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Date: 24 September 2020

Dear Member

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the following meeting: -

SCHOOL'S FORUM

on TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020

at VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MS TEAMS

commencing at 2.00 pm

The agenda papers for the meeting are enclosed.

Yours sincerely



Director: Governance and Partnerships
and Secretary to the Forum

Enc

To: All Members of the Schools Forum
Appropriate Officers

North Lincolnshire Council

AGENDA	
Meeting:	Schools Forum
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 1 October 2020
Venue:	MS Teams meeting
Time:	2:00pm – 4:00pm

NO.	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	PAPERS	COMMENTS
1.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Secretary (Alex Dawson)		
2.	Welcome / Introductions / Apologies	Chair		
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial interests (if any)	Chair		
4.	Minutes and Actions from last meeting for approval	Chair	Attached	For agreement
5.	Membership update	Alex Dawson	Oral update	For information
6.	The Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools	Tracy Elliott/Rosie Maughan	Attached	For information/discussion
7.	Early Years – Dedicated Schools Grant	Nicola Raines	Attached	For discussion/agreement
8.	School Funding Formula 2021-2022	Rosie Maughan	Attached	For discussion
9.	De-delegations	Tracy Elliott/Rosie Maughan	To follow	For approval
10.	Future meeting dates	Chair		
11.	Any other urgent business	Chair		
13.	Future Agenda Items	Chair		

FOR INFORMATION

Proposed date of the next meeting(s) (all Thursday at 2pm)

- To be arranged

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

18 June 2020

PRESENT:

School Representatives

Mr E Gibbs (present for part of the meeting), Mr B Lawrance, Mrs D West, Mr R Biglands, Mrs T Millard, Miss A Nuttall, Ms M Potterton and Mrs R Stephenson.

Academies Representatives

Mr D Flowitt, Mr P Raspin and Mr A West

Non Schools Representative

Mr M Lochran

PVI Representatives

Mrs M Drury and Mrs C Williams

Executive Elected Members

Cllr J Reed

Local Authority Officers

Ms T Elliott (Strategic Lead – Servicedesk), (Head of Access and Inclusion), Mr P Thorpe (Director of Learning Skills and Culture), Ms R Maughan (Specialist – Commercial), Ms J Frost (Education Inclusion Lead Officer), Mrs J Flintoff (Head of Standards and Effectiveness), Ms N Raines (Early Years Sufficiency Manager) and Mrs V Oxley (Democratic Services – Secretary to the Forum)

The meeting was quorate.

The forum met via MS Teams.

892 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Miss Z Bidmead, Mr E Gibbs (Chair), Mrs S Thomas and Mr D Chaplin.

893 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – The vice chair welcomed members, adding Mr E Gibbs was unable to chair the meeting due to technical issues.

894 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND PERSONAL OF PERSONAL PREJUDICIAL INTEREST - There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

895 MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING DATED 14 January 2020 - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019, having been printed and circulated

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amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded, and be signed by the vice chair.

- 896 **REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION** – (a) The review of the Constitution had been updated as part of the Coronavirus Act 2020, the above regulations amended the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012. Members could be present at meetings through remote means where they were able to access and participate simultaneously by electronic means (including (but not limited to) telephone and video conferencing, live webcast and live interactive streaming). The preference of North Lincolnshire Council as the local authority being Microsoft Teams. (b) Current vacancies on the Forum membership are Academy secondary representative, maintained PRU representative, and primary heads representative. (c) New Chair of the forum to appointed due to the retirement of Mr E Gibbs.

Members took this point to thank Mr E Gibbs for his contribution and commitment to the forum.

Resolved – (a) That the amended Constitution be agreed by Forum members; (b) that current vacancies be agreed at the Primary and Secondary Heads meeting, and reported to the forum; (c) that nominations for Chair be discussed at the October meeting and (d) that the Secretary sends a letter of thanks to Mr E Gibbs on behalf of the Forum.

- 897 **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT OUTTURN 2019-20** - Ms R Maughan presented the report.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was a ring-fenced specific grant that must be used in support of the schools' budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) (No 2) Regulations; it could be used for no other purpose.

