



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Tuesday, 17 January 2023
Time:	4.00 p.m.
Venue:	Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. HOME CONTINUING AND EDUCATION SERVICE (HCES) UPDATE (Pages 9 - 12)
5. ENERGY UPDATE WIRRAL (Pages 13 - 16)
6. SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICE (Pages 17 - 20)
7. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (Pages 21 - 24)
8. SCHOOLS BUDGET 2023-24 AND 3-YEAR FORECAST (Pages 25 - 38)
9. DE-DELEGATION OF SCHOOL BUDGETS (Pages 39 - 44)
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11. WORKPLAN (Pages 51 - 52)

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Present: Adrian Whitely (Chair)

Schools Group

Tony Norbury
Andy Ramsden
Chris Mervyn
Jill Pearson (For E Johnson)
Helen Johnson
Julie Merry
Moira Loftus
Sue Ralph
Margaret Morris

Non-Schools Group

Joanne Proctor
Anne Rycroft

In Attendance

Sue Ashley
Ian McGrady
James Backhouse
Frances Whiting
Asako Brown

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Mr Adrian Whiteley, Chair of the Forum opened the meeting and welcomed members and attendees.

Apologies had been received from:

Emma Johnson (Jill Pearson deputising)
Kathryn Kennedy
Geraldine Fraser
Helen Johnson
Shaun Allen
Simon Goodwin
Andy Ramsden
Mark Bellamy
Lisa Ayling

John Bush
Brian McGregor
Cllr Chris Cooke

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Mark Bellamy
Lisa Ayling
John Bush
Brian McGregor
Cllr Chris Cooke

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2022**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

As per minute 11 of the previous meeting, an update was provided by Sue Ashley regarding the effect of pay awards.

Members of the Forum heard how at budget setting the Support Staff pay award had now been agreed at £1,925 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) per scale point, which as a percentage range from 3.1% for the highest paid to 10.5% for the lowest paid. They were also informed that the teacher pay award is now 5% for M6 and above, with M1 to M5 remaining the same as budget setting.

The table below demonstrated the additional cost of the pay awards at budget setting estimated as follows:

Table 1 – additional estimated cost of pay award

	Support	Teachers	Total
--	----------------	-----------------	--------------

Nursery	68,341	5,930	74,271
Primary	2,698,962	734,778	3,433,740
Secondary	207,921	126,143	334,064
Special	688,391	156,491	844,882
Total	3,663,615	1,023,342	4,686,957

Members of the Forum were then advised how the supplementary grant for maintained mainstream schools and nursery schools for the 2022-23 financial year totalled £3.6m. This grant was allocated initially for the increase in national insurance and other inflationary costs. The grant would be incorporated into the 2023-24 formula budget for mainstream schools.

It was then reported how the autumn statement announced an extra £2.3billion for schools for 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years. At present there was no further information on how funding would be allocated in the future. Members of the Forum were informed that Schools balances and deficit positions would continue to be monitored at future Forum meetings.

4 **EDSENTIAL UPDATE**

A report by Ian McGrady, Managing Director at Edsential Community Interest company, reported on the latest impact report and further updates.

The Forum were informed of progress to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme coordination 2022 as set out in the attendance figures. It was reported that all services had continued to return to normal provision post-Covid and highlights included: Edsential musical routes who had worked with 243 schools to support or deliver music education programmes and activities across Wirral and Cheshire West and Chester. Furthermore, a new partnership with Futureyard in Birkenhead had provided opportunities for students to understand the career pathway into the music industry.

It was further reported how the culture team had contributed to 3 All – Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry Sessions for Northern Culture and how the catering service was invited to join the Foodservice working group of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) UK Sustainable Commodity Initiative.

Members of the Forum then heard how there are significant pressures due to inflation in food, staff, energy and transport costs and how difficult decisions had been taken to keep costs below inflation (between 3 and 5%).

Resolved – That the report be noted.

5 **HIGH NEEDS WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

James Backhouse provided the Forum with an update on progress to the High Needs Working Group that had last met 8 November 22, which discussed the on-going pressure in relation to the high needs block and the increased demand on special school places across the local area.

Members of the Forum were appraised with details regarding the provision for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that could not be accommodated in Wirral and an update on Independent Pupil Funding agreements. The High Needs Working Group also received a presentation entitled 'Newton Europe – Delivering Better Value review,' a report commissioned to address the high needs deficit balance.

A concern was raised by a member of the Forum regarding the delays in the EHCP process and how there had been a lack of communication between SEND departments and schools. In response, the Assistant Director assured the Forum that there was a transformation programme in place in order to target the issues raised and that every school had a named EHCP coordinator who should be a direct contact.

Resolved – That

- 1. The report be noted.**
- 2. A further report be presented in the Spring term from the High Needs Working Group.**

6 DE-DELEGATED BUDGET FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT AND BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT UPDATE

A report by the Assistant Director for Education provided the Forum with an update on the services delivered from the Behaviour Support and School Improvement functions funded by de-delegated school budgets.

Members of the Forum were informed that Wirral now had increased capacity in relation to behaviour support and there had been the appointment of a senior officer of alternative provision and exclusions, alongside the appointment of induction strategy managers and inclusion officers to support schools. In addition, the Local Authority had launched a new school improvement strategy that would be embedded across Wirral schools with increased capacity in staffing to support.

