

Friday, 05 November 2021

Democratic and Members' Services
Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

14:30

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Virtual meeting
[Venue Address]

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press by appointment only

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for absence and declarations of interest | |
| | <i>Guidance on declaring interests is available at</i>
http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code | |
| 2 | Schools Forum Minutes 16th July 2021 | 3 - 6 |
| 3 | Action Log October 2021 | 7 - 8 |
| 4 | Appointments - November 2021 | 9 - 12 |
| 5 | Schools Budget Setting 2022-23 | 13 - 86 |
| 6 | Agenda Plan Update October 2021 | 87 - 88 |
| 7 | Any Other Business | |

Meetings of the Schools Forum will be held virtually for Committee members and for members of the public who wish to participate. These meetings will held via Zoom and Microsoft Teams (for confidential or exempt items). For more information please contact the clerk for the meeting (details provided above).

Clerk Name:	Tamar Oviatt-Ham
Clerk Telephone:	01223 715668
Clerk Email:	tamar.oviatt-ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Schools Forum – Minutes

Date: Friday 16 July 2021

Time: 10.00am – 10.45am

Venue: Virtual meeting in line with the Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 making provisions to enable schools forums to meet remotely while they are unable to meet physically in a room during the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID19)

Present:

Academy Primary - Susannah Connell

Academy Special School – Simon Bainbridge

Maintained Primary - Liz Bassett, Sasha Howard, and Guy Underwood

Maintained Nursery – Alex Pearson (Sub for Claire Palmer)

Maintained Special School - Joanne Hardwick

Maintained Pupil Referral Unit – Leah Miller

Maintained Governor - Paul Stratford (Vice-Chairman)

Other Academy Sector Appointments – Adrian Ball, Christopher Bennett, Ryan Kelsall, John King, Richard Spencer, and Patsy Peres

Cambridgeshire County Council - Councillor C Daunton and Councillor S Taylor.

Observers – Canon Andrew Read, Jon Duveen

Officers - Jonathan Lewis, Service Director Education, Tamar Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer, Monika Balazs – Democratic Services Assistant and Martin Wade, Strategic Finance Business Partner.

Apologies: Jon Culpin (Chairman), Joe McCrossan, Jeremy Lloyd, Claire Palmer and Deborah Parfitt

Quorum on current voting membership: 8

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Jon Culpin, Joe McCrossan, Jeremy Lloyd, Claire Palmer and Deborah Parfitt.

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Schools Forum Minutes – 15 January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January were approved as a correct record.

3. Minutes Action Log

The forum noted the minute action log.

4. Review of Membership and Proportionality 2021

The forum received a report that provided an overview of the latest position in respect of the forum's proportionality.

Members noted that there were no changes to the proportionality, and that vacant places would be filled in the Autumn term. The Service Director, Education explained that the proposals outlined in appendix two of the report for future Academy membership of Schools Forum, were taken to the CCEON meeting on 25th March 2021, with views sought ahead of the Schools Forum meeting. He clarified that the proposals would now be adopted and included in the Schools Forum Constitution.

There was a correction to the report regarding the Other Academy Appointments made by John King, who advised that he was the representative for the Aspire Learning Trust.

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the current report.

5. School Balances& DSG Financial Health- July 2021

The forum considered a report that provided an update on the final closing balance position of maintained schools and the overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as at 31st March 2021. The Strategic Finance Business Partner drew attention to the Maintained School Balances year on year figures, the Balance Claw-back mechanism, the financial difficulties of maintained schools, the Schools Financial Value Standards, and the Academy Balances survey.

Individual members raised questions in relation to the school balances and the Designated Schools Grant and sought clarification on:

- How a school that was previously in good financial health during the previous year was now in deficit and whether there was any budgetary training provided for schools? The Service Director Education explained that there could be a range of different circumstances, however it was likely due to low funding by the DSG or the fluctuations in student numbers. Budgetary trainings were held yearly to aid financial planning.
- How long a school could maintain a financial deficit before it would be amalgamated? The Service Director Education confirmed that there were currently no plans for any schools to merge. It was explained that poor funding, inflation, and cost pressures would cause budgetary deficits, and in these cases, schools would receive support from the Local Authority to address the situation.
- Whether the loss of external income would have any impact on schools' budgets? The Service Director Education confirmed that this could be one of the causes, however stressed that the main cause of the financial difficulty was the poor level of funding provided by the DfE.
- What percentage of schools were expected to go through reorganisation due to financial pressures in the next 3-5 years? The Service Director Education advised that this could not be estimated, as the numbers would depend on schools' individual circumstances. Members were advised that some schools already indicated that they plan to use their reserves to supplement their income.

The Service Director, Education provided a verbal update on the DSG position and advised the forum that a local authority response was being prepared to the Government's Consultation for the introduction of a National Hard Funding Formula 2024/25 onwards. Attention was drawn to the consultation which was only accessible from July 2021 and would be closed in September 2021. The Forum was encouraged to submit individual responses as it contained elements of Academy Funding as well.

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the contents of the report.

6. High Needs Update

The Service Director, Education provided a verbal update on the current standing of the High Needs provision. It was highlighted that a briefing event would be held on the 15th September 2021 and the focus would be on getting services in the right place. The Recovery Plan would be submitted within the Safety Valve Fund provision around early August 2021 to resolve the deficit issue, however further information was awaited due to the lack of set process.

It was confirmed that very little change was expected to next year's Future Funding Formula, however additional subsidies could be obtained via Sparsity Funding for those schools fitting the qualifying criteria.

In discussion Members highlighted the punitive measures other local authorities experienced when using the Safety Valve Fund option. The Service Director Education confirmed that there were variable measures imposed upon to other local authorities by the DfE and assured the forum that the County Council was in constant contact with the DfE to seek guidance and achieve further savings.

It was resolved to:

Note the update.

7. Schools Forum Agenda Plan Update

The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that there were no additions to the Forward Plan since publication. It was confirmed that a briefing before the budget setting meeting and the further consultation exercise was planned to take place during the Autumn.

It was resolved to:

Note the agenda plan.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that all meetings of the Schools Forum would be held virtually, except the Budget setting meeting taking place on Friday 5th November, which would be held in person with hybrid meeting provisions.

Chairman

Schools Forum Minutes Action Log

The Action Log was updated following the January Forum meeting and captures the actions from meetings of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum requiring a response / or the response undertaken and completed since the last Action Log update. Due to the Covid-19 crisis any updates will be provided orally at the meeting

	Agenda Item	Officer	Action	Response	Status
Minutes 15th January 2021					
	Agenda Item	Officer	Action	Response	Status
	Minute 177 School Funding Update Report – January 2021	Jon Lewis	The Service Director, Education stated that Early Years services were in a very difficult position and there were additional pressures on them in relation to settings remaining open to all children in the current lockdown, he stated that there were issues in relation to sustainability going forwards and the Local Authority was currently looking at a protection arrangement including seeking funding support. He explained that he would update the forum on any actions take going forward	Verbal update in meeting	
	Minute 177 School Funding Update Report – January 2021	Jon Lewis	Report on COVID Impacts on the key sectors particularly in relation to early years and SEN due at the March Forum	Verbal Update in meeting	

Schools Forum Appointments

To: Schools Forum

Meeting Date: 5 November 2021

From: Tamar Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer

Purpose: To update Forum on recent appointments to existing vacancies.

Recommendation: Schools Forum is recommended to note:

- That Lesley Birch, Executive Principal - Cambridge Primary Education Trust, Carin Taylor, Executive Headteacher - Staploe Education Trust and Duncan Ramsey, CEO - Aspire Learning Trust have been confirmed as General Academies Representatives on the Schools Forum.
- That Mark Vickers CEO Olive Academies has been confirmed as an Academies Alternative Provision Representative on the Schools Forum
- That Alex Pearson, Headteacher Homerton Early Years Centre will continue to attend Schools Forum meetings as substitute for Claire Palmer, Headteacher, Huntingdon Nursery School, the Maintained Nursery Schools Representative.

Officer contact:

Name: Tamar Oviatt-Ham

Post: Democratic Services Officer

Email: tamar.oviatt-ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01223 715668

1. Background

- 1.1 This report sets out details of appointments to current vacancies for the Academies representatives on the Schools Forum.

