

(BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM)

21 January 2025

Title: Schools' Forum Report	
Open	For Decision / For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2024/25 Projected DSG Outturn2. High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn Forecast for 2024/253. Early Years Update 2024/254. DSG Funding Allocation for 2025/265. Schools Block 2025/26 (Response to consultation)6. High Needs Provisional Budget 2025/267. Early Years Update 2025/268. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)9. De-delegation for 2025/2610. Growth Fund for 2025/2611. Falling Rolls for 2025/26	

Recommendation(s)

The Schools' Forum is requested to:

1. Note the updated 2024/25 projected DSG outturn.
2. Note and comment on the High Needs Block outturn forecast for 2024/25
3. Note and comment on the Early Years forecast for 2024/25
4. Note the DSG Funding allocation for 2025/26
5. Note Schools Block Funding for 2025/26
6. Note and comment High Needs Provisional Budget 2025/26
7. Note, comment & approve the Early Years Funding 2025/26
8. Note, comment & approve the Central Schools Services Block 2025/26
9. Note, comment and approve proposed de-delegation for 2025/26
10. Note & comment on proposed growth funding for 2025/26
11. Note, Comment & approve proposed falling roll funding for 2025/26

Reason(s)

The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 requires that the Schools' Forum meets regularly and is consulted by the local authority concerning the Dedicated Schools Budget and various related matters.

1. 2024/25 Projected DSG Outturn

1.1 The table below sets out the projected DSG outturn for 2024/25. There has been no change to the DSG projected outturn reported in December 2024. Among the funding blocks, Schools, Central and Early Years blocks are projecting a breakeven position at year end. Conversely, the high needs block is forecasting an overspend of **£5.311m**. This overspend is due to pressures from top-up payments to schools, Post 16, special schools & Outreach and Home tuition service. The service is reviewing potential increase in demand for post 16 places which may exacerbate the current projected forecast.

1.2 DSG reserves brought forward at the start of the year is **£7.750m**. The projected overspend of **£5.311m** is due to the pressures on the High Needs Block. The adjusted reserve for the current financial year is **£2.439m** following the clawback of EY funding of **£205k**. The reserve balance includes **£937k** earmarked for growth/falling rolls funding and **£785k** allocated to support Schools Facing Financial Difficulties (SFFD).

			Jan-25	Dec-24	
	2024/25 Funding £'000	2024/25 Projected Outturn £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	Movement from Dec- 24 Favourable/ (Adverse)
Schools Block (ISB)	197,347	197,347	0	0	0
Central Services Block	2,153	2,153	0	0	0
High Needs Block	51,567	56,878	(5,311)	(5,311)	0
Early Years Block	31,152	31,152	0	0	0
	282,219	287,530	(5,311)	(5,311)	0
DSG reserves B/f	7,955	(205)	7,750	7,750	0
Revised DSG Carried forward			2,439	2,439	0
Of Which					
Growth/Falling Rolls		(937)			0
SFFD retained centrally		(785)			0
Projected DSG Reserves 2024/25			717	717	0

Table – 2024/25 projected DSG outturn

Recommendation (i): School Forum are asked to:

Note and comment on the projected DSG outturn position for 2024/25

2. 2024/25 Update on High Needs Projected Outturn

2.1 The projected outturn position for High Needs is a planned overspend of **£5.310m**. The table below shows details of the outturn position.

Service Area	2023/24 Outturn	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Outturn Forecast	Variance +Surplus / (Deficit)
Alternative Provision	3,369,139	3,728,080	4,362,619	(634,539)
ARP Funding	9,789,848	11,040,112	9,803,161	1,236,951
Education Inclusion	1,945,955	2,115,587	2,182,386	(66,799)
Non Maintained Fees	5,501,905	3,477,415	3,993,776	(516,361)
Out of Borough Top Ups	2,661,046	2,818,498	2,939,727	(121,229)
Education cost Res. placements & Legal fees	1,369,200	1,410,350	1,410,908	(558)
SEND Commissioned Services	839,121	611,852	1,016,317	(404,465)
HN Top Ups – Post 16	2,664,888	2,413,600	3,961,511	(1,547,911)
SEN Panel Top Ups	5,474,350	2,661,000	5,535,854	(2,874,854)
Provision Payments	2,790,000	3,000,000	2,440,000	560,000
Aspire Virtual School	380,035	372,999	372,999	0
Initiatives - Rapid Response	903,872	772,601	772,601	0
Special School Funding	14,438,249	15,252,455	16,446,718	(1,194,263)
EY Portage & Youth Service	471,527	658,432	404,597	253,835
Parent Support Proj. (Phoenix, S&L Lead etc)	0	666,416	666,416	0
Words First & SALT Projects	570,315	568,000	568,000	0
Total Budget	53,169,450	51,567,397	56,877,590	(5,310,193)

