



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Tuesday, 26 September 2023
Time:	5.00 p.m.
Venue:	Birkenhead Town Hall - Assembly Hall

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2023 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP UPDATE (Pages 9 - 14)
6. SCHOOL BALANCES CLAWBACK MECHANISM CONSULTATION (Pages 15 - 18)
7. 2023-24 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS (Pages 19 - 24)
8. GROWTH & FALLING ROLLS FUND (Pages 25 - 26)
9. BUDGET MONITORING 2023-2024 (Pages 27 - 32)

- 10. BUDGET MONITORING PACKAGE FOR SCHOOLS - VERBAL UPDATE**
- 11. DELIVERING BETTER VALUE - VERBAL UPDATE**
- 12. WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (Pages 33 - 36)**
- 13. WORKPLAN (Pages 37 - 38)**
- 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

Present:

Adrian Whiteley
(Chair)

Schools Group:

Shaun Allen
Lisa Ayling
Geraldine Fraser
Emma Johnson
Kathryn Kennedy
Jon Lawrenson
Moirra Loftus
John McDonald
Julie Merry
Chris Mervyn
Sue Ralph
Paula Waring

Non-Schools
Group:

Joanne Proctor
Gillian Harris
Julie Hudson

In Attendance:

Sue Ashley
James Backhouse
Asako Brown
Cllr Christopher Carubia
Cllr Chris Cooke
Kate Frost
Sarah Harper
Anju Varughese
Simone White

13 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair introduced the meeting and welcomed members and attendees. Apologies had been received from Mark Bellamy and Simon Goodwin. The Chair set out the protocol for the meeting and expected conduct for virtual meetings.

14 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2023**

It was noted that Emma Johnson and Jon Lawrenson attendance were not included in the minutes.

It was agreed that Agenda item 5 - Energy Update Wirral, would be revisited in Autumn due to the volatility of the market and the significance it has towards school budget setting.

Officers noted that the figures in recommendations 4 and 5 of minute item 9 were recorded incorrectly and be amended to the following:

4. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £62,304.
5. The Special School Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £90,488.

With the above amendments being made,

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 17 January 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

15 **MATTERS ARISING**

No matters were raised.

16 **LACES AND LAC PUPIL PREMIUM**

Trish Lewis, Virtual Schools Head, provided the forum with an update for the Wirral Virtual School's LACES and LAC Pupil Premium for the financial year 2023/2024. A number of funding streams that support the offer for young people that the service utilised were outlined.

James Backhouse, Assistant Director of Children, Family and Education, noted that any overspend that may have occurred in the academic year would be met with via the Council's educational reserves rather than from DSG. Whilst the overspend was predicted for the current academic year, members were informed that it was imperative is that support for young people that are looked after was prioritised. Factors behind the expected overspend included the recovery from the pandemic and challenges in the school system surrounding. It was noted, however, it was noted that there would be constant refinement to the service so that it would get back into its budget envelope.

Simone White, Director of Children, Family and Education, stated that the number of Wirral's children in care was decreasing over time and was now in line with the national average.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

17 HOME TUITION UPDATE

The Service was being managed on an interim basis until the end of academic year 2024. There was a planned co-location with the Joseph Paxton Centre from Autumn Term 2023 followed by an amalgamation with JPC from September 2024.

Prior to the amalgamation, the School's Library Service would be required to move out of the building. The Assistant Director for Education informed Forum that updates would be provided on a new location for the service once finalised.

There were no financial changes to be discussed at this time.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

18 EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Sarah Harper updated the Forum with an overview of Early Years for children in Wirral. The overview included the support that is available at each stage, imminent changes from government legislation and current data available. A number of changes in the support that parents received for childcare in the coming years were discussed, including:

- From April 2023 two-year olds with working parents would be eligible for 15 hours free childcare.
- From September 2024 wrap around support in school would begin and nine-month-old children with working parents would be eligible for 15 hours free childcare.
- From September 2025 nine-month-old children with working parents would be eligible for 30 hours free childcare.
- From September 2026 all schools would be expected to offer wrap around childcare.

It was noted that the service was still awaiting guidance from the Department For Education on how changes would be delivered. The Forum were informed that the team was undertaking a review around the sufficiency in the summer term into the autumn term.

The Forum recognised the challenges that will be faced when provided this offer due to recruitment issues causing limited staff which will in turn put a cap on the number of children that will be able to access this service as there won't be enough staff to deliver the offer.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

19 HIGH NEEDS WORKING GROUP UPDATE (VERBAL UPDATE)

James Backhouse informed the Forum that there had been an overspend in DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) of 4.7 million which was attributed mostly to the High Needs Block due to an increase in demand. An example of the increased demands for EHCPS (Educational, Health and Care Plan) and more complex needs was provided. It was noted that a DSG deep dive review was being undertaken which would take approximately 6 months to complete.

The review would be undertaken in 3 parts:

1. An initial examination of the data and finance.
2. Exploration of available options with regard to resources and fitting within the budget into our budget envelope.
3. Developing a programme and plan around delivery within the High Needs Block in relation to what is needed for Wirral's young people.

Whilst it was noted that the review would use significant resources, members were informed it is necessary to make the correct budget decision and to meet the needs of young people.

The Assistant Director outlined that the authority is in trench 3, whilst other Local Authorities had completed reviews earlier whilst in trench 1 and 2, meaning that the authority could learn from good practice models that had gone before.

The Forum expressed concern that the process would take 6 months to complete, which would be after the next Schools Forum meeting on the 26th September, and the impact this would have on budget setting for the forthcoming financial year.

It was proposed to the Forum that a working group could be created where they would be provided with more regular updates, and that the working group could include stakeholders outside of the Forum membership.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

20 **WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP**

Anju Varughese provided an update on the membership of the Schools Forum. An overview of the current membership by group was outlined. It was noted that there remained 2 academy vacancies, one being temporarily filled by Lisa Ayling, and a 16-19 representative vacancy. The Forum was informed that the maintained school membership has reduced to 8 and that the secondary school membership has increased to 2.

The Forum had gained 3 new members since the last Schools Forum on 17th of January 2023, these members are Jon Lawrence, Paula Waring and Emma Johnson.

