

Buckinghamshire County Council

Schools Budget Proposals 2019-20 Executive Summary

**Schools Forum
15th January 2018**

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Introduction

- Purpose of the paper is to update Schools Forum on the final funding settlement for DSG announced in December 2018 and the implications for the 2019-20 budget
- The paper also includes updated projections for high needs budgets based on the up to date activity data for placements and post-16 activity.



DSG Allocation 2019-20

Final Allocation as follows:

Year	Schools Block £m	High Needs £m	Central School Services Block £m	Early Years £m	Total DSG £m
2019-20	322.171	82.692	7.425	30.687	442.975

Schools Block 2019-20

Schools Block	Pupil Led Factors £m	Premises and Mobility factors £m	Growth Funding £m	Total Funding 2019-20 £m
	316.251	3.632	2.288	322.171

Schools block – changes from provisional allocation

Changes from December report	Pupil Led Factors £m	Premises and Mobility factors £m	Growth Funding £m	Total changes £m
	3.618	0.000	-0.021	3.597



Modelling the 2019-20 formula

The following model was agreed at the meeting on 11th December:

Model 1: All previously agreed NFF factors, with prorating (scaling) of each factor to match the available allocation of funding from the DfE.

- Funding Factors at 99.32% of NFF values
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) costs £350k for 15 schools, met from capping 40 schools to the equivalent amount.
- 1% optional Funding Floor factor not applied.
- £0.5m transferred to the High Needs block



Model 1 updated for 2018 Census Data

Model 1(a) as follows:

- Funding Factors are 99.01% of NFF values
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) costs £441k for 27 schools, met from capping 50 schools to the equivalent amount.
- 1% optional Funding Floor factor not applied.
- £0.5m transferred to the High Needs block
- Based on final DfE allocations using October 2018 Census and other updated data



What has changed?

- Additional pupils funded through census and built in to model for implicit growth
- Changes in numbers of pupils in the low prior attainment and deprivation categories
- Updated costs for business rates in schools £451k
 - Academies rates notified to LA on 19th December £194k
 - Funding for rates is within premises element of schools block which is based on historic spend therefore does not reflect the additional cost – becomes a draw on pupil led element of Schools Block
- Impact of changes is to reduce formula factors to 99.01% of NFF



High Needs Block

- Allocation includes increase of £1.322m announced by Education Secretary 17th December 2018
- New funding allocated for 2018-19 and 2019-20, no commitment beyond April 2020
- High Needs forecast updated - projection presented in December was based on October figures. Updates for post-16 have impacted on the projection.
- Projected overspend of £1.3m 2018-19 after additional funding



High Needs Block 2019-20

- Estimates for 2019-20 based on current activity and anticipated impact of strategies to reduce high cost placements and increase support for mainstream and special schools
- Still significant pressure on high needs budgets. Shortfall of £108k if decisions from December remain in place.
- In the light of the additional funding DfE suggests Schools Forum will want to revisit previous decision to transfer funding from Schools Block



High Needs Block 2019-20

- Model 3(a) shows impact of removing £0.5m transfer from Schools Block:
 - Funding Factors are 99.17% of NFF values
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) costs £416k for 26 schools, met from capping 46 schools to the equivalent amount.
 - 1% optional Funding Floor factor not applied.
 - No funding transferred to the High Needs block
- Shortfall on high needs block would be £608k



Decisions Required

To continue with the model agreed in December 2018, updated for the latest data and allocations, including a transfer of £0,5m from Schools Block to High Needs Block as set out in model 1a.

or

To agree a £0 transfer from Schools Block to High Needs block, in light of the additional £1.3m funding for High Needs, as set out in modal 3a.

