147,603	£ 147,603	£ 155,000	£ 155,000	£ 159,650	2.1.9
NEST (See Above)	£ 270,151	£ 396,272		£ 416,000	£ 416,000	£ 428,480	2.1.9
Other AP - Education cost of residential placements	£ 1,554,000	£ 1,554,000	£ 2,079,782	£ 1,631,700	£ 1,631,700	£ 1,680,651	2.1.9
Other AP - Statemented boys behaviour	£ 110,000	£ 110,000	£ 110,000	£ 115,500	£ 115,500	£ 118,965	2.1.9
Oakfield Outreach	£ 71,400	£ 161,500		£ 169,500	£ 169,500	£ 174,585	2.1.9
SEN support services - SEN team	£ 374,914	£ 374,914	£ 347,914	£ 393,600	£ 374,914	£ 405,408	2.1.9
SEN support services - SEN specialist equipment	£ 65,977	£ 50,977	£ 48,145	£ 53,500	£ 50,977	£ 55,105	2.1.9
Support for Inclusion - Sensory Team	£ 711,706	£ 696,706	£ 715,285	£ 731,500	£ 731,500	£ 753,445	2.1.9
Support for Inclusion - Learning Support Team	£ 411,555	£ 411,555	£ 400,301	£ 432,100	£ 432,100	£ 445,063	2.1.9
Support for Inclusion - Autism Team (incl Ed Psych)	£ 564,867	£ 564,867	£ 537,959	£ 593,000	£ 593,000	£ 610,790	2.1.9
Support for Inclusion - General & Overall Management	£ 104,092	£ 104,092	£ 127,688	£ 109,000	£ 104,092	£ 112,270	2.1.9
EYFS SEN staffing	£ 178,156	£ 178,156	£ 201,772	£ 187,000	£ 187,000	£ 192,610	2.1.9
Special Education Needs Transport	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,000,000	2.1.10
Therapy costs	£ 80,000	£ 80,000	£ 70,188	£ 84,000	£ 80,000	£ 86,520	2.1.9
Disability Access- managed by Oakfield	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 372,836	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 206,000	2.1.9
IST - BST	£ 470,282	£ 553,000	£ 538,197	£ 580,700	£ 553,000	£ 598,121	2.1.9
R2i Manager (August-March) - for 2023/24 in IST figure	£ 40,947	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Special school outreach - independent travel trainers	£ 90,000	£ 90,000		£ 94,500	£ 90,000	£ 97,335	2.1.9
Habilitation Officer	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ 52,500	£ 50,000	£ 54,075	2.1.9
SUB TOTAL CENTRAL HNB EXPENDITURE	£ 7,195,347	£ 7,423,340	£ 7,756,164	£ 7,739,600	£ 7,668,783	£ 7,941,788	£ -
High Needs Block Expenditure before Recoupment	£ 46,085,113	£ 47,058,547	£ 50,442,327	£ 51,002,801	£ 59,101,721	£ 61,209,677	
Recoupment	£ 6,018,002	£ 6,273,668	£ 6,273,668	£ 6,497,835	£ 6,497,835	£ 6,602,000	
SEN Sufficiency						£ 203,070	2.1.11
MHST s 19 Pupils support						£ 444,760	2.1.12
Transfer to Central Schools Services Block from HNB		£ 458,000	£ 458,000	£ 508,000	£ 508,000	£ 508,000	No increase
Planned HNB Expenditure	£ 52,103,115	£ 53,790,215	£ 57,173,995	£ 58,008,636	£ 66,107,556	£ 68,967,507	
Allocation	£ 52,140,715	£ 58,282,086	£ 58,282,086	£ 61,091,473	£ 61,091,473	£ 66,892,744	
Transfer to Schools Block from Reserves		£ 1,907,000	£ 1,907,000	£ 1,597,000	£ 1,597,000		2.1.13
Surplus / (Deficit)	£ 37,600	£ 2,584,871	-£ 798,909	£ 1,485,837	-£ 6,613,083	-£ 2,074,763	2.1.14
Reserve Balances	£ 21,744,697		£ 19,028,269		£ 12,415,186	£ 10,340,423	

Assumptions made and points to note in the setting of the above Indicative Budget.

- 2.1.1 High Level Needs support in Mainstream schools will remain at 2024/25 rates, the £85 per pupil agreed in 2023/24 remains in place and is incorporated within the Schools Block Budget. Schools and academies are also in receipt of the Core Schools Block Grant (CSBG), relating to local authority-maintained schools, academies (including free schools), hospital schools, non-maintained special schools, independent special schools, and local authorities employing centrally employed teachers (CETs) in England. The amounts paid direct to schools matches what the DfE has calculated to fully fund (at a national level) the teacher pay award, and the support staff pay award, while recognising amounts may differ at individual school level.
- 2.1.2 The budget incorporates planned high needs place changes for the academic year starting September 2025 and as notified to the ESFA in agreement with providers in the Place Change Notification Process which was completed 8th November 2024. SEN Resource Units will also be in receipt of a 3% Inflationary uplift on their Top Up funding.
- 2.1.3 All Special Schools (both Maintained and Academy) will receive a 3% Inflationary uplift on their Top Up funding.
- 2.1.4 An increase of 3% is incorporated to cover anticipated growth in Post 16 placements. There is no Inflationary uplift available. Additional cost centres have been incorporated into the accounting structure so that going forward greater in-depth analysis can take place so that we can better understand and control these costs. Hence in the table above we have INMSS FE, and Bespoke packages separated out on different rows with no prior year comparisons.
- 2.1.5 There will be no Inflationary uplift for INMSS placements. The SEN Sufficiency Strategy seeks to reduce the number of such placements by increasing the number of placements available within the city. Nottingham City Council has joined with other East Midlands Local Authorities to review such fees. There has been a unilateral agreement reached to offer no fee uplift for 2025/26. However, a provider can appeal this decision if they can meet criterion and demonstrate significant hardship.
- 2.1.6 Additional cost centres have been incorporated into the accounting structure so that going forward greater in-depth analysis can take place so that we can better understand and control these costs, therefore these rows have no prior year comparisons.
- 2.1.7 Both Maintained and Academy Pupil Referral Units will have a 3% uplift to their budget allocation. Though it is anticipated that an overspend will occur if the current levels of Permanent Exclusions continue, it is also of concern that the average age of a permanently excluded pupil is becoming younger and therefore potentially having a greater impact on educational outcomes and ultimately lifetime potential.

This area will come under greater scrutiny during 2025/26 as the drive for more inclusive practise has also been highlighted as a Central Government focus, additional cost centres have been created for the analysis, understanding and control of these costs. Whilst statutory recharges are expected to increase this is also expected to be a “timing” amount of money

as it is expected that when a school re-admits a Permanently Excluded pupil these monies will be forwarded to the school receiving the pupil.

- 2.1.8 The AP inclusion model currently relates to Secondary schools and provides them with sums of monies to support pupils whom they would otherwise Permanently Exclude. Whilst this model works well for some schools there are others for whom this approach is not the answer. In the next few weeks an Inclusion Manager will be joining the service, they will be working in conjunction with the service, schools, and the Schools Forum Working Group to explore options to improve inclusivity across all age ranges and all providers and reduce the number of permanent exclusions within the city.

The current AP Inclusion model contractual arrangement is due to conclude on the 31/03/2025. Whilst other options are being explored an AP Inclusion model will be offered to cover the period from 01/04/2025 to 31/07/2025. It is anticipated that from the 01/09/2025 a new approach will be undertaken. To cover the cost of both the extension and new approach the same budget as 2024/25 has been earmarked to cover these costs. Further details regarding the AP Inclusion model for Secondary schools that will run from 01/04/2025 to 31/07/2025 will be published under separate cover.

- 2.1.9 A flat 3% Inflationary uplift has been applied to all Central HNB costs; this equates to a total increase of £202k, which is lower than last year's increase as the service is working hard to control costs (2024/25 increase = £316k).

- 2.1.10 Historically the HNB has, with the approval of Schools Forum, contributed to SEN Transport on the basis that the service works hard to ensure placements are within the city and keeps out of city placements to a minimum. Nottingham City Council recognises the pressure that the HNB is now under and is looking to reduce it's call upon the HNB. A proposal has been prepared and is due to go before full Council for consideration in March 2025, this proposes that the contribution of £1m to the council for SEN Transport is reduced in the financial year 2025/26 by £500k to an amount of £500k.

This would effectively provide the HNB with a contingency of £500k (2024/25 = £600k). The proposal also recommends that the remaining £500k for 2026/27 is removed in 2026/27, again providing the HNB with a contingency of £500k. As at the time of writing this report, full Council has not yet agreed this proposal, so it is considered prudent to include the full £1m charge in this indicative budget. The HNB is always indicative at this time of year as it is subject to in year adjustments by the DfE, most notably in July to accommodate the Import / Export Adjustment.

- 2.1.11 The budget also incorporates planned high needs place increases as specified in the SEN Sufficiency Strategy (see Table 3 below).