A query was raised in relation to how the funding was allocated alongside educational psychologist budgets and the Assistant Director advised that he would provide the detail and share this with the Forum. A request was then put that impact data be provided to the next meeting of the Forum.

Resolved – That

- 1. The developments in relation to the strategic use of de-delegated budgets to support school improvement and behaviour support be noted.**
- 2. A further report be received in relation to de-delegated budgets in six months.**

7 WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Members were provided with an update on the membership of the Schools Forum. An overview of the current membership by group was outlined. It was noted that there were 3 Academy vacancies and a vacancy for the 16-19 representatives. It was reported that expressions of interests had been sent out for nominations to the Special Governor representative post, with a deadline of 25th November 2022 for nominations to be received. It was reported that Margaret Morris would continue as the Special Headteacher representative on an interim basis being replaced by Holly Barker early in the new year.

Resolved – That the report be noted

8 DE-DELEGATED BUDGETS - CONTINGENCY, SPECIAL STAFF, AND INSURANCE COSTS

A report by the Assistant Director for Education summarised the current provision for contingency, special staff, and insurance costs that were funded by de-delegated budgets from Wirral's maintained primary and secondary schools.

The contingency budget for 2022-23 was set out within the report and special staff costs and insurance were also explored within the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

9 SCHOOLS REVENUE FUNDING 2023-24 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

A report by the Assistant Director for Education provided the Forum with feedback from the consultation with schools on the 2023-24 Funding Formula and to consider requests to disapply specific the NFF in special circumstances. Members of the forum heard how the outcome of the consultation would inform the allocation of funding to schools which would then be considered in the budget recommendations presented to the February 2023 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

A summary of responses were listed within the report. In addition, a disapplication request in respect of Birkenhead High School Academy was requested on the basis that that the relevant all-through minimum per-pupil

funding levels (MPPL) value for that school was skewed significantly by unusual year group sizes and therefore they were seeking the MPPL rate to be relevant to each phase.

Resolved - That

- 1. The report be noted.**
- 2. The proposal to include +0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee with Wirral’s funding formula in 2023-24 be approved. (6:0)**
- 3. The proposal to include a falling rolls/growth fund form within the 2023-24 school allocation be approved (6:0)**
- 4. The disapplication request to the DfE in respect of Birkenhead High School Academy be agreed and submitted. (5: with one abstention)**

10 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MONITORING AND BROAKERAGE GRANT CONSULTATION OUTCOME

A report by the Assistant Director for Education provided the forum with details of the feedback from the consultation with schools on the de-delegation of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage grant (SIMBG).

Members of the forum were informed that the consultation took place between 12th October 22 to 9th November and sought views on the following:

- Tiered funding model – group the maintained schools into 4 groups by their pupil numbers using the October 21 census 4 groups and each tier’s contribution rate were proposed in the table below:

	Rate per school
For Schools with 199 pupils or less	£2,200
For Schools with 200-399 pupils	£3,400
For Schools with 400-699	£5,700
For Schools above 700 pupils	£12,000

- Per pupil model - £13.00 per pupil.

The forum were advised that there were 11 responses to the consultation and the outcome was summarised below:

Tiered Funding Model	6
Per Pupil Model	1
Opposed the de – delegations	1
Pending reply with queries	3

Following a query regarding SEN school entitlement it was agreed that clarity would be sought and reported back accordingly.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

11 SCHOOLS BUDGET VARIATIONS 2022-23

A report by the Assistant Director for education provided an overview of the anticipated variations for the current year 2022-23 schools budget. Members of the Forum were advised how the schools budget was forecast to overspend by £2.974m mainly due to pressure in the High Needs Block, reflecting an increase in the overspend of £1.07m from the position reported at the October 22 meeting.

In response to a query, Members were notified that with regards to the 896 EHCP's as listed within the report, this did not include Pupil funding agreement data.

In response to a further query, members of the Forum were informed of details of SEN bases, including the provision and nature of the provision that had been commissioned and any associated funding.

Resolved – That the report be noted

12 WORKPLAN

Resolved – That the workplan be noted.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Home and Continuing Education Service is an Alternative Provision for Children and Young people who are unable to attend school due to health needs. HCES delivers part of Wirral's statutory responsibility/ duty to provide a suitable education for children who cannot attend school because of their medical needs. The great majority of pupils suffer with poor mental rather than physical health and many have both.

This report summarises the aim of the service and highlights some proposed financial changes, the current venue and the eligibility criteria. It references the effect of Covid-19 on the referral rate and demographic of pupils.

The Service is being managed on an interim basis until the end of this academic year. (31st August)

2. BACKGROUND

The Home and Continuing Education Service is an Alternative for children whose health creates a barrier to education. It does this by:

- Providing a suitable education for the children of Wirral who have medical needs that prevent them from attending school by ensuring that they make the best educational progress they can and access the most suitable pathway to preparation for life.
- Providing sufficient hours of continuing education in line with statutory guidance; the equivalent of full-time or for the number of hours the child's health condition allows. "Full-time education" is not defined in law, but it should equate to what the pupil would normally have in school.
- Developing a multiagency graduated response for children with health needs.
- Since March 2021 the service offers Enrichment Activities every Thursday afternoon. This was made possible by last years agreement to transfer the Pupil Premium for eligible year 11 pupils. This paper proposes that the Pupil Premium for all aged pupils is transferred to HCES whilst the pupils are not attending their school.