Adrian Whiteley, Chair, highlighted that there was an outstanding vacancy for a Vice Chair. Additionally, a joint training session for new members and a refresher session for current members was suggested to take place directly before the next Schools Forum meeting on the 26th September 2023.

Resolved – That

1- The report be noted.

2 - The membership split between primary, secondary and academy group be monitored closely as schools continue to convert to academy.

21 **2023-24 BUDGET UPDATE REPORT**

Asako Brown, Senior Finance Business Partner, updated the Forum on the school budget which had been agreed at both Council and Policy and Resources committee earlier in the year.

It is to be noted that there is an error in the report in the agenda pack, section 2.2 was corrected to the following:

- **2.2 DSG Reserve**

The 2023-24 budget reflects an in-year deficit of £213,286 to be added to the High Needs deficit. The actual deficit brought forward at 31 March 2023 is £4,762,638 and this means that the DSG deficit reserve will be increased and around £4.97m at the end of 2023-24.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

22 **2022-23 OUTTURN REPORT**

Asako Brown introduced a report that outlined the year end position for the 2022-23 Schools Budget. She informed that at this time, the accounts were provisional and subject to audit. Overall, the school's budget had overspent by £3.073m which was an improvement of £0.192m since the position reported at the November 22 meeting of the Forum. At the beginning of 2022-23 the cumulative DSG reserve opened with a deficit balance of £1.690m. As a result of the in-year deficit of £3.073m, the total deficit balance to be carried forward into 2022-23 was £4.763m.

Resolved – That

1. That the report be noted.

2. That schools' balances continue to be monitored.

23 **SCHOOL BALANCES UPDATE**

Sue Ashley, Traded Services Manager, outlined a report that advised the Forum of overall school balances as of the 31st March 2023 and the actions required for schools with a deficit budget.

Projections from the Period 9 review in February indicated that the school balances would reduce significantly over the next 2 years.

It was noted that the position for the next 2 years would be clearer after the budget setting process which was currently underway. Monitoring budgets had been made more difficult with inflation, utility costs and pay awards being finalised at the end of the financial year.

The forum were informed that the Local Authority would continue to work with schools to support difficult budgets through a list of actions that were followed through to ensure schools got support when working through deficit budgets. The Local Authority was continuing to work with schools that had licensing deficit plans and notices of concern to get the schools back into their balance. There were options whereby the DFE could offer additional support, this process is called SRMA (School Resource Management Advisors), which involved a deep dive into the finances of a school to provide a report outlining options to assist getting schools back within their budget envelope.

A single model approach to manage all Wirral school's budgets was suggested whereby a set of assumptions would be available for all Wirral schools to access, regardless of their academy or maintained status. Adrian Whiteley, Chair, suggested that if all schools used the same model, some training could be provided to assist budget monitoring. This idea will be explored further in the Autumn term.

Simone White, Director of Childrens, Families & Education suggested undertaking a piece of work for the Forum to look at so that they can better understand the position around schools with surplus and schools with a deficit balance, and what options that they have to ensure that schools are using money in the most effective way.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

24 **WORKPLAN**

Members were provided with an overview of the Wirral School Forum's workplan for the next meetings.

Resolved – That the workplan be noted.

25 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Future Meetings

The Chair proposed that the next meeting of the Schools Forum would meet in person. After a consensus was reached, it was resolved that the clerk

would make provisional arrangements for the next meeting to be held at Birkenhead Town Hall, with an agreed start time of 5pm. It was additionally agreed that a training/refresher session would be held before the meeting at 4:30pm.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM 6th October 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION SERVICES

EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Wirral's School Forum of discussions at the recent subgroup, Early Years working group, dated 14th September 2023, inclusive of service updates.

2.0 Working group discussions.

2.1 The National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) representative requested the Local Authority review the discretionary business rate relief policy to include the childcare sector. This is to support the increased financial pressures being experienced by the sector. It was agreed a meeting would be set up to discuss this with relevant Local Authority representatives.

2.2 Budget discussions focused on Disability Access Fund (DAF) potential underspend. It was agreed terms and conditions would be reviewed with potential ideas for spend on an inclusion grant for providers to apply for, granting DAF for two-year-olds in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and support the cost of first aid training.

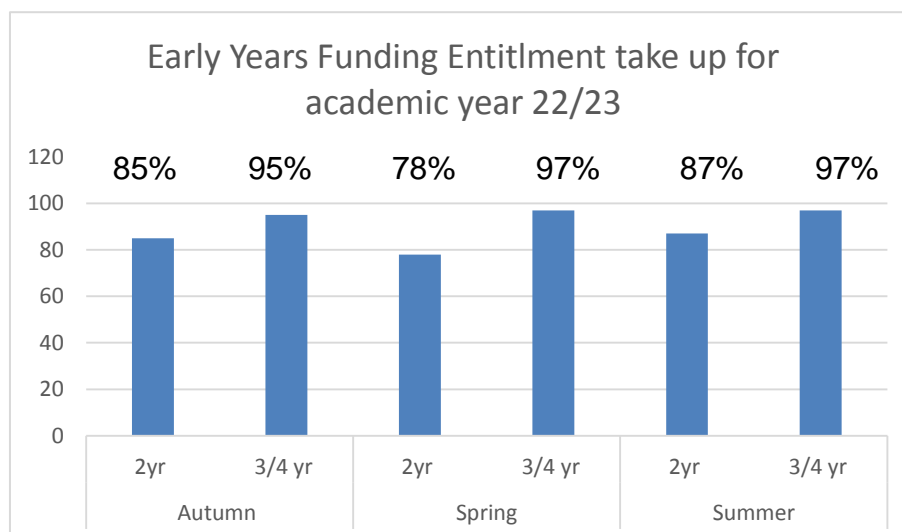
2.3 Providers shared a recent issue of schools taking children the term they are three. This is causing difficulty for other settings who are unable to offer the same to parents. It was agreed the Local Authority would review this issue and determine a suitable approach that supports all providers.

2.4 Providers discussed the potential impact of Department of Education changing guidance to enable children to take up funding when they turn the eligible age e.g. to start funding on their third birthday for three-year funding. The group discussed the positives and negatives but ultimately needed more information as to how this would work in practice.

3.0 Take up of Universal 2, 3 + 4 early years free entitlements & 30 hours extended (EYFE).

3.1 The take up of early years free funding entitlements remains slightly below pre-pandemic percentage's, which in the main were above 90%, however is steadily improving.