School			HN Places		25/26	FY		
			Total per programme	Planned delivery date	Places in FY 25/26	Place Funding	Top Up Funding	
The Fernwood School	ASD	Secondary	20	Dec 25 /Jan 26	8	£ 12,000	£ 35,628	
Nottingham Girls Academy	ASD	Secondary	10	Dec 25 /Jan 26	4	£ 6,000	£ 17,814	
Milford	ASD	Primary	8	Dec 25 /Jan 26	4	£ 6,000	£ 17,814	
Glade Hill	ASD	Primary	8	Dec 25 /Jan 26	4	£ 6,000	£ 17,814	
Nethergate	ASD	Primary	24	Sep-25	16	£ -	£ 84,000	
			<u>70</u>		<u>36</u>	<u>£ 30,000</u>	<u>£ 173,070</u>	
Increase in Expenditure to High Needs Block for FY 25/26								£ 203,070

- 2.1.12 At the Schools Forum meeting held on 16 July 2024, it was agreed to fund a Mental Health Support Team to support Section 19 pupils, the amount of £444,760 is the funding required to take this trial to its conclusion at the end of July 2025. At which point an impact analysis will be undertaken to present to Schools Forum should any future funding be required for the continuation of this approach. At the time of writing this report the prudent approach considering the cost pressures on the HNB is to presume no further funding at this stage.
- 2.1.13 In 2024/25 financial year, to fulfil the £85 per pupil Schools Block requirement, a drawdown of £1.6m was required from reserves. Due to the increased Schools Block settlement for 2025/26, no drawdown from reserves is required for this purpose.
- 2.1.14 It is anticipated that there will be a minimum overspend of £2m based on the setting of this indicative budget.

3. Consideration of Risk and potential Impact upon Reserves

- 3.1 The National Audit Office (NAO) report, published on 24 October 2024, identifies that there has been soaring demand for support for children with SEN. Acknowledging an increase in SEND needs overall, the report draws from Education Health and Care (EHC) plan data to illustrate the increase. Between 2015 and 2024 there was a 140% increase (to 576,000) in children with an EHC plan alone. Most of this increase related to autistic spectrum disorders; speech, language, and communication needs; and social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- 3.2 Key findings of the report include:
- 3.2.1 Long waiting times for an EHC plan was one example of families' declining confidence in the system, as only half of EHC plans were issued within the statutory 20-week target in 2023.
- 3.2.2 Over the past decade, high-needs funding has risen by more than half (58%), to £10.7bn for 2024-25. However, in the NAO report – 'Support for children and young people with special educational needs', – it found that despite this, local authority dedicated schools grant deficits could reach £4.6bn by March 2026.
- 3.2.3 There is declining confidence in the system – supporting 1.9m children – not meeting children's or families' expectations.
- 3.2.4 The numbers of local authorities facing the equivalent of bankruptcy is at an unprecedented all-time-high. Two-fifths of local authorities face risk of issuing a section 114 notice by March 2026, which the NAO attributes in part to SEN costs.
- 3.2.5 The NAO points out that government not yet identified solution to manage estimated £4.6bn deficit.
- 3.2.6 The NAO recommends, as a matter of urgency, government shares plans with local authorities so that each can achieve a sustainable financial position once the statutory override ends, including how deficits will be treated and any wider financial impact on services managed.

- 3.2.7 Longer term, local authorities face a worsening financial situation. Looking ahead, for 2027-28 there is an estimated mismatch of between £2.9bn and £3.9bn when comparing current funding, maintained in real terms, against forecast costs.
- 3.2.8 Also, the NAO comments on a consequence of the current position, noting schools could be incentivised to exclude pupils with SEN, which conflicts with local authorities' duties to find children school places and ensure value for money.
- 3.2.9 In addition to the above NAO report Central Government has also announced the "scrapping" of the Safety Valve Programme (which had written off the accumulated HNB deficit of a number of LA's) as well as the Delivering Better Value Programme which had given 55 LA's a cash injection of £1m each to help support service improvements to reduce costs and deficits impacting their HNBs.
- 3.2.10 With both of these programmes removed as an option to access support it is now incumbent upon LAs to resolve their financial issues. The removal of the Statutory Override currently planned for 31/03/2026 is an additional pressure.
- 3.2.11 The above financial environment should therefore be taken into consideration when we are considering Risk and the impact upon our Reserves. Assuming the deficit budget proposed above is adhered to the current mitigated forecast is as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Opening Reserve Balance	£ 21,744,697.45	£ 19,028,269.39	£ 12,415,186.04	£ 10,340,422.90	£ 10,056,225.53	£ 6,707,991.53	£ 2,338,231.53
In Year Deficit	-£ 2,716,428.06	-£ 6,613,083.35	-£ 2,074,763.14	-£ 284,197.37			
SEN Sufficiency Programme Requirement					-£ 3,348,234.00	-£ 4,369,760.00	-£ 2,395,410.00
Closing Reserve Balance	£ 19,028,269.39	£ 12,415,186.04	£ 10,340,422.90	£ 10,056,225.53	£ 6,707,991.53	£ 2,338,231.53	-£ 57,178.47

- 3.2.12 The SEN Sufficiency Strategy is therefore affordable under the current funding levels and should in turn both meet demand within the City and reduce the costs incurred by out of city placements into INMSS.

5. Published documents relied upon in writing this report

- 5.1 National Audit Office report (published 24/10/2024) – *'Support for children and young people with special educational needs'*.

Schools Forum - 14 January 2025

Title:	Early Years Block Budget 2025/26
Corporate Director: Director:	Sarah Nardone - Children’s and Education Services Nicholas Lee – Education Services
Report author and contact details:	Sadrul Alam – Interim Strategic Business Partner sadrul.alam@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Kathryn Bouchlaghem - Head of Early Years Donna Munday, Susan Woodland & Steph Robson - Senior Commercial Business Partners
Summary To inform Forum of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Early Years (EY) Block Budget for 2025/26, noting that the figures contained in the report are provisional and indicative and will be submitted for formal agreement to full Council in March 2025.	
Recommendation:	
1	That Forum notes the indicative Dedicated Schools Grant allocations for the Early Years Block for 2025/26, as provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (as detailed in the report).

1. Funding allocation from ESFA

1.1 The table below shows the indicative EY Block funding allocation for 2025/26 and its prior year comparators:

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
20.606	21.250	21.811	31.538	38.694

1.2 The significant increase in 2025/26 compared to previous years is primarily due to additional funding being provided for the extension in the early years entitlements that have been phased in over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years for children from 9-23 months to support working parents.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Early Years Block DSG Allocation

2.1.1 The LA’s EY Block allocation is based on the EY National Funding Formulae (EYNFF) which was introduced in April 2017. The EYNFF dictates the hourly rate that each LA receives for 3 & 4-year-olds.

- 2.1.2 From September 2025, working parents for 0-23months will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare.
- 2.1.3 For 2025/26, Nottingham City is being funded for 3 & 4-year-olds at £5.94 per hour, £8.62 per hour for 2-year-olds and £11.78 for under 2s. However, LAs need to factor in administration and central expenditure to support this.
- 2.1.4 The national funding rate for EY Pupil Premium funding has increased by 32p, taking the rate to £1.00 per hour per eligible child.
- 2.1.5 The national funding rate for the Disability Access Fund has been increased by £28, taking the rate to £938 per annum per eligible child.
- 2.1.6 The LAs provisional EY block allocation, as published on 18 December 2024, is £38.694m, based on January 2024 pupil numbers. Final allocations will be based on 5/12ths x January 2025 pupil numbers and 7/12ths x January 2026 pupil numbers.
- 2.1.7 This provisional allocation is split between:
- a) 3 & 4-year-old universal (15 hours) entitlement (£14.852m);
 - b) 3 & 4-year-old extended (30 hours) entitlement (£4.741m);
 - c) 2-year-old funding entitlement (15 hours) for families receiving additional support (£4.581m);
 - d) 2-year-old funding entitlement (15 hours until September 2025, when this will increase to 30 hours) for working parents (£5.384m);
 - e) Under 2s funding entitlement (15 hours until September 2025, when this will increase to 30 hours) for working parents (£8.015m);
 - f) Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) (£0.671m);
 - g) Early Years Disability Access Fund (DAF) (£0.257m);
 - h) Maintained Nursery Supplementary (MNS) Funding (£0.194m).

The table below shows the 2024/25 comparators:

	2024/25 Revised Budget, updated Nov 2024	2025/26 Budget, December 2024	Change to prior years
Early Years Block	£m	£m	£m
3 & 4-year-old indicative funding – schools universal	14.302	14.852	0.550
3 & 4-year-old indicative funding – schools extended	4.565	4.741	0.176
3 & 4-year-old DAF funding to passport	0.167	0.184	0.017
2-year-old funding – providers disadvantaged	4.443	4.581	0.138
2-year-old funding – providers working parents	3.365	5.384	2.020
Under 2's (9–24months)	3.344	8.015	4.671
EYPP 3 & 4-year-olds	0.309	0.454	0.145
EYPP 2-year-olds	0.135	0.198	0.063
EYPP under 2's	0.015	0.018	0.003

2-year-old DAF	0.050	0.051	0.001
Under 2 DAF	0.020	0.023	0.002
Maintained nursery schools	0.171	0.194	0.023
SUB TOTAL PROVISION BUDGETS	30.885	38.694	7.809

2.2 The amount of permissible centrally retained expenditure is being reduced from 5% to 4% for 2025/26, with a view to a further reduction to 3% in 2026-27.