3. Changes of Venue

The Service moved from being on site at Hilbre High School in September 2021 to Fishers Lane in Pensby and are currently operating from to Pilgrim Street Arts Centre since July 2022.

4. The Effects of Covid-19/school closures on the Service

The school closures initially led to a decline in the number of referrals to the service. Since September/October 2022 the referral rate has climbed with an average 2/3 requests for service per week. The number of referrals from pupils in year 7 and 8 has increased with the narrative that transition to secondary school alongside the closures was just too difficult alongside the mental health challenges some pupils faced.

There are 92 pupils currently receiving teaching with 40 in year 11.
There are 2 primary aged pupils.

5. Changes to Policy/eligibility criteria

In January 2020 there was a Local Government Ombudsman directive regarding the Eligibility Criteria for HCES. Previously School referrals had to be supported by medical support from a consultant or senior CAMHS practitioner. Following the directive this has been widened to include other medical teams to avoid delays. GP supportive information will be accepted as an interim measure whilst more specific medical evidence becomes available.

6. Budget Position

Careful financial management has enabled the service to recruit some additional staff, deliver Enrichment Activities and respond to the increased demand following the pandemic. The cost of more pupils being on site rather than in their homes has led to a need for more on-site staff and an additional Learning Mentor. Given the amount of pupils who are undergoing EHC assessment whilst they are with HCES (currently 22) we have a full time SENCO.

In June 2022 School Forum agreed change to the funding of year 11 by moving to the weekly charging system for all year 11 pupils rather than transfer of AWPU in year 11. This has happened and it is more straight forward. I would just like to reconfirm with schools that for Year 11 the weekly charges begin from Day 1.

The weekly charges of £125 are collected termly and attendance figures emailed to schools on a Friday. Schools and parents receive 3 reports per year.

It is proposed that the weekly charge be increased to £140 from April 2023, in line with 23/24 Basic Entitlement funding for the Year 11, to cover the increase in teachers salaries and increase in travel costs.

PUPIL PREMIUM (PP)

PP has really made a difference to the service and our children. The monies have been used for various activities from rock climbing, bowling, and laser quest to name just a

few. The numbers attending Enrichment is growing all the time. The benefits to the children both socially and emotionally are huge.

For the pupils who is eligible to the PP funding, it is proposed that from April 23 the PP will be transferred over to Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service for all pupils, not just those in Year 11, for the period that a pupil is using the service.

7. SEND Review

The SEND review has called for a reformed and integrated role for alternative provision within Local and National SEND landscape. This will create a springboard for improvement and development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum note the report.

Transfer of Pupil Premium where appropriate for all pupils - the PP will return to the school when/if the pupil returns.

Increase of the weekly charge from £125 to £140 per week for Year 11 pupils

If the Forum wishes to express any views in relation to this increase, they are invited to inform the Local Authority.

Julie Hudson

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 17 JANUARY 2023

ENERGY PURCHASING FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides a brief update on the procurement of electricity and natural gas on behalf of schools and suggests budget changes for the 2023/24 financial year. This follows a period of extreme price volatility that is continuing to affect all energy users.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to provide schools with information on:

- Energy Market Performance
- Government intervention through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme.
- Department for Education purchasing recommendations.
- Unit prices for natural gas and electricity that are anticipated for the 2023/24 financial year based on December 2022 data.
- Uncertainties in projecting future costs.
- Budget change suggestions to ensure provision for the purchase of electricity and natural gas over the 2022/23 financial year.
- Support for energy efficiency from the Department for Education
- Environment and climate emergency

The content of this report is only applicable to accounts that are part of the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) framework agreement. The Council holds no information for schools which make their own energy supply arrangements and cannot comment on their arrangements.

3. ENERGY MARKETS & GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Over the past year energy markets have continued to be extremely volatile and it is probable that the high price levels will be sustained for some time to come. Wholesale energy prices have been rising significantly since late 2021 and rose again following the Russian invasion of Ukraine peaking in August 2022. Markets eased as gas storage was maximised in Europe and as alternative sources of gas were established. In late December 2022 it has been reported that wholesale gas prices have dropped significantly but it is impossible to tell if this trend will be sustained. Changes in gas prices ultimately affect electricity prices as around 40% of the UK's electricity is generated using gas.

The Forum will be aware of the Government's intervention to support commercial customers through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS). The scheme covers the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and gives support to customers where wholesale energy prices exceed 21.1 p/kWh for electricity and 7.5 p/kWh for gas. It should be noted that the wholesale prices are not the unit prices that appear on invoices which include non-energy costs.

The wholesale prices achieved for framework members by CCS for 2022/23 were significantly below the support thresholds and consequently do not qualify for support. Prices for schools are fixed until 1 April 2023. A small number of accounts transferring into the CCS framework agreement on 1 April 2023 are eligible and receive EBRS

support. The Government rebates are automatically applied by the Suppliers and no action is required from Customers.

Indicative wholesale prices from April 2022 are shown below in p/kWh with the wholesale prices achieved for 2022/23.