Individual School Budgets were set in January 2020 for the 2020/21 financial year. No further adjustments could be made in year. Once allocated, school funding was counted as expenditure in support of the schools' budget.

The central element of the schools' budget may be under or overspent. If there is an underspend in respect of the central budget, this must be carried forward to support schools' budget in future years.

There were new arrangements for handling overspends with effect from the end of the 2019 to 2020 financial year making it particularly important to maintain a reasonable level of DSG reserve. New provisions had been put into the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020, so that local authorities were required to carry forward overspends to their schools' budget.

A breakdown of expenditure for each of the central budgets was provided.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

- 898 **SCHOOLS OUTTURN 2019/20** - Ms R Maughan presented the report.

Individual school budgets for 2019-20 amounted to £109.585m of which £51.280m was recouped by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for academy schools. In addition, maintained schools carried forward balances of £2.939m from 2018/19. Actual

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expenditure by maintained schools in 2019-20 was £58.048m, resulting in an in-year contribution to reserves of £0.257m.

The increase to reserves of £0.257m brought the total value held in individual schools to £3.196m. Dedicated Schools Grant balances amounted to £2.009m. The scheme of finance stated that the maximum proportion of the collective balances held by the authority, which would be used to back the licenced deficit arrangement would not exceed 50%. Deficit balances held by schools totalled £1.188m, a reduction of £0.08m from 2018-19 and stood at 23% of collective balances.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

899 **EARLY YEARS – FUNDING UPDATE** – Ms N Raines presented the report.

The Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (EYDSG) was paid for two, three and four-year olds accessing funded early education.

On 17 March 2020 the Chancellor confirmed the government would continue to pay funding to local authorities for the funded early education entitlements for two, three and four-year-olds, providing reassurance for early years providers in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

Schools and childcare providers were closed to all but key worker and vulnerable children (priority groups) as of 20 March 2020. More than half of all providers stayed open to meet the needs of key worker families and vulnerable children. This included school nurseries, day nurseries, childminders and a small number of pre-schools.

The numbers of children attending provision started from a low base of 188 in the week commencing 6 April 2020. Numbers had gradually increased to 423 children attending the week prior to half term (week commencing 18 May 2020). With the re-opening of provision from 1 June 2020 to all families, it was estimated that 1088 children would have attended over the course of the week.

The announcement that the government would continue to pay local authorities for free early education funded places for two, three and four-year olds to support providers at this time ensured that the council could confidently make arrangements to fund providers for the summer term.

Resolved – (a) That members support the double funding of children in the summer term to ensure the sufficiency of childcare places for priority groups, and (b) that members support the concept of a Hardship fund for the sector to ensure sufficiency of childcare places longer term using EYDSG reserves.

900 **HIGH NEEDS UPDATE** – Ms J Frost presented the report.

The report provided an update on the DSG High Needs outturn figures for 2019/2020 and information about developments in statutory provision during Covid 19.

The Government had published a notice from the Secretary of State for Education issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to modify section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for->

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[education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care;](#)

Councils would continue to receive their high needs budgets and should continue to pay top-up and other high needs funding so that the employment and payment of staff supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and those requiring alternative provision, could continue. High needs funding would therefore continue to be paid to the following types of setting, whether from local or central government:

- local authority-maintained schools (mainstream, special and pupil referral units)
- academies and free schools (mainstream, special and alternative provision)
- non-maintained special schools
- independent schools, including independent special schools
- independent alternative provision
- high needs places in further education (FE) colleges and sixth form colleges
- special post-16 providers
- hospital schools

At the time of the previous report of January 2020, it was anticipated that the 2019/20 DSG High Needs budget would have an overspend of £320,000. This mainly related to the independent schools and colleges specialist provision budget where there had been fee uplifts, as well as top up funding for maintained schools and colleges and the Inclusion and Alternative Provision budgets.

The final outturn figure for 2019/20 had a reduced overspend of £117,215 due to savings relating to vacancy management within some areas during the staffing review.

Resolved – (a) That Headteachers/Principals and the council continue to work together to implement and embed the area-wide solutions, by reviewing alternative provision resources in the context of inclusion and reducing both fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions; (b) that KS2 SEMH provision be fully functioning within 2020 (20 place SEMH provision – EHC plan children), and (c) that small overspends of High Needs DSG be met through the use of reserves (HN DSG Ear-Marked Reserves).