2.3 The centrally retained allocation for 2025/26 remains unchanged at £1.025m, as agreed at School's Forum on 10 December 2024. However, it is proposed that following government DSG allocation settlement for Nottingham being more than anticipated, the LA will go out to consultation in the following weeks to ensure that the centrally retained element is maximised as much as possible to help support Nottingham City Council to improve outcomes for its 0 to 5-year-old cohort.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

3.1. No other options are available for consideration as the recommendations align to the financial regulations issued by the DfE in relation to the allocation of DSG.

4. **Outcomes/deliverables**

4.1 To obtain an agreed Early Years Budget for 2025/26 to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of issuing local provider hourly rates for 2025/26 by the national deadline of 28 February 2025.

5. **Consideration of Risk**

5.1 Consultation on the local provider hourly rates will be undertaken with providers in line with national guidance prior to the LA confirming its local provider hourly rates for 2025/26 by 28 February 2025.

6. **Other relevant comments**

6.1 None.

7. **List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

7.1 None.

8. **Published documents referred to in writing this report**

8.1 Schools Forum report 'Early Years Central Expenditure 2025/26 proposal' – 10 December 2024.

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum – 14 January 2025

Title of paper:	Schools Budget 2025-26
Corporate Director: Director:	Stuart Fair – Finance and Resources Nick Lee - Education Services
Report authors and contact details:	Susan Woodland, Interim Senior Commercial Business Partner Susan.woodland@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Sadrul Alam – Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner Ann Barrett - Team Leader, Legal Services

Summary
This report presents the proposed schools budget for the financial year 2025-26.

Where applicable, the local authority’s Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) incorporates the impact from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Recommendations:

1	To approve the distribution of school’s budgets as set out in appendix A.
2	To note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the overall indicative DSG allocation for Nottingham City for 2025-26 (as per table 1 of section 2.2.3 below); (b) that the DSG allocation will be updated in-year to reflect adjustments made by the Education Schools Funding Agency (ESFA); (c) the outcome of the school’s funding consultation; (d) that the submission date of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the ESFA is 22 January 2025; (e) that the de-delegation of funding for Health and Safety Testing and School Improvement Services was approved at the meeting of Schools Forum held on 10 December 2024 and the final figures have been included in the school’s budgets in appendix A; (f) that the de-delegation element for funding for Union Duties Cover is to be considered in a separate paper later in this meeting, therefore, estimated figures have been included in the school’s budgets in appendix A and these will be updated once the decision on that item is known.

1 Reasons for Recommendations

1.1 To update the school’s forum on the latest funding settlement of the DSG for 2025-26 and the financial implication for Nottingham City Council.

1.2 To gain the appropriate approvals from school's forum to comply with DfE regulations.

2 Background

2.1 2025-26 Funding Settlement

2.1.1 Schools funding is received through the DSG and is split into four blocks;

- Schools Block (SB) – which funds mainstream primary and secondary schools through the National Funding Formula (NFF) as well as providing funding for growth funding for bulge classes;
- Schools and Central Services Block (CSSB) – funds services provided by the local authority for all schools (maintained and academy);
- High Needs Block (HNB) – funds special schools, resource bases, alternative provision and EHCP's/top up funding;
- Early Years Block (EYB) – funds nursery schools, nursery classes in mainstream schools, and settings in the private, voluntary and independent sector.

2.1.2 The Government announced in the October 2024 Budget that there would be an additional £2.3bn for mainstream schools and young people with high needs.

2.1.3 The government published the details of the DSG funding settlement on 18 December 2024. The guidance and technical documents relating to each block of the DSG alongside the National Funding Formula (NFF) factor rates were published on 28 November 2024.

2.1.4 National Funding Formula (NFF) is increasing by 2.23% per pupil on average.

2.1.5 A change has been made to the operation of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor in the schools NFF for 2025-26 – the newly calculated baseline for the PFI factor in is uplifted, as usual by the RPI excluding mortgage interest Payments (RPIX). If any authority requires an above inflation increase, they need to submit an affordability model which demonstrates, with strong evidence, that a different amount is required to the DfE for consideration. It is expected that this will be an exception rather than the rule.

2.1.6 Local authorities are required to move their local formula factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2024 to 2025, unless they are already mirroring the NFF, which Nottingham are;

- The basic entitlement values, Free School Meals, ever 6 (FSM6) values, the lump sum and the minimum per pupil funding values have increased to reflect the rolling in of the three separate pay and pensions grants from 2024 to 2025: Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG), Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) and the Teachers' Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG). A further increase has then been applied to these same factors to cover the remaining costs of the 2024 teachers'

pay award in mainstream schools, so that the full 12 months of salary costs are fully funded at a national level. On top of this, a further overall increase has been applied to school- and pupil led factors, as well as to the split sites factor. These increases mean that all primary schools will attract at least £4,955 per pupil, and all secondary schools at least £6,465 per pupil, through the minimum per pupil levels.

- In addition to the funding allocated through the NFF, further funding in respect of the increase in employer’s National Insurance contributions will be provided in 2025 to 2026 by a grant outside the NFF. The DfE will provide further details on this as soon as it is available.
- The transitional floor protection for split sites in 2024-25 has been removed as this was to protect schools from losing out in finding when the DfE moved to a formula-based allocation.
- Changes have been made to split site funding. Schools who amalgamate will not receive any additional split sites funding until they are no longer eligible for an additional 70% of a lump sum.

2.2 Schools Block DSG Allocation

2.2.1 The 2025-26 financial year will be another “soft” NFF year. This means that although money is allocated by the Government on a near NFF basis, via Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUF/SUF), it is for the Local Authority (LA), in consultation with Schools Forum, to set each school's funding using a local formula.

2.2.2 The DSG funding settlement was received on 18 December 2024. Nottingham City’s Schools Block funding has increased by £23.43m (Nov 2024-25 gross to Dec 2025-26 gross) but this includes the newly baselined grants; Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG), Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) and the Teachers’ Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPEGC).

2.2.3 A modelling template of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) is usually issued to all local authorities around November, but due to the change in Government following the 2024 General election, this was not available for 2025-26 modelling. The APT, issued by the ESFA ensures a consistent approach to funding for both maintained schools and academies.

Table 1 – The proposed DSG Allocation 2025-26

Application of 2025-26 DSG	Net £
Schools Block	299,178,718
Central School Services Block	3,511,693
High Needs Block	60,290,744
Early Years Block	38,694,237
TOTAL DSG	401,675,392

- 2.3 The schools block allocation is to provide funding for mainstream schools and academies (although the latter is recouped from the authorities DSG in year) and growth funding for bulge classes and is based on Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) and Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF). These units of funding are multiplied by the pupil numbers on the October census preceding the beginning of the next financial year. The 25-26 funding formula will use the October 2024 census data.
- 2.3.1 These are the factor values for the primary and secondary units of funding used in the 2025-26 funding formula for Nottingham City:
- £5875.94 per primary pupil;
 - £7832.79 per secondary pupil.
- 2.3.2 Due to the baselining of the additional funding transferred from reserves for 2023-24 (which was excluded from the MFG) the exclusion from the MFG was not requested for 2024-25 so the additional funding was locked in and had the MFG applied to it.
- 2.3.3 This meant that schools were protected from losing any of the additional funding, but it meant that the settlement would not be affordable in future years as the government would not increase our funding in line with decisions we had made locally. The Schools Budgets have been balanced within the school's block allocation of the DSG for 2025-26.
- 2.3.4 As mentioned in 2.1 whilst the funding has increased for the school's block year on year, 2025-26 has had the additional grants from 2024-25 baselined into it so may produce a slightly distorted result.
- 2.3.5 Whilst pupil numbers have increased overall in Nottingham City, individual schools may have seen greater losses or gains reflective of individual schools circumstances.
- 2.3.6 Split site funding has been allocated based on the new national split site criteria and the allocations match the funding received for split site schools.
- 2.3.7 PFI/BSF funding has been allocated based on the new criteria for the factor.
- 2.3.8 As noted in the schools funding consultation, the authority has set an MFG to the maximum allowable for 2025-26 of 0%. The level of MFG protection for schools has risen from £3.11m in 2024-25 to £3.49m in 2025-26.
- 2.4 Under the finance regulations LAs are required to include on the APT estimated pupil numbers for any new schools or schools that have opened in the last 7 years that do not yet have pupils in every year group. Funding for new schools is recouped from the LA the same as any other academy or free school. In the financial year 2025-26 the LA has included estimated pupils' numbers for the following school:
- **Bluecoat Trent Academy** - In the financial years 2021/22, to 2025-26 the LA has funded through the local funding formula (which mirrors the schools NFF) the new free school Bluecoat Trent Academy which opened in September 2021. As at the October 2024 school census there were 899 pupils on roll at the academy. From September 2025 a further 8 forms of entry are going to be admitted. Therefore, the LA has funded the new free school for the 899 pupils

that were included on the October 2024 school census plus 7/12ths of 240 pupils which are forecasted to be admitted in September 2024. The total number of pupils funded in 2025-26 is 1039 pupils.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 None.