2. Background

- 2.1 It was reported as part of the proportionality review of Schools Forum at its meeting on 16 July 2021 that there were a number of vacancies still outstanding on the Forum

- 3 General Academy Appointments
- 1 Alternative Provision Academy Appointment

- 2.2 Following the July Forum meeting the Chairman of Schools Forum circulated a communication to the CCEON on 15 September 2021 outlining the current vacancies and seeking nominations. Four expressions of interest were received by the Chairman and due to the fact that no other nominations were received and that those who had put themselves forward were extremely well qualified to be Forum representatives, he recommended that the following four nominees be appointed as representatives on the Schools Forum as follows:

- Lesley Birch, Executive Principal Cambridge Primary Education Trust
- Carin Taylor Executive Headteacher Staploe Education Trust
- Duncan Ramsey CEO Aspire Learning Trust
- Mark Vickers CEO Olive Academies (as already communicated) – Academies AP Representative

- 2.3 The forum will also note that Alex Pearson, Headteacher Homerton Early Years Centre will continue to attend Schools Forum meetings as substitute for Claire Palmer, Headteacher, Huntingdon Nursery School, the Maintained Nursery Schools Representative.

	Name	Title	Email	Term of Office	Notes
Voting Members:					
Quorum 40% of Non Vacant Membership - Current Forum Voting Members 18 (4 vacancies) quorum currently 8 as 4 academy appointments required					
7 Maintained Representatives					
3 Maintained Primary Headteachers	Sasha Howard	Headteacher, Meldreth Primary School	head@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk	2019-2023	
	Liz Bassett	Headteacher, Ely St Johns Primary School	head@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk	2019-2023	
	Guy Underwood	Headteacher, Great Abington Primary	guy.underwood@greatabington.school	2019-2023	
	Tony Davies	Headteacher, St Matthews Primary & Chair of Cambs Primary Heads Group	head@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
<i>Sub</i>					
1 Maintained Special School Representative	Joanne Hardwick	Headteacher, Samuel Pepys Maintained Special School, St Neots	head@samuelpepys.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
1 Maintained Nursery School Representative	Claire Palmer	Headteacher, Huntingdon Nursery School	head@huntingdon-nur.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
1 Maintained Nursery School Representative - Sub	Alex Pearson	Headteacher Homerton Early Years Centre	apearson@homerton.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
1 Pupil Referral Unit Representative	Leah Miller	Headteacher, Pilgrim Pathways School	LMiller@pilgrim.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
1 Maintained School Governor	Paul Stratford	Chair of Governors, Alderman Payne Primary School (Vice-Chairman)	pstratford@aldermanpayne.cambs.sch.uk	2018-2022	
13 Academies Representatives:					
1 Academy Primary Representative	Susannah Connell	Headteacher, Middlefield Academy and CEO Diamond Learning Partnership Trust	pa@diamondlearningtrust.com	2019-2023	
1 Academy Special School Representative	Simon Bainbridge	Executive Headteacher, Highfield Ely Academy	Exehead@highfield.cambs.sch.uk	2020-2024	
1 Academy Alternative Provision	Mark Vickers	CEO Olive Academies	mark.vickers@oliveacademies.org.uk	2021 - 2025	Oct
1 New Member required	Lesley Birch	Executive Principal Cambridge Primary Education Trust	LBirch@cpetrust.co.uk	2021 - 2025	Oct
1 New Member required	Carin Taylor	Executive Headteacher Staploe Education Trust	ctaylor@soham-college.org.uk	2021 - 2025	Oct
Other Academy Appointments	Jon Culpin	Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Learning (Chairman)	jculpin@anglianlearning.org	2018-2022	
	Richard Spencer	Principal, Ely College	rspencer@cmatrust.net	2018-2022	
	Patsy Peres	Principal, Ramsey Spinning Infant and Ramsey Junior	Head@ramspin.org	2018-2022	
	Adrian Ball	Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Ely	adrian.ball@demat.org.uk	2019-2023	
	Christopher Bennett	Headteacher, St Peter's School, Huntingdon	CBennet@stpetershuntingdon.org	2019-2023	
	John King	Sir Harry Smith Community College	John.King@SirHarrySmithCommun.onmicrosoft.com	2019-2023	
	Ryan Kelsall	Impington Village College	rkelsall@impington.cambs.sch.uk	2019-2023	
1 Other Academy Appointment	Duncan Ramsey	CEO Aspire Learning Trust	duncan.ramsey@aspirelearningtrust.org	2021 - 2025	Oct

Schools Budget Setting 2022-23

To: Schools Forum

Meeting Date: 5th November 2021

From: Jonathan Lewis – Service Director: Education & Martin Wade – Strategic Finance Business Partner

Recommendations: The Schools Forum is asked to:

Funding Formula

- a) Support the proposed LA approach to align the Cambridgeshire Schools Funding Formula Factors with the National Funding Formula rates for 2022/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- b) Support the proposed LA approach to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding in 22/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- c) Support the proposed principles for managing overall affordability by means of applying a scaling factor of between 1 and 1.01284, applying a funding cap or by setting the MFG to lower than the maximum allowable 2%. Further modelling will be undertaken and shared on receipt of the final datasets in December. This will then be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.

High Needs Block Transfer

- d) Approve a block transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block of 0.5% - (circa £2.1m – final amount to be confirmed on receipt of final DSG allocations) – to support the following activities:
 - i. Transformation Programme
 - ii. SEND Contingency Fund
 - iii. ASD/SEMH/ADHD Training
 - iv. SENCO Training
 - v. Support for Additional Provision

Central School Services Block

- e) Approve the continuation of the Contribution to Children's Services of £1m.

- f) Approve the continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
- g) Approve the £583k subsidy towards the costs of the Schools Broadband Contract.
- h) Approve the continuation of the £508k to support the Admissions Service.
- i) Approve the continuation of the £3k to support the Servicing of Schools Forum.
- j) Note the proposed budgets for the national copyright licence arrangements, retained duties funding and residual balance. Final figures will be presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum for approval.

The Maintained Primary School Representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve:

Education Functions and De-Delegations – Maintained Primary only

- k) The continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
- l) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Contingency.
- m) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Free School Meals Eligibility.
- n) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Maternity and Paternity Cover.
- o) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Trade Union Facilities Time.

The Schools Forum is asked to:

Growth Funding and New Schools

- p) Approve the revised Growth Funding and New School Funding Policy to apply to 2022/23 only.
- q) Approve the centrally retained growth fund at a level of £1.75m (compared to £2m in previous years).
- r) Note the proposed variation to pupil numbers. Final numbers will be presented to Schools Forum in January.

Officer contact:

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Post: Strategic Finance Business Partner

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Tel: 01223 699733

1. Background

- 1.1 The presentation (**Appendix 1**) accompanying this report provides information to support the 2022-23 Schools budget setting process and will cover the following areas:
- 2022-23 School Funding Arrangements
 - Budget Proposals (**Appendix 2** shows the proposed funding rates for 2022-23) & Consultation Results (**Appendix 3** provides further detail, including the narrative responses.)
 - High Needs Block
 - Central School Services Block
 - De-Delegations (Maintained Primary only)
 - Growth Funding / New Schools (**Appendix 4** provides the full draft funding policy)
 - Required Decisions
 - Next Steps
- 1.2 During the presentation by Officers, Members of Schools Forum will have opportunity to ask questions. The meeting will then be temporarily adjourned to allow group discussions prior to addressing the recommendations.
- 1.3 The table on the following pages shows the main decision-making powers and responsibilities for items relevant at this meeting (other powers such as decisions in respect of deficits, contracts and changes to the Scheme of Financial Management do not apply to the items covered above.)

Schools Forum Roles and Responsibilities

Function	Local education authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools' block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives	Will adjudicate where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
General Duties for maintained schools - Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal

Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth - pre-16 pupils, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy • Falling rolls - funding for good or outstanding schools with where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years block provision funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement • Back-pay for equal pay claims • Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies • Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • Admissions • Servicing of Schools Forum • Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal
Central spend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged • Contribution to combined budgets – this is where the Schools Forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to 	Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where Schools Forum does not agree local authority proposal

<p>services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High needs block provision Central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	Decides	None, but good practice to inform forum	None

2022/23 Schools Budgets and Dedicated Schools Grant Funding

Schools Forum – 5th November 2021

Introduction

The purpose of today's presentation is to share with Schools Forum the latest position on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding in relation to the 2022/23 budget setting round:

1. 22/23 School Funding Arrangements
2. Budget Proposals & Consultation Results
3. High Needs Block
4. Central School Services Block
5. De-Delegations (Maintained Primary only)
6. Growth Funding / New Schools
7. Required Decisions
8. Next Steps

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Information has been published on the Department for Education (DfE) website and includes:

- [Indicative figures](#) for each school compared to their 2021-22 baseline formula allocations
- **These are not the final budget figures** but a generational model to derive LA level funding
- [Indicative DSG allocations](#) for 2022-23 based on October 2020 census (figures will be updated for the October 2021 census in December's final allocations)

Funding Block	Illustrative 22/23 £m
Schools Block	£416.9m*
Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)	£5.9m
High Needs Block	£90.1m
Early Years Block	£38.1m*
Total Illustrative DSG	£551.1m

*Final Schools Block DSG will be reduced to reflect centralisation of business rates – current cost circa £4.84m. Initial Early Years Block allocations for 2022/23 are yet to be announced

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- DfE published illustrative figures show a **£11.8m / 2.9%** increase for Cambridgeshire (excluding growth funding) compared to the amount due to be received in 2021/22.
- Final allocations will differ based on the October 2021 census.
- Funding for the “FSM6” deprivation moving from using the previous year’s January census to the October census for measuring eligibility.
- Low prior attainment data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests is used as a proxy for the 2020 tests, following the cancellation of assessment due to the pandemic.