3.2



The graph above highlights take up across 3 and 4 year olds has been quite consistent with 2 year old take up dipping slightly in Spring term which is consistent with previous year's. There are a number of reasons for this probably the Christmas lead up and short term.

3.3 A project group has been set up to implement the government's expansion to early years entitlement funding. The project group has four workstreams, data and intelligence, communication with sector, digital upgrades and marketing. There will be a further workstream for wrap around provision in schools starting this term.

3.4 In the last academic year 84 Disability Access Fund (DAF) payments were made for children with 294 children supported through Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF) renamed as Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF). Both DAF and SENIF have increased the number of children supported from the previous year.

3.5 Over the past academic year we have seen an increase in Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), from 573 children in autumn term to 819 children in summer term. The system enables all eligible children to receive EYPP however there is no population figure to determine if all eligible children do receive it.

3.6 In the last academic year there has been 5 funding panels for providers who have received an inadequate or requires improvement judgement. Each decision is made individually and based on the judgement, sufficiency of provision in the surrounding area and continuity of care for children.

4.0 Childcare Sufficiency

4.1 Childcare Provider Statistics

	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sept 23
Academies	3	3	3
Childminders	152	147	141
Day Nurseries	66	65	62
Extended Care	32	30	28
Independent Schools	3	3	3
Maintained Nursery Schools	3	3	3
Pre-Schools	30	30	29
Schools	55	55	57
Special Schools	2	2	2
Total	346	338	328

4.2 There appears to be sufficient places available across the Borough, although not necessarily to meet requests of parents for specific days/sessions in the settings of their choice straight away. However, we continue to struggle to find childcare provision for children with SEND especially if they attend special school. With the government expectation that all schools offer wrap around provision by Sept 2026, the operational manager is attending a briefing on 28th September 2023 to find out how schools will be supported to meet this offer.

4.3 Since the January 23 we have had 17 childminders close with 9 opening. Which is consistent with previous years. No group based settings have closed or opened in this time period.

4.4 As part of the extension to early years entitlement funding a survey is currently underway to understand demand for the two-year funding for working parents for April 24. Feedback of this survey and sufficiency work for two-year places will be included in a future report.

5.0 Workforce Development Working Group

5.1 The Local Authority is in the process of commissioning a service to support recruitment and retention across the early years and childcare workforce. Service specification has been focused on supporting the relationship between training providers and early years provision to enable students to complete workplace training, giving valuable experience in the workplace.

5.2 The Operational Manager for Early Years is also linking into the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to discuss recruitment and retention across early years. In August a round table meeting was organised between LCR and the Department for Education

(DfE) to discuss recruitment and retention. This included separate meeting with early years providers and training providers. Wirral sent representatives to all meetings to discuss solutions and ways forward. Further discussions will be taking place.

6.0 Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

6.1 The Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) previously Inclusive Practice Fund (IPF) guidance has been reviewed through a stakeholder task and finish group. The task and finish group included representatives from the sector, SENIF panel members and local authority representatives. The new guidance and application forms were launched through July, August and September.

6.2 The main changes included a change of name to SENIF to support common language and aid understanding. One form that covered application, any changes and impact review to reduce number of forms to compete and have a 'tell it once' approach. Greater eligibility based on need rather than age, funding is now available for 2,3- and 4-year-olds. Greater flexibility in how the SENIF can be used, so is now available for training costs and resources as well as enhancing the staff ratio.

6.3 SENIF is now banded so that providers can apply for a "settling inclusion payment" to support new children who need support over and above what is usually offered during the settling period. Band 3A supports children to have Enhanced Ratio during specific interventions and 3B supports children to have Enhanced Ratio for the majority of their time in the setting and support gathering evidence.

6.4 The SENIF panel will now meet monthly to provide more opportunities for providers to apply. Payments will also now be in line with audit processes, paying providers the term after they have applied. A transition process has been set up to support children to move from the old process to the new one. Feedback from the sector so far has been very positive.

6.5 Due to the increased identification of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) with early years, the Portage team and SEND officers have struggled to meet the rise in demand. Both teams have been identifying interim measures to support capacity. This will inform and support a comprehensive review of the Portage Service and collaboratively devise a service delivery framework with parents and carers that effectively caters to the requirements of children with SEND and their families.

7.0 Quality, Training and Practice Improvement

7.1 A high majority of providers (97.16%) are judged to be good or above. In the last 6 months we have had 1 childminder judged to be inadequate and 1 childminder

judged to be requires improvement. Both childminders are receiving support from a quality improvement officer to develop their practice to a good or above standard.

7.2 The Effective Practice Quality Mark (EPQM) has 91 providers signed up to complete this equates to 345 practitioners completing training. This is also generating income for the Local Authority. There is specific training for childminders and setting based provision, focused on the needs of providers. The training platform has 917 practitioners signed up to access online training.

7.3 Providers have been accessing the expert and mentor programme and we have consistently had on average three providers gaining support. With 13 in total accessing the programme. 17 providers have engaged in the Professional Development Programme (speech and language training) which is lower than year down to the changes within the programme. Other Liverpool City Region's are struggling to recruit to the programme and have seen much lower numbers participate.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 School Forum to note the report.

Simone White – Director of Children, Families and Education

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 26th September 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Excessive clawback mechanism consultation with Wirral maintained schools.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a request of schools' forum to conduct a consultation in relation to a clawback mechanism for Wirral Maintained Schools.

At the schools' forum meeting on the 26th June, it was outlined that the schools balances position for Wirral maintained schools was still historically high in comparison to pre-covid levels and that some schools on Wirral had significantly high revenue budgets. Following the discussion at schools' forum it was requested the local authority bring a report to the September forum in relation to school balances and approaches that could be explored.

Many other local authorities do have a clawback mechanism in place to address excessive balances where they occur, Wirral currently does not have a mechanism in place. DFE guidelines state it is good practice for primary schools to have a balance reserve of 8%, for secondary schools this would be 5%.

1. School Balances

- 1.1 School balances at 31st March 2023 have reduced to £13.5m. This is a reduction of £2.5m after the 2021-22 balance has been adjusted for 3 academy conversions during the year.
- 1.2 The average school balance for a primary school has reduced to £138,539 compared to £163,589 in 2021-22. The overall secondary school balance is an increasing net surplus position, with only 1 of the 4 schools remaining in a, much reduced, deficit position.