	Budget	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Cap
Electricity	14.91	17.08	17.85	19.24	25.36	43.20	38.82	29.27	27.86	27.87	21.10
Gas	5.12	6.36	6.21	6.88	9.60	16.79	16.32	11.57	10.41	10.00	7.50

The Forum may also be aware that the EBRs may be extended to provide support to vulnerable businesses. At present the terms of reference available for the review states: “Public sector organisations will not be eligible for support through the review. The review will however consider private sector firms which are providers of public services and voluntary sector organisations such as charities”.

4. DfE PURCHASING RECOMMENDATIONS

For the supply of energy and ancillary services the DfE recommend Crown Commercial Service (CCS) as a potential framework supplier <https://find-dfe-approved-framework.service.gov.uk/list/energy-ancillary>. The framework arrangement accessed via Wirral Council is a CCS product RM6011 ‘Supply of energy and ancillary services’.

5. ANTICIPATED 2023/24 UNIT PRICES BASED ON NOVEMBER 2022 DATA

In line with the framework arrangement natural gas and electricity are being purchased on our behalf by CCS over a six-month window running from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. The information provided is based on that currently available and may be subject to change.

The CCS risk managed approach continues to deliver competitive average unit costs: The Crown Commercial Service November purchasing update for December 2022 reports the following unit prices will apply assuming conditions do not change.

- Electricity: 43.025 p/kWh (Standing Charges and Climate Change Levy included)
- Natural Gas: 12.772 p/kWh (Standing Charges and Climate Change Levy included)

Commercial energy unit rates reported on the U-switch website on 3 January 2023 suggested the following unit prices:

- Electricity: 78.2 p/kWh (Standing Charges and Climate Change Levy excluded)
- Natural Gas: 28 p/kWh (Standing Charges and Climate Change Levy excluded)

It should be noted that non-energy costs made up over 66% of electricity costs and approximately 25% of a typical gas bill. Many of these costs are agreed by the regulator Ofgem with the suppliers. Customers have no influence over these costs which are often updated in the first three months of the calendar year. It cannot be guaranteed that these cost elements remain stable.

Information received in December 2022 suggests there may be further price changes. Contributing factors include recent reductions in the wholesale price of gas but this may be offset by the situation in the Ukraine and the European ‘cap’ on prices paid for Russian energy or colder weather.

6. UNCERTAINTIES IN PROJECTING FUTURE COSTS

The magnitude and frequency of market fluctuations has led to CCS adopting modified purchasing protocols that were agreed with the Treasury. Previously if market prices reached a certain level above the previous year with little prospect of reducing this would prompt CCS to fill all baskets at the earliest opportunity. The volume traded was sufficient to further inflate prices so for 2023/24 it has been decided that CCS will fulfil its six-monthly purchasing requirements in six equal tranches. On one level this approach reduces the inflationary impact of the large volumes being traded but has the disadvantage of a reduction in flexibility with regard to when purchases are made. It is not possible to tell what impact this arrangement will have on the final prices but we know that within each monthly period the CCS buyers will make every attempt to purchase at the lowest prices possible.

Recent factors that have affected energy market prices include:

Over November and December 2022 market focus has been on weather. Prices rose and fell from day to day as forecasts shifted. There is a clear link between demand and prices for the rest of this winter and those for the following year. This is because of European gas storage as stock levels at the end of the current winter dictate how much gas is needed over the summer to refill storage for the following winter and how challenging it will be to replenish stocks.

During December's cold snap demand for both gas and electricity jumped higher but was below what is considered normal given the weather conditions. In October and November analysis suggested UK electricity demand was approximately 7% lower than 2021 once the weather effects had been considered. For gas the price-responsive demand reduction looks even higher at nearly 14% lower. The CCS analysis of demand during the cold snap shows demand as much as 10% below the levels expected.

On the supply side deliveries of liquified natural gas (LNG) helped meet the higher demand. The delivery outlook in coming weeks looks reasonably healthy. Two factors may change the outlook:

- We could see delays to the return of Freeport (the US LNG export plant closed following a fire last summer) which may limit supply.
- There is potential for LNG demand growth in China to increase following the lifting of Covid restrictions which may increase competition.

The EU has agreed on a price cap for wholesale gas which is due to be implemented in mid-February 2023. This cap could be withdrawn if its operation was preventing market prices from effectively signalling scarcity in the event of a serious security of supply issue. There are widely reported concerns that putting a cap in place could possibly undermine market operation and lead to volatile and chaotic trading conditions.

For electricity markets a key factor remains French nuclear availability. Considerably less nuclear output is expected from France for the rest of the winter than was expected. Given the UK's historic reliance on French imports to help meet peak demand periods disappointing levels of French nuclear output will add to tighter UK conditions during periods of low wind this winter.

7. CHANGES IN PROVISION FOR GAS & ELECTRICITY EXPENDITURE

The following changes to expenditure are suggested as precautionary provisions to take account of the increased prices anticipated for 2022/23. The suggestions are made using the most recent information available.

- Increase provision for **natural gas** supplied by TGP by 103.29%
- Increase provision for **electricity** supplied by EdF by 61.78%

8. ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUPPORT FROM THE DfE

On 6 December 2022 it was announced by the DfE that schools will receive additional funding for improving energy efficiency. Schools and colleges in England have been allocated a share of £500 million to spend on energy efficiency upgrades to help reduce bills during the winter months and manage energy consumption. The DfE suggest that improvements could include installing better heating controls, insulation to reduce heat loss from pipes or switching to energy efficient lighting. New guidance has also been published to support schools to maximise energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and improve sustainability and resilience this winter and beyond. The funding allocations and guidance is available from the DfE website.

8. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In July 2019 Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. Following the declaration, the Council is seeking to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. We will be purchasing electricity from renewable sources for the 2023/24 financial year under the framework agreement to decarbonise our electricity use. The green electricity is backed by REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) scheme.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Forum notes the content of this report.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 17th January 2023

SCHOOLS' LIBRARY SERVICE (SLS)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Schools Forum with an overview of the services the Schools' Library Service provides and the service plans for the year ahead.

2. BUDGET

The Schools' Library Service is a de-delegated service, mainly for primary schools, although other schools can access services on request. Funding from the Schools' Forum provides £185,100 at a cost of £8.78 per primary school pupil from maintained schools. Academies have the opportunity to buy into the service and any extra income generated is used to help maintain the service for all schools. The make-up of the complete budget is shown below.

2022-223 Budget

Staffing	£96,300
Other costs including book fund	£58,824
Support Services Recharge	£29,976
TOTAL	£185,100

Additional Income generated

Income Secondary Schools	£500
Income Academies	£3,998
Income Premium Service	£2,500
Income Special Schools	£1,102
TOTAL	£8,100

3. 2022-23 update and future priorities.

With the closure of 8 local public libraries SLS is proving to be more essential than ever for schools. The service has seen a definite increase in requests with issues now above pre-covid levels. In September 2022 SLS loaned almost 25,000 books and other resources to schools for the autumn term. We expect our statistics to show similar issues for the 2023 spring and summer terms.

- In response to demand we have increased our offer to include 'reading for pleasure boxes' which have been very popular, with 96% of maintained schools asking for them.
- SLS has also seen an increase in schools asking for help with their own school libraries. This year alone we have five schools booked in for consultations and support to revamp school libraries. Staffing constraints limit the number of schools we can assist per year.
- We are open to teaching staff term time and holidays and hope to arrange open evenings in the coming year. We have also been asked if local schools can use the SLS base for staff meetings.
- Our artefact collections are more popular than ever, and additional new loan offers of such things as coding sets, chess and PE resources have been welcomed and fully booked each term.
- We will continue to maintain our current level of book, artefact loans and audio-visual resource provision for schools as a standard service, ensuring our book stock, resources and offers to all schools remain relevant and up to date.
- We have received requests for training from schools and hope to develop some training offers around books, literacy and library provision in the coming year.
- We currently have one secondary school using our Year 7 Transition service and we hope to encourage other secondary schools to buy in. We will be holding secondary school librarian meetings at our base in the future to further promote the service to all schools. We have had a lot of interest.
- We have maintained uptake from academies and continue to encourage all Wirral academies to buy into the service.
- Wirral SLS is now part of a national SLS-UK offer promoting School Library Services, creating the opportunity for schools in the Liverpool area to buy into Wirral SLS.
- This year we said farewell to one of our librarians, Christine Taylor, after 43 years of service with Wirral Schools' Library Service. We would like to wish her a long and happy retirement and to extend a very warm welcome to our new librarian, Annabel Leinster.

- We extend an invitation to any interested School Forum members to visit SLS to see what we do and how much our service has to offer.

4. STAFFING

There are currently 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ FTE members of staff:

2 x 0.50 Schools' Librarian - Job share

1 x 0.75 Assistant Schools' Librarian - $\frac{3}{4}$ post

1 x 1.00 Library Manager- FTE post

Additional temporary staff members are employed three times a year to help facilitate the collection and delivery of resources to and from schools at the beginning and end of each term.

The service is based at:

Joseph Paxton Campus

157 Park Rd North,

Cloughton

CH41 0DD

0151 666 3200

Please see our entry in the Wirral Traded Services Brochure for more information on the service we offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum notes the report

Louise Rice and Catherine McNally
Wirral Schools' Library Service

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 17th January 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.

Total Membership	Role	2019-2023	2020-2024	2021-2025	2022-2026	Total
5	Primary Headteachers		1	3	1	5
4	Primary Governors	1		2	1	4
1	Secondary Headteachers		1			1
1	Special Headteacher				1	1
1	Special Governors					0
1	Nursery Representative				1	1
13	Total Schools Membership					
9	Academy Representative	2		4		6
9	Total Academy Membership					
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					
30	Total Membership	4	2	15	4	25

1.3

There remains 3 Academy vacancies, and a 16-19 representative vacancy due to receiving no response for new representatives at the last request sent out.

We received 2 nominations for the Special Governor representative post from the expressions of interest sent out in November. As we have received 2 nominations an election will now take place. The voting papers have been sent out with a closing date of 20th January 2023.

1.4 New Members

There has been no new member since the November report.

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

1.5 Membership Changes

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

Current	Pupil no's		Expected	
		Jan 22 Census		
9 Primary		21,409	44.5%	8.5
1 Secondary		3,770	7.8%	1.5
9 Academy		22,934	47.7%	9.1
19.0		48,113	100.0%	19.0

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Forum notes the report.