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- Pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 attract funding for mobility on the basis of their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school (the May 2020 census did not take place due to the pandemic).
- From April 2022, the business rates payment system for schools will be centralised. This will involve ESFA paying billing authorities directly on behalf of state funded schools, removing schools from the payment process. The first business rates payments made directly from ESFA to billing authorities will be paid in June 2022. This will reduce the final funding allocated directly to and from the LA.

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- The sparsity factor has been increased at a national level and distances between schools are now calculated by road rather than as the crow flies. This change results in a further 13 small schools being eligible for sparsity funding.
- The DfE define a small school as having fewer than 21.4 pupils per year group in primary and fewer than 120 per year group in secondary.
- A further option allows a taper to be applied to the distance criteria. This would allocate funding on a proportionate basis to those small schools within 20% of the 2 and 3 mile distance criteria.

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Schools Block

- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) continues to be set between +0.5% and +2% increase per pupil; LA decision
- No national cap but LAs can still opt to use a local cap to manage overall affordability
- 0.5% limit on movements between funding blocks remains

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Early Years Block

- No announcements as yet.
- Maintained nursery school supplement confirmed until March 2022.

High Needs Block

- High Needs funding is increasing by £780m, or 9.6%, in 2022 to 2023.
- Allocated through the High Needs funding formula with floors, protections and caps – minimum uplift 8% - Cambridgeshire to receive an extra £6.5m / 8% (based on illustrative data)

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- The CSSB provides funding for the benefit of all schools for ongoing and historic commitments.
 - Ongoing responsibilities:
 - Admissions
 - Copyright
 - Statutory/Regulatory Duties etc
 - Historic Commitments:
 - Broadband
 - Early Intervention Family Workers
 - Contribution to Children's Services

22-23 School Funding Arrangements

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- Historic commitments reduced by a further 20% from last year resulting in a net CSSB reduction of £0.6m compared to last year.
- As in previous years this will impact on the budgets currently funded through this route.

How do we compare?

	21/22 Rank	21/22 Baseline Schools Block per Pupil (excl Growth)	22/23 Rank	22/23 Illustrative Schools Block per Pupil (excl Growth)
Tower Hamlets	1	£7,377	1	£7,538
Hackney	2	£7,294	2	£7,455
Peterborough	65	£5,195	60	£5,357
Bedford	87	£5,103	86	£5,261
Norfolk	89	£5,090	88	£5,258
West Northamptonshire	101	£5,044	98	£5,203
Hertfordshire	111	£5,017	112	£5,165
Worcestershire	117	£4,998	115	£5,147
Suffolk	121	£4,986	117	£5,144
West Berkshire	128	£4,968	118	£5,141
Bath and North East Somerset	119	£4,993	119	£5,136
Essex	127	£4,969	126	£5,107
North Northamptonshire	129	£4,939	129	£5,090
Oxfordshire	132	£4,932	130	£5,081
Wiltshire	134	£4,927	131	£5,078
Cambridgeshire	145	£4,899	137	£5,052
West Sussex	140	£4,910	140	£5,038
Central Bedfordshire	138	£4,913	141	£5,036
Hampshire	143	£4,899	144	£5,029
South Gloucestershire	150	£4,812	150	£4,965

Consultation Process




- The schools funding formula continues to be an LA decision in 2022-23.
- As in prior years, schools must be consulted on:
 - a) Any changes to the formula being proposed; and
 - b) Any transfer proposed from the Schools Block.
- The consultation periods are having to be shorter due to the timing of announcements which the DfE acknowledge.

Consultation Responses

- A total of 47 submissions were received in response to the funding consultation which closed on Friday 22nd October (compared to 80 responses received in respect of last years consultation)
- The following slides provide a summary of the responses received.
- **Appendix 2** provides details of the proposed funding factor values to be applied.
- **Appendix 3** provides further detail, including a full transcript of the narrative responses.

Consultation Responses

1. Which best describes the organisation you are representing in your consultation response?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Individual maintained school		76.60%	36
2	Individual academy school		6.38%	3
3	Academy Trust or other (please specify):		17.02%	8
			answered	47



Consultation Responses

2. Which of the following best describes your position/role?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Headteacher	<div></div>	63.83%	30
2	Governor	<div></div>	10.64%	5
3	CEO	<div></div>	0.00%	0
4	Finance staff	<div></div>	14.89%	7
5	Parent	<div></div>	0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):	<div></div>	10.64%	5
			answered	47

Consultation Responses




5. Do you agree that the Cambridgeshire funding formula unit values for 2022-23 should be aligned with the national funding formula rates?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		91.49%	43
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not Sure		8.51%	4
			answered	47

The officer recommendation to CYP committee in January will be to align the Cambridgeshire funding formula unit values with the NFF funding rates as set out in the consultation.

Consultation Responses




6. Do you support the proposal to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		78.72%	37
2	No		10.64%	5
3	Not Sure		10.64%	5
			answered	47

The officer recommendation to CYP committee in January will be to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor as set out in the consultation.



Consultation Responses

7. Do you support the proposed transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the purpose of invest to save projects to reduce the continuing increasing pressures within this area?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		51.06%	24
2	No		36.17%	17
3	Not Sure		12.77%	6
			answered	47

Consultation Responses




8. If overall affordability allows do you support the approach of scaling up the NFF unit values by applying a weighting of between 1 and 1.01284 to balance to the available Schools Block distribution total?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		57.45%	27
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not Sure		42.55%	20
			answered	47

Should overall Schools Block affordability allow the officer recommendation to CYP committee in January will be to apply a weighting to the NFF unit values of between 1 and 1.01284.

Consultation Responses

9. If there are overall affordability issues due to growth, cost of protection or agreed block transfers do you support the use of a funding cap and/or the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) being set at lower than the maximum allowable 2.0%?(note the funding cap restricts the amount of any funding gains of those schools above the level at which the funding cap is set)

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		44.68%	21
2	No		19.15%	9
3	Not Sure		36.17%	17
			answered	47

If overall affordability issues arise on receipt of final datasets and distribution totals officers will remodel the impact of reducing the MFG and/or applying a funding cap prior to finalising recommendations to CYP committee.

Consultation Responses

10. Maintained schools are asked to show their support for the continuation of the following de-delegation arrangements:

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Not Sure	Response Total
Primary Contingency Scheme	79.49% 31	2.56% 1	17.95% 7	39
Free School Meal Eligibility	89.74% 35	2.56% 1	7.69% 3	39
Maternity Cover	84.62% 33	2.56% 1	12.82% 5	39
Trade Union Facilities Time	66.67% 26	7.69% 3	25.64% 10	39

High Needs Block

- 2021/22 High Needs Block:

Source of Funding	£m
DfE Allocation	£83.608m
Transfer from Schools Block	£0.634m
Transfer from CSSB	£1.085m
Total	£85.327m

- Total estimated spend for 21/22 = **£96.6m+**
- Adjusted Deficit b/fwd from 20/21 = £26.362m**
- Forecast Deficit to c/fwd to 22/23 = £37.6m+**

High Needs Block

- 2022/23 Illustrative High Needs Block = **£90.134m**
- Current unmitigated High Needs Block spend for 22/23 is in excess of **£105.6m**
- DfE DSG Deficit Management Tool has been submitted providing more details of the forecast unmitigated and mitigated levels of expenditure over the next 4 years.
- Likely position will worsen in-year due to numbers and complexity of requests coming through.
- Programme of SEND Transformation developed.
- **0.5% / circa £2.1m** block transfer request to support schools and facilitate change through a series of invest to transform proposals.