2. Monitoring School Balances 2022-23

- 2.1 The actual position for March 2023 is £1.9m was better than anticipated at Period 9 monitoring. In November 2022, the predicated outturn for the end of the financial year was £11.6 million, by the end of the financial year the outturn finished on the £13.5 million.
- 2.2 Analysis of all Wirral maintained budgets show a mixed a picture, there are currently 16 schools with a deficit budget of £2.8 million. Support is being put in place to support these schools in returning to balanced budget position.

- There is 1 Nursery School in deficit, which has increased during the year. The LA are working with them to reduce their costs.
 - There are 11 Primary Schools in deficit
 - 2 schools that had deficits in 2021-22 have moved into a credit position.
 - There are 7 schools who have moved into a deficit position this year.
 - Of the 4 schools still in deficit since last year, 2 of them have increased their deficits, whilst 2 have reduced their deficits significantly. 1 has a notice of concern and the others will continue to work towards their licenced deficit plans.
 - There is now only one secondary school in deficit, but they have reduced their deficit by £328k through the year and are working through an agreed licenced deficit plan.
 - There are 3 special schools with deficit budgets. They all have a Notice of Concern and the LA are working with them to reduce costs.
- 2.3 The removal of the 16 schools in deficit from the headline figure leaves the remaining Wirral maintained schools with a remaining balance of £16.3 million. Across the remaining schools, revenue reserves vary significantly, progressing from low reserves to schools with 25% revenue budget reserves. The DFE guidance in relation balance reserves in the eventuality of unexpected costs is 8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools.

3. Scheme for financing schools

- 3.1 Under the most recent scheme for financing local authority-maintained schools. In section 6.1 and 6.2 the DFE guidance makes clear, In 6.1 the guidance articulates a provision which allows a carry forward from one financial year to the next any surplus/deficit budget the school may have.
- 3.2 In 6.2 the guidance articulates that the scheme may have a mechanism to claw back excess surplus balances
- 3.3 It states the mechanism should be focused on only schools which have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area.

4. Questions to be outlined in the consultation process

- 4.1 If approved by schools' forum, the following consultations questions will be put to all maintained schools, with an expectation that the outcome of the consultation is returned in a report to schools' forum on the 21st November. Any changes agreed at schools' forum in relation to a clawback mechanism, would require a change to the scheme for financing schools currently in place on Wirral.
- 4.2 The consultation would run from the Thursday 28th September until Thursday 9th November. This would be a 6-week consultation in line with normal expectations.

Consultations questions

Q1. Do you believe a clawback mechanism should be implemented on Wirral in relation to excessive school balances above the DFE recommended amounts? Yes/no

Do you have any addition comments you wish to share in relation to this question?

Q2. If a clawback mechanism is to be implemented on Wirral, which of the following approaches do you feel would be appropriate in calculating the claw back amount?

- A) 50% of excess balances above the DFE recommended amount of 8% for primary schools/ 5% for secondary schools, for the average surplus balance over 4-year period.
- B) 50% of excess balances above the DFE recommended amount of 8% for primary schools/ 5% for secondary schools, for the average surplus balance over 3-year period.
- C) 50% of excess balances above the DFE recommended amount of 8% for primary schools/ 5% for secondary schools, for the average surplus balance over 2-year period.

Would you like to share any other alternative proposals in relation to a clawback mechanism?

Example of clawback mechanism under option A vs option C

Wirral School has a budget of £2.3 million, over the last 4 fours they have had the following surplus budgets.

*2022/2023 – 450K
2021/2022 – 400K
2020/2021 – 350K
2019/2020 – 150K*

*The average surplus budget over the 4-year period is 337.5K
The clawback mechanism using option A would be the following. Under the DFE guidance of a recommended 8% surplus, this would be £184K. The excess surplus budget would be £153.5K – under option A the clawback applied would 76.75K*

*For option C, the surplus budget over the 2-year period is 425K.
The clawback mechanism using option C would be the following. Under the DFE guidance of a recommended 8% surplus, this would be £184K. The excess surplus budget would be £241K – under option C the clawback applied would 120.5K*

Q3. If a clawback mechanism is to be implemented, it would be expected any claw back would be transferred to the high needs block, this is linked to the scheme for schools financing that states, "some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area". Would you support this approach? yes/no

Would you like to share any other options for the use of funds that are subject to claw back?

Q4. As part of the consultation would you like to share any other comments in relation to school budget positions as part of this process?

5. Outcome of the consultation

- 5.1 If schools' forum approves the consultation in relation to excessive balances, a report will be brought back to schools' forum in November with a full outline of all responses and any additional actions that may arise from the consultation.
- 5.2 If any school leaders or governors have any queries throughout the consultation, please contact the Assistant Director: Education who will be able to respond with any clarifications required.

Recommendations for Schools' Forum

1. Schools' forum members are requested to not the contents of the report.
2. The appropriate schools' forum representatives agree to the consultation process as outlined in the report.

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 26th September 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FOR 2024-25 AND LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on both the funding announcements for 2024-25 and the consultation process for mainstream Primary and Secondary schools.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 On 20th July, the Department for education (DFE) announced provisional funding allocations for 2024-25 through the schools, high needs, and central school services national funding formulae (NFF).

2.2 Provisional gross (i.e., before academy recoupment) funding allocations for Wirral, based on 2022-23 pupil numbers, are as follows:

	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Central Services Block
2023-24 Final Allocation	£250,661,766	£60,534,360	£2,057,781
2024-25 Indicative Allocation	£266,450,198	£63,095,753	£2,038,449
Increase/(reduction)	£15,788,432	£2,561,393	(19,332)
Increase/(reduction)	6.30%	4.23%	(0.94%)

2.3 The 2023-24 Mainstream Schools Additional grant (MSAG) is rolled into the schools NFF for 2024-25. The table below is the schools block funding comparison including MSAG in 23-24.

	Schools Block
2023-24 Allocation including MSAG	£259,138,071
2024-25 Indicative Allocation	£266,450,198
Increase/(reduction)	£7,312,127
Increase/(reduction)	2.82%

2.4 Whilst the provisional funding allocations for 2024-25 identify increased funding for Wirral overall, there are still challenges to overcome and these will be outlined in the relevant sections of this report.