901 **CHANGES TO CENTRAL SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS (HISTORIC COMMITMENTS) FUNDING** – Mrs J Flintoff presented the report.

The Dedicated Schools Grant Historic Commitments funding had been used in North Lincolnshire to provide a range of school focussed support and activity including the provision of School Improvement Partners to every school in North Lincolnshire. For the last two years the Peer Leader Programme had also been funded through this element. Additionally, money was used to support workforce development such as the aspirant head programme, Safeguarding pro, and innovation grants for schools wishing to work with the Research School.

The current key priority had been to reboot the Peer Leader Programme in relation sector lead improvement approaches.

Resolved – That a further update on progress be provided at the next meeting.

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902 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Ms R Maughan updated about the Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA).

The arrangements were an alternative to insurance but contractually different and up until this financial year were only open to academies. This year the Department for Education had opened the scheme up to local authority-maintained schools (as from April 2020).

For the financial year 2020-21 the RPA was set at £18 per pupil or place if a special school. Full details of the scheme were available via gov.uk.

If schools wished to join individually, they could do so, and the local authority would be notified.

903 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Resolved** - The following items were agreed;

- DSG 2021 update
- Scheme of financing schools
- Progress update to central services for schools (historic commitments) funding

904 **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS** – The next Forum would take place on Thursday 1 October 2020, at 2pm via MS Teams.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. It is statutory guidance that sets out what local authorities must do to comply with the law.
- 1.2 The scheme of finance relates to Section 48 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998.
- 1.3 The Department for Education (DfE) guidance lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should, or may include.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 From time to time updates are provided by the DfE when changes need to be made to bring the scheme into line with regulations. These are known as directed revisions and do not require further consultation with schools.
- 2.2 Following consultation that closed in September 2019, the Secretary of State has issued directed revisions to the schemes of all local authorities in England.
- 2.3 In addition to the directed revisions other changes to wording are also required. Before these changes are made all schools must be consulted.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The following directed revisions will be incorporated into North Lincolnshire Councils Scheme of Finance with immediate effect.

3.2 **Submission of Financial Forecasts**

From 2021/22 funding year each school must submit a 3-year budget forecast each year, at a date determined by the local authority between 1 May and 30 June.

3.3 **Planning for deficit budgets**

Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. Local authorities may set a lower threshold than 5% for the submission of a recovery plan if they wish. The 5% deficit threshold will apply when deficits are measured as at 31 March 2021.

3.4 Other proposed changes

3.5 **Insurance**

Instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the Secretary of State's risk protection arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA.

3.6 **Restrictions on Accounts**

The scheme of finance specifies which banks or building society accounts may be held for the purpose of receiving budget share payments. The approved list should be consistent with the local authority's treasury management policy

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The North Lincolnshire Scheme already contains the requirement for schools to submit a three-year financial forecast between 1st May and 31st May each year.

4.2 The current scheme states that schools may not plan for a deficit except in exceptional circumstances as set out in the scheme. The directed change will be incorporated into the scheme with immediate effect. No consultation with schools is required.

4.3 It is proposed to amend the scheme to contain the provision which allows schools to join the RPA. Schools may do this individually when any insurance contract of which they are part expires. Schools can join the PRA collectively by agreeing through the school's forum to de-delegate funding. Schools will be consulted before this change is made to the scheme.

4.4 The specified building societies contained within the scheme of finance will be updated in line with the authority's treasury management policy following consultation.

5 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other resource implications to this report.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That a revised Scheme of Finance will be presented to the Schools Forum in January 2021 following consultation with schools.

