

SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

23rd September 2020

14.00 to 16.00

Membership: Jim Edgecombe (Chair), Phil Haigh (Chair of Sub Groups), Ludmila Morris, Duncan Greig, Kris O’Sullivan, Tony Eginton, Jo Palmer, Liz Horrigan, John Goddard, Bob Charlton, Joan Greening, Tracey Hemming, Robert Jones, Peter Ryerson, Sudhi Pathak, Laurie Cornwell, Elaine Caffary, Lesley Knee, Helen Manwaring, Rachel Anderson, Sophia Shaikh, Sandra Voisey, David Patterson.

Shadow Reps/Observers: Rachel Blake, Debbie Gilder, John Buckingham, Graham Wells, Jenny Rigby.

Officers: Graham Young, Dan Kennedy, Vikram Hansrani, Kate Boulter (Clerk)

AGENDA

	Item	Time	Lead	Update
1	Apologies	14.00 – 14.05	KB	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 30 th June 2020	14.05 – 14.15	Chair	Report
3	Matters arising from meeting on 30 th January 2020 a) SEN Sufficiency Plan Update b) Business training for Early Years providers c) Secondary Growth Contingency d) Membership Update	14.15 – 14.45	VH GY GY JE/KB	Report Verbal Verbal Verbal
4	Feedback from sub-groups/working groups a) Early Years/DSG b) High Needs	14.45 – 14.50	PH PH	Verbal Verbal
5	Items Requiring Decision a) St Martin’s Diseconomies b) Scheme for Financing Schools – Consultation on Proposed Revisions	14.50 – 15.10	GY GY	Report Report
6	Information Items a) Early Years Free Entitlement Funding Autumn Term 2020 b) DSG Budget Monitoring Month 4 2020/21 c) DSG 2021/22 Funding Announcements d) Funding Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block	15.10 – 15.55	GY GY GY GY	Report Report Report Report
7	AOB a) COVID-19 funding	15.55 – 16.00	PH	Verbal

HILLINGDON SEND CAPITAL PROVISION UPDATE SEND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY GROUP

1. SUMMARY OVERVIEW

1.1 In May 2019, a SEND Capital Provision Plan was published on the Local Offer. The plan contained a series of potential developments prepared following wide stakeholder engagements.

1.2 The DfE provided a SEND Capital Provision Grant to Hillingdon local authority, in annual instalments from autumn 2018, later expanded to a total allocation for Hillingdon to £4,950k. To access the funding, the DfE required SEND Capital Plans to be reviewed and re-published by 31st May 2019. This was done in the Hillingdon SEND Capital Provision Plan in 2019 to reflect needs and pressure in the system. In April 2020 DfE cancelled the requirement to submit annual plans and released all remaining funds to LAs, so long as they were spent on the general aims of improving SEND facilities and expanding the number of places particularly to reduce the pressure on additional needs budgets. There is currently £3,030k remaining for Hillingdon to firm up plans to best meet needs. The criteria for this process is discussed in 3.2 to 3.4 below.

1.3 As well as the SEND Capital Provision budget there is a greater expansion in places and improvements to the quality of facilities in existing special schools funded and managed directly by the DfE from the Free Schools and Priority schools Building Programme. In 2019 it was then hoped that these projects would be sufficient to meet needs for places in special schools and SRPs. Unfortunately, many of the projects were delayed due to issues with their sites, planning permission and the changes in staff in the council and DfE, and then through COVID, though all are back on track to be completed by 2023/24. See the table at the end of this paper.

2. SEND CAPACITY AND DEMAND REVIEW OUTCOMES 2019-2020

2.1 Since Autumn 2019, SEND demand has been under review and a large backlog in EHCPs over several years has been cleared, adding a significant increase of 17.5% in one year to 2,691 in July 2020 (far above the 8.7% annual rise nationally.) Across the borough, mainstream primary rolls rose from 2010 to 2018 and then plateaued, and the higher numbers are now feeding through to secondary which is currently rising sharply. The growth in EHCPs partly reflects this pattern, but the backlog included some of the primary bulge that had not been fully assessed, and early years as well as the start of the bulge in secondary pupils.

2.2 Across Greater London (ADASS Region), the proportion of pupils with statements or education, health and care (EHC) plans ranges from 1.3% to 5.5%. Hillingdon has a value of 3.8%, compared to an average of 3.8%% in Greater London (ADASS Region). Hillingdon has had a higher percentage of pupils with EHCPs over previous years, however this is now in line with Greater London, the first time since the reforms of 2014.

2.3 The process of finalising hundreds of EHCPs in a year has improved understanding of local issues, and informed better management of demand in the system so that all children and young people are educated in settings best suited to their needs, both in special and mainstream settings. It has also revealed some inconsistencies between plans which will be realigned as some older EHCPs have their annual review.

2.4 It is clear that some issues identified in 2019 have continued:

- All the 7 special schools in the borough are full and oversubscribed.

- In particular there has been a large rise in pupils with EHCPs indicating the primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and those with social, emotional, mental health (SEMH).
- There is a rise in the number of pupils with comorbidities, who need individually commissioned places in special schools or SRPs that can cater to these wider ranges of complex needs.
- Since 2019, officers have sought to reduce the use of Independent Specialist Provision, however there has been an increasing trend over the past three years due to the lack of local specialist sufficiency planning.
- There is a rise in the use of interim home tuition being provided to pupils with EHCPs. Interim home tuition is only intended for short periods before placements are finalised, but it is continuing to be used for longer than desirable for some children and young people because sufficient suitable provision isn't available locally.

Improvements and changed demand in 2019-20:

- The remodelling of the Council's SEND services and pathways are aimed at addressing systems issues to improve processes, clarify responsibilities and joint working between the council and providers - to ensure that children and young people progress appropriately through the system and are effectively supported prior to, and during key transition points.
- The arrangements for Special Resource Provision (SRP) are being improved to ensure pupils and schools are appropriately supported and pupils benefit, and that it is well specified and used effectively.
- There is a need for more secondary SRP provision for pupils with EHCPs, including those with ASD with varying cognitive abilities to enable pupils to progress from the increased number of primary SRP places to a secondary SRP.
- There will be a continuing need for more post-16 provision for pupils with EHCPs.
- Some special schools in the borough have many non-borough pupils who joined the schools over a sustained period. Now, commissioning arrangements and relationships have improved, and the borough aims to plan ahead together with schools to fill all places that arise in the schools. This will be demonstrated in the new protocol for 2020-2021 phase transfers. It is expected that pupils are likely to only move on at the next point of phase transfer.

3. Proposed SEND Capital Developments

3.1 There are many priorities across the short and longer term to secure adequate numbers of appropriate specialist placements for pupils with EHCPs.

Short term - Key priorities for re-allocating the unspent SEND Capital Provision Plan

3.2 The LA must reallocate the unspent £3,030k amount of the DfE Capital Provision Plan to best meet the needs of pupils and optimise value for money. The rapid increase in EHCPs has led to a detailed analysis of demand, by each specific need and year group and geographical area, which is still being completed. It is now clear that the secondary satellite model as initially conceived, is now not the most appropriate route to pursue.

3.3 The revised plan will not need to go to DfE for approval, but at some stage, LA officers will be asked to justify the new plan to DfE. It is proposed to seek outline expressions of interest in early September

from schools and other stakeholders, follow them up, and then make proposals for the best use of the resources to the Council Lead Members who will approve the change to the plan by the end of October.

3.4 The current key challenge in the statutory service is finding places in special schools for all pupils with ECHPs requiring them; who are currently receiving only interim tuition, as most special schools are full.

3.5 This requires short-term extra special school places to be created within this year in the borough. The extra places would need to continue up to the normal next point of transition for each pupil. This could involve:

- Assessing the scope to create additional places within this year at existing special schools with adaptations or extra temporary classrooms.
- Potential to use off-site annexes staffed and managed by special schools to provide specialist provision within the existing school estate, for the next few years. There are very few mainstream schools with large enough numbers of surplus places as this will require considerable space, separate playgrounds and access including for minibuses. This would be absolutely separate special school provision, not a SRP - the pupils will not be integrated into mainstream. This would require brokering agreements between community and academy mainstream and special schools and DfE approval. Possibly there are also other buildings suitable for use as satellite annexes.
- Aiming to adapt existing classrooms with minimal capital and time spent, mainly for updating access, hygiene and toilets and other specialist areas to meet the needs of pupils with complex special needs.

3.6 Medium Term permanent priorities:

- Additional capacity for primary special school places
- Specialist provision for Early Years settings including assessment bases*
- Additional secondary SRP places

3.7 Long- term major proposals

The needs of schools requiring major long-term permanent rebuilds and expansions will be better served by bids to the new government £1 billion school building programme - announced in the summer by the Prime Minister, but yet to be fully launched; expected to be similar to PSBP and enable expansion and rebuilding schools and creating new facilities for new demands such as post-16 special provision. To be ready, the LA has begun considering priorities, particularly those special schools that missed out on significant improvement and enlargement works.

4. Greatest Areas of High Needs Expenditure in 2019/20

4.1 Top-up funding - the number of pupils with an EHCP has continued to grow at a significant rate, resulting in an increase in the amount of High Needs funding paid to schools.

4.2 Independent Placements - Due to a continuing lack of capacity in-borough and across other local authority provision, there is a requirement to use more costly placements in Independent and Non-Maintained Schools.

4.3 SEN Tuition - The lack of capacity has also resulted in a significant increase in the expenditure on specialist tuition for pupils with SEN. In 2018/19 the expenditure on SEN tuition was £160k, whilst in 2019/20 this increased to £469k.

4.4 Post-16 SEN provision - There has been a further increase in the cohort of post-16 SEN placements in 2019/20 putting additional pressure on High Needs budgets with the potential that placements for young people with SEN to be funded up to the age of 25 (*please see more details below under SEND CYP post 16*).

Business training for Early Years providers (verbal update)

The Family Information Service have been researching the market for companies offering business support with a view to commissioning one of these suppliers to deliver help for providers to adapt to the on-going challenges of providing childcare. The number of children attending this term has reduced compared to last year, though the guarantee from government that Free Entitlement funding will be provided this term as if it was pre Covid-19, gives some financial protection for providers.

However, the DfE announced earlier this week that they intend to procure services to maximise take-up of the 2-year-old entitlement and offer business support to early years providers. The procurement will be divided into two lots, will have a maximum value of £250,000 and will run from contract initiation in November until 31 March 2021.

Lot 1: working with local authorities (LAs) and family-facing professionals to maximise take-up of the 2-year-old entitlement

- a. share expert advice and best practice with all LAs in England on maximising take-up of the 2-year-old entitlement.
- b. provide focused and targeted interventions to those local authorities with low take-up rates or which require the most help to maximise take up of the entitlement.
- c. Advise family-facing professionals on strategies for engaging with parents and carers to promote the 2-year-old entitlement.

Lot 2: promoting provider sustainability and childcare sufficiency by delivering business advice to childcare providers and developing the business support skills of local authority officials.

- a. advise early years providers on good business practice and strategies for building resilience at a time when many will be revising their business models in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. build the confidence of local authority officials to have business support conversations with their local providers.

Appendix 1: SEND places in Hillingdon- SRPs, June 2020

PRIMARY	Primary Need	Phase	Governance	Planned Place Number 2019/20	Number on roll Census Oct 2019	Number on roll at Mar 2020	Number on roll at May 2020	Starters in Sep 2020	Comments
Hayes Park Primary SRP	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Primary	Foundation	13	10	10	14	12	1 vacancy
Coteford Infants SRP	Physical disabilities	Primary	Community	10	5	6	7	6	4 vacancies
Coteford Juniors SRP	Physical disabilities	Primary	QED MAT	13	9	9	10 (9 LBH)	10	3 vacancies
Deanesfield Primary SRP	Speech, language & communication needs	Primary	Community	8	6	2	4	5	3 vacancies
Pinkwell Primary SRP	Speech, language & communication needs	Primary	Elliot MAT	10	9	3	8 (7 LBH)	7	3 vacancies
Glebe Primary SRP	Hearing Impaired	Primary	Community	10	10	13	13	13	3 over number
Cherry Lane Primary SRP	Autism and complex needs	Primary	Community	10	9	6	10	10	
Lake Farm Park Primary SRP	Autism and complex needs	Primary	MAT - Park Federation	12	9	8	11 (9 LBH)	10	2 vacancies
St Martin's CE Primary SRP	Autism and complex needs	Primary	MAT- Frays	12	9	7	8	9	3 vacancies
9 Primaries				98	76	64	85	82	

SECONDARY	Primary Need	Phase	Governance	Planned Place Number 2019/20	Number on roll at Oct 2019	Number on roll at Mar 2020	Number on roll at May 2020	Starters in Sep 2020	Comments
Oak Wood SRP	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Secondary	Foundation	8	13	10	14	14	6 over number
Harlington School SRP	Physical disabilities	Secondary	Foundation	7	5	4	7	4	3 vacancies
Northwood SRP	Speech, language and communication	Secondary	MAT QED	10	7	5	10	10	
Vyners SRP	Hearing Impaired	Secondary	MAT Vanguard	16	16	14	18 (14LBH)	15	
4 Secondary's				41	41	33	49	43	
TOTAL = 13 Schools				139	117	97	134	125	

Appendix 2: SEND places in Hillingdon- Special Schools, June 2020

School Name	Planned Place Number 19/20	Total Roll Oct 19 census	Roll May 20 survey	Planned extra places	Places in Sep 20	comments
Meadow	235	245	251	0	252	17 over
Hedgewood	145	167	173	25	184	39 over
Grangewood	113	108	109	67	100	13 under
Pentland Field	147	106	148	0	148	1 over
The Willows	38	60	69	0	46	8 over
Moorcroft	70	91	86	10	100	30 over
YPA	65	58	60	52	65	exact number

Appendix 3: Primary Need and provision by type

Schools Forum 23 September 2020

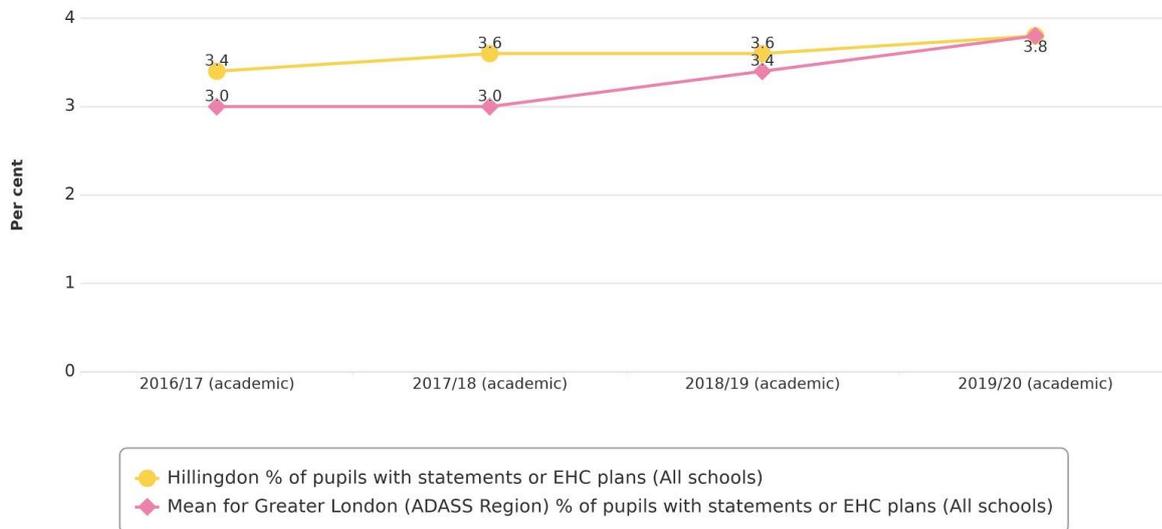
An overview of the primary needs of children and young people with EHCPs

Primary Need	Number of CYP with specified primary need as:					
	Aug 2016	Dec 2017	Oct 2018	May 2019	Mar 2020	May 2020
ASD	639	742	880	868	932	1139
Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)	350	357	371	364	376	488
Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)	186	201	214	207	196	209
Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)	172	192	163	161	169	172
Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) (incl (BESD)	150	167	175	174	182	216
Physical Disability (PD)	101	111	128	127	124	131
Other/medical	41	55	74	75	70	88
Hearing Impairment (HI)	44	48	47	47	48	64
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)	36	36	49	46	52	63
Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)	41	34	38	36	34	48
Visual Impairment (VI)	27	25	24	23	24	30
Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)	3	5	4	4	5	9
Unclassified	-	130	118	242	358	0
TOTAL	1818	2103	2285	2374	2570	2657

Source: BSL Database May 2020

Appendix 4

% of pupils with a statement or EHC Plan (from 2016/17 (academic) to 2019/20 (academic))



Source:

Metric ID: 2213, Department for Education, Special Educational Needs in England, **Data updated:** 05 Aug 2020

Powered by LG Inform

Secondary Growth Contingency (verbal update)

The local authority considers the following regarding the request to re-draft the Growth Contingency Policy following the request from Swakeleys schools for funding;

- There is no way to re-word without making other schools eligible who expanded in the past.
- It will create an ongoing free for all - which would impact on sensible planning of places and budgets for schools and the local authority.
- Definitely other schools (Bishopshalt, Bishop Ramsey) considered expanding in 2020 and would have gained places but at the cost to other schools. The schools didn't expand as they did not want to absorb the funding lag. However, if the policy were to change this would make it easier for them to expand at will.
- This would negatively impact on the less popular schools which will have further vacancies and therefore further funding pressures.

Membership Update



Membership list -
September 2020.pdf

Growth Contingency – Diseconomies Funding (St Martin’s)

1. Introduction

The DfE places a requirement on the local authority to fund the difference between the funding generated by the school funding formula and the appropriate running costs of new and growing basic need academies. This difference in funding is diseconomies and it is funded from the Schools Block of the DSG, through the Growth Contingency Fund with the actual allocation of pupil growth funding a decision for Schools Forum. The Council is required to calculate an estimated budget for Basic Need Academy schools and work with each school to determine appropriate running costs. In 2019/20 the diseconomies requirement for the three basic need schools was estimated to be £500,000 with the majority of this relating to St Martin's which opened a year later than the other two schools and is still growing up to capacity.

2. Recommendation

That Schools Forum make a decision on whether to agree the 2019/20 diseconomies for St Martin’s as per the updated position, subject to the outstanding queries raised by officers.

3. Background

St Martin’s submitted a 2019/20 (Sep ‘19-Aug ‘20) a draft budget to the local authority in July 2019 which indicated a diseconomies requirement of £689k. This is a significant increase on the £430k funding provided in the previous year.

Given the significant increase, local authority officers challenged the school on a number of areas of the budget. The DSG Monitoring sub-group were also asked to review the budget proposal in September 2019. This was in order to gain an objective view from Schools Forum members on the reasonableness of the expenditure, given that the allocation of diseconomies is a Schools Forum decision.

Following the sub-group meeting, officers met with representatives from the Trust, to discuss the budget and suggest areas that it was felt required further review.

In February 2020 St Martin’s submitted a revised budget. The revised budget reduced the diseconomies requirement by £130k, but the local authority still had concerns that the areas identified for review had not led to a sufficient reduction in the diseconomies requirement. This was outlined in a letter sent to St Martin’s in March 2020. The school has now submitted a revised 2019/20 position summarised at Appendix B. The updated position indicates a reduced diseconomies requirement of £450k. Officers have requested further details on some of the areas of expenditure and await a response from the school. Whilst the requirement remains high it is more in line with previous years and is within the growth contingency budget allocation for diseconomies.

4. Summary

Whilst the local authority accepts that there is a requirement to continue funding diseconomies at St Martin’s, the amount of funding should be appropriate for the school

to set a realistic budget. The current level of diseconomies required is more in line with previous years and within the growth contingency budget allocation for diseconomies.

Schools Forum members need to make a decision as to whether they agree to the revised diseconomies requirement.



Item 5a (Appendix) -
St Martin's updated



Diseconomies
workings.xlsx

Consultation Revisions for Scheme for Financing Schools

1. Introduction

Local Authorities are required to publish a scheme for financing schools which sets out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the schools they maintain. In making changes to the scheme, local authorities must consult all schools and receive the approval of the members of schools forum representing maintained schools. Where the schools forum does not approve them or approves them subject to modifications which are not acceptable to the authority, the authority may apply to the Secretary of State for approval.

A copy of the Scheme for Financing Schools should be available at all schools. The document can also be downloaded from the London Borough of Hillingdon webpage.

2. Recommendation

That the members of Schools Forum representing maintained schools approve the recommended revision to the Scheme for Financing Schools in order that consultation with all maintained schools can proceed.

3. Proposed Amendments

The proposed revisions are highlighted in red within the attached draft document. The majority of these changes are relatively minor and are as a consequence of changes to the guidance from the DfE.

The most significant change is in Section 10 as from 1 April 2020, maintained schools are able to join the Secretary of State's risk protection arrangement (RPA). The revised scheme indicates that maintained schools are able to join the scheme individually or collectively. If all schools were to opt to join the RPA collectively then it could be that schools forum agrees to the de-delegation of funding for this in 2021/22 (this can be consulted on later in the autumn term).

London Borough of Hillingdon

Scheme for Financing Schools

July 2020



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Item 5b (Appendix)
LBH Scheme for Fin:

Early Years Free Entitlement Funding Autumn Term 2020

1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has had implications on the way in which childcare is accessed. The government recognises that for some childcare providers, this means fewer children may be taking up places in the autumn term.

In recognition of this the government announced on 20 July 2020 that local authorities should continue to fund providers which are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons should also continue to be funded. Local authorities should not fund providers which are closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.

2. Recommendation

Schools Forum are asked to:

- i) Note the contents of this report

3. Autumn Term 2020 Funding

In order to deliver on the government's commitment next term in Hillingdon, childcare settings that are open at the beginning of the autumn term, will receive funding based on funded hours in either autumn 2019 or autumn 2020, whichever is higher, unless there has been a reduction in places in 2020 linked to a change in demand for places not linked to Covid-19.

The steps involved for Free Entitlement funding payments in the autumn term are as follows:

- i) Childcare settings submit estimates - the deadline for doing this has now passed. Settings cannot amend their estimates after submitting them. The only settings who can submit estimates are those who have not already provided one for the autumn term 2020.
- ii) The local authority compares estimates to what settings claimed at this time last year - headcount data from the autumn term 2019 will be checked and compared to estimates submitted for autumn 2020.
- iii) If the actual funded hours for autumn term 2019 are higher than the estimated hours for autumn 2020, the local authority will fund the number of hours claimed in autumn 2019.
- iv) If the estimate for autumn 2020 is higher than the total hours claimed in the autumn term 2019, the local authority will fund the number of hours estimated for autumn 2020.

- v) Using this comparison, payments will be calculated for September, October and November.
- vi) At the end of term, the payments made to each setting for the term will be reviewed. If the actual number of funded hours provided was greater than the initial estimate and the actual from autumn 2019, the difference will be funded in a final payment to be made in December.

If a setting did not claim funding in autumn term 2019 and did not submit an estimate for autumn 2020, no Free Entitlement funding will be paid. If an estimate is subsequently submitted later in the term, funding will commence in the following month payment run.

If a childcare setting is closed in the autumn term, funding will only be provided where the provider has been advised to close, or left with no option to close, due to public health reasons. Where applicable, there will be a requirement to provide evidence to the Family Information Service. If a setting is closed without public health reason, funding will not be provided in the autumn term.

4. Key Dates

- i) Headcount week: 28 September to 2 October 2020.
- ii) Deadline for Headcount returns: 9 October 2020. All eligible children attending should be submitted by this date.
- iii) 20 November 2020: if children leave or start at the setting after 9 October 2020, final deadline for childcare settings to submit or amend details of children starting or leaving after 9 October 2020.

5. Appendix

[Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Dedicated Schools Grant (£9,101k overspend, £768k adverse)

1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) monitoring position has an in-year overspend of £9,101k at month 4, this is an increase of £1,926k on the budgeted deficit of £7,175k and an adverse movement of £768k on the month 2 position. This overspend is due to ongoing pressures in the cost of High Needs placements, where significant growth continues. The budget for High Needs was increased for 2020/21 to take account of projected growth, but the recent publication of the SEN2 data indicates that growth in EHCPs in the past academic year has been significantly higher (17.5% vs 8.7% nationally). It is therefore projected that when the current backlog in cases is added to the increased estimated in-year growth, the budget will be further exceeded. When the £15,002k deficit brought forward from 2019/20 is taken into account, the cumulative deficit carry forward to 2021/22 is £24,103k.