Table – High Needs Outturn

- 2.2 The projected overspend of **£5.310m** is to be met from DSG Reserves.
- 2.3 Alternative Provision is forecasting an in year overspend due to higher than anticipated costs of the Home Tuition Outreach Service.
- 2.4 Alternative Resource Provisions (ARP's) are currently predicting an underspend due to budget provision for additional growth not all realised in year.
- 2.5 Out of Borough (OOB) projected forecast has been reduced from £2m to £1m due to planned arrangements of transferring pupils from independent out of borough places to in borough commissioned special schools. This trend is likely to continue into next financial year, due to the opening of Oxlow Bridge special school.
- 2.6 SEN top-up budget has been exceeded by circa £3m this year and is projected to increase if no action is taken. A revised funding model is being developed to

distribute this budget fairly across all schools as an interim measure, pending a further review of the top up payment methodology. Refer to section 2.10 of this report for the principles to be used for the new funding model.

2.7 Although Special Schools are forecasting an increase in costs, this is partly due to import & export & recoupment budget adjustments by the DfE and a marginal increase in costs due to transfer from out of borough to in borough special schools.

2.8 **New Funding Model for Top-up Payment. 2025/26**

The budget for 2025-26 has been set broadly in line with the 2024-25 spend at £5m. Senior Officers discussed with the Co-Chairs several options for distribution of the 2025-26 top up funding in a way which is as fair as possible, and which enables the budget to be managed within the funding available.

2.9 The following principles were agreed:

- a. Allocation of funding should reflect the higher level of need in the primary phase owing to:
 - The direction of travel of the NFF in Barking & Dagenham.
 - The proportion of primary schools in deficit, compared with the proportion of secondary schools with a reserve.
 - The greater complexity of children's needs in the primary phase and the fact that the most complex children in mainstream tend to secure a specialist placement at secondary transfer.
- b. The small number of children with the highest needs in mainstream school should receive specialist targeted funding.

2.10 In determining how to achieve fairness and consistency two previous models were considered:

- i. The **historic model** of allocation via top up panel was rejected as being unmanageable and inconsistent. This is evidenced by longstanding complaints from Headteachers which is why the model was changed.
- ii. The most recent model of allocation linked to audit has not led to a secure, manageable and consistent basis for allocations.

Therefore for 2025-26, it is proposed that we allocate ***the high needs funding by formula using applicable proxy indicators***, drawing upon those used by the DfE to allocate High Needs Funding.

Models will be developed and shared with the HNWP later this term.

Recommendation (ii): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on the outturn forecast for High Needs Block for 2024/25
- (b) Note the principles for distributing top-up funding for 2025/26

3. Early Years Update 2024/25

- 3.1 The Early Years Budget for 24/25 is **£31.152m**. the service is reporting a breakeven position for the year; however, finance is reviewing the reported figures for the extended offer with the service, arrangements will be made to release funding to providers if there is a possibility of a favourable variance outside the clawback mechanism.

Recommendation (iii): Schools forum is requested to:

Note the reported forecast for the Early Years Block.

4. DSG Funding allocation for 2025/26

- 4.1 The DSG allocation for 2025/26 was published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 18 December 2024 with LBBB being granted the sum of **£399.462m** across the four blocks (before academy recoupment). The table below provides a breakdown of the grant across the DSG blocks and shows the movement in funding between 2024/25 and 2025/26.