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	Emma Johnson	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)	Greasby Junior	Sep-21	Aug-25
Schools	Chris Mervyn	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)	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	Tony Norbury	Primary Governor	Prenton Primary	Sep-19	Aug-23
Schools	Simon Goodwin	Secondary Headteacher	South Wirral High	Sep-20	Aug-24
Schools	Margaret Morris	Special Headteacher	Elleray Park	Nov-22	Oct-26
Schools	Vacancy	Special Governor			
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	Aug-19	Jul-23
Academy	Helen Johnson	Academy Rep	The Birkenhead Park School	Sep-21	Aug-25
Academy	Vacancy	Academy Rep			
Academy	Mark Bellamy	Academy Rep	Hilbre High School	Sep-21	Aug-25
Academy	Vacancy	Academy Rep			
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	Lisa Ayling (Temp)	Academy Rep	Lisa Ayling (Temp)	Nov-19	
Non-Schools	Gill Harris	Non-teacher representative	Wirral Unison	May-21	Apr-25
Non-Schools	Anne Rycroft	Teacher representative	NASUWT	Aug-19	Jul-23
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	Claire Gormley	PVI Early Years Providers	The Mulberry Tree	Oct-21	Sep-25

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 17th JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2023-24 AND 3-YEAR FORECAST

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the Schools Budget for 2023-24 so that Schools Forum can indicate their views on the proposals. The report describes the financial changes to be considered by Schools Forum and Policy and Resources Committee. The proposed budget totals £337.017m for Early Years, Maintained Schools, Academies, colleges, and providers for the financial year 2023-24.
- 1.2 In addition to the budget year, a forecast for the three financial years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 has also been included. The purpose of the 3-year forecast is to inform planning and to determine the future impact of current decisions. On that basis the forecasts are included for information and will not be considered for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Schools Funding Allocations were issued by the Department for Education on 16th December 2022. The format of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is unchanged with Local Authority allocations determined by the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools, High Needs and Early Years. The main features include:
- School funding increased by 2.4% overall with every secondary school allocated at least £5,715 per pupil and every primary school allocated at least £4,405 per pupil.
 - local authorities will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee in their local formulae, which for 2023-24 is between 0% and +0.5%.
 - Rolling the 2022-23 school supplementary grant into the schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets.
 - the Schools Block continues to be ring-fenced with limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% of the schools' block to High Needs with Schools Forum approval.
 - High Needs funding increased by £970m, or 10.6%, in 2023-24.
 - Early Years hourly rates paid to local authorities will increase by £0.06 for 2-year old's and £0.23 for 3&4-year olds.
 - Central schools services funding increased by 2.03% for the ongoing responsibilities that local authorities continue to have for all schools, while funding for historic commitments within this block will decrease by a further 20% for those local authorities in receipt of this funding.

- 2.2 Other factors that have influenced the 2023-24 budget include:
- existing and on-going demand on services;
 - the High Needs strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The budget for 2023-24 is compiled from the base budget for 2022-23 approved by Council on 28th February 2022 and updated for the issues identified in this report. The total 2023-24 projected budget (DSG and council funded) is £337.017m and is summarised below along with the 3-year forecast. A detailed analysis of the 2023-24 budget changes is shown in Appendix 1 in addition to a comparison of the 2022-23, 2023-24 budgets and 3-year forecasts which is provided in Appendix 2.

Table 1: Budget for 2023-24 and 3-year forecast

	2023-24 Budget £m	2024-25 Forecast £m	2025-26 Forecast £m	2026-27 Forecast £m
Funding	336.804	348.357	358.603	371.980
Expenditure by funding block:				
Schools	250.662	257.790	263.887	272.939
Central Schools Service	3.517	3.474	3.447	3.433
High Needs	60.958	63.843	65.677	67.191
Early Years	21.880	22.704	23,661	24,619
Total expenditure	337.017	347.811	356.671	368.181
Contribution to/-from reserves	-0.213	0.546	1.932	3.798

3.2 The contribution to/-from reserves reflects the difference between the funding available and planned expenditure. 2023-24 result in a shortfall in funding and this is due to high needs activities where demand and complexity continue to rise. From 2024-25, funding exceeds expenditure, and this reflects the impact of the High Needs Strategy where planned changes start to have a positive effect on expenditure.

4.0 FUNDING

With the exception of the PFI affordability gap of £1.459m, which is funded from Council resources, the schools budget is funded by the DSG.

4.1 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

4.1.1 DSG is made up of 4 block allocations with restrictions on moving funding between the blocks. The allocation for 2023-24 indicates a £20.593m increase which is an overall increase of 6.52%. The budgets presented have not transferred any funding between block allocations. DSG funding for the 3 forecast years assumes an average annual increase of around 2.5%.

4.1.2 The table below compares the gross block funding for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and thus includes both maintained schools and academy school activity.

Table 2: Comparison of the gross block funding

DSG Block	2022-23 Gross Funding £m	2023-24 Gross Funding £m	Increase/ Reduction	
			£m	%
Schools	237.825	250.662	12.837	5.40%
Central School Services	2.120	2.058	-0.063	-2.95%
High Needs	54.284	60.744	6.460	11.90%
Early Years	21.530	22.889	1.359	6.31%
Total	315.760	336.353	20.593	6.52%

Please note that 2022-23 Schools block funding figure doesn't include the School Supplementary grant (£7.157m) – from 2023-24 funding previously distributed through this grant will be allocated through the Schools block NFF, i.e. included in the 2023-24 Schools block funding allocation.

