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SCHOOLS' FORUM

Day: Thursday
Date: 18 January 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Lesser Hall 1, Dukinfield Town Hall

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of Schools' Forum	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of Schools' Forum	
3.	MINUTES To consider the minutes of the meeting of Schools' Forum held on 28 November 2023	1 - 4
4.	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) MONITORING UPDATE 2023-24 To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director of Education	5 - 12
5.	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25 To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director of Education	13 - 30
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of School's Forum is to be held remotely on 5 March 2024	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Natalie King, Member Services Manager, natalie.king@tameside.gov.uk, 0161 342 2316, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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SCHOOLS' FORUM

28 November 2023

Commenced: 10.00am

Terminated: 11.00am

Present:	Karen Burns (Chair)	Primary Schools – Academies
	Susan Marsh	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Kirsty Rimmer	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Lockett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Gallaher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	John Cooper	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Simon Brereton	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Gemma Patterson	Primary Schools - Academies
	Bev Oldham	Primary Schools - Academies
	Joanne Lennon	Primary Schools - Academies
	Heather Farrell	Primary Schools - Academies
	Andrea Din	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Anthony Benedict	Pupil Referral Service
	Anne Morgan	Tameside Teachers' Consultative Committee
	Rebecca Woollam	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent
	Lisa Richards	16-19 Sector
	Elaine Horridge	Church of England Diocese
	Jerome Francis	Finance Business Partner
	Louisa Siddall	Senior Finance Manager
	Wendy Lees	Finance Manager
	Jane Sowerby	Assistant Director, Education
Apologies for absence:	Councillor North	Executive Member
	Councillor Feeley	Executive Member
	David Waugh	Secondary Schools - Academies

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of Schools' Forum.

18 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the School's Forum, which was held on 26 September 2023.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Schools' Forum, which was held on 26 September 2023, be approved as a correct record.

19 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) MONITORING UPDATE 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Assistant Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Education, which provided an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

budget position for the financial year 2023-24.

Members were made aware that there was a forecast surplus of £0.010m on the Schools Block, which related to unallocated growth. However, it was noted that this was based on October census 2023 data and figures would be updated once this was finalised. It was further noted that any surplus on the Schools Block would be used to reduce the DSG deficit and that the Central School Services Support Block was expected to be spent in full.

Members acknowledged that the High Needs Block continued to be under significant pressure and it was explained that there was a forecast in-year deficit of £5.913m on the High Needs Block. However, this reduced to £5.219m following the £0.694m transfer from the Schools Block. This represented a favourable movement of £0.657m from the forecast in September 2023. It was further noted that September and October had seen a low number of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) being issued, However, the overall number of plans forecast to be issued during the financial year was an average of 45 plans per month.

Members were made aware that there may be further expenditure on the High Needs Block in relation to the education costs relating to Children's Social Care (CSC) placements. It was noted that the DSG already funded the educational costs for a number of CSC placements but a review was underway, which would look to ensure all partner contributions, including Health, Education and Social Care were applied fairly and in accordance with the specific individual placement requirements. It was explained that this may identify additional contributions required from the High Needs Block and an estimate of £0.100m had been included at this stage. Members were made aware that, once the review was complete further information would be provided.

With regards to the Early Years Block, Members were informed that there was a forecast surplus on the Early Years Block of (£0.492m), which represented an adverse movement of £0.058m to the forecast reported in September 2023. It was noted that actual participation for the Autumn term was currently being finalised and an update on these areas of entitlement along with early years pupil premium and the disability access fund would be provided at the next Schools Forum meeting in January 2024.

Members were made aware that there was a forecast deficit of £0.126m on the SEND Inclusion Fund (SENDIF), which represented an adverse movement of £0.058m in comparison to the previously reported forecast. It was explained that approved SENDIF requests for funding were at a higher level in the first half of 2023-24 but looked to level out, with a further update to be brought to the January Schools' Forum meeting.

Members were provided with an update on the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG), which would provide additional funding for early years providers. It was explained that initial allocations for the EYSG would be paid based on Part Time Equivalent (PTE) data from the January 2023 early years, schools and alternative provision censuses. It was also noted that the DfE intended to make an adjustment to reflect the actual numbers of children taking up the entitlements from the January 2024 censuses. It was noted that the allocation for Tameside was £0.989m and Members were provided with details of the breakdown of the allocation and the estimated distribution of the grant.

In relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Members were informed that, if the 2023-24 projections materialise, there would be a deficit of £8.077m on the DSG reserve. Members were reminded that a Deficit Recovery Plan had been submitted to the DfE, with the plan being scrutinised as part of the Delivering Better Value programme. Members were assured that the position would continue to be closely monitored and further update would be provided.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted and supported

20 SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25 CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Assistant Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Education, which outlined the consultation to all schools regarding the allocation of Schools Block funding for 2024-25.

An error in the original calculations for NFF by the DfE was highlighted and Members were made aware that the DfE had apologised for this error. Documentation in relation to this was shared with Members. As a result, the high level information and NFF rates presented during the last meeting had been revised.

It was explained that the provisional 2024-25 updated allocation for Tameside had increased by £6.791m, as opposed to £8.668m as originally reported. It was noted that this was after increasing the 2023-24 Schools Block allocation to take account to the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) funding that was allocated in 2023-24. There was also increases in funding across all blocks for Tameside MBC, which was noted as positive. However, the High Needs increase continued to be capped, which would continue to contribute to the High Needs deficit.

A detailed description of the Schools Block Finding Formula Proposals was provided for Members. It was noted that the core factors in the updated schools NFF (such as basic entitlement and the lump sum) would increase by 1.4% and the funding floor would ensure that every school would attract at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding than 2023-24.

Members were made aware that the modelled figures show schools were seeing an average increase of 4.92% across Tameside mainstream schools (excluding premises factors, business rates and PFI).

It was explained that part of the average 4.92% increase was related to the 2023-24 MASG being rolled into 2024-25 schools block baselines. Further comparisons were provided to show the average increase excluding the MSAG and the average increases show 1.43% across Tameside mainstream schools, which related to inflationary increases in comparison to 2023-24.