4 Outcomes/Deliverables

4.1 To allocate budgets to schools on a fair and transparent basis before 31 March 2025 in accordance with The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2024.

5 Consideration of Risk

5.1 N/A.

6 Finance Colleague Comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

6.1 Financial implications are contained within this report.

The financial allocations set out in this report are in line with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2024 and adhere to the DSG conditions of grant and the guidance issued for the Schools Block. All the approvals for the financial year 2025-26 are summarised in the Recommendations

7 Legal Colleague Comments

7.1 The School and Early Years Finance and Childcare (Provision of Information about Young Children) (Amendment) (Regulations) 2024 make provision for local authorities' financial arrangements in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of funded early years provision in England. The Council must ensure that it complies with its obligations in accordance with these Regulations and the DSG Conditions of Grant. Financial advice and compliance confirmation in that respect is given in 6.1 above and in the main body of the report.

7.2 The Recommendations appear to be within the Forum's powers and in accordance with its constitution.

Ann Barrett, Team Leader, Legal Services – 6 January 2024

8 Other relevant comments

8.1 None.

9 Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

9.1 N/A.

10 Social value considerations (If Applicable)

10.1 N/A.

11 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 An EIA is not required as the report does not recommend any changes to services / provisions.

12 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 A DPIA is not required.

13 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required.

14 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15 Published documents referred to this in this report

15.1 DfE The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2024.

15.2 DSG Conditions of Grant.

15.3 DSG funding guidance 2025-26 - individual block guidance and technical notes for each block.

Appendix A - Illustrative funding allocations for schools budgets 2025-26

	2024-25 Post De- delegation budget	2025-26 Post De- delegation budget	Variance 2024-25 to 2025-26
Berridge Primary and Nursery School	3,207,011	3,506,658	299,646
Seely Primary School	2,567,532	2,791,672	224,140
Fernwood Primary School	4,916,291	5,291,451	375,160
Cantrell Primary and Nursery School	2,181,392	2,269,436	88,043
Carrington Primary and Nursery School	1,031,196	1,138,333	107,137
Dunkirk Primary and Nursery School	2,157,640	2,257,505	99,865
Melbury Primary School	1,206,852	1,262,618	55,765
Middleton Primary and Nursery School	2,777,951	3,142,150	364,199
Heathfield Primary and Nursery School	3,602,406	3,856,986	254,580
Walter Halls Primary and Early Years School	2,241,331	2,363,547	122,215
Southwold Primary School and Early Years' Centre	1,169,504	1,247,928	78,424
Rise Park Primary and Nursery School	2,084,516	2,227,062	142,547
Crabtree Farm Primary School	2,105,674	2,286,539	180,865
Welbeck Primary School	1,748,882	1,876,110	127,228
Mellers Primary School	2,445,317	2,559,371	114,054
Haydn Primary School	1,980,457	2,122,897	142,439
Hempshill Hall Primary School	2,008,011	2,124,751	116,740
Glade Hill Primary & Nursery School	2,138,165	2,274,742	136,578
Claremont Primary and Nursery School	2,113,845	2,323,081	209,236
Snape Wood Primary and Nursery School	877,236	871,981	-5,255
Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School	3,205,516	3,342,208	136,692
Dovecote Primary and Nursery School	1,876,003	1,865,804	-10,199
Greenfields Community School	1,235,116	1,279,527	44,411
Southglade Primary and Nursery School	2,289,585	2,429,068	139,483
Westglade Primary School	1,211,590	1,299,319	87,728
Henry Whipple Primary School	1,190,848	1,288,323	97,475
Robin Hood Primary School	2,280,040	2,427,893	147,854
Rufford Primary and Nursery School	2,181,125	2,381,207	200,082
St Augustine's Catholic Primary & Nursery School	1,661,426	1,808,262	146,836
Windmill L.E.A.D. Academy	2,255,435	2,557,362	301,927
Firbeck Academy	927,855	1,143,493	215,638
Highbank Primary and Nursery School	1,420,216	1,434,138	13,922
Glenbrook Spencer Academy	2,147,500	2,258,588	111,088
Portland Spencer Academy	2,071,073	2,154,782	83,709
Djanogly Strelley Academy	2,119,790	2,270,894	151,105
Jubilee L.E.A.D. Academy	1,960,507	2,124,745	164,238
Roslyn Park Primary and Nursery School	3,382,766	3,671,220	288,454
Brocklewood Primary and Nursery School	2,644,589	2,659,894	15,305
Springfield Academy	1,258,878	1,405,241	146,363
Victoria Primary School	1,708,258	1,830,451	122,193
Bluecoat Primary Academy	2,272,513	2,464,141	191,628
Ambleside Primary School	3,236,553	3,505,275	268,722
Djanogly Sherwood Academy	1,774,119	1,943,040	168,921
Bluecoat Bentinck Primary Academy	1,326,585	1,384,625	58,040
Edna G. Olds Academy	1,216,726	1,311,980	95,254
Hogarth Academy	1,137,032	1,173,271	36,239
Djanogly Northgate Academy	2,019,879	1,989,980	-29,899

Burford Primary and Nursery School	1,174,161	1,222,443	48,282
Radford Primary School Academy	1,243,614	1,351,062	107,448
Robert Shaw Primary and Nursery School	2,165,675	2,242,040	76,365
William Booth Primary and Nursery School	1,283,057	1,391,027	107,970
Edale Rise Primary & Nursery School	1,429,782	1,509,823	80,041
Southwark Primary School	3,381,728	3,531,319	149,591
Whitemoor Academy (Primary and Nursery)	2,073,188	2,183,366	110,178
Old Basford School	2,235,428	2,403,752	168,325
Scotholme Primary and Nursery School	2,181,970	2,402,073	220,103
Blue Bell Hill Primary and Nursery School	2,299,951	2,500,835	200,884
Stanstead Nursery and Primary School	1,081,077	1,148,919	67,842
Warren Primary Academy	931,889	1,128,427	196,539
The Milford Academy	2,106,534	2,260,908	154,374
The Glapton Academy	1,609,049	1,616,006	6,957
Whitegate Primary and Nursery School	2,048,633	2,260,337	211,704
Huntingdon Academy	2,411,776	2,609,845	198,069
Bulwell St Mary's Primary and Nursery School	1,238,314	1,337,131	98,817
Sneinton St Stephen's CofE Primary School	1,171,187	1,262,880	91,693
South Wilford Endowed CofE Primary School	1,823,232	1,879,567	56,335
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	1,165,059	1,260,631	95,572
St Patrick's Catholic Primary and Nursery School	1,077,924	1,117,924	40,001
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	2,194,406	2,334,930	140,524
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Prim Sch	1,165,357	1,256,115	90,758
Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Prim School	1,146,817	1,232,099	85,283
Our Lady & St Edward Prim Catholic Voluntary Acad	1,190,331	1,243,290	52,959
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School	1,127,174	1,247,288	120,114
Sycamore Academy	2,342,616	2,439,217	96,601
St Ann's Well Academy	1,285,580	1,344,956	59,376
Nottingham Girls' Academy	5,946,181	6,407,341	461,160
Bluecoat Beechdale Academy	7,699,262	8,058,091	358,829
Nottingham University Academy of Science & Tech	4,638,964	4,999,281	360,317
The Oakwood Academy	6,681,744	7,106,832	425,088
Park Vale Academy	6,595,189	7,109,781	514,591
Bluecoat Wollaton Academy	5,363,964	6,042,780	678,816
The Bulwell Academy	8,290,147	8,657,208	367,062
Ellis Guilford School	10,013,267	10,556,051	542,784
Farnborough Spencer Academy	7,643,223	8,641,926	998,703
The Wells Academy	5,490,601	5,824,073	333,472
Bluecoat Trent Academy	5,743,119	8,095,850	2,352,732
Nottingham Free School	3,925,713	4,202,792	277,079
Fernwood School	9,053,527	10,303,247	1,249,720
The Nottingham Emmanuel School	6,787,561	7,194,668	407,107
Bluecoat Aspley Academy	6,614,216	7,054,701	440,485
The Trinity Catholic School Voluntary Academy	6,452,792	7,088,232	635,440
Djanogly City Academy	8,469,417	9,138,075	668,658
Nottingham University Samworth Academy	6,240,511	7,097,171	856,660
Nottingham Academy	13,621,780	14,236,104	614,324
	278,429,419	300,731,962	22,302,543

NB: The allocations for 2025-26 include the grants from 2024-25 (CSBG, TPEC, TPAG) which have been rolled into the baseline for 2025-26.