- 4.1.3 The allocations for the Schools and Central Schools Services funding blocks have been updated for changes in pupil numbers. Pupil numbers are those recorded in the October census, and have changed as follows:

Table 3: Changes in pupil numbers

Pupil numbers	Primary schools	Secondary schools	All- through schools	Total
October 2021 census	25,049	18,093	1,027	44,169
October 2022 census	24,743	18,283	1,064	44,090
Increase/-decrease	-306	190	37	-79

- 4.1.4 Early Years funding is based on a combination of the January 2022 census and the estimated January 2023 census and thus is indicative at this time.
- 4.1.5 High Needs funding for 2023-24 includes a funding allocation of £2.316m announced on 16th December 2022 in addition to the recurring block funding.

4.2 Additional Grant for 2023-24

- 4.2.1 The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023 to 2024 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.
- 4.2.2 In the 2023 to 2024 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula and the indicative allocation for Wirral schools is £8.532m. The school level allocation of this funding will be published in spring 2023.
- 4.2.3 Local authorities have also been allocated £400 million additional high needs funding for 2023 to 2024, on top of their high needs national funding formula allocations, and this is intended to reflect likely cost increases local authorities

and schools will face in the provision for children and young people with high needs.

The additional funding totals £2.316m and has been included in the 2023-24 budget as per paragraph 4.1.5 above.

4.3 Other Grant Funding

In addition to DSG, the following grants represent additional funding sources for schools and are not included in the budget.

4.3.1 Pupil Premium provides funding targeted towards deprivation. It has been confirmed that Pupil Premium rates will increase in 2023-24 in line with the latest inflation forecasts.

4.3.2 The teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contributions grant is now included in the NFF for schools and high needs. Maintained nursery schools, and schools and academies with early years pupils will continue to receive these as separate grants.

4.3.3 The Schools Budget includes funding for High Needs students in 6th Forms. All other post 16 funding is through the National Funding Formula for 6th Forms and thus is not included in the budget.

5.0 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS 2023-24

5.1 Schools Block £250.662m

This budget reflects the delegated budgets allocated to both maintained and academy mainstream primary and secondary schools. In November 2019, Schools Forum supported this block being redistributed to mainstream schools using the formula factor rates used in the NFF thus this is the basis on which funding will be allocated to individual schools.

5.1.1 Academies

Currently there are 15 secondary academies, 15 primary academies and 1 all-through academy schools with 2 further primary schools planned to be academised within 6 months. Academies are independent from the local authority and are funded directly from the ESFA, however Regulations require Wirral to continue to calculate their budgets which are then deducted from Wirral's DSG.

5.1.2 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

For 2023-24 LAs can apply MFG of between 0% and plus 0.5% per pupil to protect schools from large formula changes. Following a consultation with all primary and secondary schools, School Forum in November 2022 supported a plus 0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee for the 2023-24 mainstream schools funding formula.

5.2 Central School Services Block £2.058m

5.2.1 This block provides funding for LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in state-funded maintained schools and academies in England. Funding previously allocated to LAs for the Education Services Grant (ESG) retained

duties is included within this block, together with funding for historic commitments.

5.2.2 Funding allocated to Local Authorities for historic commitments, which for Wirral are the contribution to combined budgets and schools retirement costs (school closure), has been reduced by 20% in line with the DfE's expectation that these costs will unwind over time.

The funding for ongoing responsibilities includes:

- School Licenses
- Admissions
- Schools Forum
- Former ESG retained duties
- Capital Expenditure from Revenue (PFI costs)

The treatment of these budgets, which are considered in further detail later in this report, is in accordance with national guidance.

5.3 High Needs Block £60.744m

This budget covers a range of related activities. The allocation of funding to each activity is based on the "place plus" funding system introduced by the DfE in April 2013 and includes:

- Special schools (pre- and post-16), and non-maintained special schools, both of which receive a base level funding of £10,000 per place.
- Resourced Provision (bases) which receive £6,000 per place.
- Place funding in Wirral's FE provision at Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6th Form College of £6,000 per place.
- Additional funding over and above that provided for places in the form of "top ups" is provided on a per pupil basis. The top up, or "plus" element of funding, takes account of the agreed assessed needs of pupils and is paid by the "commissioner" responsible; this may be Wirral Children's Services, a school, or another Local Authority. Wirral's top up system uses 5 bands to allocate funding across special schools, resourced bases, and alternative provision. Non-maintained Special Schools also receive a top up.
- The costs of Top Ups for all education and training for post 16 specialist provision for Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LLDD) in colleges and private providers.
- The Hospital Schools budget.
- The cost of placements in Independent Special Schools.
- The costs of Education, Health and Care Plans and Independent Pupil Funding Arrangements.