It was suggested that, based on the modelled allocations to schools and the 2024-25 funding announcements, it would be possible to:

- Set the MFG protection at the highest rate possible of 0.50%
- Remove the Gains Cap so no school would see their formula allocation capped
- Transfer 0.50% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

In relation to Growth Funding, Members were made aware that this was not included in the provisional figures provided. However, it was explained that LAs must use the new NFF requirements for growth funding, whereby additional classes (driven by basic need) must be funded by at least the minimum funding level set out in the funding calculation. The NFF growth allocations had been set at £1,550 per new primary pupil and £2,320 per new secondary pupil plus a lump sum of £76,195 for each brand-new school. It was noted that the rates used in the local formulae for Tameside were already above these rates and that there was a plan to review the existing growth policy in light of the updates to NFF.

In relation to high needs pressures for 2024-25, Members were made aware that, nationally, High Needs funding was increasing by £440m or 4.3% in 2024-25 and funding allocated to Local Authorities was increasing by around 5% overall.

It was also explained that a funding floor had been set at 3% to ensure every LA received at least a 3% increase on the relevant funding elements per head compared to 2023-24 baselines. A limit on gains would also apply so the maximum increase an LA could receive would be 5% compared to 2023-24 baselines.

It was stated that Tameside had received the maximum increase possible, the capped allocation at 5%. However, without the cap, it was noted that Tameside would have received an additional £3.885m in 2024-25. Despite this additional funding, Members were informed that the impact of the cap, along with projected growth in number of EHCPs, there continued to be an increasing in-year deficit on the high needs budget position.

Members were informed that a consultation on the proposals set out for the funding formula for Schools Block 2024-25 had been circulated to all schools and Chairs of Governors. The closing date for the consultation had been 8 November 2023 and the results of the consultation was provided for Members.

The consultation advised the proposed Schools Block funding allocation for 2024-25 would be based on the NFF rates, would have an MFG of 0.5% and there would be no cap on gains based on the provisional funding allocation for the LA. It was noted that a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs block was also affordable on this basis.

It was explained that there were only 16 responses from 2 schools in relation to the consultation, and the responses were outlined for Members.

Discussion ensued in relation to the consultation and Members discussed the lack of response from schools and Chairs of Governors. It was noted that this was disappointing and it was suggested that headteacher briefings, moving forwards, may need to be moved in order to be able to use these a vehicle to raise the profile of such consultations and ensure understanding of the issues raised. It was also suggested that schools business managers may have greater involvement and that responses could be analysed according to sector and school context to gain a clearer understanding of the responses.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted**
- (ii) That a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block be approved**

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of The Schools Forum be held at Dukinfield Town Hall, Thursday 18 January 2024 at 10am.

Agenda Item 4

Report to:	SCHOOLS' FORUM
Date:	18 January 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jane Sowerby – Assistant Director of Education Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
Subject:	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) MONITORING UPDATE 2023-24
Report Summary:	A report on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget position for the financial year 2023-24.
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools' Forum are requested to note and support the contents of the report.
Corporate Plan:	Education finances significantly support the Starting Well agenda to provide the very best start in life where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop and supports Aspiration and Hope through learning and moving with confidence from childhood to adulthood.
Policy Implications:	In line with financial policy and framework.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure.</p> <p>The current projection for 2023-24 is expected to be a deficit on the DSG of £8.100m at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The report details the in-year movements and forecast on the 4 main blocks of the DSG. The High Needs Block continues to be under pressure with a forecast in-year shortfall of funding of £5.484m.</p> <p>Work continues to seek to resolve the deficit position. Tameside is part of the Delivering Better Value program working with DfE Advisors.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The details in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant and the deficit position are set out in the main body of the report.</p> <p>The Forum needs to be content that the plans to manage the deficit and in year short fall are deliverable.</p>
Risk Management:	<p>The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.</p> <p>There is insufficient funding allocated to the borough to meet the cost of Education in borough.</p>
Access to Information:	NON-CONFIDENTIAL This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Information: The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Jerome Francis – Finance Business Partner – Financial Management, Children’s and Safeguarding Services



Telephone: 0161 342 3044



e-mail: jerome.francis@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report is presented to provide Schools' Forum with an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for 2023-24 and the DSG reserve position. The report sets out:
- A budget update for the DSG for 2023-24 (Section 2)
 - A detailed update for High Needs for 2023-24 (Section 3)
 - A detailed update for Early Years (Section 4)
 - The DSG reserve position at 31 March 2023 and the estimated DSG reserve position at 31 March 2024 (Section 5)

2. DSG BUDGET UPDATE

- 2.1 The current DSG settlement for 2023-24 and forecast distribution/expenditure is included in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – DSG Forecast for 2023-24

DSG Funding Blocks	DSG Settlement 2023-24 at July 2023 £m	Block Transfer 2023-24 £m	Revised DSG 2023-24 £m	Forecast Distribution / Expenditure 2023-24 £m	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit £m
Schools Block	(201.052)	0.694	(200.358)	200.342	(0.016)
Central School Services Block	(1.249)	0.000	(1.249)	1.249	0
High Needs Block	(36.910)	(0.694)	(37.604)	43.088	5.484
Early Years Block	(18.062)	0.000	(18.062)	17.325	(0.737)
Total	(257.273)	0.000	(257.273)	262.003	4.731

- 2.2 There is a forecast surplus of £0.016m on the Schools Block. This relates to unallocated growth of £0.018m slightly offset by Academy conversion adjustments of £0.002m. The final growth allocation is based on pupil numbers at the October 2023 census point up to the agreed growth number. The surplus on the Schools Block reduces the DSG deficit.
- 2.3 The Central School Services Block is expected to be spent in full.
- 2.4 The forecast in-year deficit on the High Needs Block is expected to be £6.178m, which reduces to £5.484m with the £0.694m transfer from the Schools Block. Further information on High Needs is included in Section 3.
- 2.5 There is a forecast surplus on the Early Years Block of £0.737m. This will be partially offset by a forecast deficit on the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) of £0.059m and there will be a further adjustment following Spring Term census data. Further information on the early year's position is included in Section 4.

3. HIGH NEEDS BUDGET UPDATE FOR 2023-24

- 3.1 The budget position has been updated following the autumn term real time exercise. The revised position is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2: High Needs Forecast Position 2023-24 at December 23

High Needs Budget Position 2023-24	2023-24 Original Forecast £m	2023-24 Forecast Budget Summer Term £m	2023-24 Forecast Budget Autumn Term £m	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit £m	% Change
Mainstream	4.389	5.343	5.684	1.295	29.50%
Special & TPRS	17.476	17.833	17.844	0.367	2.10%
Resourced Units	0.502	0.646	0.680	0.178	35.41%
Independent Schools	3.911	4.947	5.412	1.501	38.39%
PVI Settings	0.132	0.138	0.187	0.055	41.47%
NMSS	0.422	0.366	0.371	(0.051)	-12.12%
OOB (Pre 16)	2.002	2.163	2.660	0.658	32.86%
Post 16	3.000	4.148	3.774	0.774	25.78%
Hospital Education	0.100	0.100	0.100	0	0.00%
SEN Support Services	1.971	1.925	1.925	(0.046)	-2.35%
Income OOB	(0.411)	(0.432)	(0.417)	(0.005)	1.33%
Excluded Pupil Income	(0.181)	(0.181)	(0.200)	0	10.54%
Total Spend	33.313	36.995	38.017	4.705	14.12%
High Needs DSG - Original Funding	(37.144)	(37.144)	(37.144)	0	0.00%
High Needs DSG - Adjusted Import / Export	0	0.234	0.234	0.234	
High Needs DSG - Academy Recoupment	4.842	4.842	4.842	0	0.00%
Teacher Pay Grant	0	(0.245)	(0.245)	(0.245)	
Total Funding	(32.302)	(32.314)	(32.314)	(0.011)	-0.03%
In Year Deficit Before Growth	1.010	4.681	5.704	4.694	
Projected in Year Growth:					
Summer Term Real Time	2.514	0	0		
Autumn Term Real Time	0	1.370	0		
Spring Term Real Time	0	0.519	0.474		
Total Growth	2.514	1.889	0.474		
High Needs Block In Year 2023-24 Deficit	3.524	6.570	6.178		
Schools block transfer	(0.694)	(0.694)	(0.694)		
High Needs Block In Year 2023-24 Deficit (after Block Transfer)	2.831	5.876	5.484		

Note: Table includes rounding's

- 3.2 The year-end forecast is showing a deficit in-year on the high needs block of £5.484m, this is an adverse movement of £0.393m compared to the forecast position last reported in November 2023.
- 3.3 The Growth forecast has been updated and reviewed following the real time exercise for the autumn term and as Table 3 shows there has been spend to date of £1.249m and a further £0.474m of Growth is expected over the next 3 months to year-end.
- 3.4 The forecast spend to year-end is based on the assumption that the number of EHCPs being issued continues at a similar level to the previous 9 months which is an average 45 per month.

- 3.5 The forecast also includes £0.100m expenditure in relation to the education costs relating to Children's Social Care (CSC) placements. A review is underway ensure all partner contributions, including Health, Education and Social Care are applied fairly and in accordance with the specific individual placement requirements. This may identify additional contributions required from the high needs block.
- 3.6 Both elements of expenditure will continue to be monitored closely and updated where required.

TABLE 3: Forecast Growth September to March 24

Provision	Forecast Additional Growth Sept to Mar 24 £m	Actual Growth at Dec 23 £m	Forecast Growth to Mar 24 £m	Total Forecast Growth at Mar 24 £m	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit £m
Mainstream	0.738	0.403	0.158	0.561	(0.177)
Special Top Up's	0	(0.001)	0	(0.001)	(0.001)
Special Place Funding	0	0.071	0	0.071	0.071
Resource Base Top Up's	0.146	0.008	0	0.008	(0.138)
Resource Base Place & Transitional Funding	0	0.133	0	0.133	0.133
Pre 16 Placements (Independent NMSS; PVI's & OOB)	1.005	1.013	0.215	1.228	0.223
Post 16 Placements	0	(0.378)	0	(0.378)	(0.378)
Contribution to CSC Placements	0	0	0.100	0.100	0.100
Total	1.889	1.249	0.473	1.722	(0.167)

4. EARLY YEARS BUDGET UPDATE FOR 2023-24

- 4.1 A detailed update of the Early Years Block for 2023-24 is included in Table 5.

TABLE 4 – Early Years Forecast 2023-24

Early Years Funding Block	Early Years DSG Settlement 2023-24 at Nov 2023 £m	Forecast Distribution / Expenditure 2023-24 £m	Forecast Outturn (Surplus) / Deficit £m
3 and 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement	(9.321)	8.666	(0.655)
3 and 4 Year Olds Extended Entitlement	(4.639)	4.387	(0.252)
2 Year Olds	(2.358)	2.441	0.083
Early Years Pupil Premium	(0.234)	0.241	0.007
Disability Access Fund	(0.132)	0.087	(0.045)
Central Retention	(0.813)	0.813	0
SEN Inclusion Fund	(0.566)	0.692	0.126
Total	(18.062)	17.325	(0.737)

- 4.2 Table 4 reflects the early year's settlement compared with the forecast distribution/expenditure. The forecast distribution/expenditure for 3 and 4 year old universal and extended entitlements for 2 year olds is based on the actual participation for the Summer and Autumn Terms and the estimated participation for the Spring Term.
- 4.3 The reduction in participation for 3 and 4 years olds is mainly due to the reducing birth rate. Tameside is seeing a high level of take up at approx. 97%, based on Summer 2023. Estimates suggest that universal uptake is reducing but after a previous upwards shift in extended entitlement there is an estimated reduction in uptake in the Spring term. There will be a further funding adjustment based on the Spring Term census data and if the estimates are accurate, there will be a clawback of funds which will reduce the anticipated surplus.
- 4.4 There has been a gradual increase in 2 year old participation. As result of this revised estimates for the Spring term show an increase in the expected uptake and therefore an increase the distribution of funding.
- 4.5 Based on the latest review of the SEN Inclusion Fund, the forecast is in line with the figure previously reported so the position has been held.
- 4.6 The Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) has also been updated to reflect the actual distribution of funding for the Autumn term and estimated distribution, based on estimated participation, for the Spring Term. This is outlined in Table 5.

TABLE 5 – EYSG Allocation and Estimated Distribution

EYSG Sept 23 - Mar 24	Universal entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds £m	Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds £m	2-year-old entitlement £m	Early years pupil premium £m	Disability access fund £m	Total £
Allocation	0.364	0.180	0.432	0.009	0.005	0.989
Estimated Distribution	0.345	0.175	0.515	0.009	0.002	1.047
Variation	(0.019)	(0.004)	0.084	0.000	(0.003)	0.059

- 4.7 As previously reported, any shortfall would be met from the forecast underspend on the Early Years Block.
- 4.8 Early Years Teachers Pay Grant has been announced to support early years providers who are delivering the government's early years entitlements with increased teacher workforce costs, for the period September 2023 to March 2024. The amount for Tameside is £0.070m. This allocation is based on Part Time Equivalent (PTE) data from the January 2023 early years, schools and alternative provision censuses and there will be no adjustment to the allocation. This grant is subject to conditions of grant and it is to be determined how this funding will be allocated to providers.

5. DSG RESERVE AT 31 MARCH 2023 AND ESTIMATED POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2024

- 5.1 Table 6 provides details on the closing position of the DSG reserve for 2022-23 and the estimated position of the DSG as at 31 March 2024.

TABLE 6 – DSG Reserve

	2022-23 (Surplus) / Deficit £m	2023-24 Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit £m
DSG Reserve Brought Forward	3.243	3.306
Schools Block Changes		
In year position on business rates	0.003	0
In year position on the growth fund	(0.355)	(0.018)
Minor variations	(0.002)	0.002
Schools Block Subtotal	(0.353)	(0.016)
In year position on High Needs Block	1.018	5.484
In year position on Early Years	(0.614)	(0.737)
Early Years 2021-22 final adjustment	(0.004)	0
Estimated Early Years 2022-23 Adjustment and Final Adjustment as confirmed in July 2023	0.016	0.004
Early Years Supplementary Grant	0	0.059
DSG Reserve after Commitments	3.306	8.100

- 5.2 If the 2023-24 projections materialise there would be a deficit of £8.100m on the DSG reserve. A deficit recovery plan has been developed and submitted to the DfE. Discussions are continuing with the DfE and the plan is being scrutinised as part of Stage 2 of the DBV programme. The position will continue to be closely monitored and updates reported to Schools' Forum.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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Agenda Item 5

Report to:	SCHOOLS FORUM
Date:	18 January 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jane Sowerby – Assistant Director of Education Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
Subject:	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25
Report Summary:	A report on the arrangements concerning the DSG funding for 2024-25.
Recommendations:	Schools Forum are RECOMMENDED to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the proposed funding formula for mainstream schools as set out in Section 3. This continues with national funding formula rates, sets MFG at 0.5%, has no gains cap and allows a transfer of 0.2% to the High Needs Block.2. Approve the growth fund as outlined in Section 3.3. Approve the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as outlined in Section 3.4. Members of the Primary and Secondary sectors are required to vote separately on the de-delegation of funding for Schools Contingency as outlined in Section 3.5. Members of the maintained sector are required to vote on the School Improvement funding as outlined in Section 3.6. Support schools continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Children's Partnership as outlined in Section 3.7. Approve the central retention of the Early Years funding as outlined in Section 5.8. Approve the allocation of the Central Services Schools Block as outlined in Section 6.
Corporate Plan:	Education finances significantly support the Starting Well agenda to provide the very best start in life where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop and supports Aspiration and Hope through learning and moving with confidence from childhood to adulthood.
Policy Implications:	In line with financial and policy framework
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure. This report sets out the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF) basis for all Tameside schools for 2024-25. The table below shows the current provisional funding settlement for 2024-25 along with comparative allocations to 2023-24:

DSG Blocks	2023-24 £m	2024-25 £m	Increase £m
Schools Block (including Mainstream Schools Additional Grant in 2023-24)	207.967	213.636	5.669
High Needs Block	36.904	39.108	2.204
Early Years Block (including Early Years Supplementary Grant in 2023-24)	19.051	20.774	1.724
Early Years Block – New entitlements	-	8.384	8.384
Central School Services Block	1.249	1.349	0.100
Total Funding	265.170	283.251	18.081

The allocation of the High Needs element of this grant is insufficient to meet current spending or growth in number of pupils requiring support.

The Schools Forum and the Council must continue to look for savings to address the growing High Needs deficit and continue to update DfE with progress against the DSG deficit recovery plan.

There is a currently a statutory override that allows councils to exclude their DSG balance from their statement of accounts. This is set to expire following the 2025/26 financial year, after which the deficit balance will be recognised on the council's balance sheet.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

The legal framework for school budgets is set out in sections 45-53 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and accompanying regulations. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 provide the framework for the funding of maintained schools including how the local authority may allocate their schools budget.

The School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 gave effect to the decision to reform school funding through a simplified local formula with greater delegation to schools and new arrangements for funding pupils with high needs. In addition, the School and Early Years Finance Regulations set out the requirements for determining the 2023/2024 financial year.

The Department for Education and Skills Funding Agency has also issued Operational Guidance for local authorities relating to school and early years budget setting to support Council's compliance with the Regulations.

Risk Management:

The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

There is insufficient funding allocated to the borough to meet the cost of Education in borough.

Access to Information:

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Jerome Francis – Finance Business Partner – Financial Management, Children's and Safeguarding Services



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out information on the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2024-25 and details of additional funding provided.
- 1.2 Section 2 is a summary of the DSG settlement from the DfE/ESFA.
- 1.3 Section 3 provides details of the Schools Block and the proposed funding formula for Mainstream Schools in Tameside in 2024-25.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides details of the High Needs Block.
- 1.5 Section 5 provides details of the Early Years Block.
- 1.6 Section 6 provides details of the Central School Services Block (CSSB).

2. PROVISIONAL DSG SETTLEMENT FOR 2024-25

- 2.1 The provisional DSG settlement for Tameside for 2024-25 of £283.251m was received on 19 December 2023, with accompanying essential data. All DSG funding must be deployed to schools and / or pupils in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.
- 2.2 Table 1 provides the breakdown of the provisional settlement for the four blocks within the DSG announced in December 2023, compared with the 2023-24 latest settlement figures.

TABLE 1 – DSG Settlement as at December 2023

DSG Blocks	2023-24 £m	2024-25 £m	Increase £m	% Increase
Schools Block (including Academies) *	207.967	213.636	5.669	3%
High Needs Block (before recoupment)	36.904	39.108	2.204	6%
Early Years Block **	19.051	20.774	1.724	9%
Early Years Block - New Extended Entitlements	-	8.384	8.384	100%
Central School Services Block (CSSB)	1.249	1.349	0.100	8%
Total Funding	265.170	283.251	18.081	

Note: the table above includes roundings

* The 2023-24 Schools Block figure includes the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) which has been rolled into the 2023-24 baselines. It should be noted Academy funding is recouped by the ESFA. The amount recouped by the ESFA is calculated using the formula set out in Section 3.

** The 2023-24 Early Years Block figure includes the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) which has been rolled into the DSG from 2024-25.

- 2.3 The Schools Block increase relates to an increase in DfE funding rates. Business Rates have increased and there has been an uplift for RPIX on PFI.
- 2.4 The High Needs increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers, updated with data from the January 2023 alternative provision (AP) census and October 2023 school census.
- 2.5 The Early Years Block is split into two lines in Table 1 to differentiate between the existing Early Years Block funding and the New Extended Entitlements that come into Place from

April 2024. The increase in the existing funding relates to an increase in the DfE funding rates and there is new funding for new entitlements. Further information is provided in Section 5 of this report.

- 2.6 The CSSB increase relates to an increase in the DfE funding rate and further information is provided in Section 6 of this report.

3. SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 3.1 The Schools Block is the largest element of DSG funding which provides the majority of funding for Mainstream Schools and Academies, with additional elements potentially being allocated through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The Schools Block settlement from the DfE is detailed in Table 2 below and is made up of the following funding:

Units of Funding

- A primary unit of funding (PUF) of £5,283.16
- A secondary unit of funding (SUF) of £6,850.70

These units of funding are based on 2023-24 pupil numbers and characteristics from the October 2022 census and make up the vast majority of the Schools Block.

This core school funding covers funding for all pupil and school led factors in the funding formula. The PUF and SUF are multiplied by the pupil numbers in reception to year 6 plus pupils aged 4 to 10 not assigned to a year group for primary and pupils in years 7 to 11, plus pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group for secondary.

Premises Funding

- Business rates - these are included in the local authority (LA) allocation but will be top sliced from the DSG allocation and retained by the ESFA who will make payments directly to the LA as the billing authority on behalf of schools.
- PFI – this is uplifted by the previous April's RPIX.

Growth Funding

- This is calculated using the difference between the primary and secondary numbers on roll on the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. The rates used to calculate the DfE allocated growth are as follows:
 - Primary Unit Rate - £1,558,78
 - Secondary Unit Rate - £2,333.15

TABLE 2 – Schools Block Settlement 2024-25 from DfE

Element of Funding	Schools Block £m
Primary Funding (20,022 Pupils)	105.779
Secondary Funding (14,974.50 Pupils)	102.586
Premises Funding	4.480
Growth Funding	0.790
Total	213.636

Proposed Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools

- 3.2 Tameside continues to use national funding formula rates (NFF) for the allocation of Schools Block funding. The rates used for each sector to allocate the funding to each individual school are included at **Appendix A**.

- 3.3 The PFI funding continues to be delegated to the relevant schools. The delegated figures are based on the historic factor funding and uplifted by RPIX of 10.4% which reflects the increase in the unitary charge paid for the delivery of PFI services. In 2022-23 the affordability of the contract was reviewed and resulted in a reduction to the PFI Affordability Factor of £0.263m. However, due to the significant inflationary increases over the last 12 months, the affordability has been reviewed again and requires this contribution to be reinstated at the inflated rate, resulting in £0.324m being added back into this factor. In 2024-25 the LA will continue to recover the full delegated PFI Affordability factor as in previous years.
- 3.4 Business Rates are funded to the equivalent value of the Business Rates charge for 2024-25. This funding is estimated and will be removed from Tameside's allocations and retained by the DfE who will pay this directly to Tameside MBC (the billing authority) on behalf of all Tameside Schools and Academies.
- 3.5 In 2024-25 LAs are able to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0% and +0.5% per pupil. In the Schools Forum paper in November 2023 the proposals were to include a 0.5% MFG which is the rate at which MFG has been set.
- 3.6 The Gains Cap is a limiting factor which limits the gain in pupil led funding per pupil that a School receives. For 2024-25 there is no gains cap as per the proposal in the Schools Forum paper in November 2023.

Growth

- 3.7 There are 2 types of growth that are funded from the growth fund. Explicit Growth and Implicit Growth.
- Explicit growth relates to the specific growth fund and is allocated based on the growth criteria agreed by Schools Forum.
 - Implicit growth relates to adjustments to pupil numbers when calculating the funding; in this case for new and growing schools.
- 3.8 The policy for accessing the growth fund was agreed by Schools Forum in June 2019 and continues to be the method for allocating explicit growth.
- 3.9 The estimated Growth Fund required in 2024-25 is £0.170m and detail of this is included in Table 3. There is no implicit growth in 2024-25 as the previous new schools now have all year groups occupied. The final growth allocation to schools will be based on actual numbers, which will be taken from the October 2024 census up to a maximum of the agreed growth pupil numbers.
- 3.10 The growth policy states where a school has agreed planned growth there should be a minimum of 5 or more pupils before growth funding is allocated, but a minimum level of funding of 15 pupils will be funded to ensure that the school does not face financial difficulty. As the schools in Table 3 have agreed to take 10 additional pupils they will be funded for 15 pupils, if they take a minimum of 5 pupils. The agreed growth is what the LA require and therefore anything above 15 pupils will not be funded from the growth fund. The amounts included in Table 3 are based on 15 pupils.

TABLE 3 – Explicit Growth

School	£m	Pupil No. Increase Agreed
St Thomas More RC College	0.044	10
All Saints Catholic College	0.044	10
Audenshaw	0.044	10
Unallocated	0.038	
Total	0.170	

Transfer of School Block Funding to the High Needs Block

- 3.11 It was agreed at Schools Forum in November 23 that 0.5% could be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block if the proposed formula consulted on was affordable. As a result of changes in pupil characteristics in the October 2023 census, more funding is required to support the Additional Educational Needs Factors. Table 4 shows the change in deprivation factors, comparing the provisional funding based on the 2022 census dataset, and the revised figures following the October 2023 census dataset update. The total impact is an increase of £1.519m.

TABLE 4 - Variation in Deprivation Factors

Factors	2024-25 Pre Data Update	2024-25 Post Data Update	Variation
	£m	£m	
FSM	5.164	5.481	0.318
FSM6	11.502	11.983	0.481
IDACI	11.395	11.48	0.086
EAL	1.509	1.771	0.262
Low Prior Attainment	14.015	14.293	0.278
Mobility	0.192	0.286	0.094
Total Additional	43.777	45.295	1.519

- 3.12 Prior to the 2022-23 financial year, a review of the PFI schemes took place and as a result the PFI affordability factor element of the DSG was reduced to ensure a large surplus was not remaining at the end of the schemes life. Following the high inflationary environment of the past 24 months the financial sustainability of the scheme has significantly reduced and it is necessary to reverse the reduction in the PFI affordability factor. As a result the cost of the proposed formula has increased and it will not be possible to transfer 0.50%. In order to afford this proposed funding formula, the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs block has been reduced to 0.2%, £0.427m. This will add to the significant pressure on the High Needs block, as there was an assumption that the 0.5% transfer of £1.068m would be actioned. This equates to a reduction of £0.641m. As a result, mainstream schools will need to continue to support high needs pupils where possible.

De-Delegation - Contingency

- 3.13 The contingency budget has been established to support those schools facing a deficit budget position or to support the DSG against any future pressures where schools are closing or are forced to convert to academy leaving a deficit balance, as this would need to be funded from DSG. It should be noted that a deficit balance transfers to the Academy Trust where the

transfer to Academy is through a convertor route, i.e. the School chooses via an Academy order to convert to an Academy. The balance remains a DSG issue where conversion is forced as part of a Sponsored Academy conversion route required by the Secretary of State.

- 3.14 Where a school is in deficit or facing deficit in the next financial year they will be subject to a review in line with the School Deficit process as outlined within the Scheme of Financing Schools. The LA will work very closely with the school and its Governors to manage the deficit and ensure action is taken to address it.
- 3.15 It is also anticipated that schools struggling to manage deficits, where financial issues are beyond the control or influence of the Head teacher, could apply. This would be in exceptional circumstances, and where significant action had already been taken to bring the financial position back into balance and where further cuts are likely to impact on the attainment of the pupils in the school.
- 3.16 Alongside this, support will be provided to schools closing with deficit balances to minimise the impact and potential pressure on the DSG.
- 3.17 The de-delegation rate for Contingency for 2024-25 remains at £5.81 per pupil. Agreement is sought from both the Primary and Secondary sectors to de-delegate in 2024-25. Should both sectors choose to contribute, based on the October 2023 census data, this would result in the following contribution to Contingency:
- Mainstream Primary Maintained Schools - £0.058m
 - Mainstream Secondary Maintained Schools - £0.035m
- 3.18 There have been no requests made to the contingency fund during 2023-24. The fund will be carried forward into 2024-25 less any approvals that may be agreed before year-end.
- 3.19 The balances in contingency are as outlined in the Table 5.

TABLE 5 – Contingency Contributions

	Primary £m	Secondary £m	Total £m
Balance as 31.03.2023	0.067	0.133	0.200
2023-24 De-delegation		0.035	0.035
Total	0.067	0.168	0.235

School Improvement

- 3.20 The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant ceased in the financial year 2022-23. Schools de-delegated funding in 2023-24 at a rate of £12.78 per pupil. For 2024-25 the de-delegation rate is £13.58.
- 3.21 Since 2018, the model of School Improvement activity in Tameside has not been limited to maintained schools, with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support being available to any school that may need it. The Council will liaise with academies and offer them the opportunity to buy into the School Improvement Service which will ensure that we retain the ability to support the whole sector and retain equity, which has proved so successful in Tameside over the last years.
- 3.22 All schools need to be part of the big picture. Tameside’s school improvement model is built on partnerships and relationships. It is collaborative and seeks to engage all schools in a variety of consultative and task and finish groups. Strategy and priority setting is based on full engagement with the Tameside Primary Consortium, Tameside Association of Secondary Headteachers and Special Schools Sector Partnership.

- 3.23 In the financial year 2023-24 the de-delegated funding of £0.220m has been fully utilised. It has funded the work of the Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships, including commissioning and brokering budgets for school improvement across all sectors of Tameside's schools. This included, developing professional learning such as subject networks for both primary and secondary schools, transition, support for individual schools, and co-ordination of work on exclusion prevention with the Tameside PRU. In addition this de-delegation has provided authority wide IT systems such as Services for Schools and Six into Seven support sharing of information within and across sectors.
- 3.24 Education Improvement and Partnerships ensures cohesion across the school system in Tameside; facilitating working together responsibly between schools and with the local authority. The service provides an infrastructure for the school system, attracting partners and funding to the area, enabling opportunities to develop at a systemic level such as The Ogden Trust and University of Manchester Science partnership, the Education Endowment Foundation and Research School partnership, English and Maths Hubs, Mental Health Support Teams, BeeWell, transitions including Six into Seven, and Priority Area planning. This ensures that Tameside liaises and works with the 9 other GM local authority areas and with GMCA itself guaranteeing that Tameside's schools have a voice and access to all GM wide projects.
- 3.25 The de-delegation supports the LA to meet needs before schools reach a critical point of failure. Monies are used to help support schools and prevent Tameside children from being at risk of attending a school that is less than good, long before being eligible for intervention. This may include commissioned improvement support from an academy trust, funded evidence-based approaches which address priorities agreed with the LA, liaison with the Department of Education on initiatives such as the Priority education Investment area (PEIA) and authority wide bids for funding from the Third sector.
- 3.26 In addition to supporting strategic and operational cohesion in the school system the de-delegation (which was the former School Monitoring and Brokering Grant) is also intended to support the LA with its school improvement statutory duties and powers of intervention which include:
- Ofsted engagement and liaison
 - Annual categorisation process of primary schools
 - Implementing Schools Causing Concern guidance
 - Brokering and monitoring school-led improvement partnerships e.g. schools at risk of becoming inadequate or double RI
 - Commissioning and facilitating support for RI, Inadequate and category 3 schools
 - Data collection, management, and support outside of the data SLA
 - Statutory monitoring of SATs/phonics screening and moderation at KS2 writing for primary schools.

Safeguarding

- 3.27 As in previous financial years Schools are expected to support safeguarding in the borough, by agreeing to make a contribution of £3.24 per pupil towards the cost of the TSCP (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership). All schools are asked to support the continuation of this arrangement in 2024-25. This equates to approximately £0.114m across all mainstream schools and £0.117m including special schools.

Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA)

- 3.28 Where schools have opted into this arrangement in 2023-24, the membership will continue on an ongoing basis. Should a school choose to opt out of the arrangement they would need to make their own risk protection arrangements. The cost of RPA for 2024-25 is £25 per pupil. The LA will continue to treat this in the same way as de-delegation items and recover the cost from the relevant schools on this basis as the DfE recover this funding from the DSG. It should be noted that nursery numbers are included to calculate the charge for the primary sector (where applicable).

4. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 4.1 Following the funding announcements in the summer, the provisional high needs block settlement for 2024-25 has now been updated with the following:
- Increase in pupil numbers used to calculate the basic entitlement factor, based on data from the January 2023 alternative provision (AP) census and October 2023 school census
 - Update to the import/export adjustments following the outcomes of the place change exercise in November and queries from other LAs.
- 4.2 There will be a further update to the Import and Export adjustments to reflect cross border movement of pupils living in one borough and accessing provision in another (this will follow in June 2023 when January 2024 school census for Pre 16 and February 2024 R06 individualised Learner Record (ILR data) for Post 16 is available)
- 4.3 The revised settlement is shown in Table 6 and this shows Tameside is seeing an increase before academy recoupment of £2.204m, or 6%. This is the maximum like for like allocation increase which in 2024/25 is capped at 5% by the Government plus £0.357m due to an increase in pupil numbers in the special and Alternative Provision (AP) census data. However following these increases the funding available for 2024-25 remains significantly below current year expenditure, before any growth is factored in, which continues to contribute to the overall deficit on the DSG.

TABLE 6 - Updated High Needs Settlement 2024-25

High Needs Allocation	2023-24 £m	2024-25 £m	Increase £m	% Increase
Total high needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	35.134	39.511	4.377	12%
Less Gains Limit Factor	-2.988	-3.885	-0.897	30%
Basic Entitlement	3.981	4.338	0.357	9%
Total Formula Allocation	36.127	39.963	3.837	11%
Plus AP Funding Factor	0.192	0.195	0.003	2%
Less Import/export	-1.050	-1.050	0	0%
Supplementary Funding	1.636	0	-1.636	
Total Allocation (before Recoupment)	36.904	39.108	2.204	6%
Less Recoupment	-4.842	-5.252	-0.410	8%
Total Allocation (after Recoupment)	32.062	33.856	1.794	6%
Further Recoupment Adjust (place Change Sept 24)	0	-0.189	-0.189	
Total Funding	32.062	33.667	1.605	5%
2023-24 Forecast Expenditure	38.240	38.240		
High Needs Block Deficit (Surplus)	6.178	4.573		

Basic Entitlement	2023-24	2024-25	Difference
Increase in Numbers	847	923	76
Cash Value £	4,700.08	4,699.78	-0.30
Total Allocation £	3,980,968	4,337,897	356,929

Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 4.4 Local Authorities are required by the Dedicated Schools Grant conditions to set a minimum percentage by which the budget of any special school or academy would change from 2023-24 to 2024-25. The calculation must assume that all pupils in the school were placed by the home local authority and the type of places remain the same in the two financial years. In 2024-25 the range in which the percentage must be set is between 0% and 0.5%.

Additional Funding 3.4%

- 4.5 As a result of the 2022 autumn statement and announcement on additional school funding, LAs will be required to continue pass onto special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) a separate allocation equivalent to the additional funding allocation received in 2023-24.
- 4.6 These allocations will give special schools 3.4% of their total place and top-up funding and give PRUs 3.4% of their total income.

Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)

- 4.7 LAs will continue to receive a separate grant allocation to cover the additional pay award for teachers that was received for September 2023 to March 2024. As in 2023-24 the funding will be passed onto eligible special schools and PRUs.

Teachers' Pension Grant

- 4.8 There will be a new grant in 2024-25 to reflect the additional costs of the increases in teachers' superannuation effective from April 2024. The rate is increasing from 23.68% to 28.68%. As with the TPAG, LAs will be required to pass the funding onto eligible special schools and PRUs, but with the difference that LAs will receive funding for pupils with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) placed in independent schools.
- 4.9 The funding will be allocated on a flat rate but with the opportunity for LAs to take account of a school's actual teachers' pension costs, subject to local consultation. Further updates will be provided when the Government releases more details.

Historic Teachers Pay and Pension Grant

- 4.10 This existing grant will continue to be allocated separately to special schools and PRUs and should not be confused with the two new grants covered above.

High Needs Commissioned Places Sept 2024

- 4.11 The number of commissioned places agreed for September 2024 across all providers is shown in Tables 7a to 7d below.

TABLE 7a – Alternative Provision

Commissioned Places - AP	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Tameside Pupil Referral Service	130	130	0

TABLE 7b – Special Schools

Commissioned Places - Special	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Hawthorns	220	230	10
Thomas Ashton	100	100	0
Oakdale	160	162	2
Cromwell High	140	140	0
Samuel Laycock	230	230	0
Total Places	850	862	12

TABLE 7c – Resource Base Units

Commissioned Places - Resource Bases	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Corrie	12	12	0
Dane Bank	10	10	0
Greenside	22	22	0
Linden Road	4	4	0
Oakfield	16	16	0
Rosehill	15	15	0
Russell Scott	5	3	-2
St James Ashton *Oct 24	10	10	0
Hyde High	5	5	0
St Thomas Moore	13	13	0
St John Fisher	12	12	0
Total Places	124	122	-2

TABLE 7d – Further Education

Commissioned Places - Post 16	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Tameside College	80	80	0
Ashton Sixth Form	6	10	4
Total Places	86	90	4

5. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

- 5.1 Table 8 provides the current funding settlement for Early Years for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The settlement is based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2023. The 2023-24 information will be updated based on January 2024 census data.

TABLE 8 – Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding Streams	2023-24 Early Years Allocation at Nov 2023 £m	2024-25 Provisional Early Years Allocation £m	Increase / (Decrease) in Funding £m
3 & 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement*	10.539	11.302	0.763
3 & 4 Year Olds Additional 15 Hours Entitlement for Eligible Working Parents*	5.205	5.581	0.377
2 Year Old Disadvantaged Entitlement*	2.927	3.466	0.539
2 Year Old Entitlement for Working Parents new entitlements	-	4.828	4.828
Under 2s Entitlement new entitlements	-	3.337	3.337
3 & 4 Year Olds Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)*	0.243	0.257	0.014
2 Year Olds EYPP (new entitlements)	-	0.140	0.140
Under 2s EYPP (new entitlements)	-	0.007	0.007
3 & 4 Year Olds Disability Access Fund (DAF)*	0.137	0.168	0.032
2 Year Olds DAF (new entitlements)	-	0.065	0.065
Under 2s DAF (new entitlements)	-	0.007	0.007
Total	19.051	29.158	10.108

Note: the table above includes rounding's

* The 2023-24 Early Years Allocation includes the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) which has been rolled into the DSG from 2024-25. The EYSG covered the period September 2023 to March 2024.

- 5.2 For 2024-25 the government announced new early years entitlements for working parents. The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:
- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week;
 - From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 15 hours per week;
 - From September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 30 hours per week.
- 5.3 The rate the LA is funded on for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by £0.25 from the combined rates of £5.37 (£5.06 DSG and £0.31 EYSG) to £5.62.
- 5.4 The rate the LA is funded for 2 year olds has increased by £0.53 from a combined rate of £7.43 (£5.73 DSG and £1.70 EYSG) to £7.96. The funding received for both disadvantaged 2 year olds and the new entitlement for working parents of 2 year olds is the same rate.
- 5.5 The allocation rate for DAF has increased by £29 from a combined rate of £881 (£828 DSG and £53 EYSG) to £910. The allocation rate for EYPP has increased by £0.02 from a combined rate of £0.66 (£0.62 DSG and £0.04 EYSG) to £0.68 per hour per eligible pupil up to a maximum of 570 hours. Previously these allocations only related to 3 and 4 year olds but have now been extended to children 2 years old and under as part of the new entitlements.
- 5.6 The DfE has also extended local funding rules to the disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements meaning supplements can be added. There is also an expectation that local authorities have special educational needs inclusion funds (SENIFs)

for all children with special educational needs (SEN) eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.

- 5.7 Consultation needs to be held with Early Years providers regarding the increased rates and new entitlements. Therefore, an additional Schools Forum meeting will be required to agree the rates of allocation for this element of funding. A report will be completed for this additional meeting proposed for 5 March 2024 with further information on the funding arrangements for the LA and for providers.
- 5.8 As part of the update of the new entitlements the DfE is extending the 95% pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements.
- 5.9 Approval is sought to centrally retain 5% (in line with the operational guidance) of 3 and 4 Year Old funding (£0.844m based on the current settlement) and up to 5% of funding for children 2 years old and under (0.582m based on the current settlement). This will continue to support the services set out below along with the additional administration requirements for the new entitlements:
- Early Education Funding Team – This fully supports the administration of Early Years funding, the annual costs associated with the Servelec IT system which is used to calculate and process the payments to Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers.
 - Family Information Services – This supports an Information Officer. This post provides advice, guidance and information to families wishing to access Children’s services and was implemented to support the increased demands from the early years extended provision.
 - Early Years Quality Improvement Team – This currently supports the work of the Quality Officers, specialist SEND Quality Officers and a School Advisor for Early Years. Support is primarily in relation to: signposting and promoting the standard 15 hours offer and extended 30 hours offer; Ofsted regulations and standards; practice development and training; safeguarding; and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities related support. The focus of the team going forward is now weighted heavily towards SEND and language development.
 - SEN Team – funding support for an Early Years SEN Caseworker as specific support for SEN in early years.
 - Social Emotional and Mental Health service – funding support for an Early Year Coordinator as specific support in early years.
 - Sensory Support – funding support for a Hearing Impaired Teacher as specific support for Early Years.
 - Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy). This is aimed at supporting practitioners to build parents’ knowledge and confidence so that they can support their children with early language and reading and writing and create a positive early home learning environment.

6. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)

- 6.1 The Central School Services Block to fund statutory duties the LA undertakes for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:
- Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
 - Funding for ongoing central functions such as admissions which were previously top sliced from the schools block
 - Residual funding for historic commitments of which there are none for Tameside MBC.

- 6.2 The total allocation to the LA for 2024-25 is £1.349m. This is based on a per pupil element of £38.54 for ongoing duties (i.e. Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licenses, former ESG duties).
- 6.3 National Copyright School Licenses are also funded from this block and the amount for 2024-25 is estimated to be £0.219m, based on an estimated 5% increase. The final cost will be confirmed by the DfE.
- 6.4 The DSG operational guidance for 2024-25 requires the LA to formally request Schools Forum approval for the central retention of funding for the following:
- School Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - Contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (formally the retained duties element of the ESG)
- 6.5 The budgets for the above are still being worked on but the costs overall are currently estimated in excess of the £1.130m available. Schools' Forum is requested to approve this central budget.

7. OTHER FUNDING UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2024-25

- 7.1 There are a number of other funding updates set out below.

Pupil Premium – New Rates

- 7.2 The new rates for 2024-25 were announced in December 2023.

Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)

LAs will continue to receive a separate grant allocation to cover the additional pay award for teachers that was received for September to March 2024. The grant will continue as a separate grant in 2024-25 and from 2025-26 will be rolled into the schools and high needs national funding formulae.

Teachers Pension Grant

- 7.3 As an outcome of the valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme, the Government have announced superannuation rates for employers will increase from 23.68% to 28.68% in April 2024. The Government have stated additional funding will be made available to cover the increases in employer contributions in year.

Recovery Premium

- 7.4 The Recovery premium is part of the package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by COVID-19. The funding was initially set over 3 academic years and with 2023-24 being the final year the funding will cease in August 2024.

National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

- 7.5 The NTP is a scheme that provides support to pupils affected by the disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19. The 2023-24 academic year is the fourth and final year of funding and funding allocations to schools will cease in August 2024.

PE and Sport

- 7.6 The Government has confirmed that the Primary PE and Sport Premium will continue in 2024-25 academic year. Updated guidance and conditions of grant have been published to steer schools towards the effective uses of the premium. To improve accountability the DfE plan to introduce a new digital tool that will be available in summer 2024 with an expectation for schools to trial its use at the end of 2023-24 academic year. From 2024-25 academic year completion of the digital tool will be mandatory.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 As set out at the front of the report.

APPENDIX A

Rates for the Mainstream Funding Formula	Rates for Primary Sector 2024-25 £	Rates for Secondary Sector 2024-25 £
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)		
Primary	3,562	
Secondary - KS3		5,022
Secondary - KS4		5,661
Deprivation		
FSM	490	490
FSM6	820	1,200
IDACI band F	235	340
IDACI band E	285	450
IDACI band D	445	630
IDACI band C	485	690
IDACI band B	515	740
IDACI band A	680	945
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	590	1,585
Low Prior Attainment	1,170	1,775
Mobility	960	1,380
Minimum per Pupil Funding Level	4,610	5,995
Lump Sum	134,400	134,400
Sparsity	57,100	83,000
Split Site - Lump Sum	53,700	53,700
Split Site - Distance	26,900	26,900

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