	2024/25 DSG Allocations as at 19/11/24			2025/26 DSG Allocation as at 18/12/24			Increase £'000	2024/25 additional grants £'000	Movement
	DSG Before Recoupment £'000	Less Recoupment /NDR deductions £'000	Net £'000	DSG Before Recoupment £'000	Less Recoupment /NDR deductions £'000	Net £'000			
	a	b	c=a - b	d	e	f = d - e			
Schools Block	275,744	(4,739)	271,005	299,589	(6,727)	292,862	21,857	(18,887)	2,970
Central Block	2,153	0	2,153	2,237	0	2,237	84	-	84
High Needs Block	56,580	(5,013)	51,567	61,919	(5,040)	56,879	5,312	-	5,312
Early Years Block	31,152	0	31,152	35,717	0	35,717	4,565	-	4,565
	365,629	(9,752)	355,877	399,462	(11,767)	387,695	31,818	(18,887)	12,931

Table - DSG Grant Allocation for 2024/25 - v – 2025/26 (in £'000s)

4.2 The overall 'real' increase in DSG from last year is **£12.931m**, after stripping out the **£18.887m** received in additional grants.

- The school's block has seen an increase of **£2.970m or (1%)**. This excludes the £18.887m worth of other grants (CSGB, TPAG, TPECG) which has been rolled into the formula.
- The increase of **£84k** on the central services school's budget is due to uplift of £3.80 in the unit of funding applied to the pupil numbers.
- The budget allocation for high needs has increased by **£5.312m (10%)**.
- The Early Years allocation has been increased by **£4.565m (15%)** due to the expansion to the early years offer.

4.3 The total school block funding for 2025/26 is **£299.589m** as set out in the table above. This figure is before recoupment for academies. This allocation has been calculated based on the guaranteed unit of funding for primary and secondary multiplied by the number of pupils on roll at the October 2024 census. The total pupil led funding is **£286.564m**, and in addition to this is the allocation of **£1.302m** for growth and **£11.722m** for the premises factors (NNDR & PFI).

DSG Schools block allocation			
Guaranteed Unit of Funding	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	£5,737.35	£6,165.47	£428.12
Secondary Unit of Funding(SUF)	£7,740.68	£8,351.21	£610.53
Numbers on roll (Oct Census)			
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	24,317	24,174	£-143.50
Secondary Unit of Funding(SUF)	16,202	16,468	£266.00
Total Primary school funding	£139,515,140	£149,040,990	£9,525,850
Total Secondary school funding	£125,410,427	£137,523,551	£12,113,124
Total pupil led funding	£264,925,567	£286,564,541	£21,638,974
Premises Factor	£9,636,862	£11,721,990	£2,085,128
Growth Funding	£1,181,691	£1,302,413	£120,722
Total Schools block before recoupment	£275,744,120	£299,588,944	£23,844,824
Deductions for NNDR	£4,739,398	£6,727,303	£1,987,905
Total schools funding after deduction before recoupment	£271,004,722	£292,861,641	£21,856,919*

Table: Schools block allocation 2024/25 & 2025/26

***This figure includes £18.887m of other grant previously paid separately but has now been rolled into the formula. 2025/26**

Recommendation (iv): Schools forum is requested to:

Note the updated DSG funding.

5. Response to Consultation: Schools Block funding option 2025/26.

5.1 A total of 32 (56%) schools responded to the consultation, 22 primaries, 6 secondaries and 4 all-through schools.

The main findings are as follows:

Q1- The responses to “***Should the LA continue to use the same principles to set the budget as done in previous years?***”

Yes	26	81%
No	3	9%
No response/N/A	3	9%

Q2- “***Please rank the three illustrative funding models in order of preference, 1 being the most favoured and 3 the least favoured option.***”

The summary of responses to question 2 is as below:

Phase	Model A Full NFF	Model B Full NFF adjusted for affordability	Model C Adjusted AWPU 1:1.38	Total Responses	% responses by phase
Primary	0	0	22	22	69%
Secondary	2	4	0	6	19%
All Through	0	4	0	4	13%
	2	8	22	32	100%
	6%	25%	69%	100%	

5.2 The principles outlined in the consultation, have been applied to the funding formula to set 2025/26 indicative school level allocation.

Refer to: **Appendix A-** Overview of Funding Model

Appendix B - School level budget allocation for 2025/26

Recommendation (v): School Forum is requested to:

- a) Note the consultation response.
- b) Approve the indicative school level budget allocation with the funding ratio of 1:1.38 for the 2025/26 funding formula.

6. High Needs Provisional Budget 2025/26

- 6.1 The total high needs block allocation for 2025/26 after deductions is **£56.879m**. There has been an increase of **£5.312m** from previous years allocation. Please refer to **Appendix C** for details of 2025/26 budget with a 4-year Budget trend. The budget has been set using the following assumptions:
- 6.2 A 10% savings have been applied to specific central services budgets to mitigate the HN budget pressures.
- 6.3 Alternative Provision and special schools will receive an uplift of 3.4% on place funding as a minimum funding guarantee.
- 6.4 ARP funding top up rates will remain the same as last year.
- 6.5 Provision has been made for growth and expansion (95 places) of in borough special schools places as part of LBBB strategic policy to create more local places to transition out of borough pupils to in borough places. As part of this overarching strategy, a new special school (Oxlow bridge Special School) will open in September 2025.

Recommendation (vi): Schools forum is requested to:

Note and comment on High Needs Provisional Budget for 2025/26.

7. Early Years Funding 2025/26

- 7.1 Department for Education (DfE) provides local authorities with a number of funding streams listed below, which together form the early years block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). They are:
 - the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3-and-4-year-olds

- the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3-and-4-year-olds
- the 15-hour entitlements for eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 2 years and subsequent 30-hour entitlements for this group
- the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- The disability Entitlement for under 2-year-olds.
- Disability access fund (DAF)
- Early years pupil premium (EYPP)
- maintained nursery school (MNS) supplementary funding (if applicable).

7.2 2025/26 EY funding rates for local authorities were announced in December 2024. The revised rates paid and passported to providers are set out below.

Funding Classification	Funding Received from DFE			Funding Paid to Providers		
	Rates 2024/25	Rates 2025/26	% Increase in Rate	Rates 2024/25	Rates 2025/26	% Increase in Rate
Universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds	£6.29	£6.48	3.02%	£5.45	£5.70	4.59%
Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds	£6.29	£6.48	3.02%	£5.45	£5.70	4.59%
Deprivation				30p-22p	30p-22p	0.00%
Flexibility				£0.21	£0.21	0.00%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£0.00	£9.41	n/a	£0.00	£8.92	n/a
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£9.21	£9.41	2.17%	£8.65	£8.92	3.12%
Under 2s entitlement	£12.58	£12.83	1.99%	£11.00	£12.00	9.09%

Table – EY funding rates for 2025/26

7.3 The government has indicated that 4% of the funding is retained centrally to meet LA support costs for early years provision as opposed to 5% in previous years. This will apply to all provision levels as opposed to 3 & 4-year-olds funding only as was the case in previous years.

7.4 In view of the cost pressures faced by the sector, we are proposing to passport a 4.59% rate uplift for 3 & 4-year-olds and 3.12% for 2-year-olds respectively.

- The 3 and 4-year-old funded rates will therefore increase from £5.45 to £5.70. This is an increase of £0.25 or 4.59%
- The 2-year-olds funded rates will increase from £8.65p to £8.92. This is an increase of £0.27 or 3.12%
- The Under 2-year-old funding will increase to £11.84 from £11.00 an increase of 7.63%.

7.5 The budgeted distribution of funding is set out in the table below:

2025-26 Early Years Funding	Rate 24/25	PTE 2025/26	Annual Entit'mt (Hrs) 2025/26	Funded Hours 2025/26	Rates Paid to Providers 2025/26	Anticipated Expnditure 2025/26
Centrally Retained 4%	1,607,563					1,396,632
Universal 3&4 YO	5.45	4,287	570	2,443,715	5.70	13,926,062
Plus 15 PTE 3& 4 YO	5.45	1,234	570	703,477	5.70	4,008,921
Deprivation	30p-22p				30p-22p	944,158
Flexibility	0.21				0.21	330,455
Contingency						68,459
SEN Inclusion						300,000
Total 3&4 YO EY Block						19,578,055
Entitlement 2 YO	8.65	1,003	570	571,573	8.92	5,100,321
Plus 15 PTE 2YOF	8.65	686	570	390,997	8.92	3,488,986
Contingency						6,171
SEN inclusion fund						100,000
Total Entitlement 2 Y O						8,695,478
Under 2 year old Funding	11.00	747.18	570	425,893	12.00	5,110,711
Contingency						58,417
SEN Inclusion Fund						76,507
Under 2 Funding Total						5,245,635
EY Pupil Premium	0.68				1	553,869
Disability Access Fund	910.00				938.00	247,632
TOTAL EY BLOCK						35,717,301
Total EY Allocation						35,717,301
Variance						0

Table – Early Years provisional Budget for 2025/26

7.6 The early years funding requirements include the need to:

- set a single funding for universal and additional hours.
- pass on a minimum of 96% of the provision level funding to providers.
- use a universal base rate for all types of providers.
- use a deprivation supplement.
- not to channel more than 10% of their funding through supplements
- provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

- pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.
- pass on the Disability Access Fund (DAF)

7.7 The SEN Inclusion fund for early years is £300k and £100k for 3 and 4-year-olds, 2 years olds respectively and £76,507 for under 2 Years olds. The total amount of £476,507 would be passported to settings. Funding for Flexibility and Deprivation are £330,455 & £944,158 respectively.

7.8 LBBD will retain 4% of the funding for all provision levels centrally to meet support and costs of early years provision. This is to fund home portage scheme (home visiting), early years teacher service (qualified teachers working with settings to raise standards, childminding development officer, and commissioning costs. (Please refer to table below for details.)

Centrally Retained Costs	2024/25	2025/26
EY Teachers & Childminding Officers	635,000	680,000
Home Portage Scheme	112,000	120,000
Targeted Support Costs	61,000	65,000
Nursery Education Staff	113,000	120,000
2YO Staffing	323,000	340,000
Resource for Under 2YO Expansion	363,563	71,632
Total	1,607,563	1,396,632

Table – Early Years centrally funded services

7.9 In 2024/25 a large provision was made for one off cost associated with the set up and resourcing of new Under 2YO places. This activity consisted of expenditure which was one-off and is not due to be repeated in 2025/26.

Recommendation (vii): Schools forum is requested to:

- Note and comment on the Early Years funded hourly rates for 2025/26.
- Approve the SEN Inclusion fund (refer to section 7.7).
- Approve the Early Years Centrally funded services (Refer to section 7.8)

8. Central Schools Services Block 2025/26 (CSSB)

8.1 The Central Block was created in 2018/19 by combining the residual Education Services Grant of £0.6m and £1.9m of funding allocations for central services

previously agreed by Schools Forum. The block is made up of **specific continuing statutory functions** and local arrangements for **historically agreed services**. The Government's clear intention is to move the statutory functions elements towards a per head funding regime plus yearly inflation uplift (3.98% in 2025/26) and taper off historically agreed services by 20% reduction year on year from 2021/22.

8.2 CSSB is funding the following services:

CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)						
Services	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Admission Service	536,800	636,000	648,000	671,000	686,836	714,172
Schools Forum	60,000	60,000	60,000	62,000	63,463	65,989
Copy right Licences	215,600	180,000	180,000	186,000	190,390	197,967
Statutory responsibilities	626,400	743,000	743,000	769,000	787,300	818,635
Ongoing Resp. Budget	1,438,800	1,619,000	1,631,000	1,688,000	1,727,989	1,796,763
School Improvement	86,000	68,800	55,040	44,032	35,226	28,180
Schools Estates	120,000	96,000	76,800	61,440	49,152	39,322
School Games Organiser	40,000	32,000	25,600	20,480	16,384	13,107
Trewern outdoor education	167,000	133,600	106,880	85,504	68,403	54,723
Community Music Service	248,000	198,400	158,720	126,976	101,812	81,449
Advisory Teachers	264,000	211,200	168,960	135,168	108,134	86,508
Historic Resp Budget	925,000	740,000	592,000	473,600	379,111	303,289
Total CSSB Budget	2,363,800	2,359,000	2,223,000	2,161,600	2,107,100	2,100,052

Table – Services funded from CSSB Allocation

8.3 The summary below shows how the services funded from the historic element of the CSSB has been remodelled to mitigate the 20% annual reductions:

- **School improvement** – the reductions are being offset by School Improvement central budget, the reductions will be absorbed by the school improvement service through rationalisation and service redesign.
- **Advisory Teachers** – this is part of BDSIP contract, and the savings have been passported as a reduction to the contract price.
- **Community Music Service** – the service has remodelled the delivery by entering into a service level agreement with schools.
- **Trewern outdoor education** – to mitigate the impact of the reductions, Trewern has been working on various service delivery options including remodelling of staff deployment, providing additional offers to schools to increase income and build-up of financial reserves.

- **School games organiser** – the reduction in DSG funding is being replaced by other grants such as the young Londoners Fund, Inspiring Futures, Sports England, and annual subscription by schools.
- **Schools' estates** – the reduction is being mitigated by capitalisation of eligible staffing costs that meets the criteria for capital funding, this is assign to the building of school assets.

Recommendation (viii): Schools forum is requested to:

(a) agree the proposed central spend under paragraph 8.2.

(b) note the reduction in historic funding element of CCSB and impact on Education services.

9. De-Delegation (Maintained Schools)

9.1 The 2024/25 and proposed 2025/26 de-delegation rates, for primary and secondary phases are set out in the tables below. The updated figures are based on October 2024 census. The de-delegated amount is top sliced from LA maintained individual school budget share to fund the respective services. The de-delegation rates for all services apart from contingencies have remained the same as 2024/25 rates.

	2024/25 Primary De-delegation			2025/26 Primary De-delegation			Movement
	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Primary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
Contingencies	19,350	0.50	9,675	19,177	0.00	0.00	(9,675)
LSCB	19,350	1.40	27,090	19,177	1.40	26,848	(242)
Trade Union	19,350	5.25	101,588	19,177	5.25	100,679	(908)
FSM Eligibility	19,350	0.84	16,254	19,177	0.84	16,109	(145)
Sch. Improve.	19,350	5.06	97,911	19,177	5.06	97,036	(875)
Primary Total:	19,350	13.05	252,518	19,177	12.55	240,671	(11,846)

Table: Primary De-delegation Rates 25/26

	2024/25 Secondary De-delegation			2025/26 Secondary De-delegation			Movement
	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	Secondary Pupil Nos	Unit Rate	Total Amount	
Contingencies	10,441	0.50	5,221	10,588	-	-	(5,221)
LSCB Board	10,441	1.40	14,617	10,588	1.40	14,823	206
Trade Union	10,441	5.25	54,815	10,588	5.25	55,587	772
FSM Eligibility	10,441	0.84	8,770	10,588	0.84	8,894	123
Sch. Improve.	10,441	5.06	52,831	10,588	5.06	53,575	744
Secondary Total:	10,441	13.05	136,255	10,588	12.55	132,879	(3,376)

Table: Secondary De-delegation Rates 25/26

Total De-delegation

388,773

373,551

9.2 Both academies and local authority-maintained schools' benefit from the arrangements in respect of trade unions and local safeguarding board. Academies are to be invoiced as there is no provision to de-delegate. The table below presents the revised rates chargeable to academies.

		2025/26 Academy Charges (to be invoiced)							
	Total 2024/25	Primary NOR	Unit Rate	Primary Total:	Sec. NOR	Unit Rates	Secondary Total:	Total 2025/26	Movt
LCSB	£15,029	4,033	£1.40	5,646	6,844	£1.40	9,582	15,228	£199
Trade Union	£56,359	4,033	£5.25	21,173	6,844	£5.25	35,931	57,104	£746
	£71,388			26,819			45,513	72,332	£944

Table: Charges to Academies 2025/26

	24/25 Total De-del.	25/26 Total De-del.	24/25 Academy Invoiced	25/26 Academy to be Invoiced	24/25 Total	25/26 Total	Movement
Contingencies	£14,896	£0	£0	£0	£14,896	£0	-£14,896
LSCB	£41,707	£41,671	£15,029	£15,228	£56,736	£56,899	£162
Trade Union	£156,403	£156,266	£56,359	£57,104	£212,762	£213,371	£609
FSM Elig.	£25,024	£25,003	£0	£0	£25,024	£25,003	-£22
Sch. Improv	£150,742	£150,611	£0	£0	£150,742	£150,611	-£132
Total	£388,773	£373,551	£71,388	£72,332	£460,160	£445,883	-£14,278

Total De-delegation and amounts to fund the different services.

Recommendation (ix): Schools forum is requested to:

- (a). Approve by phase (maintained schools only) and line by line delegation rates and amounts (Section 9.1)
- (b) Note rates to be used for billing academies (section 9.2)
- (c) Agree the removal & discontinuation of contingency de-delegation.