3.0 DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

3.1 The DFE expects to have moved to the direct NFF by 2027 to 2028 funding year and the approach to the transition continues in 2024-25. To ensure a smooth and delivering a more consistent funding system, local authorities will be required to bring own formulae closer to the NFF distribution, in particular,

- Local authorities must move their local formula factor values at least a further 10% closer to the NFF values, building on the movement towards the NFF made in 2023 to 2024, except where local formulae are already mirroring the NFF.
- Local authorities must use the new national formulaic approach to split sites. (see 4.5)
- local authorities must follow the new local formula requirements for growth funding.
- local authorities with a falling rolls fund must also follow the new requirements for falling rolls funding.

3.2 Wirral has mirrored the NFF for the last 5 years and it suggests that the requirement will critically have little or no negative impact on Wirral schools particularly during any transitional period to the full implementation of the direct NFF.

4.0 SCHOOLS BLOCK

4.1 The provisional school block allocation includes the following changes:

- 2.4% increase to the following factors: basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, sparsity and the lump sum, and 1.6% increase to the free school meals (FSM) factor.
- The minimum per pupil levels (MPPL) will increase by 2.4%.
- The funding floor will ensure that every school is allocated at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its 2023-24 NFF allocation.
- Through the minimum per pupil funding levels, every primary school will receive at least £4.655 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £6,050.
- Introducing a methodology for calculation and allocating funding for falling rolls, whereby local authorities can only provide falling rolls funding to schools where school capacity survey (SCAP) 2022 data shows that school places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years. The restriction, that schools were previously only eligible for falling rolls funding if they were

judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, is also being removed from 2024 to 2025.

- Rolling the 2023-24 Mainstream Schools Additional grant (MSAG) into the schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets.

4.2 In 2024-25 Local authorities will continue to set a MFG in local formulae, however, it must be between +0.0% and +0.5% as the previous year. For 2023-24 an MFG rate of +0.5% was applied as agreed at the November 22 Forum and schools will be canvassed on their preferred rate for 2024-25 as part of the annual consultation process.

4.3 The consultation process will be undertaken during the period Monday 2nd October to Friday 20th October and will be open to all mainstream Primary and Secondary schools. Schools are consulted on options for the level of MFG.

4.4 The consultation process will be communicated to schools by e-mail and this communication is accompanied by a list that identifies the impact of the indicative funding for each school in 2024-25 for each of the proposed levels of MFG. The results of the consultation will be reported back to Forum at the November meeting.

4.5 A split sites factor will be introduced into the 2024-25 NFF, replacing the current local authority led approach. The factor will be made up of a "basic eligibility" element and a "distance eligibility" element. This funding is part of the schools block NFF and therefore only applies to state-funded mainstream schools and academies.

There are four schools eligible for the split funding in Wirral and the table below shows how many schools qualify for the basic and distance element of the funding.

Number of additional sites eligible for the basic funding element	Number of additional sites eligible for part of the distance funding element	Number of additional sites eligible for the full distance funding element
4	1	2

4.6 In certain circumstances, Local Authorities can request not to apply a specific aspect of the NFF. As per section 17 (Exceptional Circumstances) of the Schools Operational Guide: 2024 to 2025, Wirral Council propose the submission of two disapplication requests:

- Birkenhead High School Academy: on the basis that the relevant all-through minimum per-pupil funding levels (MPPL) value for that school is skewed significantly by unusual year group sizes.

- Church Road: Rent of the school site from the Port Sunlight Preservation Trust – the funding is included in the premises element of the DSG allocation from DfE for 2024-25.

4.7 These disapplication requests have been applied since the introduction of the NFF. The financial impact of these requests has been modelled in the 2024-25 school indicative funding template and this has shown to have no adverse effect on any other school. It should be noted, however, that the 2024-25 funding model is indicative at this time.

4.8 The disapplication process requires the Local Authority to formally consult with Schools Forum and ask for their support on all disapplication requests submitted to the DfE, voting details and minutes of the relevant Schools Forum meetings are referenced on the disapplication requests forms.

5.0 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

5.1 The 2024-25 High Needs provisional funding identifies an increase in gross funding of £2.56m (4.23%). It is a lower uplift % compared with the previous years and it should be noted that the average year on year increase in expenditure since 2018- 19 has been around 13.06%. The table below compares the net (i.e., after academy recoupment) funding and expenditure over a 5-year period.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
High Needs Block	31.848	34.070	40.793	46.557	52.457
High Needs Outturn	34.087	37.723	41.522	45.946	55.520
(Under)/Overspend	2.239	3.653	0.729	(0.611)	3.063
(Under)/Overspend	7.03%	10.72%	1.79%	-1.31%	5.84%
		10.67%	10.07%	10.66%	20.84%

5.2 The financial impact of projected future demand and delivery options will be quantified as part of the 2024-25 budget setting process.

6.0 CENTRAL SERVICES BLOCK

6.1 The central school services block (CSSB) within the DSG provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of all schools with the agreement of school's forums.

6.2 The block comprises two distinct elements, which are:

- Ongoing responsibilities – the funding for this element of the CSSB increases annually and covers the following activities:
 - Statutory and regulatory duties
 - Education Welfare
 - Asset management
 - Other on-going duties

- Historic responsibilities – there should be no new commitments or increases in expenditure from that agreed prior to 2013-14, and DFE expect that these costs will unwind over time and the funding for these commitments will continue to reduce by 20% on 2023-24 allocations. This element of the funding covers the following activities:
 - Termination of employment costs
 - Contribution to combined budgets

6.3 The table below identifies the change to CSSB funding from 2024-25 analysed across the on-going and historic elements.

	On-going responsibilities	Historic Commitments	Total
2023-24 Final Allocation	£1,674,558	£383,223	£2,057,781
2024-25 Indicative Allocation	£1,731,871	£306,578	£2,038,449
Increase/(Reduction)	£57,313	(76,645)	(19,332)
Increase/(Reduction)	3.42%	(20.00%)	(0.94%)

6.4 The impact of the reduced funding on the services delivered by the historic element of the funding and mitigating actions will be considered as part of the 2024-25 budget setting process.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That Schools Forum note the report.