Table: DSG Income and Expenditure 2020/21

Original Budget	Budget Changes	Funding Block	Month 4		Variance		
			Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance (As at Month 4)	Variance (As at Month 2)	Change from Month 2
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(296,926)	171	Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(296,755)	(296,755)	0	0	0
231,400	(28)	Schools Block	231,372	231,303	(69)	(69)	0
25,401	0	Early Years Block	25,401	25,401	0	0	0
3,270	0	Central Schools Services Block	3,270	3,303	33	0	33
44,030	(143)	High Needs Block	43,887	45,849	1,962	1,227	735
7,175	0	Total Funding Blocks	7,175	9,101	1,926	1,158	768
		Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2020	15,002	15,002			
		Balance Carried Forward 31 March 2021	22,177	24,103			

Dedicated Schools Grant Income (nil variance, no change)

2. The DSG has been adjusted to reflect the actual uptake of the free entitlement for eligible two, three and four year olds. This adjustment has been based on the January 2020 census and includes a retrospective change to the 2019/20 funding, as well as a recalculation of the 2020/21 Early Years block funding.
3. There has been an amendment to the High Needs block allocation following confirmation of the import/export adjustment for 2020/21 which has updated funding to reflect the local authority in which pupils with SEND are resident. An adjustment has also been made to the High Needs funding allocation to reflect an increase in the amount recouped to fund an increase in the planned place numbers in academy special schools, which are funded directly by the ESFA.
4. The Schools block funding has also been adjusted to reflect those maintained schools, who have opted into the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) scheme in 2020/21. The cost of

RPA membership has been deducted from the DSG and the funding allocated to the relevant schools has also been adjusted to account for this.

Schools Block (£69k underspend, no change)

5. The Schools Block includes all funding paid directly to mainstream schools as part of their delegated budget share, including the funding recouped by the ESFA and paid to mainstream academies. There is also a growth contingency fund which is funded from the Schools Block. Schools that are expanding, in agreement with the local authority, to meet basic need pupil population growth, receive additional funding to provide financial recompense throughout the relevant financial year to cover the cost of this agreed and planned growth.
6. Schools Forum took the decision to withhold growth contingency allocations for one school due to insufficient projected pupil growth in September 2020 and therefore there will be an underspend relating to this allocation. The growth contingency policy has been amended for 2020/21 in order address the growth in secondary pupils. Schools will be funded for any Year 7 pupils which are above the Published Admission Number (PAN). £480k was set aside for this purpose, the actual funding requirement will not be known until actual numbers on roll are confirmed.
7. The growth contingency also funds diseconomies of scale funding for new basic need academy schools and officers are still waiting on further details from one school on the level of diseconomies of scale funding that is being requested, which could affect the position further.

Early Years Block (nil variance, no change)

8. 2 year old and 3 & 4 year old funding has now been adjusted to reflect the number of children accessing the entitlement based on the January 2020 census.
9. The process for determining early years funding allocations for local authorities is to take an annual census count of the number of hours taken up by children each January. The rationale is that this is the mid-point of the academic year and therefore balances the lower numbers eligible for the free entitlements in the autumn term and the higher numbers in the summer term. The DfE recognises that, given COVID-19, the number of children accessing childcare may not have returned to normal levels by January 2021. Therefore the final funding allocation to local authorities for the 2020 autumn term will be based on the January 2020 census count.
10. From the start of the autumn term 2020, the guidance is for local authorities to continue to fund providers which are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no COVID-19 outbreak. Providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons should also be funded as normal. Providers which are closed, without public health reason, should not receive funding. Officers are currently reviewing the number of providers planning to open from September and will adjust payments accordingly. The financial impact of this will be known in more detail in the coming months.

Central School Services Block (£33k overspend, £33k adverse)

11. The published DSG budget allocations confirmed a 20% decrease in the CSSB provided for historic commitments. This resulted in a £265k reduction in funding, though this was partly off-set by £51k of additional funding for pupil growth.

This reduction in funding resulted in a budget shortfall for the services funded by the Central School Services block adding to the pressure which has led to an overall deficit DSG being agreed for 2020/21.

12. At month 4 the Central School Services block is projecting a £33k pressure due the additional cost of maternity cover in the School Placement and Admissions.

High Needs Block (£1,962k overspend, £735k adverse)

13. There continues to be significant pressure in the High Needs Block in 2020/21, with an overspend of £1,962k being projected at month 4. The growth in the number of pupils with an EHCP continued throughout 2019/20 with the recently published SEN2 data indicating that growth in Hillingdon in the past academic year has been 17.5% compared with 8.7% nationally. The adverse movement follows a change to the projections to reflect an increase in the projected growth in 2020/21 to bring it more in line with the actual growth in 2019/20.
14. The current academic year has seen a further increase in the number of in-borough special schools that are now over their commissioned place number. Where a special school is over its planned place number there is a requirement to fund for the additional places plus the agreed top-up funding which is placing additional pressure on the High Needs block.
15. Due to a continuing lack of capacity in-borough and across other local authority provision, there is a requirement to place pupils in more costly school placements, with an increase in the number of children that commenced new placements in Independent special schools in the current academic year. This is resulting in significant additional pressure on the High Needs block. There is an expectation that this will become the only route that the Council will be able to take until more provision is created locally.
16. There was a further increase in the cohort of post-16 SEN placements in 2019/20 and this has put additional pressure on the 2020/21 High Needs budgets with the potential that placements for young people with SEN can continue to be funded up to the age of 25.
17. In addition to the cost of pupils with an EHCP, the High Needs Block is now funding Early Support Funding (ESF) as an alternative to the allocation of statutory funding for children with SEN who experience significant barriers to learning. This funding allows schools to access funding quicker to enable them to intervene early and have the greatest impact. Whilst the expectation is that this might reduce total costs in the long-term; we are yet to see the financial impact of this.

Maintained School Balances & Budgets

18. Maintained schools ended the 2019/20 financial year with a cumulative closing surplus balance of £10.7m (£10.0m revenue and £0.7m capital). This was a £1.6m decrease from the previous year total. Despite the relatively healthy total balance, there is a wide spread across individual school balances, with a number of schools having low balances that are

expected to experience financial difficulties in 2020/21 due to reductions in pupil numbers and historic funding not keeping up with actual year-on-year increases in costs.

19. A review of the balances at the end of the 2019/20 financial year identified five schools which ended the year in deficit. Additionally 36 schools (66.7%) had an in year deficit. Any schools that fall into deficit are subject to more focused monthly monitoring by LA officers to ensure that everything possible is being done to address the situation.
20. The table below provides an update on the financial position of schools maintained by the Council (this excludes academy schools), based on school outturns for 2018/19 and 2019/20;

School Type	Total Number of Schools	Number of Schools In Deficit 2019/20	Value of Deficit 2019/20 £000	Number of Schools In Deficit 2018/19	Value of Deficit 2018/19 £000
Nursery	1	0	0	0	0
Primary	49	4	168	1	13
Secondary	2	1	3,466	1	3,233
Special	2	0	0	0	0
Total	54	5	3,634	2	3,246

21. It is known that 6 academy schools out of a total of 45 schools are also in deficit as at 31 August 2019. This is the same number of academy schools which were in deficit in the previous year. Additionally, 21 academy schools had an in year deficit.
22. Following analysis of the initial 2020/21 budgets for maintained schools, 22 schools (40.7%) were classified as having a red RAG rating. 5 (9.3%) of these schools have been unable to set a balanced budget and have therefore have requested approval from the local authority to license a deficit budget (a report has been drafted for the September Cabinet meeting). The total cumulative deficit of these 5 schools is £3.8m, with the majority of this relating to one school.
23. In addition a further 32 (59.3%) schools have set a budget with an in-year deficit, therefore relying on reserves to balance the budget. Furthermore, there are a number of schools which are of concern as they are projecting to be in deficit by the end of 2021/22. Based on the budget plans, schools are projecting a £3.0m (30%) reduction in revenue balances in 2020/21. However, this is similar to previous years, where schools projected a significant reduction in balances, but the overall outturn position did not reflect this. In 2019/20 total school revenue balances were budgeted to reduce from £11.1m to £5.2m, however the outturn position was £10.0m.
24. The table below summarises the budgeted position for maintained schools in 2020/21.

School Type	Total Number of Schools	Value of Balances 01/04/2020 £000	Budgeted Balances 31/03/2021 £000	In-year Movement 2020/21 £000
Nursery	1	68	9	(59)

Primary	49	10,672	7,415	(3,257)
Secondary	2	(3,051)	(2,798)	253
Special	2	2,330	2,393	63
Total	54	10,019	7,019	(3,000)

25. The Schools Finance Team will continue to work with schools to closely monitor and support those that are a cause for concern in relation to their financial position. Members and Schools Forum will be updated with the concerns regarding the future of schools budgets and officers will continue to engage with the schools and members of Schools Forum in the coming months in order to encourage that they think about ways that the situation could be addressed.

School Academy Conversions

26. The Academies Act 2010, allows schools to convert to academy status and by doing so will receive funding directly from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Schools can convert at any point in the year, once they have converted, a number of adjustments are required to realign the DSG income budget and the amount delegated to maintained schools.
27. The local authority has not been made aware of any academy conversions planned for the current financial year. In Hillingdon the last time that a school converted to an academy was in September 2017, when two schools converted.

COVID-19 - Financial Impact on Schools

28. Some schools have indicated budget pressures as a consequence of additional costs in relation to COVID-19. Whilst there is the opportunity for schools to claim for exceptional costs, the categories of expenditure are very specific (increased premises costs, support for free school meals for eligible children who are not attending school and additional cleaning) and the guidance indicates that schools with reserves are unlikely to be eligible for funding.
29. The impact of COVID-19 on income generation has also been significant for some schools. A number of schools generate significant levels of additional income from private sources for letting the premises and COVID-19 has resulted in a temporary stop on all such activities. The DfE has confirmed that there will be no additional funding in relation to this and therefore this lost revenue will create an additional pressure on school budgets.
30. The DfE has confirmed that the £650m universal catch-up premium funding will be paid directly to schools on a per pupil basis. Mainstream schools will receive £80 per pupil, with Special Schools receiving £240 per place. Schools will have flexibility to use this funding which should be used for specific activities to support pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months. In addition, schools will be able to access £350m of funding through a National Tutoring Programme to provide additional targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help.

2021/22 DSG Funding Announcements

31. Introduction

Details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for 2021/22 were announced at the end of July 2020, with the majority of local authorities set for significant increases in funding. Full detail was provided, with the publication of the Schools Revenue Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guidance along with provisional funding allocations for 2021/22.

This report provides an interpretation of these announcements on the impact on Hillingdon Schools Funding for 2021/22.

32. Recommendation

Schools Forum are asked to:

- ii) Note the contents of this report
- iii) Consider what steps to take when reviewing the budget for 2021/22

33. Funding Announcement

The announcement made on 20 July 2020 provides further clarity on how the additional funding in 2021/22 will be distributed. The key points are as follows:

Schools Block

- i) The Government have confirmed that the move towards a hard National Funding Formula (NFF) will be further delayed in light of the need to focus efforts on meeting the challenges of COVID-19. Later this year, proposals will be put forward on the move to a 'hard' NFF in future, but this will not be implemented in 2021/22. There will be a consultation in the near future on the transition to NFF.
- ii) Funding will be based on pupil numbers recorded in the October 2020 census.
- iii) The funding factors used in the 2021/22 national formulae remain the same.
- iv) There has been an update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data used to determine deprivation funding with the incorporation of the 2019 update.
- v) Funding previously received through the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, to mainstream schools for pupils from reception to year 11 will be allocated through the schools NFF by adding to schools' baselines; by increasing the basic per pupil funding levels (Primary - £180/Secondary - £265).
- vi) Minimum funding levels will be set for 2020/21 at £4,180 for Primary (from £3,750 in 2020/21) and £5,415 for Secondary (from £5,000 in 2020/21). This will continue to be a requirement within the Funding Formula.

- vii) Schools Block funding is increasing by 4% overall, compared to 2020/21, with the funding floor allocating at least 2% more in pupil-led funding per pupil, and higher minimum per pupil funding levels directing further increases to the lowest funded schools.
- viii) Local authorities must allocate at least 80% of the delegated schools block funding through pupil-led factors
- ix) Local authorities have the freedom to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at between +0.5% and +2.0%.
- x) Schools Forum can agree a block transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block, anything above this will need Secretary of State approval, although such block transfers cannot include the additional funding local authorities have been allocated for the teachers' pay and pension grants, thereby guaranteeing that all of this funding remains with schools.

High Needs

- xi) High needs funding is increasing by a further £730m, or 10%, in 2021/22. The NFF will ensure that every local authority receives an increase of at least 8% per head of population, compared to 2020/21, up to a maximum of 12%.
- xii) £660 per pupil has been added to the basic entitlement factor within the High Needs NFF to cover the Teachers' pay and pensions funding.
- xiii) The local authority must allocate high needs funding to those maintained schools, academies and free schools to which it allocated Teachers' Pay Grant, Teachers' Pensions Employer Contribution Grant and Pensions Supplementary Fund monies in 2020/21. The amount of funding to be allocated must be both at a level no less than the amount per place those schools and academies received in 2020/21.
- xiv) The High Needs Operational Guide which is due to be published this month will give more detail on the mechanism for passing the additional funding to schools.

Central School Services Block

- xv) Central schools services funding in 2021/22 will increase by 4% for the ongoing responsibilities that local authorities continue to have for all schools.
- xvi) Central school services funding for historic commitments will decrease by a further 20%.
- xvii) Additional pension funding claimed for centrally employed teachers will be rolled in as a per-pupil additional amount in the DSG

The Government have confirmed that the funding formula modelling tool will be distributed to local authorities in the autumn term.

34. Interpretation – Impact on Hillingdon Schools Funding

Schools Block

In overall terms the key points to note are the Governments intent to continue to address historic underfunding, with a further increase to the minimum per pupil level of funding rate for primary and secondary. This indicates that a significant proportion of the funding will be used to increase the funding of those schools that are below the minimum funding levels.

An analysis of Hillingdon Schools indicates that all schools per pupil funding is above the minimum levels. This suggests that for the majority of Hillingdon schools, per pupil funding will increase by 2% (the published floor).

The per pupil funding units have increased significantly when compared to 2020/21. This is partly due to the funding previously paid through the Teachers Pensions and Teachers Pay grants now being rolled into the DSG. The following table shows the change in Primary (PUF) and Secondary (SUF) units of funding;

	2020/21 (£)	2021/22 (£)	Increase (£)	Increase (%)
PUF	4,454	4,749	295	6.6%
SUF	5,954	6,407	453	7.6%

Ignoring growth funding, Hillingdon's total Schools block for 2020/21 was £229,200k. Based on the increased unit funding rates, the published funding illustrations indicate that Hillingdon's Schools block funding will increase by £16,247k (7.1%) to £245,447k.

If the increases are adjusted to take into account the Teachers Pay Grant and Teachers Pensions Grant allocations, the actual per pupil funding rate increase is estimated to be 2.6% for primary and 3.2% for secondary. Using the adjusted rates gives an estimated true increase in total Schools Block funding of £6,704k (2.9%).

It is important to note that this additional funding does not include any adjustment for pupil demographic growth or shrinkage. In Hillingdon it is estimated the pupil growth in October 2020 will generate a further increase in Schools block funding of £3,500k.

One further important point to note is the requirement to set a positive MFG of between +0.5% and +2.0%. This will continue to protect those schools that already receive MFG, rather than move those schools closer to their true per pupil funding level.

The change to using 2019 IDACI data for calculating deprivation funding will have an impact. Whilst it is not currently clear what the extent of this impact will be, the indication is that the 2019 data has London boroughs as less deprived than they were based on the 2015 data. This may have an impact on the level of deprivation funding for individual schools, though the extent of this won't be known until the individual school IDACI data is published.

The allowable 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block in 2021/22 is estimated to be £1,227k. In order to set a balanced High Needs budget the transfer from the Schools block would need to be in excess of 1.8%. In 2020/21 Schools Forum did not agree to a

transfer of funds from the Schools Block, a decision which was supported by the DfE and resulted in a deficit DSG budget being set.

High Needs Block

The provisional High Needs Block allocation indicates a £4,326k increase in funding from £45,767k in 2020/21 to £50,093k in 2021/22. This equates to a total percentage increase of 9.45% (the maximum increase is 12%).

This increase includes additional funding of £660 per pupil which has been added to the basic entitlement factor within the High Needs NFF to cover the Teachers' pay and pensions funding. For LBH this equates to £640k of the 2021/22 HN funding increase (based on 19/20 special school pupil numbers).

The DSG conditions of grant will be amended to ensure that local authorities allocate the additional funding to those maintained schools, academies and free schools to which it allocated Teachers' Pay Grant, Teachers' Pensions Employer Contribution Grant and Pensions Supplementary Fund monies in 2020/21.

In addition there should be a further increase in High Needs block funding as a consequence of the growth in Special School pupils within Hillingdon. This increase in funding is estimated to be £500k based on assumed growth in pupils.

The High Needs block monitoring position at month 4 is projecting a £9,101k deficit (£7,175k of this is budgeted deficit). Therefore, the additional High Needs funding of £4,826k will not be sufficient to enable a balanced high needs budget to be set in 2021/22 based on current expenditure levels and assumed future growth.

Central School Services Block

The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is determined by using two factors; total mainstream pupil numbers and historic commitments. The funding provided for the number of pupils in mainstream schools is calculated by multiplying the number of pupils by the CSSB Unit of Funding.

The indicative allocations indicate that there will be a £100k increase in funding for Hillingdon in 2021/22 for the pupil number based element of the CSSB.

The indicative DSG budget confirms that there will be a 20% decrease in the CSSB funding provided for historic commitments, resulting in a £212k reduction in CSSB funding in 2021/22. The table below summarises the movement in the CSSB.

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	Diff £000	Diff %
Total per pupil CSSB funding	1,546	1,646	100	6.5%
CSSB funding for historic commitments	1,058	847	-211	-20.0%
Total CSSB block	2,604	2,493	-111	-4.3%

There should also be a small amount of further growth in CSSB funding based on the expected increase in pupil numbers. This is estimated to be an increase in funding of approximately £20k.

Additional pension funding claimed for centrally employed teachers will be rolled in as a per-pupil additional amount in the DSG and so there may be a requirement to recharge to the CSSB, some of the increase in pension contributions for centrally employed teachers, not funded by the DSG.

35. Next Steps

Schools Forum will need to consider what action it now needs to take in light of the additional funding being announced, the intent to move towards a hard National Funding Formula and the on-going pressures in High Needs. This could include the following:

- i) To undertake a review of the funding factors and consult with schools on any proposed changes to the factors to align them closer to the National Funding Formula.
- ii) Consult with schools on a proposal for funding to be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
- iii) Review the Central School Services Block, given the expected £91k reduction in funding.

36. Appendices

[FINAL 2021-22 NFF Policy Document](#)

[Schools Operational Guide 2021 to 2022](#)

[2021-22 NFF Summary Tables](#)

[Impact of the schools NFF 2021-22](#)

[Impact of the High Needs NFF 2021-22](#)

[Impact of the CSSB NFF 2021-22](#)

Funding Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block

1. Introduction

The Schools Block will again be ring-fenced in 2021/22, but there will remain some flexibility to transfer funding. Local authorities may transfer up to 0.5% of schools block funding into another block, with the approval of schools forum. Any requests to transfer above 0.5% require a disapplication, regardless of any previously agreed transfer amounts. Where local authorities need to make any transfer for 2021/22, there must be new discussions with schools forum and consultation with schools. It is important that any consultation sets out the full amount of the proposed transfer, not just further transfers in addition to 0.5% or previous years' transfers.

2. Recommendation

That Schools Forum agree to the consultation with schools on a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

3. Schools Block Transfer

Hillingdon is one of an increasing number of local authorities that has a cumulative deficit of greater than 1% of the total DSG at the end of the 2019/20 financial year. As a consequence, the local authority is subject to greater scrutiny from the DfE but is awaiting guidance of what the current requirements are for submitting a deficit recovery plan.

The latest 2020/21 monitoring position indicates that the DSG budget is projected to overspend by £9,101k in 2020/21, resulting in a cumulative deficit on the DSG of £24,103k. It should be noted that this is a £1,926k increase on the budgeted deficit position due to the on-going growth in pupils with SEND.

The projected 2020/21 position has been used to estimate the growth in the cost of High Needs placements for 2021/22. This indicates that without any transfer of funds from the Schools Block, taking into account the additional funding of £4,326k, less the specific funding for special schools for Teachers Pay and Pensions grant allocations of £640k, plus the estimated growth funding of £500k, the pressure on the DSG budget is estimated to be £6,446k in 2021/22.

This position assumes that the growth in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans increases at a projected rate of approx. 9%, which takes into account assumptions around the ceasing of current plans.

The Council therefore wish to consult with schools on a planned transfer of funding from the Schools Funding Block to the High Needs Funding Block, to enable the Council to address some of the continuing pressures in High Needs in 2021/22.

These funds are required to assist with supporting the significant on-going growth being experienced in Hillingdon in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that have been issued and also to recognise the increase in the complexity of need that these children and pupils have.

It is proposed that the following options are consulted on in relation to a Schools Block transfer;

- a) The transfer of 0.5% (approx. £1,227k), allowable as per the Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022 Operational guide, with Schools Forum approval. This would result in additional funding of £15,020k being retained in the Schools Block,
- b) The transfer of an additional amount in order to allow an in-year balanced High Needs budget for 2021/22 to be set. This is estimated to be an additional 2.13% (approx. £5,219k), a total of £6,446k. This would result in a reduced increase of £9,801k being retained in the Schools Block (this should meet the requirement, within the DSG conditions of grant, to discount additional funding identified as 'protected pay and pensions funding', from the total schools block amount which can be transferred, though this won't be confirmed until we have the final Schools Block allocation for 2021/22).

As the amount required is above 0.5% of the DSG (the maximum level at which Schools Forum can agree a transfer) and in order for the Council to be in a position to set an in year balanced budget, it will need to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State on or before 20 November 2020. However, the DfE will expect the Council to have consulted with schools.

- c) No Schools Block transfer.

It is proposed that consultation with schools will take place in the autumn term, with responses presented and discussed at the Schools Forum meeting in January.

4. Appendices

[Schools Operational Guide 2021 to 2022](#)

DSG / High Needs survey – March 2020 – Summary to LFAC/SLT

Introduction

- This paper summarises the initial findings from the recent SLT survey looking at forecast DSG and High Needs surplus/deficits for 2019-20.

Background

- For the last 3 years SLT has undertaken a survey looking DSG surplus/deficits after the year-end. In 2017-18 this was broadened out to collect data on the high needs block, and last year (2018-19) this was replicated across the other treasurers' societies facilitated by ALATS.
- For 2019-20, due to the increasing pressures on boroughs' DSG, driven by high needs block shortfalls, SLT decided to undertake the survey in March, before the year-end position, based on forecasts.
- Treasurers were asked to provide the following:
 - forecast surplus/deficits on 2019-20 DSG allocations;
 - surplus deficit on 2019-20 HN block;
 - accumulated surplus/deficit on both DSG and HN block;
 - whether they expect the DSG to be in deficit in 20/21;
 - whether they made a disapplication request;
 - if so, whether the request was successful; and
 - whether a recovery plan visit had been held.

Initial findings summary

- A total of 18 boroughs (out of 33) responded to the survey.
- 15 boroughs (83%) forecast an in-year DSG deficit in 2019-20. For those in deficit this totalled **£69m** or 3.1% of total DSG. This is an increase from 1.7% in 2018-19.
- 12 boroughs (67%) forecast an accumulated DSG deficit in 2019-20. For those in deficit, this totalled **£109m** or 5.8% of total DSG. This is an increase from 4.3% in 2018-19.
- 12 boroughs (67%) are expecting an in-year DSG deficit in 2020-21. In 2018-19, 77% expected to be in deficit in 2019-20.
- 4 boroughs (22%) made a disapplication request in 2019-20. Of those authorities, only one authority was successful.
- 6 boroughs (33%) had a recovery plan visit in 2019-20.
- 16 boroughs (89%) forecast an in-year High Needs block deficit in 2019-20. For those in deficit, this totalled **£80m** or 13.8% of their total High Needs block allocation. This is an increase from 8.7% in 2018-19.
- 13 boroughs (76%) forecast an accumulated High Needs block deficit in 2019-20. For those authorities, this totalled **£131m** or 28.6% of their total High Needs block allocation. This is an increase from 16.1% of high needs allocations in 2018-19.

- 15 boroughs (83%) expect to be in deficit compared with their High Needs block allocations in 2020-21. In 2018-19, 90% expected to be in deficit in 2019-20.

Table 1 – DSG surplus/deficits 2019-20

	Total DSG 2019-20	Forecast DSG Surplus (+)/Deficit (-) 2019-20 (in-year)	% share of DSG	Forecast accumulat ed DSG Surplus (+)/Deficit (-) at 31/03/20	% share of DSG	Do you expect the DSG to be in deficit in 20/21?
	£m	£m		£m		(Y/N)
Barnet	219.7	1.2	0.6%	2.8	1.3%	N
Bexley	70.1	-4.0	-5.7%	-6.9	-9.8%	Y
Brent	190.3	-4.2	-2.2%	-4.2	-2.2%	Y
Bromley	74.1	-1.0	-1.4%	2.0	2.7%	N
Greenwich	209.2	2.5	1.2%	8.0	3.8%	N
Haringey	187.1	-5.4	-2.9%	-7.6	-4.1%	Y
Havering	114.8	-3.4	-3.0%	-2.1	-1.8%	Y
Hillingdon	152.7	5.3	3.5%	13.8	9.1%	Y
Hounslow	171.4	-7.3	-4.3%	-5.5	-3.2%	Y
Kingston-upon-Thames	79.8	-6.3	-7.8%	-17.3	-21.7%	Y
Merton	148.0	-10.7	-7.2%	-13.6	-9.2%	Y
Newham	236.9	-6.6	-2.8%	-6.6	-2.8%	Y
Richmond-upon-Thames	108.5	-4.6	-4.2%	-15.5	-14.3%	Y
Southwark	193.5	-7.0	-3.6%	-18.5	-9.6%	y
Sutton	97.1	-1.4	-1.4%	-0.3	-0.3%	N
Tower Hamlets	279.0	-6.8	-2.4%	-11.3	-4.0%	Y
Wandsworth	155.9	-0.3	-0.2%	0.0	0.0%	N
Westminster	84.0	-0.1	-0.1%	2.7	3.2%	N
Total	2,772.1	-59.9	-2.2%	-80.2	-2.9%	
Total for those in deficit	2,190.5	-69.0	-3.1%	-109.5	-5.8%	
No. of authorities responding		18		18		
No. of authorities in deficit		15		12		
Percentage in deficit		83%		67%		
Yes						12
No						6

Table 2 – DSG deficit expectations 2020-21 and disapplications in 2019-20

	Disapplication request made?	Disapplication request successful?	Recovery Plan visit held?
	(Y/N)	(Y/N/N/A)	(Y/N)
Barnet	Y	Y	N
Bexley	N	N/A	N
Brent	N	N/A	N
Bromley	N	N/A	N
Greenwich	N	N/A	N
Haringey	N	N/A	N
Havering	N	N/A	N
Hillingdon	Y	N	Y
Hounslow	N	N/A	N
Kingston-upon-Thames	Withdrew	n/a	Y
Merton	N	N/A	Y
Newham	N	N/A	N
Richmond-upon-Thames	Y	N	Y
Southwark	y	n	y
Sutton	N	N/A	N
Tower Hamlets	N	N/A	Y
Wandsworth	N	N/A	N
Westminster	N	N/A	N/A
Yes	4	1	6
No	13	3	11
N/A	0	14	1
Withdrew	1	0	0

Table 3 – High needs block surplus/deficits 2019-20

	Total High Needs Block 2019-20	Forecast High Needs Block Surplus (+)/Deficit (-) 2019-20 (in-year)	In year deficit as % of HN Block	Forecast accumulated High Needs Block Surplus (+)/Deficit (-) at 31/03/20	Accumulated deficit as % of HN block	Do you expect the High Needs Block to be in deficit in 20/21?
	£m	£m		£m		(y/n)
Barnet	45.2	-0.7	-1.5%	0.0	0.0%	Y
Bexley	24.6	-4.8	-19.6%	-7.7	-31.3%	Y
Brent	49.0	-7.9	-16.1%	-7.9	-16.1%	Y
Bromley	40.4	-1.0	-2.5%			N
Greenwich	40.9	-1.0	-2.5%	-4.0	-9.8%	Y
Haringey	33.8	-5.6	-16.7%	7.9	23.3%	Y
Havering	21.5	-4.3	-20.0%	-3.0	-13.9%	Y
Hillingdon	32.0	4.8	15.0%	12.5	39.2%	Y
Hounslow	45.8	-7.3	-15.9%	-6.1	-13.3%	Y
Kingston-upon-Thames	16.4	-6.8	-41.8%	-21.8	-133.1%	Y
Merton	32.8	-11.4	-34.7%	-17.9	-54.4%	Y
Newham	43.6	-8.1	-18.6%	-8.1	-18.6%	Y
Richmond-upon-Thames	22.0	-5.6	-25.5%	-20.5	-93.0%	Y
Southwark	42.4	-7.0	-16.5%	-18.5	-43.6%	Y
Sutton	31.7	-1.4	-4.5%	-1.8	-5.5%	Y
Tower Hamlets	46.4	-6.8	-14.7%	-13.8	-29.7%	Y
Wandsworth	40.2	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	N
Westminster	23.8	0.4	1.6%	1.6	6.7%	N
Total	632.4	-74.6	-11.8%	-109.0	-17.2%	
Total for those in deficit	576.7	-79.8	-13.8%	-131.0	-28.6%	
No. of authorities responding		18		17		
No. of authorities in deficit		16		13		
Percentage in deficit		89%		76%		
Yes						15
No						3

HILLINGDON SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 2pm via videoconferencing

Voting members

NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE	TERM ENDS
Maintained Nursery (1)			
Ludmila Morris	McMillan Early Childhood Centre	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
Maintained Primary - Schools (4)			
Rachel Anderson	Dr Triplett's School	PRESENT	Sep 2023
Duncan Greig	Breakspear Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2021
Kris O'Sullivan	Deanesfield Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
(vacant)			
Maintained Primary - Governors (4)			
John Buckingham	Glebe Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Jim Edgecombe (CHAIR)	Whiteheath Junior School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Tony Eginton	Minet Nursery & Infant School and Hillside Junior School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Phil Haigh	Cherry Lane Primary School & Meadow High School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Maintained Secondary (1)			
Liz Horrigan	Harlington School	PRESENT	Sep 2021
Maintained Special (1)			
John Goddard	Hedgewood School	PRESENT	Sep 2022
Academies (9)			
Aftab Ahmed	Guru Nanak Sikh Academy	PRESENT	Sep 2023
Tracey Hemming	Middlesex Learning Partnership	PRESENT	Sep 2020
Robert Jones	Haydon School	PRESENT	Sep 2020
Helen Manwaring	Swakeleys School	ABSENT	Sep 2022
Catherine Mosdell	Frays Academy Trust	PRESENT	Sep 2023
Peter Ryerson	Guru Nanak Sikh Academy	APOLOGIES	Sep 2020
David Patterson	Queensmead School	PRESENT	Sep 2023
Sandra Voisey	Laurel Lane Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2023
(vacant)			
Special Academies (1)			
Sudhi Pathak	Eden Academy Trust	PRESENT	Sep 2021
Alternative provision (1)			
Laurie Cornwell	The Skills Hub	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
Private Voluntary & Independent Early Years Providers (2)			
Elaine Caffary	4 Street Nursery	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
(vacant)			
14-19 Partnership (1)			
(vacant)			

Other attendees (non-voting)

Independent Non-Maintained Special School			
Debbie Gilder	Pield Heath School		PRESENT
Shadow Representative (Maintained Primary - Schools)			
Rachel Blake	Whiteheath Infant School		NOT REQUIRED
Shadow Representative (Maintained Primary - Governor)			
Jo Palmer	Hillside Infant School and Hillside Junior School		NOT REQUIRED
Graham Wells	Colham Manor Primary School		NOT REQUIRED
Local Authority Officers			
Kate Boulter	Clerk		PRESENT
Steve Denbeigh	LA Finance		PRESENT
Vikram Hansrani	Assistant Director, SEND & Inclusion		PRESENT

Dan Kennedy	Director	PRESENT
Sarah Phillips	Place Planning	PRESENT
Graham Young	Lead Finance Business Partner - School	PRESENT

		ACTION
1.	<p>INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, which was being held by videoconferencing. Apologies were accepted and recorded in the attendance list (above). The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate and could proceed to business.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2020</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2020</p> <p><u>Minutes 4 and 6 – SEN Sufficiency Plan update</u></p> <p>The Forum was provided with the Hillingdon SEND Capital Provision update report which had been considered by the SEND Sufficiency Strategy Group. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since autumn 2019, the SEND team had cleared a backlog of several years’ EHCPs adding to an increase of 17.5% in one year (2,691 plans) which was considerably higher than the 8.7% annual rise nationally. • Currently 3.8% of Hillingdon pupils had EHCPs which was in line with Greater London. In previous years, Hillingdon had a higher percentage of pupils with EHCPs. • The Borough’s seven special schools were all full and over-subscribed. • There had been a large increase in pupils with AHD and SEMH which had led to an increase in use of independent specialist provision due to lack of local provision, and a consequent increase in spend due to the challenge in finding placements. • There were fewer secondary than primary SRP places. More secondary places were needed for pupils progressing from KS2. • Internal planning processes needed to be timely to give Hillingdon residents the best chance of accessing local spaces in special schools. • The SEN Sufficiency Strategy Group was looking at how to develop specialist provision within the Borough’s existing estate. • Specialist provision for Early Years settings was another focus and there would be a further report on this to the October Schools Forum. <p>The Forum commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data in the report appendices contained some inaccuracies. VH would revisit this to correct anomalies. • Paragraph 4.4 of the report referred to “more details below under SEND CYP post 16” which was not provided. • The report mentioned a rise in the use of interim home tuition for pupils with EHCPs which was supposed to be short-term but was continuing for longer because of unavailability of suitable provision. The Forum observed that home tutoring hid a shortage of places and requested that the High Needs Sub-Group be provided with regular reports on the number of pupils with EHCPs being tutored at home. <p><u>Minute 4 – Business training for EY providers</u></p> <p>At its last meeting the Forum had agreed that EY budget be used to fund business training for EY providers to assist with sustainability. Since then, the DfE had advised that it would be procuring services to offer support to EY providers to maximise two year old take-up and improve provider sustainability. Further details were awaited. The Forum AGREED to use the DfE scheme if suitable.</p> <p><u>Minute 5b – Secondary growth contingency</u></p>	<p>VH</p> <p>VH/PH</p>

	<p>At its last meeting the Forum had considered a business case from Swakeleys School requesting growth contingency funding from September 2020 for an increase in Year 7 pupils.</p> <p>A revision to the Growth Contingency Policy would be required to enable the Forum to agree Swakeley's request for funding, and if the Policy were changed, other schools which had voluntarily chosen to expand could request contingency funding on the same basis. The Forum AGREED that Swakeleys should be advised that the Forum was minded to reject the school's request, and a final decision would be made at the next meeting.</p>	GY
4.	<p>MEMBERSHIP UPDATE The Chair reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several members' term of office was coming to an end. The relevant groups had been contacted and asked to confirm their nominations. New terms of office were shown in the attendance list (above). • Four Academy Representatives' term of office was ending and academies had been asked to nominate by 5 October 2020. • There remained vacancies for one Maintained Primary representative, a PVI representative and a 14-19 partnership representative, pending confirmation of nominations. 	GY/KB
5.	<p>FEEDBACK FROM SUB-GROUPS There had been no sub-group meetings since the last Schools Forum.</p>	
6.	<p>ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION</p> <p>(a) ST MARTIN'S DISECONOMIES At its last meeting, the Forum has asked officers to continue to negotiate a reasonable diseconomies request with St Martin's. The Forum considered a report which advised that a revised request of £443K diseconomies funding for 2019/20 had been submitted by the school. The Forum commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised amount was still above a level that the Forum considered reasonable. • Usually diseconomies funding reduced year on year. St Martin's 2019/20 request was higher than the £393K requested in 2018/19. • Payments of £210K had already been made to the school for 2019/20. • A Forum member who worked for the same MAT as St Martin's, and declared an interest for that reason, acknowledged that the amount requested was a lot of money but advised that the school had done as much as it could to reduce the budget for 2019/20, and that St Martin's budget for 2020/21 had a much lower diseconomies request. <p>Having been put to a vote, the Forum AGREED to refuse to pay the £443K diseconomies funding requested by St Martin's and noted that the school had already received payments totalling £210K for 2019/20.</p> <p>(b) SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REVISIONS The Forum considered a report which set out proposed revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools. Having been put to a vote from members representing maintained schools, the Forum AGREED that the revisions be included in the document to be circulated to schools for consultation</p>	
7.	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>(a) EARLY YEARS FREE ENTITLEMENT FUNDING AUTUMN TERM 2020 The Forum NOTED a report which set out the government's plans for funding early years childcare settings in 2020/21. Covid-19 had impacted the number of children accessing provision, and LAs were expected to continue to fund providers that were open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the autumn term 2020 had there been no Covid. Funding would be based on funded hours in either autumn 2019 or autumn 2020, whichever was higher, unless there had been a reduction in places in 2020 linked to a</p>	

change in demand for places not linked to Covid. Providers which had been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons would continue to be funded. Funding would not be provided to providers which were closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.

(b) DSG BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 4 2020/21

The Forum considered the Month 4 budget monitoring report 2020/21:

- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) monitoring position had an in-year overspend of £9,101K at Month 4, an increase of £1,926K on the budgeted deficit of £7,175K and an adverse movement of £768K on the Month 2 position.
- The overspend was due to ongoing pressures in the cost of High Needs placements, where significant growth continued. Recently published SEN2 data indicated that growth in EHCPs in the past academic year was significantly higher (17.5% versus 8.7% nationally) than the estimated in-year growth. When the £15,002K deficit brought forward from 2019/20 was taken into account, the cumulative deficit to carry forward to 2021/22 was £24,103K.
- The LA and Forum had agreed a DSG Recovery Plan the previous year and this was expected to continue with an update of progress against strategies and identification of any new ones to reduce the deficit. The DfE would visit LAs reporting large DSG deficits.
- The Schools Block was forecasting a £69K underspend due to growth contingency allocation having been withheld for one school due to insufficient projected pupil growth in September 2020
- The Central Services Block was forecasting a £33K overspend due to additional cost of maternity cover.
- Five maintained schools had set a deficit budget for 2020/21 which would be considered at the next meeting of Cabinet. The LA finance team was working closely with these schools to set recovery plans. The cumulative total of the five schools' deficit was £3.8million, with the majority of this relating to one school.
- Schools which had occurred exceptional additional costs due to Covid could apply for additional funding within criteria specified by government. These applications were still being processed and the ESFA had confirmed there would be another window for applications relating to the summer term. Schools were expected to meet September costs from their existing resources.
- The government had confirmed that £650million universal catch-up premium funding would be paid directly to schools. Special schools would receive £240 per pupil and mainstream schools £80 per pupil. The LA had not received the funding yet.

The Forum commented that:

- Cabinet was required to approved a licensed deficit for schools which could not set a balanced budget, however, if a school was to fail financially the impact would be on the DSG.
- It was unclear how some of the schools which required a licensed deficit would recover their position. One of the schools was reducing its PAN to single form entry. The Forum requested that regular reports on the schools' recovery plans be provided to the DSG/EY Sub-Group.

(c) DSG 2021/22 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Forum **NOTED** a report which set out the impact on Hillingdon schools' funding of the Schools Revenue Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guidance published at the end of July 2020. The following points were highlighted:

- The National Funding Formula would not be implemented in 2021/22.
- The majority of local authorities would receive significant increases in funding in 2021/22.
- Funding would be based on pupil numbers in the October 2020 census.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every LA should receive 2% increase in per pupil funding. • The Minimum Funding Guarantee would be protected. • Schools Forum could agree a block transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block, or higher with the approval of the Secretary of State. Based on the current 2020/21 year end forecast, a transfer in excess of 1.8% would be needed to set a balanced High Needs budget for 2021/22. • The Central Services block funding for historic commitments would decrease by a further 20% resulting in a forecast overall reduction of £91K. <p>The Forum AGREED that the DSG/EY Sub-Group would be asked to consider action to be taken in light of the additional funding being announced, the intention to move towards a hard National Funding Formula, and the on-going pressures in High Needs, including whether to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a review of the funding factors and consult with schools on any proposed changes to the factors to align them closer to the National Funding Formula. • Review the Central School Services Block, given the expected £91k reduction in funding. <p>(d) FUNDING TRANSFER FROM THE SCHOOLS BLOCK TO THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK</p> <p>The Forum considered a report on a proposal to transfer funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and AGREED to consult with schools on the proposal.</p>	
8.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 2pm.</p>	

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.