10. Growth Fund for 2025/26

10.1 Growth funding is allocated through the national funding formula within the local authority's school's block. Growth fund is used by Schools to manage an increase in pupil numbers in 2025/26 before the lagged funding catches up. The DfE allocate growth funding based on the differences between primary and secondary pupils at school within each Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) between the October 2023 and October 2024 census figures. Only positive MSOA growth will

be used in calculating the number of pupils to be funded. The criteria set by LBBD for the growth fund is as below:

- Support growth in Pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- Support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
- Meet the costs of new schools.
- Where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment), regardless of whether the additional class is within or outside of the PAN.

Growth fund should not be used to support schools in financial difficulty or general growth due to popularity.

10.2 LBBD will be responsible for funding growth needs for all schools in the borough and should fund them based on the same criteria. The LA will need to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the LA to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment).

10.3 The 2025/26 DfE published growth fund allocation is £1.302m and the revised growth requirement is yet to be determined, this will be confirmed once the September 2025 PAN data is received.

Recommendation (ix): School Forum are requested to:

Note, the proposed growth fund allocation for 2025/26.

11. Falling Rolls Fund 2025/26

11.1 The DfE allocates funding to LA's for falling rolls. Falling rolls will be distributed based on reduction in pupil numbers that the LA's experience from year to year. It is based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary numbers on roll in each LA between October 2023 and October 2024.

11.2 LBBD has not attracted falling rolls fund for 2025/26 because the overall numbers of pupil on roll is a net increase rather than a reduction. Schools' forum will continue to have discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund. The DfE requires that the fund is only operated where the most recent school capacity data (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. This is a DfE mandatory requirement.

Schools' forum approved a revised falling rolls criterion at the December 2024 meeting. The local criteria are set as below:

- (a) Reduction of 2% or more in pupil numbers.
- (b) Only pay falling rolls above the 2% drop in pupil numbers.
- (c) Review rate annually to ensure affordability within cash envelope.
- (d) There must be a year-on-year reduction in delegated budget.
- (e) The school's reserves do not exceed 8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools delegated budget.

11.3 Appendix D sets out the movement in pupil numbers in October 2024 when compared to the October 2023 census. LBBB schools have seen a net growth in overall pupil numbers of 116. However, a total of 33 schools have seen a combined drop in numbers on roll of 525. Majority of schools impacted are in the primary sector with 28 primary schools seeing a net drop in pupil numbers of 127, whilst secondary and all-through schools have seen a net increase of 134 and 109 pupils respectively.

Phase	Oct 2023 NOR Pri	Oct 2023 NOR Sec	Oct 2024 NOR Pri	Oct 2024 NOR Sec	Primary Movement	Secondary Movement	Net
Primary	22,526	0	22,399	0	-127	0	-127
Secondary	0	9,101	0	9,235	0	134	134
All-Through	1,795	7,104	1,775	7,233	-20	129	109
	24,321	16,205	24,174	16,468	-147	263	116

Table: Change in numbers on roll 2025/26

11.4 The falling rolls criteria will be applied to the affected schools to identify those eligible to be supported by the fund. The falling rolls allocation for 2025/26 will utilise any 'surplus' on the growth fund without the need to draw on reserves.

Recommendation (x): School Forum is requested to:

Note: Change in pupil numbers for 2025/26

11. AOB

12 Financial implications

As presented in this document.

13 Legal implications

The schools' forums (England) regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the forum. The schools finance (England) regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the local authority must or may consult the school's forum and those in respect of which the school's forum can make decisions. These regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed Early Years provision in England.

14 Other implications

- a. **Risk management** - None
- b. **Contractual issues** - None
- c. **Staffing issues** – None
- d. **Customer impact** – None
- e. **Safeguarding children** - None
- f. **Health Issues** - None
- g. **Crime and Disorder Issues** – None
- h. **Property / Asset Issues** – None

Background papers used in the preparation of the report:

None.

List of appendices:

Appendix A - Overview of funding model 2025/26

Appendix B - Provisional ISB 2025/26

Appendix C – HN Budget 2024/25 and 4-year budget trend

Appendix D - Changes to Numbers on Roll