

Schools Forum – 14 January 2025

Title of paper:	Schools Budget 2025-26
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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:
 - (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 (TPECG).

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.