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform



- Contribution towards the SEND Transformation programme that will substantially improve efficiencies and outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- **£500k** to support workstreams including SEND Support, annual review improvement plan, Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) and mapping provision
- Contribution to a system-wide change programme to positively impact children and young people with SEND in Cambridgeshire

SEND Transformation Programme: building on work to date and bringing together new and existing workstreams to improve the SEND offer for all children and young people across Cambridgeshire



Mapping Provision: Developing a strategic view of provision to inform what is needed, developed and possible



SEND Support: Designing a SEND support system, toolbox, and a shared understanding about what can be provided in mainstream settings



Tuition: Review existing arrangements to ensure that Tuition and AP is used appropriately, consistently and in line with PFA values and a strengths-based approach



Panel Redesign: Developing consistent, transparent and strengths-based multi-agency decision making from assessment through to issue of plans



SEMH: Align the recommendations of the SEMH review to the transformation programme and share across the system



System Design: To redesign and simplify the SEND system to improve navigation for parents/carers and improve consistency in access and provision



Banding & Descriptors: To bring clarity to the graduated approach for staff and parents by having a consistent approach to understanding and planning to meet needs



ERB: Confirming the commissioning arrangements for ERB and SEND units and develop a Cambridgeshire offer for ERB with SLAs in place



Changing the Conversation (CtC): Embedding a strengths-based, person-centred approach to conversations to enable positive, sustainable change



VSEND: To introduce the VSEND approach to settings to enable holistic and strengths-based conversations, a better understanding of individual and cohort needs, and how settings are able to meet this



Annual Review: Improving timeliness and quality, confidence in the system and increased transparency in decision-making and the importance and purpose of Annual Reviews in supporting outcomes



PfA: Developing a clear information and supported employment/internships offer for all cohorts (delivered where appropriate in FE settings) with alignment to the inhouse job coaches



Outreach Model: To facilitate supporting children and young people with SEND in mainstream provision through Special Schools outreach

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform

- Creation of a contingency fund for mainstream schools with a higher proportion of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) than the notional SEND budget supports
- **£400K** to support schools when EHCP numbers exceed the allocated notional SEND budget
- To ensure all schools have the ability to meet the needs of their pupils with high needs

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform

- **Just a reminder:** The notional SEN is **not** a separate formula factor or funding allocation, so does not generate funding in its own right, but is based on a % of factors which contribute towards a school's overall funding. Currently the same % is applied across primary and secondary...
 - 4.62% of Basic Per Pupil Entitlement
 - 7.67% of FSM and FSM6 Funding
 - 68.32% of IDACI Deprivation Funding
 - 33.74% of Prior Attainment Funding

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform

- The development of a training programme for schools to upskill their ability and awareness when working with children and young people who experience SEMH difficulties
- **£75k** contribution to build resilience and enable a greater level of inclusion and better outcomes earlier, including SEN Support intervention and training

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform

- Additional training opportunities for SEN Coordinators (SENCOs)
- **£75k** contribution to the roll out of SEND whole school audits. Flexibility of support is individualised to each school or setting; support may include coaching/mentoring for the SENCO, additional training or support to implement strategic projects
- Alongside the development of a dedicated Area SENCo for Cambridgeshire to coordinate training and service offers to schools and settings

High Needs Block – Invest to Transform

- One-off revenue support to develop additional provision on existing school sites
- Circa **£1m** contribution to increase provision, improve resilience and help meet our sufficiency forecasting needs in SEND
- Additional provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, those without a school place and those awaiting placement

Central Schools Services Block



- Illustrative CSSB allocation of **£5.895m** compared to £6.479m in 21/22
- Includes further 20% reduction in funding for Historic Commitments and increased allocation for retained duties.
- Copyright License costs (excluding VAT) are expected to increase.
- LAs and schools (including academies) do not need to negotiate individual licences. The DfE pays the cost, including VAT, to the agencies and provides this as a service to LAs as a charge to the DSG.
- The increase in Copyright Licenses will be met from the CSSB rather than being a direct cost to schools.

- The DfE has agreements with the following agencies to purchase a single national licence managed by DfE for all state funded schools in England:
 - Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)
 - Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
 - Education Recording Agency (ERA)
 - Filmbank Distributors Ltd (for the PVSL)
 - Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS)
 - Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
 - Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)
 - Performing Rights Society (PRS)
 - Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL)
 - Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML)

Central Schools Services Block

Budget Line	2021/22	2022/23	Description
Contribution to combined budgets	£1,733k	£1,733k	No change proposed - Contribution to Children's Services, including £733k Early Intervention Family Worker (previously Parental Support Advisors)
Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	£875k	£583k	Schools Broadband Contract – 20% reduction applied to original budget
School Admissions	£508k	£508k	No change proposed
Servicing of Schools Forum	£3k	£3k	No change proposed
Other Items	£503k	£503k	National Copyright Licence arrangements – set by DfE – TBC – expected to increase
Retained Duties Funding	£1,773k	£1,927k	As per DfE figures (pupil-led) – TBC – based on October census data
Total CSSB Budgeted Expenditure	£5,394k	£5,257k	
Residual Balance	£1,085k	£638k	Balancing figure – Treatment to be confirmed on receipt of final allocations
Total Allocation of CSSB	£6,479k	£5,895k	

Retained Duties Funding

- For 2022/23 it is proposed to:
 - Continue to apply the retained duties funding received as per of the CSSB to support ongoing functions.
 - Continue to retain £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.

Retained Duties Estimates	2022/23 £000
Estimated Retained Duties - Applies to all Schools*	£1,927
Estimated Education Functions - £10 per pupil - Maintained Only*	£288
Estimated Total Retained Funding	£2,215

*Final amounts will be dependent on October 2021 pupil numbers and academy conversions.

De-delegation Amounts

- Apply to maintained primary schools only:

	Agreed 2021/22 Basis	Proposed 2022/23 Basis
Contingency	£2.10 per pupil	£2.10 per pupil
Free School Meals Eligibility	£4.65 per FSM child	£4.65 per FSM child
Maternity	£5.00 per pupil	£5.00 per pupil
Trade Union Facilities Time	£1.10 per pupil	£1.10 per pupil

Please note: Final de-delegation amounts for 2022/23 will be updated on receipt of revised data from the ESFA and presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum. Although final amounts will change to reflect final pupil numbers and academy conversions the principles for de-delegation will remain as set out above.

Other Considerations:

Broadband

- As noted previously there has been a further 20% reduction in the historic commitments funding element of the CSSB.
- 40% still to be retained separately and no mechanism to allocate to schools.
- Proposed pricing for 2022/23 based on approximately 60% of total costs being met by schools and the remaining 40% continuing to be subsidised:

Phase	Bandwidth	Cost 2020-21	Cost 2021-22	Cost 2022-23
Primary	100	£1,050	£2,100	£3,150
Secondary	1000	£1,650	£3,300	£4,950

Other Considerations – Insurance Arrangements

- With effect from 1st April 2022 maintained schools will be able to join the DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement on an individual basis or choose to join the School Academy Insurance Framework (SAIF) of which Cambridgeshire is a member authority.
- As a result, the current de-delegation arrangements will no longer continue.
- The cost of cover through the SAIF framework is £18 per pupil and we understand the cost of the RPA for maintained schools will be £21 per pupil (£19 per pupil in the current year), but schools will need to consider the levels of cover each scheme provides.

Growth Funding

- No proposed changes to the Growth Fund methodology for 2022/23. (Full criteria can be seen at **Appendix 4**)

Phase	Academic Year	Financial Year (7/12ths)
Primary (1FE)	£54,000 + £4,000	£31,500 + £4,000
Secondary (1FE)	£65,000 + £4,000	£37,917 + £4,000

- The inclusion of Headteacher Representatives on the Growth Fund panel has added a welcome level of challenge and insight to the process.
- To date in 21/22 a total of £1.76m has been allocated across diseconomies funding, and growth funding for primary and secondary schools.

Growth Funding

- Based on the latest available data and intelligence from the Place Planning Team, and allowing for changes in required Diseconomies funding it is proposed that the centrally retained Growth Fund for 2022/23 is reduced to £1.75m (previously £2m).
- The total cost of implicit growth will not be known until final pupil data is received from the ESFA in December.
- A final reconciliation will be provided to Forum on receipt of the December information, but as in previous years the expectation is that a subsidy from existing schools will be required to meet the cost of new and growing schools.