STRATEGIC LEAD (FINANCE SERVICEDESK)

Hewson House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XB
Author: Tracy Elliott
Date: 24th September 2020

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
Statutory Guidance – Scheme for financing local authority maintained schools -
updated 5 August 2020

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

EARLY YEARS – DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update members of the response to the Covid-19 outbreak in relation to the Early Years Funding of the Dedicated Schools Grant (EYDSG) and to outline proposals for a Hardship fund from the EYDSG Reserves.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (EYDSG) is paid for two, three and four-year olds accessing funded early education.
- 2.2 Two-year olds are eligible for a maximum of 15 hours funded early learning and care where their family circumstances mean that they are eligible for free school meals (FSM), where the family is in receipt of Universal Credit/Tax Credits with an income of approximately £16,000, or where the child is in or has left the care of a local authority; is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or the child has an education, health and care plan.
- 2.3 All three and four-year olds are entitled to a maximum of 15 hours funded early education in the maintained, private or voluntary sector for 38 weeks of the year. Children with parents in employment may also be eligible for an additional 15 funded hours, if they are both employed.
- 2.4 Provider payments are determined using the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), comprised of a base rate and a number of supplements. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) are ring fenced funding supplements for three and four-year olds that meet eligibility criteria.
- 2.5 Early Years funding is participation based; to access the EYSFF each academic term all childcare providers submit details of children attending their provision and the grant payments are based on this information.

3. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Funding allocations

On 17 March 2020, the Chancellor confirmed the government will continue to pay funding to local authorities for the funded early education entitlements for two, three and four-year-olds, providing reassurance for early years providers in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

The EYDSG for each financial year is revised based on three census counts. Funding allocations are based on 5/12th of January 2019 part time equivalent (pte) child numbers (to cover April 2020 to August 2020) and 7/12th of the January 2020 pte child numbers (to cover September 2020 to March 2021). Final funding allocations for 2020/21 are based on pte numbers of children recorded on the January 2021 census.

The EYDSG allocations revised in July 2020 based on the January 2020 census count have fallen by 2.8% overall. The revised funding allocations are as follows:

	Early Years Initial Allocation (£)	Early Years Revised Allocation (£)/(pte)	Adjustment to allocation (£)
Universal funding	5,880,867 (2355)	5,752,991 (2304)	-127,876
Extended funding	2,132,746 (854)	2,114,571 (847)	-18,175
Two-year old funding	1,369,068 (455)	1,263,822 (420)	-105,246
Early Years Pupil Premium	153,836	138,731	-15,105
Disability Access Fund	36,900	36,900	0
Total	9,573,417	9,307,015	-266,402

The reduction in funding is a result of a decline in the birth rate and a reduction in children being eligible for two-year old funding as indicated by the part-time equivalent number of children funded.

The final early years funding allocation for the financial year 2020/21 are usually determined with the January 2021 census count in summer 2021. The Department for Education recognise that the number of children attending childcare may not have returned to normal levels by early January 2021. As such the final funding allocation to local authorities for the 2020 autumn term will exceptionally be based on the January 2020 census count.

3.2 Two-year old funding

Revised budget allocation - £1,287,867

<i>Term (2018/19 financial year)</i>	<i>Total Spend (£)</i>
<i>Summer Term (actual spend)</i>	<i>377,344</i>
<i>Autumn & Spring Terms</i>	<i>856,826</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>1,234,070</i>

Funding in the summer term was £79,500 less than projected due to a fall in the number of eligible children. The budget has been reprofiled and it is estimated that spend will be within the funding allocation.

3.3 Three and four-year old funding

Revised budget allocation - £7,436,608 (plus £347,000 centrally retained funding)

Term (2018/19 financial year)	Schools Sector (£)	Private & Voluntary Sector (£)	Total (£)
Summer Term (actual spend)	878,186	2,001,797	2,879,983
Autumn & Spring Terms	1,268,406	2,836,470	4,104,876
Total Expenditure	2,146,592	4,838,267	6,984,859

Spend in the summer term is actual funding paid, the figure presented for the autumn and spring terms is an estimate. The budget outturn position is presently estimated to be £451,749 underspent.

3.4 North Lincolnshire context

From the 1 June childcare providers were able to re-open to all families; the largest majority opened. Members agreed prior to the re-opening to support the double funding of children to ensure the sufficiency of childcare places for priority groups, 59 families were affected. With the re-opening of providers, the double funding ceased. The total cost of double funding children was £34,269, below the estimated £36,000.

All early year's providers have re-opened for the autumn term. Forecasts from the private and voluntary sector illustrate a lower take-up of places at the start of term, however anecdotal evidence suggests that numbers are building. Most schools have chosen to phase the re-opening of Reception and nursery, as such numbers are low in schools. The Council has sought to reassure families that the sector is 'Covid secure' and continues to promote two, three and four-year old funding to encourage the return to early years childcare.