Appendix B – Pupil number changes from October 2023 census to October 2024

	Oct 2023 Pupil Nos	Oct 2024 Pupil Nos	Variance in Pupil Nos Oct 23 to Oct 24
Berridge Primary and Nursery School	571	588	17.00
Seely Primary School	498	509	11.00
Fernwood Primary School	1038	1051	13.00
Cantrell Primary and Nursery School	394	384	-10.00
Carrington Primary and Nursery School	200	208	8.00
Dunkirk Primary and Nursery School	359	353	-6.00
Melbury Primary School	204	199	-5.00
Middleton Primary and Nursery School	594	630	36.00
Heathfield Primary and Nursery School	636	640	4.00
Walter Halls Primary and Early Years School	404	398	-6.00
Southwold Primary School and Early Years' Centre	194	194	0.00
Rise Park Primary and Nursery School	408	407	-1.00
Crabtree Farm Primary School	338	343	5.00
Welbeck Primary School	314	314	0.00
Mellers Primary School	411	402	-9.00
Haydn Primary School	414	414	0.00
Hempshill Hall Primary School	386	382	-4.00
Glade Hill Primary & Nursery School	390	389	-1.00
Claremont Primary and Nursery School	392	405	13.00
Snape Wood Primary and Nursery School	130	116	-14.00
Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School	568	556	-12.00
Dovecote Primary and Nursery School	320	295	-25.00
Greenfields Community School	206	199	-7.00
Southglade Primary and Nursery School	401	396	-5.00
Westglade Primary School	205	205	0.00
Henry Whipple Primary School	191	194	3.00
Robin Hood Primary School	418	416	-2.00
Rufford Primary and Nursery School	368	376	8.00
Academy Primary			
St Augustine's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, A Voluntary Academy	301	308	7.00
Windmill L.E.A.D. Academy	392	418	26.00
Firbeck Academy	153	177	24.00
Highbank Primary and Nursery School	256	239	-17.00
Glenbrook Spencer Academy	375	368	-7.00
Portland Spencer Academy	371	359	-12.00
Djanogly Strelley Academy	355	354	-1.00
Jubilee L.E.A.D. Academy	327	332	5.00
Roslyn Park Primary and Nursery School	567	560	-7.00
Brocklewood Primary and Nursery School	446	419	-27.00
Springfield Academy	194	203	9.00
Victoria Primary School	282	283	1.00
Bluecoat Primary Academy	420	422	2.00

Ambleside Primary School	585	592	7.00
Djanogly Sherwood Academy	305	313	8.00
Bluecoat Bentinck Primary Academy	207	205	-2.00
Edna G. Olds Academy	208	210	2.00
Hogarth Academy	207	198	-9.00
Djanogly Northgate Academy	358	327	-31.00
Burford Primary and Nursery School	204	197	-7.00
Radford Primary School Academy	210	214	4.00
Robert Shaw Primary and Nursery School	422	402	-20.00
William Booth Primary and Nursery School	207	210	3.00
Edale Rise Primary & Nursery School	209	208	-1.00
Southwark Primary School	610	594	-16.00
Whitemoor Academy (Primary and Nursery)	393	387	-6.00
Old Basford School	429	428	-1.00
Scotholme Primary and Nursery School	398	411	13.00
Blue Bell Hill Primary and Nursery School	403	410	7.00
Stanstead Nursery and Primary School	190	188	-2.00
Warren Primary Academy	159	179	20.00
The Milford Academy	403	400	-3.00
The Glapton Academy	310	289	-21.00
Whitegate Primary and Nursery School	387	396	9.00
Huntingdon Academy	400	407	7.00
Bulwell St Mary's Primary and Nursery School	206	207	1.00
Sneinton St Stephen's CofE Primary School	211	213	2.00
South Wilford Endowed CofE Primary School	391	376	-15.00
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	209	212	3.00
St Patrick's Catholic Primary and Nursery School	196	189	-7.00
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	420	420	0.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School	215	218	3.00
Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Primary & Nursery School	217	214	-3.00
Our Lady & St Edward Prim & Nursery Catholic Voluntary Acad	216	210	-6.00
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School	204	212	8.00
Sycamore Academy	392	381	-11.00
St Ann's Well Academy	208	201	-7.00
Academy Secondary			
Nottingham Girls' Academy	810	813	3.00
Bluecoat Beechdale Academy	920	896	-24.00
Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology	607	613	6.00
The Oakwood Academy	753	751	-2.00
Park Vale Academy	894	896	2.00
Bluecoat Wollaton Academy	784	821	37.00
The Bulwell Academy	1082	1048	-34.00
Ellis Guilford School	1266	1244	-22.00
Farnborough Spencer Academy	944	1003	59.00
The Wells Academy	701	690	-11.00
Bluecoat Trent Academy	660	899	239.00
Nottingham Free School	600	596	-4.00
Fernwood School	1432	1519	87.00
The Nottingham Emmanuel School	942	926	-16.00
Bluecoat Aspley Academy	938	928	-10.00
The Trinity Catholic School A Voluntary Academy	966	981	15.00
Djanogly City Academy	1101	1105	4.00

Nottingham University Samworth Academy	804	850	46.00
Nottingham Academy (593 Pri & 1,438 sec 2024-25) and (549 Pri, 1,409 Sec 2025-26)	2031	1958	-73.00
	43915	44160	245.00
Total Primary NoR (M & A)	26273	26172	-101.00
Total Secondary NOR (A)	17642	17988	346.00
			245.00

Appendix C – Schools Funding Consultation summary of results and comments

The Schools Funding Consultation was launched on 4 December and closed on 18 December 2024. Ten responses were received within this deadline.

Question 1

Do you agree that the Authority sets the MFG at the maximum level affordable for the financial year 2025-26, the aim is to set the MFG at 0%?

Result 10 Yes 0 No

Question 2

Do you agree that the LA makes a transfer of £0.508m from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block for the support of the Education Welfare Service, for the financial year 2025-26?

Result 8 Yes 2 No

Question 3

Do you agree that the Authority continues to balance the Authority Proforma Tool (schools budgets) on the Basic Entitlement factor for the financial year 2025-26?

Result 10 Yes 0 No

Question 4

Do you agree with the approach of managing any shortfall in the Schools Block for 2025-26 with a contribution from Dedicated Schools Grant reserves?

Result 10 Yes 0 No

Question 4b

Do you agree with the approach to discuss options to manage the Schools Block funding for future years without a continual commitment from reserves as this approach is not sustainable.

Result 10 Yes 0 No

A summary of comments, where made, can be seen below:

Questions 1 & 3 – No comments received.

Question 2 comments:

Whilst we support the transfer to the EWS it does appear that more work is being pushed on to schools to enable the EWS to fulfil their work schedule. It would be useful if the EWS were able to support schools more with the background paperwork and meetings.

High level needs in school have increased and continues to increase and adds pressure to schools. Whereas I feel that EWO is not as impactful as it should be, there are too many hurdles to cross before any EWO involvement. I believe these funds would be better used supporting schools with additional funds for HLN children, due to lack of special school places.

We do not agree with the proposed transfer of £0.508m from the High Needs Block (HNB) to the Schools Block to fund the Education Welfare Service (EWS) for the 2025-26 financial year. Our reasons are as follows:

1. High Needs Funding Purpose:

The High Needs Block is intended to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Diverting funds from this block reduces the resources available for these pupils, who rely on this support the most.

2. Appropriate Funding for EWS:

The Education Welfare Service is a valuable resource, but it does not directly support SEND pupils. It would be more appropriate for this service to be funded through budgets like the Central School Services Block, which is designed for central services.

3. Increasing SEND Needs:

With growing numbers of pupils requiring SEND support, reducing the funding in the High Needs Block would place additional strain on schools and make it harder to meet the needs of these vulnerable children.

4. Fairness and Sustainability:

Regular transfers from the High Needs Block create an unsustainable precedent and risk disadvantaging SEND pupils. We believe funding should remain aligned with its intended purpose.

5. We urge NCC to explore alternative funding solutions for the Education Welfare Service and to safeguard the High Needs Block for its intended use.

Question 4 comments:

Is it possible to receive a list of the committed funds and also the potential risks? This would enable more transparency and decision making.

Can you advise what the future planning is regarding the requirements of the schools block and the funding?

A January census top up is still needed as the numbers move significantly during the summer and early years provisions are low at this time. The October census numbers do not provide enough funding. Mobility with immigration affects the funding drastically during the academic year as we have pupils constantly coming and leaving. Also, a high staff retention should receive an element as it shows consistency with education and attainment. High staff turnover is disruptive.

Question 4b comment:

Absolutely.

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum – 14 January 2025

Title of paper:	Central Expenditure Budget 2025-26
Corporate Director: Director:	Stuart Fair - Finance and Resources Nick Lee – Education Services
Report author and contact details:	Susan Woodland, Interim Senior Commercial Business Partner Susan.woodland@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleague who have provided input:	Ann Barrett - Team Leader, Legal Services

Summary

Funding for some central services provided by the Local Authority (LA) to schools are funded through the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

The funding given through the CSSB is split into two streams, funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing commitments.

This report requests approval of both the historic commitments and the ongoing commitments within the CSSB for the financial year 2025/26.

Approval is also being sought for the allocation of funding for SEN Transport in the financial year 2025/26. This is funded from the High Needs Block but is also classed by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as a historic commitment, hence why it has also been included in this report.