New School Funding

- Significant number of new schools required in the next 10 years:

	Cambridgeshire				
	Cambridge City	East Cambs.	Fenland	Hunts.	South Cambs.
Primary	<p>1</p> <p>2FE by 2024/25</p>	<p>1</p> <p>(1) x 2FE</p>	<p>1</p> <p>(1) x 2FE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 x 2FE by 2024</p> <p>1 x 3FE by 2025</p> <p>2 x 2FE by 2026</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 x 3FE by 2023</p> <p>1 x 2FE by 2024</p> <p>2 x 3FE by 2024/25</p>
Secondary					<p>(1)</p> <p>(Area Special School)</p>

Figures in brackets indicate prospective schools required beyond 2026 with no set opening date as yet.

New School Funding

- Variations to pupil numbers are applied to new and growing schools whilst they fill to capacity.
- Additional clarification on approach to guaranteeing numbers for new schools based on forecast data. (Full criteria can be seen at Appendix 3)
 - Primary schools – guaranteed funding for a minimum of 30 or 60 pupils in year 1 dependent on whether they are opening from reception up or for all year groups.
 - Secondary schools – guaranteed funding based on the planned capacity only if the initial pupil forecasts support this. For example, a 4FE secondary school with forecast numbers of between 90 and 120 in year 1 would be funded for 120 guaranteed places. If the forecast numbers are below 90 the guaranteed number would be adjusted to reflect the closest multiple of 30.
 - Guaranteed pupil numbers for year 2 onwards based on actual and forecast numbers following annual discussions.

New School Funding

- The DfE have recently consulted on the future arrangements for the National Funding Formula – Fair funding for all. As part of this consultation funding for growth and new schools is under review with proposals to change the way in which this funding is allocated, including the funding of start-up costs.

“We propose that, when a hard NFF is implemented, funding for growth, new and growing schools, and falling rolls will still be allocated, as these will all continue to be important parts of the lagged funding system. However, the method through which this funding is allocated should change – moving to a new, national approach.”

- Until this new approach is confirmed the LA are unable to provide any long-term commitments to funding arrangements as they will be subject to the outcomes of the national policy changes.

Variation to Pupil Numbers

School	Proposed Guaranteed Number 22/23 APT - April to Aug (5/12ths)	Proposed Guaranteed Number 22/23 APT - Sept to Mar (7/12ths)
Godmanchester Bridge Academy	210	210
Ermine Street Primary	270	270
Pathfinder Primary	300	360
Trumpington Park Primary	330	390
Wintringham Park	60	60
Northstowe Secondary	360	480
Cromwell Community College	60	90
Marleigh Primary Academy (opening Sept 22)	0	60

Please note: All numbers are still to be confirmed on receipt of October 21 census and any relevant pupil forecasts.

Adjourn for Discussion

Required Actions

■ ***Funding Formula***

- a) Schools Forum are asked to support the proposed LA approach to align the Cambridgeshire Schools Funding Formula Factors with the National Funding Formula rates for 22/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- b) Schools Forum are asked to support the proposed LA approach to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding in 22/23. This will be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.
- c) Schools Forum are asked to support the proposed principles for managing overall affordability by means of applying a scaling factor of between 1 and 1.01284, applying a funding cap or by setting the MFG to lower than the maximum allowable 2%. Further modelling will be undertaken and shared on receipt of the final datasets in December. This will then be subject to final approval at CYP Committee in January.

Required Actions

- ***High Needs Block Transfer***
- d) Schools Forum are asked to approve a block transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block of 0.5% - (circa £2.1m – final amount to be confirmed on receipt of final DSG allocations) – to support the following activities:
 - Transformation Programme
 - SEND Contingency Fund
 - ASD/SEMH/ADHD Training
 - SENCO Training
 - Support for Additional Provision

Required Actions

- ***Central School Services Block – Schools Forum are asked to approve:***
 - e) The continuation of the Contribution to Children’s Services of £1m.
 - f) The continuation of the £733k to support early intervention family workers.
 - g) The £583k subsidy towards the costs of the Schools Broadband Contract.
 - h) The continuation of the £508k to support the Admissions Service.
 - i) The continuation of the £3k to support the Servicing of Schools Forum.
 - j) Schools Forum are asked to note the proposed budgets for the national copyright licence arrangements, retained duties funding and the residual balance. Final figures will be presented at the January meeting of Schools Forum for approval.

Required Actions

- ***Education Functions and De-delegations – Maintained Primary School representatives on Schools Forum are asked to approve:***
 - k) The continued retention of £10 per pupil from maintained schools for services specifically provided to maintained schools.
 - l) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Contingency.
 - m) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Free School Meals Eligibility.
 - n) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Maternity and Paternity Cover.
 - o) The continuation of the de-delegation in respect of Trade Union Facilities Time.

Required Actions

- ***Growth Funding and New Schools – Schools Forum are asked to:***
 - p) Approve the revised Growth Funding and New School Funding Policy to apply to 2022/23 only.
 - q) Approve the centrally retained growth fund at a level of £1.75m (compared to £2m in previous years).
 - r) Note the proposed variation to pupil numbers. Final numbers will be presented to Schools Forum in January.

Next Steps

- 26th November 2021 – Schools Forum reserve date if required
- 15th December 2021 – Schools Forum – update on budget position
- Mid-December 2021 – DfE to publish final DSG allocations
- 14th January 2022 – Schools Forum to review final proposals
- 18th January 2022 – Children and Young People Committee to approve final budget proposals
- 21st January 2022 – submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
- End of January – Primary and Secondary School Budgets to be published
- 2022/23 – Next stages in consultation on move towards a direct national funding formula?




Appendix 2 – 2022-23 NFF Factors and Funding Rates





NFF Factor		Cambridgeshire/NFF Unit Rates 2021-22 £	National Funding Formula (NFF) Unit Rates 2022-23 £
Basic per pupil entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit)	AWPU: Primary	3,123	3,217
	AWPU: Secondary KS3	4,404	4,536
	AWPU: Secondary KS4	4,963	5,112
	Minimum per pupil funding Primary	4,180	4,265
	Minimum per pupil funding Secondary (KS3 and KS4 combined)	5,415	5,525
Deprivation (based on Ever 6 free school meal numbers)	FSM current - Primary	460	470
	FSM current – Secondary	460	470
	Ever6 FSM – Primary	575	590
	Ever6 FSM – Secondary	840	865
	IDACI Band F: Primary	215	220
	IDACI Band F: Secondary	310	320
	IDACI Band E: Primary	260	270
	IDACI Band E: Secondary	415	425
	IDACI Band D: Primary	410	420
	IDACI Band D: Secondary	580	595
	IDACI Band C: Primary	445	460
	IDACI Band C: Secondary	630	650
	IDACI Band B: Primary	475	490
	IDACI Band B: Secondary	680	700
	IDACI Band A: Primary	620	640
	IDACI Band A: Secondary	865	890
Low Prior Attainment	Primary	1,095	1,130
	Secondary	1,660	1,710
English as an Additional Language	Primary	550	565
	Secondary	1,485	1,530
Pupil Mobility	Primary	900	925
	Secondary	1,290	1,330
Lump Sum	Primary	117,800	121,300
	Secondary	117,800	121,300

Notes to the Table:



- a) The values for sparsity are not included in the table above as these are variable up to a new maximum of £55,000 for primary schools and £80,000 for secondary schools.
- b) Equally, the DfE recognises that some factors, such as premises, cannot easily be allocated on a formulaic basis and under the NFF continue to be funded at historical or actual funding levels.

Appendix 3 – Cambridgeshire Mainstream School Funding Arrangements 2022-23 - Consultation Responses




1. Which best describes the organisation you are representing in your consultation response?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Individual maintained school		76.60%	36
2	Individual academy school		6.38%	3
3	Academy Trust or other (please specify):		17.02%	8
			answered	47
			skipped	0

2. Which of the following best describes your position/role?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Headteacher		63.83%	30
2	Governor		10.64%	5
3	CEO		0.00%	0
4	Finance staff		14.89%	7
5	Parent		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		10.64%	5
			answered	47
			skipped	0

3. Schools Funding Formula

5. Do you agree that the Cambridgeshire funding formula unit values for 2022-23 should be aligned with the national funding formula rates?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		91.49%	43
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not Sure		8.51%	4
			answered	47
			skipped	0
If you do not agree, please explain why: (1)				
1	Movement to national funding formula should be made as soon as possible			

6. Do you support the proposal to apply the distance taper to the sparsity factor to maximise the number of schools who qualify for additional funding?




Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		78.72%	37
2	No		10.64%	5
3	Not Sure		10.64%	5
			answered	47
			skipped	0

If you do not agree, please explain why: (4)

- 1 I do not believe that such schools require the additional financial support - what is the financial rational for the additional payments?
- 2 Schools in more affluent suburbs are set to benefit at the detriment of the more deprived area schools.
- 3 Schools in more affluent suburbs are set to benefit at the detriment of the more deprived area schools.
- 4 This would just create an additional reduction in funds available to all schools via the other formula factors by using this taper

4. High Needs Block

7. Do you support the proposed transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the purpose of invest to save projects to reduce the continuing increasing pressures within this area?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		51.06%	24
2	No		36.17%	17
3	Not Sure		12.77%	6
			answered	47
			skipped	0

If you do not agree, please explain why: (18)



- 1 It is the role of councillors to secure the funding from government that the county needs and not for schools to financial support the counties financial position.
- 2 I also feel that if the steps taken begin to result in a higher % of students with EHCPs remaining in mainstream provision, a higher transfer than 0.5% should be considered going forward.
- 3 I believe that by transferring funds from the Schools to HNB, the government get the wrong impression and believe that they are providing enough funds for this area.
- 4 Need a true reflection of how much this block is costing. Whilst it is so difficult to get a special school place this is increasing costs to school which is being taken from us - government need to act and pay more into this block.
- 5 The [REDACTED] has welcomed statements made by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) over recent times with regards to the necessity to direct financial resources to where the educational need is greatest. We notice that [REDACTED] along with the other areas in the highest areas of

7. Do you support the proposed transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the purpose of invest to save projects to reduce the continuing increasing pressures within this area?

- | | |
|----|---|
| | deprivation in Cambridgeshire whereas the schools in the more affluent areas are again contributing least to this. Reducing the MFG would be a fairer method to fund this. |
| 6 | I feel strongly that the DfE will not fully appreciate the gravitas of this situation if we use schools funding to support the high needs block. School budgets are not stretching to support the notional SEND elements. School support is impossible at the moment. Using catch up moneys and covid grants is jsut smoke and mirrors- sorry you asked! |
| 7 | Feel the impact on schools block will be negative for all. Also want the DfE to acknowledge the level of funding for high needs in Cambs is inadequate and this won't happen if schools block helps to meet the need. |
| 8 | We would have supported a 0.5% transfer if some part of it was to offset the HN Budget deficit. This project seems to require a substantial amount of funding and, despite having listened to the presentation, we fail to see that pushing more work to the schools and expecting additional workloads for Senco's is conducive to also forfeiting some of our budget. |
| 9 | It is an insufficient amount to make significant inroads to the deficit/increasing costs. Requires a more structured and appropriate response to tackle the problem as has been proposed. |
| 10 | It will benefit us financially if we do not, but I understand as a County we need to meet need. I am sure you will continue to try and recoup some of the deficit through government. If money is being transferred, it must be used to effectively meet need and the improvements promised in the recent briefings must happen swiftly and aaspirationally. |
| 11 | Although this would helps support the introduction of a more efficient way of providing support to SEN pupils, it would reduce the budget available to our school by £5k which is almost equivalent to the £6k initial costs that schools are required to fund for new EHCPS. |
| 12 | it would reduce the budget available to our school by £5,000. This is almost equivalent to the £6,000 initial cost to a school for the funding of a new EHCP. |
| 13 | We welcome the transformation plan being proposed and support the principle of "spend to save". However we are opposed to a transfer out of the Schools Block as we do not believe there is sufficient money within the Schools Block to support this. |
| 14 | The [REDACTED] has welcomed statements made by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) over recent times with regards to the necessity to direct financial resources to where the educational need is greatest. We notice that [REDACTED] along with the other areas in the highest areas of deprivation in Cambridgeshire whereas the schools in the more affluent areas are again contributing least to this. Reducing the MFG would be a fairer method to fund this. |
| 15 | The current model is not supportive enough as it is and adding more funding to a failing model is not the answer |
| 16 | Any transfer of funds will simply masks the real issues of inadequate funding and could give the impression that schools have 'excess funding' which could be redirected without impacting on provision for all children |
| 17 | There doesn't not appear to be a clear management strategy to manage this deficit as there has been considerable increase in High Needs funding to LAs in recent years and regular transfer of funds to support the high needs block, plus an increase in funding from central government. The most deprived areas would be impacted negatively the most by this proposal and thus further disadvantaging the children living in these areas. |
| 18 | Concerns over the impact this may have on small schools. |

5. Overall Affordability




8. If overall affordability allows do you support the approach of scaling up the NFF unit values by applying a weighting of between 1 and 1.01284 to balance to the available Schools Block distribution total?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		57.45%	27
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not Sure		42.55%	20
			answered	47
			skipped	0

If you do not agree, please explain why: (5)

1	More info and illustration please
2	There is a lack of clarity regarding the calculation - in financial terms what is the mismatch between the required / actual funding to be received that requires the alteration of the weighing factor.
3	The imbalance created by the High Needs and Sparsity Factor adjustments needs to be addressed first.
4	This depends on the impact on our school and on all other schools.
5	Yes, but the imbalance created by the High Needs and Sparsity Factor adjustments needs to be addressed first.

9. If there are overall affordability issues due to growth, cost of protection or agreed block transfers do you support the use of a funding cap and/or the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) being set at lower than the maximum allowable 2.0%?(note the funding cap restricts the amount of any funding gains of those schools above the level at which the funding cap is set)

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		44.68%	21
2	No		19.15%	9
3	Not Sure		36.17%	17
			answered	47
			skipped	0

If you do not agree, please explain why: (9)

1	Reducing the MFG to bring schools more in line with the NFF is the fairest method. We do not agree that a funding cap should be used to balance the cost of the formula. The funding cap applied in previous years has already placed a cumulative and aggregate disadvantage on schools with disadvantaged cohorts and therefore there is a double (or triple disadvantage.)
2	NFF is designed to provide funding for those schools that most need it and a funding cap would restrict some schools from receiving the funding they deserve. Happy for lower maximum level to MFG.
3	This depends on the impact on our school and on all other schools.
4	We do not support the MFG being set lower than the maximum allowable 2.0%. However, we would not be adverse to the use of a funding cap.

9. If there are overall affordability issues due to growth, cost of protection or agreed block transfers do you support the use of a funding cap and/or the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) being set at lower than the maximum allowable 2.0%?(note the funding cap restricts the amount of any funding gains of those schools above the level at which the funding cap is set)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | We do support the use of a funding cap but we do not support the MFG being set any lower. |
| 6 | I do not support the MFG being set lower than the maximum allowable 2.0% but the use of a funding cap would be acceptable. |
| 7 | Reducing the MFG to bring schools more in line with the NFF is the fairest method. We do not agree that a funding cap should be used to balance the cost of the formula. The funding cap applied in previous years has already placed a cumulative and aggregate disadvantage on schools with disadvantaged cohorts and therefore there is a double (or triple disadvantage.) |
| 8 | There should not be a reduction in the funding cap. This will impact negatively on schools in deprived areas and therefore children who live in these areas. |
| 9 | Small schools would struggle even further than they already are. |

6. De-delegations - Maintained Primary Schools Only

10. Maintained schools are asked to show their support for the continuation of the following de-delegation arrangements:

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Not Sure	Response Total
Primary Contingency Scheme	79.49% 31	2.56% 1	17.95% 7	39
Free School Meal Eligibility	89.74% 35	2.56% 1	7.69% 3	39
Maternity Cover	84.62% 33	2.56% 1	12.82% 5	39
Trade Union Facilities Time	66.67% 26	7.69% 3	25.64% 10	39
			answered	39
			skipped	8

APPENDIX 4 - GROWTH FUND AND NEW SCHOOLS FUNDING POLICY 2022/23

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following guidance provides details of the methodology for the local distribution for growth and new schools funding during the 2022/23 financial year to be considered by Schools Forum at the meeting to be held on 5th November 2021.
- 1.2 As per the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) School Revenue Funding 2022 to 2023 Operational Guide the Growth Fund can only be used to:
- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
 - support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size legislation. (Please note: The growth fund is not used for this purpose within Cambridgeshire due to the overall cost.)
 - meet the cost of new schools. (Pre-opening and diseconomies funding as prescribed in the New Schools Funding Policy.)
- 1.3 The Growth Fund must **not** be used to support:
- schools in financial difficulty: any such support for maintained schools should be provided from a de-delegated contingency
 - general growth due to popularity; this is managed through lagged funding
- 1.4 The Growth Fund may not be the most appropriate source of funding for growing schools, and the local authorities should use varying pupil numbers where there is a more permanent and significant change to numbers, and where it's appropriate for the change to be reflected in the funding formula (such as new schools growing to capacity or changes to age range).
- 1.5 As such, the Growth Fund is ring-fenced so that it is only used for the purposes of supporting growth in pupil numbers to meet **basic need** in both maintained schools and Academies. Any growth or expansion due to parental preference/popularity will **not** be eligible to be funded from the Growth Fund.
- 1.6 Local Authorities (LAs) are required to propose the criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated to Schools Forum for approval. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid. The LA will also need to consult Schools Forum on the total sum to be retained and must update Schools Forum on the use of the funding. It is essential that the use of the Growth Fund is entirely transparent and solely for the purposes of supporting growth in pupil numbers.