7.2 That Schools Forum note the plans for the consultation process with schools and that the outcome will be reported to the November meeting (paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5).

7.3 That Schools Forum support the disapplication requests to be submitted to the DFE (paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8)

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 26th September 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

2023-24 FALLING ROLLS AND GROWTH FUND

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the option for the falling rolls and growth fund in 2023-24.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following consideration by Schools Forum meetings in October 2022, the criteria for distributing the falling rolls and growth fund for 2022-23 was agreed as:

- the growth and falling rolls fund would be one fund, and
- allocation of the fund will be based on 3-year pupil number changes (not percentage growth or fall), and
- where the cumulative % change is 10% or more

2.2 The value of the falling rolls and growth fund for 2023-24 is reported at the June 2023 meeting as £19k. The value of the fund is currently determined by the 'headroom' in the Schools Block allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after the funding formula has been applied. Following consultation with schools in October 2022, it was agreed that the 2023-24 funding formula would include a +0.5% minimum funding guarantee (MFG) to secure the widest possible distribution of the allocation directly to schools.

2.3 As reported at the January 2023 meeting, due to a change in the pupil characteristics between October 21 and October 22 censuses, the "headroom" in the schools block allocation for 2023-24 is significantly lower than previous years (£153k in 2021-22 and £131k in 2022-23). The growth funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2023-24 has been utilised to allocate individual schools funding applying the National Funding Formula (NFF)

3.0 2023-24 FUND PROPOSAL

3.1 It is proposed that the 2023-24 Falling Rolls and Growth fund to be carried forward to 2024-25 as the value is deemed to be too low to distribute to multiple schools as useful individual allocations that support their effective use.

3.2 The Schools Operational Guide: 2023 to 24 states that it is allowed the growth funding to be carried forward to the following funding period, and local authorities can choose to use it specifically for growth. The same applies to the falling roll funding.

4.0 FUTURE FOCUS

4.1 Department for Education (DfE) has published Growth and falling rolls fund guidance:2024 to 2025 in July 23.

4.2 The guidance states that the growth fund can only be used to:

- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
- meet the revenue cost of new schools.

From 2024 to 2025 local authorities will need to provide growth funding 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).

4.3 The growth fund must not be used to support:

- schools in financial difficulty
- general growth due to popularity.

4.4 The falling rolls funding should be distributed where school capacity data 2022 (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five year and the requirement that schools must be Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' to be eligible for falling rolls funding will no longer apply from the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

4.5 The criteria for both fund should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations with these criteria applying to all schools on the same basis.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That Schools Forum agree the 2023-24 Falling Rolls and Growth Fund to be carried forward to 2024-25.

5.2 That the Forum notes the future focus set out in section 4.0.

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 26th September 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS BUDGET VARIATIONS 2023-24

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the anticipated variations for the current year 2023-24 schools budget.

2.0 2023-24 SCHOOLS BUDGET

2.1 Overall the schools budget is forecast to overspend by £4.98m which is mainly due to pressure in the High Needs Block. The table below summaries the outturn position by funding block and a more detailed analysis is attached in Appendix 1.

	2023-24 Budget £	2023-24 Forecast £	2023-24 Variation -Under/Over spend £
Schools Block	121,680,632	120,928,765	751,867
Schools Block de-delegated	2,096,444	2,079,767	16,677
Central School Services Block	4,647,334	4,637,365	9,969
High Needs	58,574,600	63,168,341	-4,593,741
Early Years	21,880,382	21,880,382	0
DSG Grant Income	-206,076,553	-205,126,630	-949,923
Total before contribution to/-from Reserve	2,802,839	7,567,990	-4,765,151
Movement on DSG Reserve	-213,286	-4,978,437	4,765,151
Total after contribution to/-from Reserve	2,589,553	2,589,553	0
Cumulative reserve balance b/fwd from 2022-23			-4,762,638
In-year contribution to/-use of reserve			-4,978,437
Cumulative reserve balance c/fwd to 2024-25			-9,741,075

2.2 The 2022-23 financial year closed with a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve cumulative deficit position of £4.763m. The current forecast outturn position means that the year-end addition to reserve balance will be increased to £4.98m thus delivering a cumulative £9.74m deficit position at the end of 2023-24.

3.0 2023-24 BUDGET

3.1 There have been no changes to the budget since the position reported at the June 2023 meeting.

4.0 2023-24 FORECAST BUDGET VARIATIONS

The budget variations that make up the £4.98m overspend are identified in the table attached in Appendix 1. The reasons for the variations as well as comments on specific budget areas are given below.

4.1 Primary Schools £734K favourable

£734k favourable variance is due to the academy conversion and the DSG income has been reduced by the corresponding amount.

4.2 Special Schools £245K adverse

The budget includes additional places to address demand and the anticipated increase in number of places will exceed the budget set aside for 2023-24. The forecast reflects the allocation of additional 70 places on a temporary basis from September 2023. The final number of the places to be allocated to the special schools might increase further depending on the demand. Also £60K pressure from the pilot places at the Observatory school which was budgeted to be funded from the SEN bases budget.

4.3 SEN Bases £19K favourable

A favourable position of £19K is due to the Observatory school's places as mentioned in 4.2 above and the base project – it has created further additional 36 base places in 2 schools from September 23 and 5 places in 1 school is due to start from January 24.

4.4 Early Years Balanced

The forecast position assumes that the take-up of 2- and 3–4-year-old provision will be in line with planned activity, including the early years supplementary grant (EYSG). The EYSG was announced in July 23 as a supplementary funding to increase the hourly rate paid to local authorities, so that the amount of funding early years childcare providers receives for delivering the entitlements for the period can be increased.

4.5 Schools Block de-delegated £16.7K favorable

A small favorable variance related to the insurance costs which is forecasted to be the same level of as the past years.

4.6 Central School Costs £10K favorable

- Schools Forum - £11K favourable. There is no formal spend plan for this budget at this time and it is forecasted as the same level as the past years. A return to face-to-face meetings might incur meeting related costs.
- School Redundancy Costs - £10K adverse. There is an increase with the pay rates.
- Contingency – £18K favourable. No potential calls on this contingency have been identified at this time.