3.5 Autumn term funding

The Department for Education have issued guidance stating that local authorities should:

- continue to fund providers which are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus outbreak.
- continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to close, due to public health reasons.
- not fund providers which are closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.

As such in North Lincolnshire, a comparison will be undertaken of funded hours payable for autumn 2020 participation and 2019 funded hours. Where funded hours are lower for 2020 a lump sum payment will be made to reflect the difference in hours.

Private and voluntary providers receive an estimate payment at the start of each term. A participation funding allocation was determined, using their forecasts. The majority, 60 providers (51 per cent) were receiving less than in the autumn term 2019, as such they received an additional lump sum payment. These totalled £362,816.

In supplying the additional lump sum providers must be open and care for children for their normal trading hours of operation pre-covid-19 lockdown. Funding will be adjusted, during the autumn term at the actual payment. Funding for schools will use the same principles, with an additional lump sum paid as appropriate. Phased opening will be reflected in the calculations. No provider will receive more than their autumn term 2019 funded hours allocation, unless the number of funded hours is more than in 2019.

3.6 Hardship Fund

Members agreed to support the development of a hardship fund for the sector using EYDSG reserves. The balance of funding in reserves is currently £862,000.

It is proposed to offer hardship funding to the early years sector, with funding reflecting the financial impact endured by the early years provider. Funding will be offered as a last resort as providers should first benefit from Government support available for the sector. Members approval is sought to release £450,000 from reserves to potentially support a minimum of 45 childcare providers.

The Hardship funding proposal is as follows:

- Grant funding available for the autumn term 2020 and spring term 2021 to only.
- Funding open to all providers where they can demonstrate an on-going financial impact of Covid-19. In the event of a local lockdown emergency funding may be approved from this fund.
- Providers must complete an application for funding outlining how Covid-19 continues to impact on their businesses, supporting documentation required will include as a minimum a cashflow prior

to covid-19 and currently, a cashflow projection demonstrating the sustainability of provision in the medium term, details of grant funding already secured, bank statements.

- Grant payments to a maximum of £25,000 in exceptional cases, with the largest majority being offered for £10,000 or less.
- Grants will fund immediate cashflow concerns to support sustainability and sufficiency of childcare.
- All applications will be judged against a criteria – (continuing to trade with on-going fixed costs, suffered significant fall in income due to Covid-19, employs fewer than 50 employees, not eligible for existing grant schemes, sufficiency of childcare places).

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Whilst provision has opened to all families for the autumn term, the take-up of places is unrecognisable from what has been the norm. We expect numbers of funded children to grow as more families are confident to access their funded early education. Consultation with childminders has identified a reduction in the number of families accessing paid for childcare stating they are currently furloughed or have been made redundant. A similar pattern is emerging for before and after school care. Economic uncertainty is expected to continue with the end of the furlough scheme and potential for further lockdowns. The closure of providers would impact on the council duty to secure sufficient childcare for families.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That members note the revised funding allocation for the EYDSG.
- 5.2 That members agree to release £450,000 from EYDSG reserves to support the sustainability and sufficiency of the sector.
- 5.3 That members support the proposal for the Hardship Fund.

EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY MANAGER

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL
Author: Nicola Raines
Date: 22 September 2020

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – None

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2021-2022

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the local implementation of the school funding formula for the financial year 2021/22.
- 1.2 The DfE has updated the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2021/22 with new factor values. Funding factors remain the same, but some technical changes are being made.
- 1.3 School funding through the NFF is increasing by 4% overall in 2021/22.
- 1.4 The NFF will provide a minimum per pupil level (MPPL) of £5,415 for every secondary school and £4,180 for every primary school.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 20th July, the DfE published provisional National Funding Formula (NFF) allocations at local authority level for schools, high needs and central school services funding blocks for 2021/22.
- 2.2 In acknowledgement of the essential role that local authorities are playing during the Covid 19 pandemic the Department for Education (DfE) have made limited changes to the school funding arrangements for 2021/22.
- 2.3 The schools block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is distributed to fund schools using the NFF. Local variation continues to be permitted in 2021/22 for distribution to mainstream schools.

2.4 Key Changes in 2021-22

2.4.1 Replacing the 2015 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) with the updated 2019 data so that funding is allocated using the most up to date information available.

2.4.2 Funding from the Teachers Pay Grant and the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant has been added to schools' NFF allocations by adding to the schools' baselines, increasing the basic per pupil funding and increasing the MPPL, thus providing assurance that funding will continue by including in schools' core budgets.

2.4.3 The maximum sparsity value has increased from £26,000 to £45,000 for primary schools and from £67,500 to £70,000 for secondary school, expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools.

2.4.4 The MPPL remains mandatory at the new NFF values.

2.4.5 Local authorities will have freedom to set the MFG in local formulae between +0.5% and +2.0% per pupil.

2.5 To continue the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) the DfE intends to consult, later this year, on forward plans to move to a 'hard' NFF in the future. This ensures resources are distributed based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Illustrative local authority and school level allocations have been published for the schools' block, high needs block and central school services block. The schools block provisional allocation for North Lincolnshire is £120.881M (excluding growth factor).

3.2 The key factors in the NFF will increase by 3% and every school is allocated 2% more pupil led funding per pupil compared to the 2020/21 baseline. Factor values are detailed in appendix 1

3.3 The Local Authority will implement the mandatory Minimum per Pupil Level (MPPL) of £4,180 Primary and £5,415 Secondary for 2020/21.

3.4 The LA is able to apply the Minimum Funding Guarantee of between +0.5% and +2.0%.

3.5 As with 2019-20 and 2020-21 the Authority intends to adopt a variation to use pupils travel distance measured by road or footpath rather than 'as the crow flies' when applying the criteria for the Sparsity funding factor.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The illustrative funding allocation is an increase of £9.228m from last years' final allocation (excluding growth funding). Final allocations will be published in December 2020 and will include any funding allocated for growth (£1.017m in 2020/21).
- 4.2 The pupil led factors used in the local formula in 2020/21 were above the baseline NFF values.
- 4.3 The application of the mandatory MPPL values would see 15 primary schools and 2 secondary schools benefit from this factor at a cost of £973k.
- 4.4 In 2020/21 the LA applied the MFG value at the maximum permitted rate of +1.84%. For 2021/22 the LA proposes the application of a suitable affordable rate within the range to enable maximum use of the available funding.
- 4.5 There are 18 schools that attract sparsity funding using road distance methodology (16 primary and 2 secondary).

5 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a projected increase in funding of £9.228m for North Lincolnshire schools based on October 2019 pupil numbers. This will be updated in January 2021 when October 2020 pupil number are known.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no other implications relevant to this report.

7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 All schools will be consulted on funding formula proposals during October and November 2020 and any feedback will be reported at the schools' forum meeting in January 2021.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Schools Forum is requested to:
 - Endorse the full implementation of the National Funding Formula.
 - Endorse the continued use of measuring pupils travel distances by road and footpath instead of 'as the crow flies' under the Sparsity factor criteria.

- Endorse the application of the Minimum Funding Guarantee at the maximum level which can be afforded including use of DSG earmarked reserves as appropriate.
- Final proposals for schools funding will be brought to the Schools Forum meeting in January 2021 on receipt of the final funding allocations in December 2020.

STRATEGIC LEAD – FINANCE SERVICE DESK

Hewson House
BRIGG
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DN20 8HX
Author: Rosie Maughan/Tracy Elliott
Date: 24/09/20

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

National Funding Formula for schools and high needs Policy Document 2021-2022
Schools Revenue Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guide July 2020
Schools block national funding formula: technical note July 2020
2021-22 NFF Summary Table

Funding Formula Factor Values						
Pupil Led Factors	NFF 2020-21		NLC 2020-21		NFF 2021-22	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
AWPU - Primary	£2,857		£2,890		£3,123	
AWPU - Secondary KS3		£4,018		£4,040		£4,404
AWPU - Secondary KS4		£4,561		£4,590		£4,963
Deprivation						
FSM	£450	£450	£450	£450	£460	£460
FSM Ever 6	£560	£815	£560	£815	£575	£840
IDACI Band F	£210	£300	£210	£300	£215	£310
IDACI Band E	£250	£405	£250	£405	£260	£415
IDACI Band D	£375	£535	£375	£535	£410	£580
IDACI Band C	£405	£580	£405	£580	£445	£630
IDACI Band B	£435	£625	£435	£625	£475	£680
IDACI Band A	£600	£840	£600	£840	£620	£865
Looked After Children						
English as an Additional Language	£535	£1,440	£535	£1,440	£550	£1,485
Mobility - children starting school outside of normal entry dates	£875	£1,250	£875	£1,250	£900	£1,290
Prior Attainment	£1,065	£1,610	£1,065	£1,610	£1,095	£1,660
Other Factors						
Lump Sum	£114,400	£114,400	£114,400	£114,400	£117,800	£117,800
Sparsity	£26,000	£67,600	£26,000	£67,600	£45,000	£70,000
Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPL)	£3,750	£5,000	£3,750	£5,000	£4,180	£5,415

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

DE-DELEGATION OF BUDGETS 2021/22

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 As part of the Department for Education's School Funding Reforms introduced from April 2013, local authorities were directed to delegate specific budgets to schools and academies.
- 1.2 The regulations allow for de-delegation of budgets for specific services to be held by local authorities on behalf of maintained primary and secondary schools.
- 1.3 This decision is made by the maintained school representatives of School Forum.
- 1.4 This paper provides information in relation to those budgets and requests School Forum approval to de-delegate some of these budgets.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Schools forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally; the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase.
- 2.2 They must decide on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed through the formula before school budgets are issued.
- 2.3 There may be different decisions for each phase.

2.4 The following table provides details of services that can be de-delegated and those de-delegated in North Lincolnshire Council.

Services which may be de-delegated	De-delegated in North Lincolnshire
additional school improvement services	No
contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)	No
behaviour support services	Yes
support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners	Yes
free school meals eligibility	Yes
insurance	No
museum and library services	No
staff costs supply cover (for example, long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties)	Yes
licences and subscriptions; except for those which are paid for by the DFE	No

2.5 The de-delegation of resources provides an opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between the maintained schools sector and the local authority. Building on our shared objectives for safeguarding the positive mental health and well-being and education outcomes of all children and young people within our area. De-delegation provides a mechanism for strengthening mutual accountability for outcomes, reaffirming standards of quality and continuing the discussion on the design and delivery of services.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Decisions made to de-delegate in 2020/21 related to that year only; new decisions are required for any service to be de-delegated in 2021/22.

3.2 Maintained school members are asked to consider the de-delegation of the following service budgets.

- Behaviour Support (Social Emotional Mental Health SEMH)
- Support to Ethnic Minorities and bilingual pupils
- Free school meals eligibility
- Staff Costs

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Behaviour Support (SEMH)** – De-delegation of this funding enables the continuation of a professional service to support schools in meeting their requirements under the SEN Code of Practice 2014.
- 4.2 Educational Psychologists enable and empower parents and staff in learning environments to problem solve complex situations through solution focused approaches, functional analysis and by using evidence-based interventions and therapeutic approaches. The support service deliver training to staff to enable learning environments to achieve better outcomes for children and young people with a range of needs including social, emotional and mental health needs as presented in their behaviours.
- 4.3 The support and interventions include:
- Raising achievement through targeted interventions
 - Evaluation of interventions
 - Learning styles and cognitive development
 - Functional analysis of behaviours
 - Social and emotional well-being
 - Psychological impact of a disability on a child or young person
 - Guidance on mental health of children and young people in school settings
 - Whole school development
 - Paths, maps and solution circles
 - Staff professional development and training
 - Working with parents as partners in supporting their children and young people
 - Project/research work
- 4.4 **Support to Ethnic Minorities and bilingual pupils** – this support is provided by the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS). This team has a trading relationship with academies specifically in the context EAL (English as an additional language) and BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) pupils, as well as providing a service to maintained schools (de-delegated budget). EMTAS provides support to pupils at risk of underachieving which also includes Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils. Both EAL and BAME populations have seen a significant increase in North Lincolnshire.
- 4.5 At any given time of year EMTAS continues to work with over 40 primary and secondary schools across North Lincolnshire in a range of different ways dependent on need. The service continues to provide an immediate response to provision of support when highly mobile BAME/EAL/GRT learners move between or into new schools, particularly new arrivals. It is also focussed upon closing the gaps and raising the attainment and outcomes of BAME groups and supporting schools to demonstrate how they meet the needs of their pupils to OFSTED if required. This is particularly important as the number of