2.0 FALLING ROLLS FUND

- 2.1 LAs may also set aside Schools Block funding to create a small fund to support schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years. However, as there is a mandatory requirement that *“Support is available only for schools judged Good or Outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection”*, Forum have previously taken the view that it was not appropriate to apply such a factor.

- 2.2 Although we recognise a number of schools have experienced falling rolls over the last 12-18 months there is currently no forecast data which provides evidence these surplus places will be required to meet Basic Need requirements in the next three years.

3.0 GROWTH FUND PROCESS AND CRITERIA 2022/23

- 3.1 Schools requesting growth funding will be required to submit an application to their named Education Officer in the Place Planning Service. Details of the application process and deadlines will be circulated in January/February alongside the updated schools budget information. A Growth Fund Panel comprising LAa and Head Teacher representatives will review and reach decisions on the applications received.

- 3.2 The criteria below will be applied in 2022/23 where a school is growing or expanding to meet basic need in their area:

- Where the predicted numbers within the LA's planning area as agreed with the DfE (for the purposes of calculating its basic need funding allocation) for a **Primary** School (excluding nursery classes) for the following September show an increase, due to basic need, requiring the running of additional classes or significant restructure they **may be** able to access additional funding.
- Where the predicted numbers within the LA's planning area as agreed with the DfE (for the purposes of calculating its basic need funding allocation) for a **Secondary** School for the following September show an increase (excluding Post-16), requiring the school to run one or more additional classes and/or undertake a significant restructure, they **may be** able to access additional funding.
- Where schools have chosen to admit above their Published Admissions Number (PAN) to meet parental preference from outside of their agreed planning area (**not** basic need), they will **not** be eligible to receive funding from the Growth Fund in recognition that the LA could have secured places for the children concerned at other schools.
- Where schools take the decision to extend their admission arrangements to give priority to children attending or in the catchment area of an out-of-county or out-of-area school, they will not be eligible to receive Growth Funding for the pupils concerned.
- In instances where the LA has specifically requested a school to expand to take an additional class to create capacity, but the forecast numbers do not represent the need for an additional class, schools may be able to claim additional funding. The funding will only be payable if the school is unable to reorganise its class teaching structure to meet the request.
- Where the LA has not specifically requested a school to operate an additional class, the school will be required to provide evidence that an additional class or tutor group and/or significant restructure would be required to meet basic need. (Views will also be sought from relevant officers in the Education Directorate and Finance.)
- A class is defined as "additional" if it requires a change in the school's current or historical class organisation or number of classes. In Primary schools this may result in mixed year teaching where numbers dictate and this is seen as the most

prudent option for the organisation of the school as a whole.

- Schools that have historically operated mixed-age classes or have a PAN in a multiple of less than 20 would be normally expected to operate some mixed-age classes. (The Growth Fund cannot be used to reduce class sizes.)
- Should additional pupils be admitted following successful appeals, the expectation is that the school would be able to accommodate these without the need to reorganise or employ an additional teacher.
- The requirement for additional classes or forms of entry will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Funding will be allocated based on the requirement for additional support / classes / forms of entry.
- Allocations will be calculated at the following rates:

Phase	Academic Year	Financial Year (7/12ths)
Primary (1FE)	£54,000 + £4,000	£31,500 + £4,000
Secondary (1FE)	£65,000 + £4,000	£37,917 + £4,000

- **Please note:** Pro-rata allocations will be made where 0.5FE is deemed appropriate. The allocations include a £4,000 (pro-rata) allowance towards the cost of equipment, fixtures and fittings to set up a new classroom. Once agreed these amounts are guaranteed irrespective of actual pupil numbers to allow schools to staff appropriately.
- Initial growth funding requests will be evaluated using Admissions data and demographic forecasts to aid schools with budget setting. Where there is uncertainty or disagreement around the predicted pupil numbers, funding will not be allocated until receipt of the actual October Census data.
- In instances where growth funding is allocated based on forecasts and numbers do not materialise, the school will be required to provide evidence as to how the funding has been used to increase capacity. If sufficient evidence is not provided the LA reserves the right to clawback a proportion or all of the funding. The Authority may also adjust future years growth fund applications accordingly.
- No funding adjustments will be made in respect of “missing” pupils in Key Stage 1.

3.3

Other Considerations

- The level of revenue balances for maintained schools and academies will be requested and considered as part of the application process. Any school with a revenue balance deemed as excessive would **not** be permitted to claim the full value of the additional growth funding. These instances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Given that the funding formula now allocates an equal lump sum to all schools regardless of size no further additional funding will be provided to support any changes in leadership structure.

- Where schools are in areas of high growth, support may be provided to allow schools to maintain class structures where there is uncertainty over timescales for the completion and occupation of new housing developments. As these arise, they will be addressed on an individual basis and will be funded using estimates of the number of places required to meet demand from the local planning area as determined by the LA.
- Where the LA supports a school's decision to extend its age range, additional support will be made available subject to meeting the criteria in 3.2 above.
- Funding for maintained schools is only guaranteed for the financial year to which it relates. Future years funding will be assessed annually during the budget setting process.
- Where the LA has requested maintained schools to run an additional class and numbers do not materialise, funding to recognise the difference will be provided to compensate for the 5/12th period April to August. This will be calculated on the basis of 5/12th of the academic year Growth Fund allocation less the basic entitlement received for pupils in the additional class based on the October census.

3.4 **Academies** will take account of the additional guidance in **Appendix A** and be subject to the same criteria as above with the following additions and amendments:

- Where an academy is expanding due to parental preference rather than basic need the academy can bid directly to the ESFA, rather than being funded from the LA Growth Fund.
- Any funding allocated would be for the full academic year as original funding is based on the previous October Census. This would be subject to confirmation of actual funded numbers from the ESFA and would be calculated on receipt of the October Census at the start of the new academic year.

DfE additional guidance states:

“Where academies are funded on estimates, however, there is no need for them to access the growth fund for this purpose. This is because they will receive additional funding through a pupil number adjustment for actual numbers. We will identify academies funded on estimates in the January edition of the APT. Around 90% of former non-recoupment academies are funded on estimates.”