4.7 Special Education Needs - Additional resources £1.69m adverse

Demand on this budget is expected to grow in line with the requests for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. Requests increased by around 30% in the period to August 23 compared to last year. Not all the requests will result in a financial outcome, but it is expected that a significant portion will result in Units of Resource being awarded and this will result in an overspend of £393k for Primary school pupils and £1.22m for Secondary school

pupils. Currently additional EHCP Coordinators are engaged to address the backlog of the outstanding assessment and the number of EHCP issued has significantly increased. The total number of the EHCP issued in the period between April 22 to March 23 is 755, compared with 414 issued in 2021-22.

The position will be monitored closely, and the forecast position re-assessed as more up-to-date information becomes available.

4.8 **Special Education Needs – Top Ups £405K Adverse**

The table below analyses the forecast position across the various activities that form the overall Top-Ups budget.

	Budget	Forecast	Variation -Under/Over spend
	£	£	£
Top-Ups for Maintained Special Schools	10,600,807	10,697,636	96,829
Top-Ups for Resourced Provision	2,197,918	2,312,305	114,387
Alternative Provision	1,318,200	1,464,149	145,949
FE & 6th Form Top-Ups	2,510,000	2,510,000	-0
Additional Nursing Support	160,000	106,596	-53,404
Exceptional Needs	1,398,600	1,500,000	101,400
Total	18,185,525	18,590,686	405,161

The budget is forecasted as an overspend which is from the additional top up funding required for the increased base project places and an additional funding for the alternative provision. Also, the need for the exceptional needs has been increased according to the increase in the number of places in the special schools and SEN bases. The budget has been increased by £1.25m for 2023-24 from the previous year reflecting the increase in demand. The position will be monitored closely, and the forecast position re-assessed accordingly.

4.9 **Independent Special Schools £1.95m adverse**

The demand continues to increase more than anticipated and forecasted to be an overspend of £1.95m despite the budget being increased in 2023-24.

4.10 **Home Education Service £50K adverse**

An adverse position of £50k is due to the pay awards and the premises related costs as the service is currently operating in two centers.

4.10 **Support for SEN £208K adverse**

There are several activities and services that are delivered by this budget including Hearing and Vision, Communication Differences, Vulnerable Children, Pre School-Portage and Physical/Medical Impairment.

The overall 2023-24 budget is expected to be overspend due to the pay awards and the additional commissioned service for specialist support.

4.11 Dedicated Schools Grant £950K Adverse

The favorable variance relates to the following adjustments:

- Academies conversion £734,193
- High Needs Recoupment £ 17,500
- High Needs Import Export £210,000
- Early Years 22-23 grant adjustment -£ 11,770

5.0 The Delivering Better Value Programme

5.1 The DFE announced the Delivering Better Value Programme (DBV) in February 2022. The programme is designed to provide dedicated support and funding to help 55 local authorities with substantial deficit issues in their high needs block of the DSG with the aim to support local authorities and their partners to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people whilst working towards financial sustainability.

5.2 The programme is split into two phases, diagnostic and implementation. The council is currently taking part in the diagnostic phase working with Newton Europe and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

5.3 The diagnostic phase ends in December 2023 when the Council will have the opportunity to bid for £1million of additional grant funding. The findings and outputs from the phase will form the basis of the grant funding application to the DFE.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the Forum notes the report and the forecast financial position of the Schools Budget for 2023-24.

Simone White

Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1 - Budget Variations 2023-24

	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Forecast	2023-24 Variation
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary	97,636,261	96,902,068	-734,193
Secondary	24,026,697	24,026,697	0
Special	14,861,376	15,106,154	244,778
Wirral Hospitals School	1,723,463	1,723,463	0
SEN Bases	1,272,499	1,253,243	-19,256
Sixth Form/Further Education	146,000	146,000	0
Early Years	20,858,723	20,858,723	0
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	17,674	0	-17,674
Individual Schools Budget Total	160,542,693	160,016,348	-526,345
Central School Costs			
Early Years Costs	571,659	571,659	-0
Admissions	402,604	402,604	0
School Redundancy Costs	74,000	84,304	10,304
Licenses and subscriptions	286,976	286,976	0
Schools Forum	10,600	0	-10,600
Contingency	17,718	0	-17,718
Contribution to combined budgets	535,883	543,927	8,044
PFI Affordability Gap	2,589,553	2,589,553	0
Retained duties Central (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000	0
Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools			
Library Service	174,693	174,693	0
Insurances	23,677	7,000	-16,677
School Specific contingencies	30,204	30,204	0
Special Staff Costs	758,135	758,135	0
Behaviour Support	139,698	139,698	0
School Improvement	470,037	470,037	0
Retained duties de-delegated (ex-ESG)	500,000	500,000	-0
High Needs Pupils			
Additional resources	10,802,569	12,490,460	1,687,891
SEN top-ups	18,185,525	18,590,686	405,161
High Needs contingency	687,205	750,608	63,403
Independent Special Schools	8,795,780	10,749,656	1,953,876
Home Tuition	364,166	413,853	49,687
Support for SEN	2,127,816	2,336,017	208,201
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non-delegated school costs Total	48,336,699	52,678,271	4,341,573
Total Costs	208,879,392	212,694,620	3,815,228
Funding			
Dedicated School Grant	-206,076,553	-205,126,630	949,923
Total before Movement in DSG Reserve	2,802,839	7,567,990	4,765,151
Contribution to/from DSG Reserve	-213,286	-4,978,437	-4,765,151
Grand Total	2,589,553	2,589,553	0

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 26th September 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Forum Membership Review

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report describes the current representation of the Forum and membership changes.

1.2 Current Representation

The table below details the current makeup of the Wirral Schools' Forum representation and when the terms of office are due to expire.

Membership	Role	2019-2023	2020-2024	2021-2025	2022-2026	2023-2027	Total
5	Primary Headteachers		1	2	1	1	5
4	Primary Governors			2	1		3
1	Secondary Headteachers		1				1
1	Special Headteacher				1		1
1	Special Governors					1	1
1	Nursery Representative				1		1
13	Total Schools Membership						12
9	Academy Representative	2		4	3		9
9	Total Academy Membership						9
1	Non-teacher representative			1			1
1	Teacher representative	1					1
1	Catholic Diocese			1			1
1	Church of England Diocese			1			1
1	16-19 representative						0
3	PVI Early Years Providers			3			3
8	Total Non-Schools Membership						7
30	Total Membership	3	2	14	7	2	28

1.4 There are currently 2 vacancies:

- 1 x vacancy for 16-19 representative
- 1 x vacancy for Primary Governor

These vacancies will be followed up and expression of interest will be sent out

1.5 New Members

There has been four new members since the June report, as follows: -

Kate Ball, Headteacher of Brookdale Primary School as the Primary Headteacher Representative replacing Jon Lawrence

Luci Jones, CFO of Cheshire Academies Trust as the Academy Representative.