The supporting documentation is included in appendix A

Recommendations:

1	To approve the historic and ongoing commitments (as set out in table 1 of section 2.1 below) totalling £3.906m for the financial year 2025/26, noting the additional detail set out in appendix A and the increase to the admissions budget of £0.045m.
2	To approve the SEN Transport budget of £1m.
3	To note the estimated cost of £0.334m of the copyright licences (this element does not require approval as the licences are managed and procured by the DfE).

1. Reasons for recommendations

1.1 Under the Schools & Early Years Financial Regulations 2023 and the Schools Operational Guide issued on 28 November 2024. Schools Forum approval is required on a line by line basis for each item funded from the CSSB.

1.2 In 2020/21 The Department for Education (DfE) committed to reduce historic commitments funding within the CSSB. This has been done at a rate of a 20%

reduction year on year. Nottingham City has reduced its historic commitments funding in line with DfE guidance. The allocation for historic commitments has reduced by £4.111m since 2020/21.

- 1.3 To aid Forums decision making, appendix A provides an overview of the service and how the funding is used to deliver that service.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is made up of two categories of funding: Historic commitments and Ongoing commitments.

Table 1 below shows the breakdown and total funding for the CSSB in 2025/26:

CSSB Funding 2025-26				
Commitment	Classification	2024-25 Allocation	Proposed 2025-26 Allocation	Variance 2024-25 to 2025-26
				(reduction of 20% on historic commitments)
Prudential Borrowing	Historic Commitment	54,000	54,000	0
Termination of employment costs	Historic Commitment	1,609,244	1,433,495	-175,749
Contribution to combined budgets (Virtual school)	Historic Commitment	196,000		-196,000
Total Historic Commitments		1,859,244	1,487,495	-371,749
Admissions	Ongoing Commitment	585,000	630,000	45,000
Copyright Licenses	Ongoing Commitment	264,000	333,713	69,713
Schools Forum	Ongoing Commitment	39,000	39,000	0
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	Ongoing Commitment	461,000	461,000	0
Education Welfare Service (retained Duties)	Ongoing Commitment	165,000	165,000	0
Education Welfare Service (High Needs Block Transfer)	Ongoing Commitment	508,000	508,000	0
Asset Management (Retained Duties)	Ongoing Commitment	186,000	186,000	0
TPG and TPECG for centrally employed teachers	Ongoing Commitment	96,000	96,000	0
Total Ongoing Commitments		2,304,000	2,418,713	114,713
Total CSSB		4,163,244	3,906,208	-257,036
Funded by				
DfE Allocation 2025-26			3,511,693	
HNB Transfer For Education Welfare Service			508,000	
			4,019,693	
Balance			113,485	
			Funded from HNB Transfer	
SEN Transport	Historic		1,000,000	

- 2.2 The Virtual School funding of £0.196m in 2024/25 has been removed from the CSSB for 2025/26 in line with DfE policy.

- 2.2 The termination of employment costs has been reduced by 20% in line with DfE requirements.

- 2.3 The prudential borrowing funding requirement will remain the same each financial year until 2052/53 when the repayments will end.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 No other options are available as the recommendations align to the financial regulations issued by the DfE in relation to the allocation of DSG.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

4.1 To obtain an agreed Central Schools Services Budget for 2025/26.

5. Consideration of Risk

5.1 The forecast reduction in historical commitments has been built into the LA's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

5.2 If the DfE were to increase the cuts placed on LA's who are in receipt of historical commitments funding from the current 20%, the MTFP would need to be updated to reflect this change. The additional budget pressure would remain with the LA.

6. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

6.1 This report seeks approval from Schools Forum for both the ongoing and historical commitments within the CSSB for the financial year 2025/26.

6.2 The provisional budget for 2025/26, as detailed in table 1 of section 2 above, is based on the October 2024 pupil numbers and is reconciled to the CSSB allocation from the DSG of £3.5m and a transfer from the High Needs Block of £0.508m.

6.3 Any items not approved through this report will not necessarily create a full year saving in 2025/26 due to the implementation time required to initiate a service reduction (consultation/approval/notice etc).

6.4 The items seeking approval in this report are detailed in appendix A, other than for Licenses which are mandatory. In addition, the SEN Transport budget of £1m, which is classed as a historic commitment but is funded from a transfer from the high needs block, also requires approval.

6.5 As per recommendation 1 of this report the Authority is seeking approval of £1.487m for historical commitments and £2.419m for ongoing commitments in the financial year 2025/26.

6.6 As per recommendation 3 of this report the Authority is seeking approval of £1m for the historical funding of SEN transport.

7. Legal colleague comments

7.1 The current law in force in this area is the School and Early Years Finance and Childcare (Provision of Information about Young Children) (Amendment) (Regulations) 2024 in particular Regulation 8 and Schedule 2.

7.2 These Regulations make provision for local authorities' financial arrangements in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of funded early years provision in England, for the financial year 2025-2026 and the Council must ensure that it complies with its obligations in accordance with these Regulations. Financial advice in that respect is given above.

7.3 The Forum has decision making powers in relation to (amongst other things,) agreeing centrally retained budgets and funding for central early years expenditure and the local authority must obtain authorisation from the Forum before deducting

such expenditure. The recommendations therefore appear to be within the Forum's decision making powers.

Ann Barrett, Team Leader, Legal Services – 3 January 2025.

8. Other relevant comments

8.1 None.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

9.1 N/A

10. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

10.1 N/A

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 An EIA is not required.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 A DPIA is not required.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 ESFA – Schools operational guide October 2023.

15.2 DfE Schools and Early Years Financial Regulations 2023.

Appendix A

TABLE 2: CENTRAL EXPENDITURE - APPROVALS REQUIRED

Service Description	2025/26 £m	Narrative
HISTORIC COMMITMENTS – CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK		
Termination of Employment Costs	1.433	This budget is used to pay for ongoing pension and redundancy from historic restructures pre 1st April 2013. Detailed information on the termination of employment costs cannot be included due to data protection confidentiality.
Prudential Borrowing	0.054	This funding is used to meet the borrowing commitments around the initial set up costs of the Building Schools for the Future programme and Nottingham Academy. The original loan was for £4.113m. Nottingham Academy is the only commitment left and will be funded at a rate of £0.054m per annum until the loan is repaid in 2052/53. The value of this loan repayment is fixed.
SUB-TOTAL	1.487	
HISTORIC COMMITMENTS – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK		
1. SEN Transport	1.000	SEN transport where the Schools Forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget (this is treated as part of the high needs block but requires Schools Forum approval as a historic commitment).
SUB-TOTAL	1.000	
GRAND TOTAL FOR HISTORIC COMMITMENTS	2.487	
ONGOING COMMITMENTS		
School Admissions	0.630	Provide a statutory provision of coordinated admission scheme for first entry to school at primary and secondary phase. It Provides scrutiny of application of Admissions Code and management of compliance relating to all aspects of school admissions legislation.

The service have requested an increase to this budget of £0.045m. The increased provisional budget has been included in table 1.

Below is a more detailed description of what the Admissions team provides for this service and details of why the additional funding is required.

- **Stagnant DSG Allocation**

The DSG allocated to the Admissions team has remained unchanged for several years which is currently £584,914, despite consistent increases in operational costs. During this period, we have absorbed the impact of local pay awards and inflationary pressures without corresponding increases in funding. This has placed a strain on our budget, which we can no longer sustain.

- **Increased Demand on the Service**

Over recent years, the demand for the Admissions team has grown substantially. Specifically:

- Appeals have increased from an average of 300 per year to 950 per year, necessitating additional support for our Appeals Manager to manage this workload effectively.

- In-year movement has risen by 30%, requiring us to fill previously unfilled vacancies to ensure compliance and service continuity. This has led to an unavoidable increase in salary costs.

- **Workforce Changes and Rising Costs**

We now have a more stable workforce, and as staff progress through the pay scale, salary costs have naturally risen. While digitalisation efforts have helped reduce some expenditure, the overall running costs of the staff group and associated operational expenses have exceeded the current DSG allocation.

- **Statutory Responsibilities and Risk Mitigation**

Following a recent restructure, we aim to use a portion of the requested funds to strengthen support for the Local Authority and enhance compliance and governance for own-admission authorities. This is critical, as the current reliance on a single point of failure for these statutory functions poses significant risks.

With that, we are asking for the following:

1 – This year, prior to the pay award would have been the final year that we would have balanced, however with the pay award included, we are now £1,654 short based on projected income (£50,000) which is yet to be confirmed as we are part way through the financial year.

		<p>2 – For 2025/2026, on the current pay scales with colleagues anticipated progression up the scales with annual increments, we anticipate a shortfall of £13,859.</p> <p>3 – It has been identified that additional resource is required to enable us to recruit a new position to focus on policy and compliance in respect of admission arrangements, own admission authority compliance with the School Admissions Code and consultation work. This post will also support with the increase in delayed and deferred admission requests to ensure full and careful consideration is given to each. This is anticipated to be a H Grade position, therefore, we would like to ask for an increase of £49,176. We feel this bring with it significant safeguarding benefits which we are looking to continuously build on.</p>
Servicing of Schools Forum	0.039	<p>The servicing of schools forum; this cost relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities undertaken by Constitutional Services to ensure that Schools Forum complies with legislation in its function and membership; • Governance Officer time – general administration of the Forum, meeting scheduling, provision of advice, checking and collation of reports for Chairs Briefing, attending Chairs Briefing, checking reports and agenda collation and publication, management of meetings, support to Chair / Vice-Chair and provision of procedural advice at meetings, writing and publishing minutes. These costs equate to 0.71 FTE on average supporting the above services; • Managerial time; • Use of Mod.Gov licence and support for collating reports and publishing agendas and minutes on-line; • Use of Zoom licence for holding meetings; • Attendance at meetings – chairs briefings, Schools Forum, Sub-Groups, fact finding meetings.
Statutory Retained Duties	1.320	<p>These duties were previously funded from the Education Services Grant (ESG). This relates to the statutory duties held by the local Authority for all pupils. The three main areas this budget covers are;</p> <p>Director of Childrens services and personal staff for the Director, including Religious Education (SACRE) and other duties – £ 0.461 Education Welfare - £0.165 Asset Management - £0.186</p>

Education Welfare	0.508	<p>This element of the service is funded from a High Needs Block transfer but the whole budget including the element contained within statutory retained duties is £0.673m.</p> <p>The funding covers the entire cost of the Education Welfare Service bar the Legal Intervention work. This includes the Team Manager, two Education Welfare Specialists, the Education Welfare Officers and the Electively Home Educated cohort of children, plus two of the Legal Intervention Officers. This year the team have worked with and supported schools to adopt the new statutory Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance through the delivery of training to schools and direct work in settings. The number of children who are Electively Home Educated has increased by 30% and the number of elective home education enquiries the team process has also grown. In these cases, the Education Welfare Officers are assigned a child and their family to support from the moment they are removed from a school roll.</p> <p>Where there is a true intention to home educate, these families are supported to complete the necessary paperwork and to get a plan for education in place. But where children are removed from a school roll in response to challenges they are facing in school, the Education Welfare Officer role becomes more complex and the team must work to safeguard children until they are back in education.</p> <p>For 2025/26, we plan to look at the roll of the Education Welfare Service following the implementation of Working Together to Improve School Attendance and the development of daily attendance data and continue to develop a service that supports schools and safeguards children in equal measure.</p>
Teachers Pay and Pension costs for Centrally Retained staff	0.096	<p>In 2021/22 funding for centrally employed teachers which was previously included in the Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employers Contribution Grants was added to the CSSB.</p>
Copyright Licences	0.334	<p>The Department for Education (DfE) have been negotiating copyright licences for schools since 2013/14, prior to this; schools were responsible for purchasing their own licences. Schools Forum is not required to approve this. The £0.264m is the estimated cost of the licences in 2024/25. The final figure will be confirmed in December 2023 and the final schools' budget will be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>The licences that are covered by the DfE are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA); School Printed Music Licence (SPML); Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA); Educational Recording Agency (ERA); Performing Rights Society for Music (PRS);

		Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL); Motion Picture Licencing; Filimbankmedia; Christian Copyright Licensing International.
SEN Transport	1.000	Funded by a high needs block transfer but it is required to be agreed at Schools Forum as it is a historical commitment.

This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum – 14 January 2025

Title of paper:	De-delegation of funding for Trade Union time off for Senior Representatives for 2025/26
Corporate Director: Director:	Stuart Fair - Finance and Resources Lee Mann - HR and EDI
Report authors and contact details:	Susan Woodland, Senior Commercial Business Partner (Finance) susan.woodland@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Elaine Harrison, HR Consultant, Human Resources elaine.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Alexa McFadyen, Senior Solicitor, and Helen Varey, Solicitor, Legal Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed funding arrangements for trade union facility time for senior trade union representatives from schools to attend negotiations and consultation meetings and to represent their members in schools from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2023, maintained schools can agree to de-delegate funding for trade union facility time. This has been done by maintained schools since the financial year 2013/14.

To reduce the cost on maintained schools, the arrangement is also offered to academies. The income generated pays for the salaries of the trade union representatives whilst carrying out trade union facility time duties. Maintained schools and academies are reimbursed the salaries of the representatives who are employed by them.

This is done so that no school loses out as a consequence of a member of their staff carrying out trade union duties.

Recommendations:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | <p>For maintained mainstream primary schools to approve the de-delegation of funding for senior trade union representatives at a rate of £2.15 per pupil and a lump sum of £2,188 per school.</p> <p>Notes: These charges will generate a projected income of £0.225m based upon 72 maintained schools and academies opting into the scheme.</p> <p>The projected income from maintained primary schools buy-back income of £0.225m should generate sufficient income to achieve a breakeven position.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Maintained mainstream primary schools to note that the total funding requested to be de-delegated by maintained mainstream primary schools is £84,883.</p> |

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Under the school funding arrangements, costs which relate to teachers and non-teaching support staff who are employed by schools and are engaged as Senior Trade Union Representatives can be centrally retained on the behalf of maintained primary schools if de-delegation is approved. Funding for facility time forms a part of the school formula. However, funding can also be retained centrally by Nottingham City Council on behalf of maintained mainstream primary schools if de-delegation is approved.
- 1.2 The decision made by primary maintained schools at Schools Forum on 5 December 2023 to de-delegate from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 related to that year only, so a new approval is required for de-delegation to continue from 1 April 2025 to March 2026. Schools Forum members of maintained mainstream primary schools must decide whether this service should be provided centrally, and the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream primary schools in that phase. Funding for this service will then be removed from the individual school budgets of maintained mainstream primary schools before their school budgets are issued.

In October 2013 Schools Forum agreed that Academies could be approached to ascertain whether they would like to be part of the Local Authority's (LA) arrangements in relation to the funding of senior trade union representatives. We are yet to write to Academies asking them to buy into the service from April 2025 and this will be based on the costing decision taken at Schools forum on 10 December 2024.

- 1.3 Table 1 below shows the number of schools participating in the trade union arrangement from 2016/17 to 2023/24.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Maintained primary schools	39	36	30	29	29	29	29	29	29
Academies, maintained special schools and PRUs	34	20	34	36	37	40	41	43	43
Total	73	56	64	65	66	69	70	72	72

It is anticipated that the same number schools and academies (72) will take part in the arrangement in the 2025/26 de-delegation period.

- 1.4 The allowance allocated for 2025/26 to schools Trade Unions, which has remained the same for the last two years, will be increased by one day to 3.9 which equates to 19.5 days per week.

Table 2 below shows the rates applied over the last six financial years to schools and academies.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Per Pupil rate	£1.52	£1.52	£1.55	£1.45	£1.52	£1.64	£1.63	£1.75	£1.77
Lump sum per school	£1,587	£1,590	£1,622	£1,368	£1,538	£1,693	£1,653	£1,766	£1,746

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Time off for local workplace representatives is currently funded by the schools in which they work, but there is central funding for senior TU representatives from the main unions that represent teachers and support staff in schools namely:

- National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT);
- National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT);
- UNISON;
- UNITE;
- GMB;
- National Education Union (NEU) from 1 September 2017 (Previously National Union of Teachers and Association of Teachers and Lecturers).

2.2 There are benefits and economies of scale for maintained schools and academies from contributing to the LA's arrangements for trade union consultation. They do not have to duplicate effort when negotiating policies and procedures to securing collective agreement between management and the trade unions as representatives of the workforce.

Schools can then use such policies, if they buy back HR services, in the knowledge that the senior trade union representatives have been consulted and any issues resolved. Senior TU representatives are also more experienced in policies and procedures, when representing their members, which can be helpful.

More specifically, these senior representatives will meet with officers of the LA and schools to participate in:

- the schools collective bargaining machinery;
- negotiations and consultations on terms and conditions of service;
- consultations on HR policies, practice, and procedures;
- representing their members on a range of employment matters such as attendance management, disciplinary, performance management, restructures and workforce redesign, redundancies etc.

Additionally, senior representatives will:

- Represent their school employees at joint meetings including the Education JCNC, HR Working Party and other City Council working groups and forums;
- Be the first line of contact in relation to school employee relations matters;
- Coordinate the work of local representatives;
- Member training and development;
- Support the organisation to discharge its health and safety duties and responsibility.

2.3 If this collective de-delegated funding were not available, schools would have to put in place their own trade union bargaining arrangements. Senior TU representatives would be asking for time off to attend meetings with the school management and the Council, and this would have to be funded by the school in which they work as there is an entitlement under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act

1992 (TULR(C)A) for reasonable time off for trade union officials to represent their members.

2.4 Academies are in a similar position; some of their employees are senior TU reps and are asking for release to represent employees in maintained schools and other academies. The current funding method means that academies will be reimbursed for time spent away from school on TU duties.

2.5 Likewise, Schools and academies that do not contribute to the TU costs will have to have their own arrangements for negotiating and consulting trade unions on terms and conditions of service and will have to release TU representatives from their own school to undertake collective bargaining and to represent their employees.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 If de-delegation is not supported, schools and academies will have to the delegated budget to make their own arrangements for negotiating and consulting with the trade unions on changes to HR policies and procedures which will lead to duplication of effort and inconsistencies across schools.