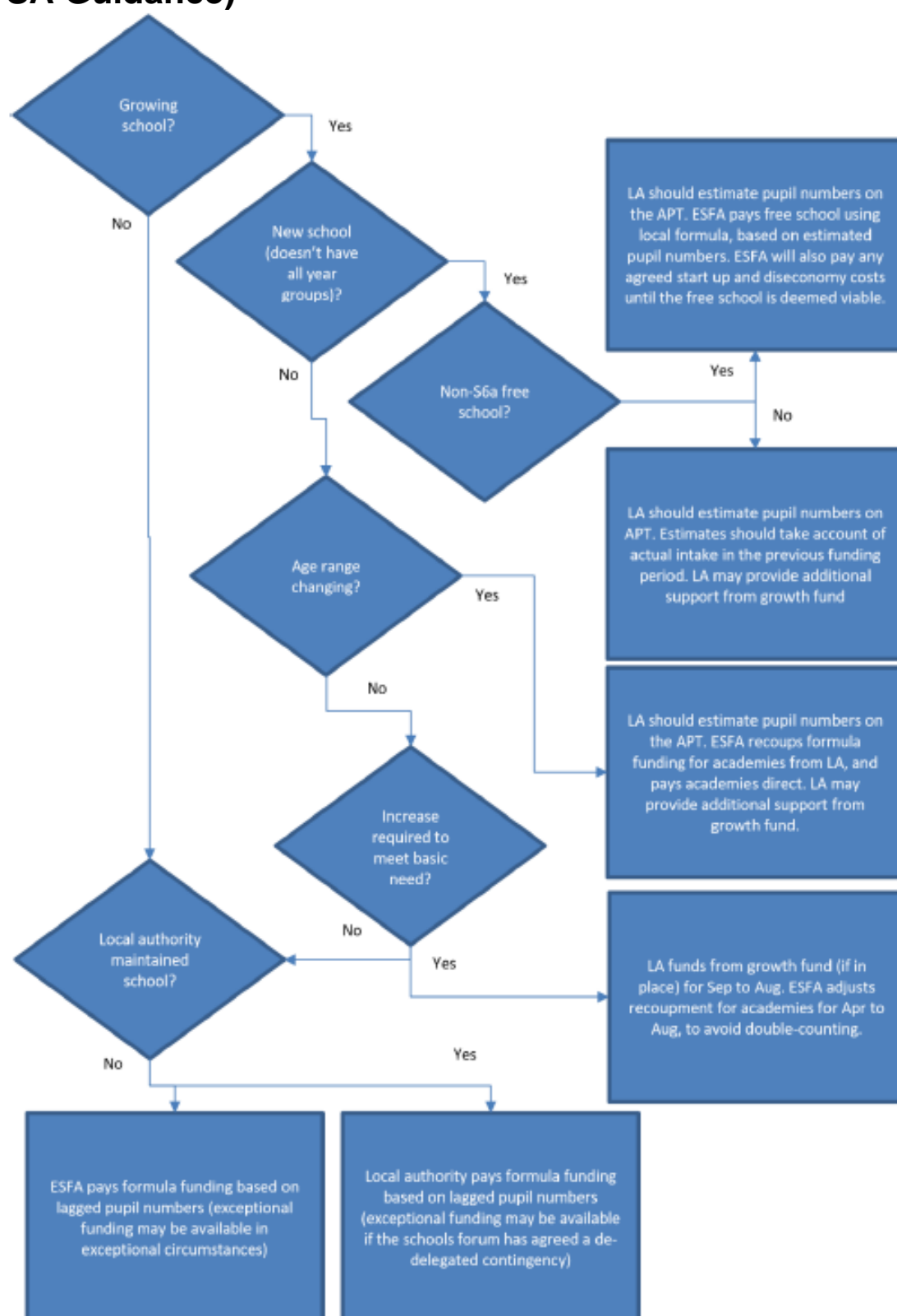
4.0 **NEW SCHOOL FUNDING CRITERIA 2022/23**

- 4.1 Where a new school is due to open, the regulations require that LAs should estimate the pupil numbers expected to join the school in September and fund accordingly, explaining the rationale underpinning the estimates. Under these regulations, LAs should estimate pupil numbers for all schools and academies, including free schools, where they have opened in the previous seven years, and are still adding year groups. LAs can adjust estimates each year, to take account of the actual pupil numbers in the previous funding period. For academies an allocation of funding is recouped from each LA and, following formula replication by the EFSA, an annual grant allocated.
- 4.2 There is an increasing requirement from the DfE/ESFA to guarantee / underwrite pupil numbers for new schools planned to be opened in future years. Although this is effectively the approach already applied for new schools, it does increase the risk should

actual pupil numbers not reflect the current forecasts.

- 4.3 Due to the way in which schools funding is allocated from the DfE on a lagged basis (including additional funding for growth) this results in the existing schools within the county effectively having to subsidise all new schools whilst they fill to capacity and move to being funded on actual numbers. Therefore, the greater the differential between the actual numbers on roll at new schools as at the October Census and the guaranteed number to be funded, the greater the required subsidy and impact on all other schools.
- 4.4 Current practice has been to open new schools on the following basis:
- Primary schools – guaranteed funding for a minimum of 30 or 60 pupils in the first year of opening dependent on whether they are opening from reception up or for all year groups.
 - Secondary schools – guaranteed funding based on the planned capacity **only** if the initial pupil forecasts support this. For example, a 4FE secondary school with forecast numbers of between 90 and 120 in year 1 would be funded for 120 guaranteed places. If the forecast numbers are below 90 the guaranteed number would be adjusted to reflect the closest multiple of 30.
 - Guaranteed pupil numbers for the second year of operation onwards have been based on actual and forecast numbers following annual discussions.
- 4.5 The DfE have recently consulted on the future arrangements for the National Funding Formula – Fair funding for all. As part of this consultation funding for growth and new schools is under review with proposals to change the way in which this funding is allocated, including the funding of start-up costs. *“We propose that, when a hard NFF is implemented, funding for growth, new and growing schools, and falling rolls will still be allocated, as these will all continue to be important parts of the lagged funding system. However, the method through which this funding is allocated should change – moving to a new, national approach.”* Until this new approach is confirmed the LA are unable to provide any long-term commitments to funding arrangements as they will be subject to the outcomes of the national policy changes.
- 4.3 Alongside the main formula funding, pre-opening costs and diseconomies funding in respect of new basic need academies are also payable from the Growth Fund. Details of the current amounts payable can be found in the New Schools Funding Policy (**Appendix B**), which is also subject to approval on an annual basis.
- 4.4 This funding must be made available to new basic need academies on the same basis as maintained schools, including those funded on estimates – the only exception is that the ESFA will continue to fund start-up and diseconomy costs for new free schools where they are not being opened to meet an identified basic need requirement as referred to in section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 5.0 AMENDMENTS TO FUNDING CRITERIA**
- 5.1 It is possible to amend the above Growth Fund criteria during the year where this becomes necessary; however, the revised criteria must be submitted to the ESFA for compliance checking and must also be approved by Schools Forum before the revised criteria can be implemented.

Appendix A – Funding Flow Chart for Growing Schools (from EFSA Guidance)



Appendix B – New School Funding

Pre-Opening Funding for New Schools

The pre-opening funding is intended to cover all revenue costs up to the opening of the school. Capital costs to secure and develop the school's site, and ICT to support the curriculum, are funded separately for the LA's five year rolling programme of capital investment. Books and other curriculum materials may be purchased before opening, using an advance of the post-opening diseconomies funding.

The pre-opening funding is to cover:

- project management (support to coordinate all work leading to the development of the school);
- staff recruitment (including the Head teacher/Principal);
- salary costs (which often include the Head teacher/Principal, Finance/Business Manager and administrative support in advance of opening);
- office costs.

Primary Schools - funding is calculated on the basis of 1 term prior to the date of opening.

Secondary Schools - funding is calculated on the basis of 2 terms prior to the date of opening.

Special Schools - funding is calculated on the basis of 2 terms prior to the date of opening.

In all instances the funding can be accessed earlier, but the total amount to be received remains as detailed below.

Primary	£50,000
Secondary	£150,000
Special	£130,000

Post-Opening Diseconomies Funding

Resources –

Paid annually as the school builds up to capacity –

- £125 for each new mainstream place created in the primary phase (years R to 6)
- £500 for each new mainstream place created in the secondary phase (years 7 to 13)

New places will be calculated annually based on the increases in roll from year to year.

Leadership –

Paid annually based on the number of year-groups that the school will ultimately have. The amount paid to mainstream schools with pupils aged 4 – 15 each year is set out below:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Primary	£40,250	£33,750	£27,000	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250	£141,500
Secondary	£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£31,000			£312,000

Cambridgeshire Schools Forum – Forward Agenda Plan

All meetings will be held at 10.00am unless otherwise specified taking account of any continued lockdown measures that might require the use of virtual meetings. Some of the dates below may be retained as workshops / training sessions if a formal meeting of Forum is not required.

Date of meeting	Agenda Item	Report author	Reports due to reach Democratic Services by:
Friday 5 November 2021	Budget setting for 2022-23	Jon Lewis / Martin Wade	Friday 22 October 2021 *Due to half term
	Schools Forum Appointments	Tamar Oviatt- Ham	
Friday 26 November 2021 (Reserve Date)	Budget setting for 2022-23	Jon Lewis / Martin Wade	Monday 15 November 2021
Wednesday 15 December 2021	Budget setting for 2022-23	Jon Lewis / Martin Wade	Thursday 2 December 2021
Friday 14 January 2022	Future Schools Forum dates	Tamar Oviatt- Ham	Wednesday 5 January 2022 *Due to Inset days
	Final Budget Proposals for 2022-23		
Friday 25th February 2022 (Reserve or workshop date)			Monday 14 February 2022
Friday 25th March 2022			Monday 14 March 2022

Wednesday 25th May 2022 (Reserve or workshop date)			Thursday 12 May 2022
Friday 15th July 2022	Review Terms of Reference	Jon Lewis/Tamar Oviatt-Ham	Monday 4 July 2022
	Review of Proportionality and Membership	Jon Lewis/Tamar Oviatt-Ham	

To be scheduled: