

# Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 19 January 2023

2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Remote Meeting

Via MS Teams invite

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Contact: Rob Phillips

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## **Date of next programmed WSF meeting**

Thursday 31 May 2023 at 2.30 pm remote meeting via MS Teams

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**

**Thursday 28 November 2022**  
**Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams**

**The meeting started at 2.30 pm**

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### WSF Members

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Bryn Thomas (Vice Chair) [BT] | - HT Wolverley CE Secondary School                                 |
| Marie Pearse [MP]             | - HT Evesham Nursery School  |
| Paul Essenhigh [PE]           | - Executive HT Catshill Middle, Catshill First and Nursery Schools |
| Jeff Robinson [JR]            | - Governor, Malvern Hills  |
| Jay Hart [JH]                 | - HT Kingfisher School   |
| Ed Francis [EF]               | - HT Fort Royal Primary School                                     |
| Tim Reid                      | - Church of England Board of Education                             |
| Adrian Ward [AW]              | - CEO/Exec Head of Bordesley MAT                                   |
| Annette Summers [AS]          | - Nursery Owner  |
| John Bateman [JB]             | - Governor, Aspire Alternative Provision (AP)                      |

#### Local Authority (LA)

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Councillor Tracey Onslow [TO] | - Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills Worcestershire County Council |
| Phil Rook [PR]                | - Director of Resources - Worcestershire Children First                                     |
| Sarah Wilkins [SW]            | - Director of Education and Early Help Worcestershire Children First                        |
| Melanie Barnett [MB]          | - Director of All Age Disability Services – Worcestershire Children First                   |
| Caroline Brand [CB]           | - Senior Schools Finance Manager - Worcestershire Children First                            |
| Rob Phillips [RP]             | - Accountancy Officer - School Funding - Worcestershire Children First                      |

### **WELCOME**

RP confirmed that Bryn Thomas would be chairing the meeting in Malcolm's absence.

## 1. **Apologies**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Malcolm Richards (Chair) [MR] | - Governor, Bromsgrove                   |
| Lorraine Petersen [LP]        | - Governor, Bromsgrove                   |
| Vivek Shah [VS]               | - Nursery Owner                          |
| Chris King [CK]               | - CEO Severn Academies Educational Trust |
| Nathan Jones [NJ]             | - HT Meadow Green                        |

## 2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

## 3. **DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

## 4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (30 June 2022)**

Minutes agreed.

## 5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

## 6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### a. **National Tutoring Program (SW)**

SW updated WSF and the potential clawback, and that schools can contact the Department for Education (DfE) if they believe the clawback is not correct. Schools Finance Team (SFT) have messaged all maintained schools with this & also included SW weekly newsletter to schools.

### b. **Autumn Statement (PR)**

WSF discussed the autumn statement and the additional £2.3b extra funding for schools was welcomed but still concerns on the on inflation and pay awards. This item led straight into the next agenda item.

### c. **Update on Budget Planning and pressures for 2023/24 impact of cost of living, pay rises and School Forum action. (BT)**

Concerns still raised on the pay awards and inflation and the cost of living for staff and schools. That £1.7b of the £2.3b would be used to fund the current pay award without helping with the other pressures within schools.

It was agreed that RP – to send a letter to Gillian Keegan from WSF concerning this issue.

Councillor Onslow asked for a copy of this when it get sent, it was agreed to send a copy to all WSF members.

PR also asked for some case studies on the impact of inflation on the school budgets so these can be shared with the F40 and ministers.

There is also an ongoing worry within schools that they are picking up a lot of the support for families as a whole at present, which is getting worse as time is passing.

d. School attendance and absence – Legal action (BT)

BT has requested further information on the amount received in grants and what it is used for.

RP explained, that from the legal guidance that the local authority can use on a proportion of the collected funds and the rest must be returned to the Secretary of State.

It was discussed that maybe this should be used as part of the strategy towards assisting schools with focusing on attendance.

PE said that he is sure there is two camps one that follow the other and another who don't, especially with the time taken and nothing coming to the school.

It was also agreed that this should be raised further to push this with the Secretary of State.

RP to comeback at the next meeting with the amount Worcestershire collected and where this went.

7. School Funding 2023/24 Local Issues (RP)

a. Recommended Policy (RP)

RP confirmed that the local authority is continuing with the current agreement for the funding in 2023/24

b. WSF Required Decisions (RP)

The maintained schools voted on the different parts of the delegation or delegation as per the table below.

<b>Phase/Service [Formula Factor for De-delegation indicated]</b>	<b>Primary Delegation</b>	<b>Primary De- delegation</b>	<b>Secondary Delegation</b>	<b>Secondary De- delegation</b>
School Specific Contingency (SSC) <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Behaviour Support Services <b>[Low Prior Attainment]</b>	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
14-16 Practical Learning Options <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils/				

Underachieving Groups – English as an Additional Language <b>[EAL 3 Years]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Traveller Children <b>[Low Prior Attainment]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility <b>[FSM Annual]</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schools Insurance <b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Staff Costs/Duties Supply Cover –				
Civic	No	Yes	No	Yes
Trade Union	No	Yes	No	Yes
HR Related	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>[Per Pupil (AWPU)]</b>				
Additional School Improvement Services	No	No	No	No
Former General Duties Previously Funded by the Former Education Services Grant (ESG)	N/A	No	N/A	No

All members agreed to continue with the central block for another year.

c. Exceptional Premises (RP)

RP gave an update on the position we are working with the DfE and schools to supply sufficient evidence to support the request. Which without this evidence or being over 1% of the school budget this would need to be removed and protection would come via the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

d. Split Site Funding 2024/25 (RP)

RP explained that the local authority have not made any changes to the current model for this financial year and that the DfE will be calculating this from financial year 2024/25 on and once we have some modeling we will share this with the schools.

**8. High Needs Update – DBV in Send (MB & PR)**

PR gave an update on the deficit going forward looking at being in the region of a further increase of £4.3 million in the current financial year and would give a total deficit within HLN of £15.6 million.

All information will be submitted on time for the next stage of the DBV.

We are still waiting to hear from the Government on the Statutory Override.

TO confirmed that this is being discussed at Cabinet and that they will be writing to the local MP Robing Walker with their concerns.

## **9. Period 6 School Budget monitoring END Accelerated Progress Plan (CB)**

CB gave a verbal update with the current forecasted balances of the maintained schools; it was noted we are unable to share academy balances as we don't have this information.

Deficit schools report monthly to SFT concerning their end of year position.

## **10. Nurture Group Funding (MB)**

MB updated WSF that the LA has written to all schools with a nurture group to confirm that we will not be renewing this scheme from the 1 April 2023.

This is due to not having any SLA in place or monitoring in place for this provision and that we cannot afford to increase the scheme.

## **11. Update - New Worcester Secondary School (SW)**

SW went through the process carried out to get our academy trust taking on the running of the new school. This has been confirmed to be Oasis Community Learning and Multi Academy Trust.

We are still working with the preferred bidder on the plans for the school.

### **Meeting ended**

The meeting closed at 3.15 PM

### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next WSF meeting: - Thursday 19 January 2023 2.30 PM  
(Remote Meeting - MS Teams)

## **Cabinet Decisions**

### **1. PURPOSE**

To share the latest decisions from Cabinet.

Links to the meeting information

- a. 8 December 2022 - Fair Funding for Schools 2023/24 National and Local Funding Arrangements for Schools

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s44311/5. Cabinet Fair funding 8 December 2022 final.pdf>

- b. 5 January 2023 - Budget and Council Tax 2022/23

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s44514/Cab 20220105 Budget Report v1.8 Final.pdf>

Recommendation

The WSF notes and discusses the above.



**REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**  
**PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2023/24**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To advise the WSF on the provisional School Funding Settlement for 2023-24.

**2. PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2022/243**

2.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published details of the provisional School Funding Settlement 2022/23 for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Summary details can be found on the following link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2023-to-2024>

**3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2023/24**

3.1 The DSG settlement includes: -

- The DSG schools block allocated based on the new National Funding Formula (NFF) schools block primary and secondary units of funding 2023/24 announced in July 2022.
- The Central Services Schools (CSS) Block allocated on the DfE NFF.
- The High Needs (HN) Block allocated based on the DfE NFF announced in September 2017.
- The Early Years (EY) Block allocated on the DfE NFF arrangements introduced in 2022/23.

3.2 The 2023/24 provisional allocation is detailed in **Table 1** under the notional DSG blocks. **This is prior to the recoupment deduction for Academies and non-LA maintained specialist providers.** It also compares the provisional allocations to the 2023/24 DSG latest settlement.

**Table 1: Provisional DSG Gross Settlement 2023/24**

DSG Block	2022/23 Budget £'000	2023/24 Indicative July 2022 £'000	2023/24 Updated January 2023 £'000	Variance 2022/23 to 2023/24 £'000
Schools	381,380	400,515	403,723	+22,343
Pupil Growth Fund	1,976	Not Advised	2,139	+163
<b>S-T Schools</b>	<b>383,356</b>	<b>400,515</b>	<b>405,862</b>	<b>+22,506</b>
Central Services	3,325	3,314	3,332	+7
High Needs (Updated 12 January 2022)	78,325	82,535	86,087	+7,762
Early Years	33,613	Not Advised	37,326	+3,713
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>498,619</b>	<b>486,364</b>	<b>532,607</b>	<b>+33,988</b>

## Notes

**1A.** Schools Block 2023/24 set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017 for Year 6 based upon: -

- The October 2022 pupil census against the Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUF) and (SUF) confirmed in July 2022.
- Provides for NFF year 6 parameters including mandatory sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs), additional October 2022 pupil numbers and historic premises related factors allocation £7.884m.
- Reflects the change in pupil numbers October 2021 to October 2022 of +511 (Primary -65; Secondary +576).

**1B.** Pupil Growth Fund £2,139m now on DfE formulaic basis in its sixth year. Reflects change in pupil numbers between October 2021 and October 2022.

**1C.** Central School Services Block (CSSB) 2023/24 NFF formulaic allocation for centrally retained statutory services £2,718m plus historic commitments £0.614m (**reduced by a further 20% by the DfE from 2022/23 allocation by £0.154m as part of their national policy**).

**1D.** High Needs Block 2022-23 reflecting share of national additional money announced to support High Needs placement and top up pressures being experienced in all local authorities: -

- HN DSG increases £7.76m

**1E.** Early Years Block 2023/24 provisional based upon Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision census data for 2, 3 & 4-year olds from January 2022. The final allocations will be updated based on January 2021 and January 2022 census data. Reflects an increase to the allocated hourly rates for 2-year-olds +6p and 3- & 4-year-olds +26p. Early Years Pupil Premium has increased by 2p and Disability Access Fund has increased by £28 per year.

3.3 An analysis of the difference between the NFF 2023/24 for the **Schools, CSSB and High Needs Blocks only** between the **initial allocations in July 2022 and the revised allocations in December 2022** is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

3.4 The main aspects of **each block** are as follows: -

### **3.4.1 Schools Block**

- There is an overall increase in pupil numbers of +511 between October 2021 and October 2022, which shows a decrease in primary (-65) and an increase in secondary (+576). This is detailed in **Table 2**.
- The budgetary impact for each school will depend on: -
  - How their individual pupil numbers and other data varies between October 2021 and October 2022.
  - The impact across all schools and the MFG and any capping that might have to be applied.
  - The amount of Schools Block Funding to be allocated in the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) – this is discussed further under **Agenda Item 9**.

**Table 2: Pupil Number Variations 2022/23 and 2023/24**

Phase	2022/23 October 2021 Census	%	2023/24 October 2022 Census	%	Note
Primary	43,845.0	59.2	43,780.5	58.7	<b>2A</b>
Secondary	30,173.5	40.8	30,749.0	41.3	<b>2A</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,018.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,529.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Note**

**2A.** There is no longer a reduction adjustment made for pupils in Specialist Provision in mainstream schools. For each LA, the DfE transferred in 2018-19 a relevant amount to the Schools Block DSG from the High Needs Block DSG to fund the additional pupil numbers.

**3.4.2 High Needs Block**

- The allocation of £86.087m reflects the increase in HN DSG allocated in 2023/24.
- The estimated net HN DSG in 2023/24 is £75.227m which is an increase of £5,788m on 2022/23 of £69.439m. This reflects the proposed place deductions from the HN block for SEN units in academies, maintained post 16 and NMSS providers is detailed in **Table 3. These are subject to change during the year.**

**Table 3: Estimated HN Place Deductions**

DETAIL	2022-23 Provisional December 2021 £'m	2023-23 Provisional January 2023 £'m	Variance £'m	Note
<b>HN DSG Gross</b>	<b>78.325</b>	<b>86.087</b>	<b>+7.762</b>	
Place Deductions				
SEN Units Academies Pre and Post 16	(0.814)	(0.816)	<b>(0.002)</b>	
Special Academies Pre and Post 16	(5.600)	(7.582)	<b>(1.982)</b>	
Alternative Provision Academies Post 16	(0.960)	(0.950)	<b>0.010</b>	<b>3A</b>
FE Providers	(1.500)	(1.500)	<b>(0.000)</b>	
<b>S-T Deductions</b>	<b>(8.886)</b>	<b>(10.860)</b>	<b>(1.974)</b>	
<b>= HN DSG Net</b>	<b>69.439</b>	<b>75.227</b>	<b>+5.788</b>	

**Note**

**3A.** Currently this is only included at the 2022/23 level and does not reflect further adjustments to be made for the any future academy conversions, the full year effect of September 2022 AP places deductions and new AP place deductions from September 2023. So, there will still be a budget pressures for AP in 2023/24 and subsequent years.

3.5 The next steps in terms of the DSG notification are detailed in **Table 4.**

**Table 4: Next Steps Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
16 December 2022	2023-24 Schools Block and Pupil Growth Fund 2023-24 Central School Services Block 2023-24 High Needs Block 2023-24 Early Years Block Provisional allocations all announced by DfE
Early to Mid-January 2023	Further consideration by LAs on the 2023/24 Schools Block Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)
20 January 2023	LAs submit final APT for Schools Block LSFF formula 2023/24
February 2023	ESFA publication of 2023/24 HN places at institution level
28 February 2023	Deadline for LAs to confirm School Budget Shares to maintained schools and specialist providers
31 March 2023	Deadline for ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) to academies open by 9 January 2023
April 2023	ESFA confirms 2023/24 DSG to be paid to LAs after recouPMENT for academies and deductions for HN places in academies and post 16
June 2023	Early Years Block updated for January 2022 Early Years pupil numbers
June 2023	Early Years Block updated for January 2023 Early Years pupil numbers

#### **4. PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT (PPG) FUNDING**

4.1 The DfE have confirmed the funding rates for the PPG have increased from 2022/23 to 2023/24. These are set out below for both financial years: -

- Primary Pupils £1,385 to £1,455.
- Secondary Pupils £985 to £1,035.
- Looked After Children £2,410 to £2,530.
- Children Ceased to be Looked After £2,410 to £2,530.
- Service Children £320 to £335.

4.2 For 2023/24 the eligibility criteria for the pupil premium will remain unchanged, but **the DfE will be using October 2022 school census data to calculate pupil premium allocations**. Exceptions to that include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census.

#### **5. OTHER GRANT FUNDING**

5.1 Mainstream Schools additional Grant 2023/2024 – This grant will allocate the additional funding announced in the Spending Review 2022. Funding is on financial year rather than academic year.

5.4 The DfE have indicated information about all other grants will follow in the new year.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 The WSF notes and discusses the above allocations.

Robert Phillips  
Finance Business Partner - Schools  
Worcestershire Children First

January 2023

**WORCESTERSHIRE 885 - DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) - SCHOOLS, CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES AND HIGH NEEDS ONLY**  
**2022/23 PROVISIONAL MARCH 2022 VS. 2023/24 INITIAL JULY 2022**

	2022/23		2023/24		2023/24		2023/24		VARIANCE		COMMENTS			
	PROVISIONAL MARCH 2022		INITIAL JULY 2022		INITIAL JANUARY 2023									
	UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NOS. OCTOBER 2021	UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NOS. OCTOBER 2021	UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NOS. OCTOBER 2022	UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NOS.	£'m	%				
	£	£'m	£	£'m	£	£'m	£'m		£'m	%				
<b>SCHOOLS BLOCK (SB)</b>														
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	4,534.65	43845.0	198.822	4,751.58	43845.0	208.333	4,751.58	43780.5	208.027	216.93	-64.5	9.205	) Updated using the DfE 2023/24 PUF and SUF.	
Secondary Unit of Funding (GUF)	5,803.59	30173.5	175.115	6,107.94	30173.5	184.298	6,107.94	30749.0	187.813	304.35	575.5	12.698	) With updated October 2022 pupil numbers.	
		<b>74018.5</b>	<b>373.936</b>		<b>74018.5</b>	<b>392.631</b>		<b>74529.5</b>	<b>395.840</b>			<b>511.0</b>	<b>21.904</b>	
Historic Premises			7.444			7.884			7.884				0.440	See Below.
Formulaic Pupil Growth Fund			1.976			0.000			2.139				0.163	
<b>=SB</b>			<b>383.356</b>			<b>400.515</b>			<b>405.862</b>				<b>22.506</b>	<b>5.87%</b>
<b>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)</b>														
Formulaic CSS NFF			2.557			2.700			2.718				0.161	) Reflects DfE policy to reduce the allocations of all LAs by a further 20%.
Historic Commitments			0.768			0.614			0.614				-0.154	) Significant impact for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS).
<b>=CSSB</b>			<b>3.325</b>			<b>3.314</b>			<b>3.332</b>				<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.24%</b>
<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB)</b>														
Formulaic HN NFF			78.325			82.535			86.087				7.762	
<b>=HNB</b>			<b>78.325</b>			<b>82.535</b>			<b>86.087</b>				<b>7.762</b>	<b>9.91%</b>
<b>= TOTAL GROSS DSG EXCLUDING EARLY YEARS</b>			<b>465.006</b>			<b>486.364</b>			<b>495.282</b>				<b>30.276</b>	<b>6.51%</b>
													30.276	

**NOTES**

This is the **GROSS DSG** indicative allocation **PRIOR TO** academy and high needs places recoupment.  
This analysis excludes the EY DSG.

Historic Premises

	22/23 APT Baseline	22/23 APT Baseline	22/23 APT Baseline	22/23 APT Baseline	22-23 vs 2223 APT Baseline
Split Site		0.566	0.566	0.566	0.000
Rates		3.792	3.922	3.583	-0.339
Exceptional Premises		0.418	0.369	0.369	0.000
PFI	Baseline + RPI(X)		Baseline + RPI(X)	Baseline + RPI(X)	
	£2.547 + 1.0156%	2.668	£2.547 + 1.0156%	£2.668 + 11.2%	3.366
		<b>7.444</b>	<b>7.884</b>	<b>7.884</b>	<b>0.000</b>

**REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**  
**SCHOOLS BLOCK ALLOCATIONS 2023/24 AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT)**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To update the WSF on the current position for the completion of the final Schools Block Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2023/24.

1.2 For the WSF to endorse and support the submission of the APT for 2023/24.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 At its meeting on 8 December 2022, the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet: -

- Approved for 2023/24 for the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) as supported by the WSF to be based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) parameters for Year 6.
- Authorised the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Education and Skills to make the required submission to the national executive body, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 20 January 2023 for the approved LSFF 2023/24 taking account of any impact and change on the approved units of resource, Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping arrangements as a consequence of the October 2022 census and other 2022 data changes and the final 2023/24 Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

**3. APT CURRENT POSITION**

3.1 Now that the DfE have updated for all the data sets for October 2021 and issued provisional DSG allocations for 2023/24. LAs are required to submit their final APT by 20 January 2023.

3.2 The final APT for 2023/24 including the revised data sets for 2022 was issued by the DfE in December 2022.

3.3 An analysis of the Schools Block DSG funding detailing the estimated amount to be included in the LSFF for mainstream schools is detailed in **Table 1**. This is prior to de-delegation for maintained schools and after adjusting for centrally retained services and functions already approved by the WSF and those prescribed by the DfE.

**Table 1: Analysis of Schools Block 2023/24**

DETAIL	£'000	£'000
<b>Schools Block Allocation</b>		
Primary Unit of Resource £4,751.58 x Pupil Numbers 43,780.5	<b>208,027</b>	
Secondary Unit of Resource £6,107.94 x Pupil Numbers 30,749.0	<b>187,813</b>	
+ Premises Costs Historic Costs Allocation	<b>7,884</b>	
<b>= Total LSFF Quantum 2023/24</b>		<b>403,724</b>
+ Pupil Growth Fund DfE Formula Allocation		<b>2,139</b>
<b>= Total Schools Block DSG</b>		<b>405,863</b>
<b>Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) Allocation</b>		
<u>Centrally Retained Budgets (Previously Approved by WSF and WCC Cabinet)</u>		
Contributions to Combined Services – Early Intervention Family Support	614	
Co-ordinated School Admissions	592	
Servicing of the Schools Forum	56	
Former ESG Retained Duties for All Schools	1,339	
<u>DfE Designated Centrally Retained Budgets</u>		
Licenses and Subscriptions – DfE Actual	702	
Mainstream Grant for Teachers Pay and Pensions for Centrally Employed Teachers	29	
= Total Centrally Retained		3,332
- Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) Allocated		3,332
<b>= Projected Surplus/(Deficit) on CSSB</b>		<b>0</b>

3.4 For the LSFF net amount allocated in 2022/23 was £369,495m. A comparison of the position compared to 2023/24 is detailed in **Table 2**: -

**Table 2: Comparison of LSFF Actual 2022/23 and Estimated 2023/24**

DETAIL	£'000
<b>LSFF 2022/23</b>	<b>381,381</b>
<u>Adjustments</u>	
Prior Year – pupil growth fund, growing school, rates, and premises	(540)
Additional DSG for NFF Year 6 for Schools Block October 2021 and for Increase in Pupil Numbers October 2022	25,021
<b>= Estimated Amount for LSFF 2023/24</b>	<b>405,862</b>



3.5 Although this seems a significant increase, this was expected. Also, the net increase in pupil numbers of +511 (Primary -65; Secondary +576) will require funding in the LSFF 2023/24 together with the requirements of LSFF to be based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the National Funding Formula (NFF) data set and unit of resource parameters for Year 6 together with the mandatory DfE sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs). We also have the new mandatory Mobility factor to fund.

3.6 Also, in the Schools Block DSG, there is provision made for Pupil Growth Funding (PGF). However, there are continuing substantial basic need requirements due to increasing numbers which are now impacting particularly in the secondary sector as well as funding required for the continued effect of the New North Worcester Primary Free School. So, it is anticipated, all the PGF will be required in 2023/24 either as part of the LSFF or the PGF.

3.7 The WSF are reminded that the budgetary impact for each individual school will depend upon: -

- How their individual pupil numbers and all other data varies between October 2021 and October 2022.
- The Schools Block DSG increase between 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- The impact across all schools.
- The impact of the LSFF for the NFF parameters i.e. the MFG requirement and any associated capping level for affordability, together with the mandatory DfE sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs).
- The impact and affordability of the Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) per pupil for the total budget: –
  - Primary increasing from £4,265 2022/23 to £4,405 in 2023/24.
  - Secondary increasing from £5,525 2022/23 to £5,715 in 2023/24.
  - Hybrid MFL rates for schools with 'non-uniform' year groups.
- The MFG of between +0.0% and +.05% per pupil in 2023/24 and as any associated affordability cap.
- The MFG no longer has to be applied only to the extent that it offsets the cost of the MFG, since that could prevent LAs from coming close to the NFF.

3.8 The WSF are advised that: -

- The increase in the Schools Block reflects both the effect of the NFF and an increase of +511 pupils in mainstream schools between October 2021 and October 2022.
- Although overall numbers have increased, there are also some significant variations with increases and decreases for individual schools, which will result in budgetary impact for those schools.
- Given the additional resource from the NFF in the Schools Block and the LSFF being based as far as is practicable on the NFF parameters, including the per pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection, most schools should see increases in 2023/24.
- However, **the MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of data changes between 2021 and 2022.
- Consequently, some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes mainly due to significant reductions in pupil numbers. Nevertheless, all schools in the DfE NFF parameters will be subject to at least the MFG per pupil increase on their 2022/23 baseline.

3.9 The Schools Block DSG is calculated using the pupil numbers from the October 2022 census using the DfE NFF guaranteed units of funding per sector. The December 2022

Cabinet approved units of resource for the LSFF were set based on the DfE NFF Year 6 parameters.

3.10 Given the DSG settlement and the APT were confirmed just prior to the end of the Autumn Term 2022, assessment, and the impact on the APT of all the above together with the data changes for 2022 has been made. This has been based upon the units of resource agreed by the Autumn Term consultation and County Council Cabinet on 9th December 2022, the DfE NFF parameters for 2023/24, the recently provided DfE data sets for 2023 and other required local data sets.

3.11 The results of the impact of the revised DSG and new data sets is attached at **Appendix A** to this report to enable final submission to the ESFA by 20 January 2023 as required.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The WSF notes the issues detailed and the estimated amount available for the LSFF for the Schools Block Funding for 2023/24.

4.2 The WSF considers the issues detailed in **Appendix A** for the APT Units of Resource and the potential aspects for the impact on the Schools Block DSG.

4.3 The WSF supports and endorses the submission of the APT final Schools Block Funding 2023/24 to the ESFA by 20 January 2023 as required.

Robert Phillips  
Finance Business Partner - Schools  
Worcestershire Children First

January 2023

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION ON THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT) 2023/24**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To share with the WSF the current position on the APT.

1.2 To discuss with the WSF the APT outcomes and next stages.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 As detailed in the **Agenda Item 9** report the LA has been working on the APT for final submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 20 January 2023.

2.2 The main work so far has included: -

- Validating all the 2022/23 baseline information by school has been transferred correctly by the ESFA.
- Adjusting for further academy conversions since 2022/23.
- Verifying as far as practicable the main October 2022 census data i.e. pupil numbers.
- Securing the up to date local data for inclusion e.g. exceptional premises, rates etc.
- Including in the APT the approved local funding formula units of resource for all formula factors in 2023/24 based on the DfE NFF rates, the DfE MFG and sector MFLs.
- Assessing the quantum of funding available from the School Block DSG 2023/24 arising from the School Funding Settlement in December 2022.
- Assessing the affordability or otherwise of the LSFF based upon the DfE NFF Year 5 parameters.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

3.1 The current APT position is detailed in **Annexes A and B**.

3.2 As detailed in **Agenda Item 9** the estimated quantum for the LSFF in 2023/24 is £403,723m excluding the Pupil Growth Fund.

3.3 The current APT position using the approved units of resource, other data and the Year 6 NFF parameters for the MFG, Capping and the sector Minimum Funding Levels is £404,194m – an over **allocation of £0.471m**.

3.4 The WSF are reminded as in 2022/23 in 2023/24, the parameters based on the NFF cannot be fully replicated through the APT due to some of the starting baselines used by the ESFA. Therefore, the draft APT uses the all the DfE advised NFF rates, applied MFG floor per pupil, no capping level and the mandatory sector MFLs.

3.5 The WSF are further reminded the **MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of significant data changes between 2021 and 2022 e.g. reductions in pupil numbers and

other data sets such as FSM, low prior attainment, etc. This data is controlled and supplied by the DfE in the APT and cannot be changed.

3.6 As a consequence some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes. Nevertheless, all schools are subject to at least a +0.05% per pupil increase because of the MFG in the LSFF being based upon the NFF parameters.

3.7 The WSF are advised the new DfE data sets must drive the LSFF allocations and cannot be amended. Varying from this approach is not permitted – as in previous years the DfE data sets are mandatory. These prescribed data sets are then applied to the approved NFF year 6 units of resource together with any local factors and are assessed to compare to the LSFF quantum available. If there is an affordability issue the options available are: -

- Reducing the DfE NFF Year 6 unit of resource levels in specific areas e.g. AWPU, FSM.
- Reducing all the DfE Year 6 NFF unit of resource levels by the relevant percentage.
- Introduce a funding cap at level to draw back the overallocated funding.
- Fund at NFF Year 6 unit of resource levels with the impact being a Schools Block in deficit. However, given the overall DSG position, the DfE would not expect LAs to have the Schools Block in deficit, in order to mirror the NFF factor values precisely.

3.8 The WSF are further advised the APT is draft only and it is not final until the ESFA have approved the APT following their detailed compliance checks – this will take some time following submission. As a consequence, school by school data is never shared at this time as is not available until all maintained schools and academies have received their allocations.

#### **4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION**

4.1 Currently there is an **over allocation predicted of £0.471m. The draft APT now includes:** -

- The effect of all the DfE NFF Year 6 units of resource including the MFG and the mandatory MFLs together with the majority of WCC local factors.
- The effect of Year 6 for the new North Worcester Primary Free School. This is a call on the DSG and must be funded on estimated numbers not included in the October 2022 census.
- The sparsity factor is calculated totally by the full DfE NFF model to support the DfE policy for additional funding provided in this area. This year also a change on the method of calculating the distance so now taking into consideration travel distance rather than as the crow flies.

4.2 This currently has been taken from the growth fund. However, it is estimated after this the Year 6 NFF on current estimate is affordable from the Schools Block quantum for 2022-23.

4.3 The WSF are requested to consider the detailed comparative analysis of the APT between January 2022 and January 2023 provided in **Annex B**. The key issues are: -

- There is a significant increase in the funding allocated via the AWPU. This is a consequence of an increase in the AWPU rate to reflect the NFF Year 6, together with the increase in pupil numbers between October 2021 and October 2022.

- The new mandatory Mobility factor within the LSFF.
- Since the NFF was introduced, the DfE have recognised that the different data sources used for the NFF and for local formulae mean that it is not always possible for LAs to follow the NFF precisely.
- Instead, the DfE expect LAs to manage the fact that they will use more up-to-date data than the NFF by adjusting their local formulae factor values to make their formulae affordable.

**4.4 On the above basis, it is recommended to allocate the LSFF in 2023/24 using the DfE NFF Year 6 parameters as approved by Cabinet on 8 December 2022.**

**SUMMARY OF FINAL APT 2022/23 COMPARED TO DRAFT APT 2023/24**

<b><u>FORMULA COMPONENT</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23</u></b> <b><u>APT</u></b> <b><u>£'m</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b> <b><u>APT</u></b> <b><u>£'m</u></b>	<b><u>VARIANCE</u></b>  <b><u>£'m</u></b>
AWPU	284.8	303.1	+18.3
Deprivation - FSM	17.4	20.4	+3.0
Deprivation - IDACI	10.4	11.0	+0.6
Low Prior Attainment	25.5	26.6	+1.1
EAL	1.6	2.0	+0.4
Mobility	N/A	0.2	+0.2
Lump Sum	27.5	29.1	+1.6
Sparsity	1.6	1.6	0.0
Split Site	0.6	0.6	0.0
Rates	3.8	3.8	0.0
PFI	2.8	3.0	+0.2
Exceptional Premises	0.4	0.1	-0.3
NFF Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)	4.4	2.7	-1.7
Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)	0.6	0.2	-0.4
<b>LSFF Prior to Capping</b>	<b>381.4</b>	<b>404.4</b>	<b>+23.0</b>
Capping	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381.4</b>	<b>404.4</b>	<b>+23.0</b>

Schools Block DSG Quantum	369.5	403.9
(Under)/Over Allocation	(0.0)	0.5
Funded	To PGF	0.0
	Pupil Nos	0.0
	Premises/	
	Rates	<u>0.0</u>
Net		<u>0.0</u>

**LSFF Formula Parameters****DfE NFF rates for 2022/23 and 2023/24: -**

All Formula Factor DfE NFF Units of Resource

## Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)

Primary	£4,265	£4,405
Secondary KS3 and KS4	£5,525	£5,715
KS3 Only Pupils	£5,321	£5,503
KS4 Only Pupils	£5,831	£6,033

## Floors and Ceilings Per Pupil

Minimum Funding Guarantee	+2.00%	+0.05%
	on 2021/22	on 2023/24
Capping	no cap	no cap
	in 2021/22	in 2023/24

APT COMPARATOR JANUARY 2022 FINAL TO JANUARY 2023 INITIAL

APPENDIX A - ANNEX B

	UNIT OF RESOURCE	OCT 2021 DATA	JAN 2022 ALLOCATION 2022/23 FINAL		UNIT OF RESOURCE	OCT 2022 DATA	JAN 2023 ALLOCATION 2023/24 INITIAL		VARIANCE UNIT OF RESOURCE	VARIANCE DATA	VARIANCE ALLOCATION	UNIT OF RESOURCE VARIATION		DATA VARIATION		TOTAL		
	£		£	%	£		£	%			£	£	DATA	£	DATA	£	£	
<b>FORMULA COMPONENT</b>																		
Primary AWPU	3,217.00	43890.90	141,197,025	37.02%	3,394.00	43820.10	148,725,419	36.78%	177.00	-70.80	7,528,394	177.00	43,890.90	7,768,689	3,394.00	-70.80	-240,295	7,528,394
KS3 AWPU	4,536.00	18462.00	83,743,632	21.96%	4,785.00	18846.00	90,178,110	22.30%	249.00	384.00	6,434,478	249.00	18,462.00	4,597,038	4,785.00	384.00	1,837,440	6,434,478
KS4 AWPU	5,112.00	11713.00	59,876,856	15.70%	5,393.00	11906.00	64,209,058	15.88%	281.00	193.00	4,332,202	281.00	11,713.00	3,291,353	5,393.00	193.00	1,040,849	4,332,202
<b>S-T</b>		<b>74065.90</b>	<b>284,817,513</b>	<b>74.68%</b>		<b>74572.10</b>	<b>303,112,587</b>	<b>74.95%</b>		<b>506.20</b>	<b>18,295,074</b>							<b>18,295,074</b>
Primary FSM	470.00	8310.79	3,906,071	1.02%	480.00	8683.82	4,168,234	1.03%	10.00	373.03	262,162	10.00	8,310.79	83,108	480.00	373.03	179,054	262,162
Secondary FSM	470.00	5322.00	2,501,340	0.66%	480.00	5999.00	2,879,520	0.71%	10.00	677.00	378,180	10.00	5,322.00	53,220	480.00	677.00	324,960	378,180
Primary FSM 6	590.00	8861.79	5,228,456	1.37%	705.00	8990.04	6,337,982	1.57%	115.00	128.25	1,109,526	115.00	8,861.79	1,019,106	705.00	128.25	90,420	1,109,526
Secondary FSM 6	865.00	6620.00	5,726,300	1.50%	1,030.00	6853.00	7,058,590	1.75%	165.00	233.00	1,332,290	165.00	6,620.00	1,092,300	1,030.00	233.00	239,990	1,332,290
Primary IDACI Band F	220.00	4296.80	945,296	0.25%	230.00	4249.69	977,428	0.24%	10.00	-47.11	32,132	10.00	4,296.80	42,968	230.00	-47.11	-10,836	32,132
Primary IDACI Band E	270.00	3199.08	863,752	0.23%	280.00	3138.38	878,745	0.22%	10.00	-60.70	14,994	10.00	3,199.08	31,991	280.00	-60.70	-16,997	14,994
Primary IDACI Band D	420.00	2081.95	874,419	0.23%	440.00	2021.39	889,411	0.22%	20.00	-60.56	14,992	20.00	2,081.95	41,639	440.00	-60.56	-26,647	14,992
Primary IDACI Band C	460.00	1771.77	815,014	0.21%	480.00	1765.25	847,321	0.21%	20.00	-6.52	32,307	20.00	1,771.77	35,435	480.00	-6.52	-3,129	32,307
Primary IDACI Band B	490.00	2446.41	1,198,741	0.31%	510.00	2452.35	1,250,700	0.31%	20.00	5.94	51,959	20.00	2,446.41	48,928	510.00	5.94	3,031	51,959
Primary IDACI Band A	640.00	792.93	507,475	0.13%	670.00	807.44	540,985	0.13%	30.00	14.51	33,510	30.00	792.93	23,788	670.00	14.51	9,722	33,510
Secondary IDACI Band F	320.00	2895.46	926,547	0.24%	335.00	2996.64	1,003,876	0.25%	15.00	101.18	77,329	15.00	2,895.46	43,432	335.00	101.18	33,897	77,329
Secondary IDACI Band E	425.00	2273.28	966,144	0.25%	445.00	2273.11	1,011,534	0.25%	20.00	-0.17	45,390	20.00	2,273.28	45,466	445.00	-0.17	-76	45,390
Secondary IDACI Band D	595.00	1433.29	852,808	0.22%	620.00	1457.97	903,939	0.22%	25.00	24.68	51,131	25.00	1,433.29	35,832	620.00	24.68	15,299	51,131
Secondary IDACI Band C	650.00	1243.24	808,106	0.21%	680.00	1260.24	856,963	0.21%	30.00	17.00	48,857	30.00	1,243.24	37,297	680.00	17.00	11,560	48,857
Secondary IDACI Band B	700.00	1669.31	1,168,517	0.31%	730.00	1735.55	1,266,955	0.31%	30.00	66.24	98,438	30.00	1,669.31	50,079	730.00	66.24	48,358	98,438
Secondary IDACI Band A	890.00	529.48	471,237	0.12%	930.00	573.24	533,114	0.13%	40.00	43.76	61,877	40.00	529.48	21,179	930.00	43.76	40,698	61,877
<b>S-T</b>			<b>27,760,223</b>	<b>7.28%</b>			<b>31,405,296</b>	<b>7.77%</b>			<b>3,645,073</b>							<b>3,645,073</b>
Primary Low Prior Attainment	1,130.00	12072.69	13,642,137	3.58%	1,155.00	12352.91	14,267,606	3.53%	25.00	280.22	625,469	25.00	12,072.69	301,817	1,155.00	280.22	323,652	625,469
Secondary Low Prior Attainment	1,710.00	6955.94	11,894,663	3.12%	1,750.00	7068.80	12,370,392	3.06%	40.00	112.85	475,729	40.00	6,955.94	278,238	1,750.00	112.85	197,491	475,729
Primary EAL	565.00	2156.20	1,218,252	0.32%	580.00	2472.08	1,433,806	0.35%	15.00	315.88	215,553	15.00	2,156.20	32,343	580.00	315.88	183,210	215,553
Secondary EAL	1,530.00	248.86	380,761	0.10%	1,565.00	363.26	568,505	0.14%	35.00	114.40	187,744	35.00	248.86	8,710	1,565.00	114.40	179,034	187,744
Primary Mobility	0.00	153.76	0	0.00%	945.00	164.52	155,471	0.04%	945.00	10.76	155,471	945.00	153.76	145,303	945.00	10.76	10,168	155,471
Secondary Mobility	0.00	44.91	0	0.00%	1,360.00	16.70	22,714	0.01%	1,360.00	-28.21	22,714	1,360.00	44.91	61,078	1,360.00	-28.21	-38,364	22,714
<b>S-T</b>			<b>27,135,813</b>	<b>7.12%</b>			<b>28,818,494</b>	<b>7.13%</b>			<b>1,682,681</b>							<b>1,682,681</b>
Lump Sum	N/A	N/A	27,535,100	7.22%	N/A	N/A	29,056,000	7.18%	N/A	N/A	1,520,900							1,520,900
Sparsity	N/A	N/A	1,628,535	0.43%	N/A	N/A	1,645,239	0.41%	N/A	N/A	16,704							16,704
Split Site	N/A	N/A	565,300	0.15%	N/A	N/A	565,300	0.14%	N/A	N/A	0							0
Rates	N/A	N/A	3,826,327	1.00%	N/A	N/A	3,841,960	0.95%	N/A	N/A	15,633							15,633
PFI	N/A	N/A	2,668,732	0.70%	N/A	N/A	2,967,630	0.73%	N/A	N/A	298,898							298,898
Exceptional Circumstances	N/A	N/A	418,236	0.11%	N/A	N/A	103,559	0.03%	N/A	N/A	-314,677							-314,677
NFF Minimum Funding Levels	N/A	N/A	4,427,846	1.16%	N/A	N/A	2,678,453	0.66%	N/A	N/A	-1,749,393							-1,749,393
<b>S-T</b>			<b>41,070,076</b>	<b>10.77%</b>			<b>40,858,141</b>	<b>10.10%</b>			<b>-211,935</b>							<b>-211,935</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>380,783,626</b>	<b>99.85%</b>			<b>404,194,519</b>	<b>99.95%</b>			<b>23,410,893</b>							<b>23,410,893</b>
MFG		2.000%	582,911	0.15%		0.500%	217,122	0.05%			-365,789							-365,789
Capping		0.000%	0	0.00%		0.000%	0	0.00%			0							0
<b>S-T</b>			<b>582,911</b>	<b>0.16%</b>			<b>217,122</b>	<b>0.06%</b>			<b>-365,789</b>							<b>-365,789</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>381,366,537</b>	<b>100.00%</b>			<b>404,411,641</b>	<b>100.00%</b>			<b>23,045,104</b>							<b>23,045,104</b>
Pupil Growth			1,990,682				1,450,671				-540,011							-540,011
<b>Total School Block</b>			<b>383,357,219</b>				<b>405,862,312</b>				<b>22,505,093</b>							<b>22,505,093</b>
<b>QUANTUM AVAILABLE</b>			<b>383,371,220</b>				<b>405,862,312</b>				<b>22,491,092</b>							<b>22,491,092</b>
<b>VARIANCE</b>			<b>-14,001</b>			<b>0</b>					<b>14,001</b>							<b>14,001</b>
			Underallocated															
Estimated Rates Adjustments			14,001		N/A		0											
<b>Balance</b>			<b>0</b>		<b>Balance</b>		<b>0</b>											

WSF to Approve 20/1/2022: -  
Use of Schools Block as a whole including Pupil Growth Fund to fund requirement for NFF Year 5 as above.

WSF to Approve 19/1/2023: -  
Use of Schools Block as a whole including Pupil Growth Fund to fund requirement for NFF Year 6 as above.