3.2 Senior TU reps have a legal right to time off to participate in the collective bargaining arrangements of their employer and to represent their members. If the de-delegations are not agreed, individual schools and academies would have to bear the cost of the time off for the senior TU reps nominated by their union to participate in these discussions. TU's may also decide that they each wish to appoint reps in individual schools and, therefore, schools may also have to pay additional costs for the training and CPD of each TU rep.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

4.1 The money requested is based on average salaries of the senior TU representatives (in UPS grades 1, 2 and 3) who have time off therefore those schools including academies who have senior TU representatives with time off will receive the actual cost of the absence of that employee. The amount of time off per union is based on the per capita membership per union and the actual cost of the senior TU reps' salaries.

5. Consideration of Risk

5.1 None.

6. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

6.1 In 2025-26 local authorities will continue to be funded based on the schools national funding formula. Included within this approach is for local authorities to be able to continue to request approval from maintained primary and secondary school representatives on Schools Forum for de-delegated services.

6.2 New decisions are required annually before the start of each financial year for any service to be de-delegated.

6.3 As stated in 4.1, the cost of trade union facility time is reimbursed to their place of employment. The de delegation of funding for Union duties is for the school where

the union rep is employed is so that the school where the union rep is employed can use this funding to provide cover for when the rep is undertaking union duties. The reimbursements will be actioned by the Local Authority at the end of each financial year (March) once the actual costs have been confirmed they have been incurred. Based on the estimated 2025/26 salary projections and forecast income from maintained schools, academies and maintained special schools, and PRU's who buy into the service based on a rate of £2.15 per pupil and a lump sum of £2,188, would generate funding of £225,055 to cover the costs of the salaries in the financial year 2025/26.

- 6.4 It is estimated that this approach should enable the facility time to be funded for 2025/26 to a breakeven position.

Table 3 below shows the forecast projection for 2025/26.

Forecast income from maintained primary schools	£84,883	
Forecast income from academies and maintained special schools, Hospital and Home Education PRU	£140,172	
Forecast income		£225,055
Less Forecast expenditure		-£225,055
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		£0

- 6.5 Due to the additional work required at both a school and authority level to obtain salary details, it is proposed for 2025-26 that an average salary for a M6, UPS1, UPS2 and UPS 3 are used. The table below shows the calculation for this.

Scale	Annual Salary 2024-25 including 5.5% pay award (<i>excl. on costs</i>)	Annual salary 2025-26 including contingency for another 5.5% pay award (<i>excl. on costs</i>)
M6	£43,606	£46,004
UPS 1	£45,646	£48,157
UPS 2	£47,338	£49,942
UPS 3	£49,084	£51,784
Average	£46,419	£48,972

It is hoped that this will simplify the process and speed up the payments to schools. In obtaining information and the funding being given to the schools. This will be part of the schools funding consultation, and the results will help inform the decision on the funding moving forward.

Susan Woodland, Senior Commercial Business Partner – 20/12/2024

7. Legal colleague comments

- 7.1 The schools' forum's powers here derive from the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023 ("SEYFR"), made by the Secretary of State for

Education in exercise of powers under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education Act 2002.

7.2 Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the SEYFR is entitled “Further Deductions and Variations to Limits Authorised by School Forums or the Secretary of State” and it contains regulation 12 of the SEYFR. Under regulation 12 of the SEYFR, on the application of a local authority the schools forum may authorise the redetermination of schools' budget shares by removal of any of the expenditure referred to in Part 6 (Items That May Be Removed From Maintained Schools' Budget Shares-Primary and Secondary Schools) of Schedule 2 [of the SEYFR] from schools' budget shares where it is instead to be treated by the authority as if it were part of central expenditure, under regulation 11(5) (SEYFR, regulation 12(1)(d)). Part 6 of Schedule 2 to the SEYFR contains paragraph 43, which states, amongst other things: -

Expenditure on making payments to, or in providing a temporary replacement for, any person who is:

- (a) carrying out trade union duties or undergoing training under sections 168 and 168A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992;
- (b) taking part in trade union activities under section 170 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992;

7.3 Therefore, provided the proposals fall within the above legislation, Nottingham City Schools Forum has the power to approve the recommendations in this report. This power should be exercised lawfully. Provided the amounts sought through use of this power have been correctly and lawfully calculated, the exercise of this power will be lawful.

7.4 Moreover, it should be noted that any decision taken by the Schools Forum here does not obviate an employer's requirement to consult with staff via their trade union representatives.

7.5 As employers of their own staff, academies (and the governing bodies of voluntary aided schools) will still have substantive legal obligations to consult, even if their proposals align with those of Nottingham City Council in relation to the authority's own staff in maintained schools.

Helen Varey, Solicitor (Employment and Dispute Resolution) - 10 December 2024

8. **HR comments**

8.1 The relevant HR issues are included in the report.

8.2 The existing 'pot' set up by the LA for academies to pay into, continues to be supported by a number of academies having previously recognised the value of the expertise provided by TU officials via effective JCNC mechanisms.

8.3 Our ambition for City schools to be less atomised by encouraging and supporting joined up working between organisations is supported by having organisations that 'join them up' and the TUs are a primary example of this in practice.

Elaine Harrison, HR Consultant, Human Resources – 20/12/2024

9. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 An EIA is not required because these proposals have a very broad scope across many schools and academies and are focussed on financial matters. It is not possible to accurately assess how this directly impacts on individuals employed within schools.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 A DPIA is not required because there are no data protection risks associated with this proposal.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment is not required because it is not applicable.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022.

15.2 The national funding formulae for schools and high needs 2023-24 Policy document – July 2022.

15.3 Schools Forum report 6 December 2022: De-delegation of funding for Trade Union time off for senior representatives.

This page is intentionally left blank

High Needs Recovery Plan and Inclusion Model

- Inclusion Model funding continued in the 2025/26 budget, with an allocation of funding to schools guaranteed until the end of the 2024/25 academic year.
- Will allow consistency and stability until the end of the academic year.
- LA Officers and the Schools Forum sub-group are looking at all four areas of overspend in the High Needs Block, and a recovery plan will be developed and shared with Schools Forum – draft plan to be developed by April 2025.
- This will include future plans for the Inclusion Model.
- An Inclusion Manager has been recruited and they will pick up the work in developing an Inclusion Strategy for the city.
- The Virtual School Head will oversee the Inclusion Manager, and the service area will be developed into Virtual School and Vulnerable Learners. The Inclusion Manager will engage with schools to consult on the Inclusion Model and Inclusion Strategy.

This page is intentionally left blank

Items raised by the Working Group, to be discussed with members at the Schools Forum meeting on 14 January 2025:

1. officers are keen to expand the SFWG membership, particularly with representation from the 0–25 education partnership;
2. SFWG meetings have been moved to fortnightly whilst officers develop a high needs recovery plan;
3. the focus of the next meeting of SFWG will be on permanent exclusion trends for the last three years, and a more detailed analysis of the overspend in high level needs funding by key stage.

This page is intentionally left blank

Meeting (1.45pm)	Item / running order	Contact officer	Received?
29/04/25	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)	Mark Leavesley	N/A
	Revenue Monitoring 2024/25	Sadrul Alam	
	Final Early Years Budget 2024/25 - update	Nick Lee	
	SFVS Submission Review	TBC	
	Schools Forum Working Group – verbal update	Jennifer Hardy	
	Work plan (standing item)	D Munday / M Leavesley	
	Date of next meeting (standing item)	Mark Leavesley	N/A
24/06/25	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)	Mark Leavesley	N/A
	Scheme for Financing Schools Review	TBC	
	Revenue Outturn 2024/25	Sadrul Alam	
	Revenue Monitoring 2025/26	Sadrul Alam	
	Maintained School balances	TBC	
	Dates of 2025/26 meetings (approval of)	Mark Leavesley	
	Schools Forum Working Group – Verbal update	Jennifer Hardy	
	Work plan (standing item)	D Munday / M Leavesley	
October	Appointments of Chair & Vice-Chair	Mark Leavesley	
(Date tbc)	SF Constitution review	Mark Leavesley	
	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)	Mark Leavesley	

	DSG Outturn Position 2024/25	Sadrul Alam	
	Revenue Monitoring 2025/26	Sadrul Alam	
	Schools Forum Working Group – verbal update	Jennifer Hardy	
	Work plan (standing item)	D Munday / M Leavesley	
	Date of next meeting (standing item)	Mark Leavesley	N/A
December	SF Membership (standing item if necessary)	Mark Leavesley	N/A
(Date tbc)	Pupil Growth Fund for 2026/27	Lucy Juby	
	High Needs Block Budget proposal 2026/27	TBC	
	Early Years central expenditure proposal 2026/27	Nick Lee	
	Schools Block Budget submission proposal 2026/27	TBC	
	De-delegated School Improvement Budget proposal 2026/27	Nick Lee	
	De-delegated Trade Unions Budget proposal 2026/27	Nick Lee	
	De-delegated H&S Building Inspection Funding Budget proposal 2026/27	Trevor Bone	
	Schools Forum Working Group – verbal update	Jennifer Hardy	
	Work plan (standing item)	D Munday / M Leavesley	
	Date of next meeting (standing item)	Mark Leavesley	N/A