Carys Wynn-Green, CFO of Concordia Multi Academy Trust as the Academy Representative replacing Lisa Ayling (temp)

Adrian Whiteley, term of office came to an end, so applied again for academy representative.

Michael Farraelly, replaces Anne Rycroft as the Teacher Representative

Appendix 1 identifies all current members and their role on School's Forum.

1.6 Membership Changes

Regulations governing the forum requires school/academy membership to take account of pupil weighting.

Current	Pupil no's Jan 23 Census	Expected	
9 Primary	21,263	44.2%	8.4
1 Secondary	3,842	8.0%	1.5
9 Academy	22,975	47.8%	9.1
19.0	48,080	100.0%	19.0

- 1.7 As the primary schools are converting to academy, this reduces the membership of maintained primary schools to 8 but increases the maintained secondary schools back up to 2. The regulations allow for flexibility during periods of change so it would be reasonable to keep 9 primary members and 1 secondary member as we await more academy conversions later in the year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Forum notes the report.

- 2.2 As schools continue to convert to academy, the membership split between primary, secondary and academy will need to be monitored closely.

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1

Group	Name	Category of Membership	School/Establishment	Term of Office	
Schools	Andy Ramsden	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead S)	Oxton St Saviours	Sep-20	Aug-24
Schools	Sue Ralph	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead N)	St Michael & All Angels	Sep-21	Aug-25
Schools	John McDonald	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)	St Albans Primary	Sep-21	Sep-25
Schools	Kate Ball	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)	Heswall Primary	Sep-23	Aug-26
Schools	Chris Mervyn	Primary Headteacher	Brackenwood Infants	May-22	Apr-26
Schools	Charlotte Scott	Primary Governor	St Georges Primary	Aug-21	Jul-25
Schools	Shaun Allen	Primary Governor	Raeburn Avenue	Nov-22	Oct-26
Schools	Julie Merry	Primary Governor	Overchurch Infants/Cathcart	Jan-21	Dec-24
Schools	Vacancy	Primary Governor			
Schools	Simon Goodwin	Secondary Headteacher	South Wirral High	Sep-20	Aug-24
Schools	Margaret Morris	Special Headteacher	Elleray Park	Nov-22	Oct-26
Schools	Paula Waring	Special Governor	Meadowside School	Feb-23	Jan-27
Schools	Kathryn Kennedy	Nursery Representative	Ganneys Meadow	Mar-22	Feb-26
Academy	Moira Loftus	Academy Rep	Townfield Primary	Jun-21	May-25
Academy	Adrian Whiteley	Academy Rep (Chair)	St Anselms	Sep-23	Aug-27
Academy	Helen Johnson	Academy Rep	The Birkenhead Park School	Sep-21	Aug-25
Academy	Emma Johnson	Academy Rep	Greasby Junior	Jan-23	Dec-26
Academy	Mark Bellamy	Academy Rep	Hilbre High School	Sep-21	Aug-25
Academy	Luci Jones	Academy Rep	Cheshire Academies Trust (Gayt)	Sep-23	Aug-26
Academy	Jon Bush	Academy Rep	Oldershaw Academy	Dec-21	Nov-25
Academy	Geraldine Fraser	Academy Rep	Prenton High School for Girls	Oct-19	Sep-23
Academy	Carys Wynn-Green	Academy Rep	Concordia	Sep-23	Aug-26
Non-Schools	Gill Harris	Non-teacher representative	Wirral Unison	May-21	Apr-25
Non-Schools	Michael Farraelly	Teacher representative	NASUWT	Sep-23	Aug-26
Non-Schools	Joanne Proctor	Catholic Diocese	Christ the King	Sep-21	Aug-25
Non-Schools	Brian McGregor	Church of England Diocese	Woochurch CE Primary	Sep-21	Aug-25
Non-Schools	Vacancy	16-19 Provider			
Non-Schools	Nicky Prance	PVI Early Years Providers	Barnston Buddies	Jan-21	Dec-23
Non-Schools	Simon Davies	PVI Early Years Providers	Penguins Nurseries	Jan-21	Dec-23
Non-Schools	Jessica Trigg	PVI Early Years Providers	The Mulberry Tree	Oct-21	Sep-25

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 26thth September 2023 WORK PLAN

Meeting Date	Tuesday 26th September 2023	Tuesday 21st November 2023	Tuesday 16th January 2024	March 2024 Provisional meeting	Tuesday 11 th June 2024
Virtual / Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical		Physical
	Elect chair & vice chair				
Budget	Budget monitoring 2023-24 Growth & Falling Rolls Fund	Budget Monitoring 23-24 Update	Budget Monitoring 23-24 Q3 Schools Budget 24-25 De-delegation of budgets School Balances update		Provisional outturn 2023-24 Schools Budget 2024-25 School Balances update -
Consultation	2024-25 National Funding Formula for Schools, High Needs and Early Years funding arrangements if new info out	National Funding Formula Update for 2024-25			- - -
DfE Regs & guidelines	Schools Forum Membership If updated • DfE Operational Guide • School Finance Regs • Scheme for Financing Schools	Schools Forum Membership If updated • DfE Operational Guide • School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools	Schools Forum Membership If updated • DfE Operational Guide • School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools		Schools Forum Membership If updated • DfE Operational Guide • School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools
Working Groups	Early Years	School Formula High Needs	High needs Early Years		High Needs Early Years
Other	Wirral Traded Services Update Delivering Better Value Budget Monitoring Package for Schools Excessive Clawback Mechanism Consultation School Admissions	De-delegated services • Contingency, Special Staff Costs, Insurance • Library Service • School Improvement • Behaviour Support Edsential Update	Sensory Support Service Update Energy update Wirral Alternative Provision Update		LACES /LAC PP Update Home Continuing and Education Service (HCES) update Agree Meeting dates