BAME pupils has more than tripled from approximately 1000 pupils less than six years ago to over 3500 pupils currently with approximately 86 different languages now being spoken by our bilingual pupils in North Lincolnshire. Therefore, increasingly we now have a situation where the vast majority of schools, many of whom do not have expertise in this area, rely upon the support and advice given by EMTAS. In recognition of the need to build capacity in schools EMTAS also delivers a wide range of CPD courses to schools, either centrally or bespoke for particular schools.

- 4.6 EMTAS also undertakes a monitoring role to ensure that young people receiving Elective Home Education (EHE) are receiving a satisfactory education. The numbers of coming under this category has increased quite considerably over the years and currently stands at 154 young people as at September 2020 but this often increases over the year. At times last year the number of young people who were on the EHE register, reached 168, many of whom had complex needs.
- 4.7 **Free School Meals Eligibility** – this funds the administration process of free school meals on behalf of schools. The council has access to online DfE Eligibility Checking System, which is populated with Benefits Agency and Tax Credit Agency claim data and can access eligibility information quickly, accurately and efficiently. The system is also used to review claims in large batches instead of manually checking each individual claim. This database is not available to individual schools. Schools would have to set up manual systems
- 4.8 The service continues to work with schools to promote the importance of families continuing to register for free school meals in light of the universal free school meals funding for KS1 children.
- 4.9 **Staff Costs** – this covers the cost of staff undertaking approved teacher union duties. The de-delegation will fund the on-going central approach to reimburse individual schools that employ teachers that carry out union duties.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The underspend on de-delegated budgets in 2019/20 was £75k. It is therefore proposed not to increase de-delegation costs per pupil for 2021/22 and to use the de-delegated earmarked reserve to finance any cost pressures.
- 5.2 The appendix shows the amount per pupil which is being requested for de-delegation in 2021/22 (at the same rates as for 2020/21)
- 5.3 If school forum members decide not to de-delegate then funding for these services would remain within school budgets and schools would need to pay for such services direct from their own resources.

- 5.4 De-delegations are not permitted for academies, special schools, or PRUs, however, services are offered on a buy-back basis. Academies continue to receive funding for these services through their delegated budgets. For Special schools and PRU's funding to buy such services would be included in any top-up payments.
- 5.5 It should be noted that final data from the ESFA on which our final formula funding for 2021/22 will be based will not be available until December, and as such the sums proposed below are approximations based on the October 2019 census data and assumes that the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals, EAL funding etc is the same as 2020/21.
- 5.6 Any unspent de-delegated funding remaining at the year-end will be reported to School Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period and can be used specifically for de-delegated services.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The services that are funded centrally provide support for vulnerable pupils and therefore ensure that there will be the same level of service available for all children and young people across North Lincolnshire.

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Schools Forum members for primary maintained schools decide for the maintained primary phase the de-delegation of budgets as detailed in appendix 1.
- 7.2 Schools Forum members for secondary maintained school decide for the maintained secondary phase the de-delegation of budgets as detailed in appendix 1.

STRATEGIC LEAD (FINANCE SERVICE DESK)

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Schools Revenue Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guide

De-delegation of Schools Block Elements 2021/22

Appendix 1

Proposed Values to be de-delegated			
	2021-22		2020-21
Value of De-delegation for Maintained Schools (Primary & Secondary Vote)	£per Pupil primary & secondary		Unit Value
Behaviour Support Service	191,376	15.26	15.26
Support for Ethnic Minority	129,549	10.33	10.33
Staff Costs (Trades Unions Facilities Time)	34,989	2.79	2.79
	-	28.38	28.38
Free School Meal Eligibility	12,687	4.02 FSM6 Pupils	4.02
			pupil no's Oct 19 census
De-delegation per primary pupil		28.38	9826 278,862
De-delegation per secondary pupil		28.38	2860 81,167
De-delegation per FSM6		4.02	3052 12,269