5.4 Early Years Block £22.889m

- 5.4.1 This Block funds the costs of Early Years Education for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children in schools, nurseries, and private voluntary and independent providers for both the universal and extended entitlement. Most of this funding is directed through the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF). This is allocated to Local Authorities based on an hourly rate which, for 2023-24, has increased by £0.06 for 2-year old's, and £0.23 for 3- and 4-year-old's.
- 5.4.2 The early years element of the funding currently allocated through the Teacher Pay and Pension Grant (TPPG) has been rolled in the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF)
- 5.4.3 There are small elements covering SEN costs and some central Early Years support costs. Amounts held centrally are within the nationally defined limits of 5% of the Early Years Block.
- 5.4.4 This Block also includes allocations for Maintained Nurseries (MNS) to enable local authorities to protect the level of funding to MNS prior to the introduction of the EYNFF, Disability Access Fund (DAF) and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).
- 5.4.5 The national funding rate for EYPP and DAF will increase in 2023-24 by £0.02 and £28 respectively.

6.0 2023-24 BUDGET CHANGES

6.1 Individual Schools Budget

6.1.1 Primary, Secondary and Academy Budgets £12.837m increase

The significant changes within this area are as follows:

There is a net decrease in school rolls, which results in an overall budget decrease of £0.058m. There are 79 less pupils on roll in October 2022 compared to October 2021. Primary numbers have reduced by 300 to 25,132 (a 1.18% reduction) while Secondary numbers have increased by 221 to 18,958 (a 1.18% increase).

The impact of changes in both the monetary value and pupil numbers applied to each of the funding formula elements has generated an increase in funding of £12.895m. This also includes any headroom which may arise if the funding allocated to schools from applying to the NFF is less than the overall funding available. For the purposes of the budget report £12.895m has been split proportionately between primary and secondary budgets.

6.1.2 High Needs Places £1.682m increase

Places in specialist provision within Local Authority areas continue to be determined by each LA in consultation with schools and providers. There is flexibility to adjust this so that places broadly reflect take-up by pupils and this has resulted in a net increase of 139 places across special school, base and 6th Form/FE provision.

In 2022-23, a growth in demand was included in the special schools' budget as additional unallocated places. These places have been allocated to the special schools from September 22 and a further 51 places have been set aside for this purpose in the 2023-24 budget.

Base Project, a new resourced provision programme, has been set up in 2022-23 with 4 schools creating 37 temporary places.

6.1.3 Hospital School £0.134m increase

The increase reflects the change in the Hospital School element of the high needs block.

6.2 Early Years £1.697m increase

6.2.1 The early years budget is based on the predicted census numbers for January 23 (5 months for April to August 23) and January 24 (7 months for September 23 to March 24).

The January 22 census showed a falling roll for 3/4-year-olds compared to the January 21 census, mirroring a drop in birth rates for the related period. Further drop in numbers for the January 2023 and January 24 census are predicted based on the birth rates and the national population projections report by the Office for National Statistics. The numbers of the 2-year-old in January 2023 is anticipated to be increased as the birth rate for the related period was improved.

The budget and the DSG allocation can be revised, if necessary, once the January 23 census information becomes available.

The table below compares the pupil number information that has been used to inform the 2023-24 budget setting process.

Table 4: Early Years pupil numbers

Pupil numbers	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23 (estimate)	Jan-24 (estimate)
2-year old's (PTE)	910	1,008	1,028	1,022
3/4-year old's Universal (PTE)	4,438	4,374	4,179	4,093
3/4-year old's Extended (PTE)	2,158	2,254	2,152	2,108

The budget for the demand element has increased by £0.513m compared with 2022-23 budget as the estimated pupil numbers used for the 2022-23 budget setting were lower than the January 22 census numbers.

6.2.2 As outlined above in paragraph 5.4.1 the hourly rates paid by ESFA to Wirral will increase by £0.06 for 2-year old's and £0.23 plus additional TPPG rate for 3&4-year-olds. This has generated an increase in the budget of £1.184m. The expenditure budget relates mainly to the payments to providers, and this will aim to maximise the pass-through of funding to providers whilst ensuring that the service can respond to need and uncertainty.

6.3 Central School costs

The centrally held budgets for 2023-24 funded by the Central Schools Services Block of DSG have decreased by £0.063m. The services delivered by these budgets are explained below along with the reasons for any changes to the budget for 2023-24.

- School Admissions - this budget is required to meet the costs of supporting and administering the authority's school admissions process including the 11 plus. A small increase of £0.015m has been applied to this budget to reflect forecast staff costs.
- School redundancy costs - this budget covers the continuing cost of premature retirement of teachers and staff that have arisen from closing schools. No further closures are expected for 2023-24 thus costs to be incurred reflect historic commitments and are expected to be reduced by £0.002m.
- Licences and Subscriptions - the DfE purchases a single national licence for all state funded schools. Licences cover areas such as the Copyright Licence Agency, the Education Recording Agency, the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society, and a School Printed Music Licence. The 2023-24 budget has increased by £0.027m to reflect the costs announced by DfE in December 2022.
- Schools Forum - although this budget will not be fully utilised in 2022-23, it is expected that there will be fully return to face to face meetings during 2023-24 thus there has been no change to the budget for 2023-24.
- Contingency – this reflects the 'headroom' of £0.018m within the Central School Services Block for 2023-24.
- Contributions to combined budgets – School Funding Regulations continue to allow contributions to support services that would otherwise fall outside the Schools Budget. These budgets combine with other council resources for the educational benefit of children. There must be no new commitments or increases in expenditure from that agreed in 2012-13, and DfE expect that these costs will unwind over time. For this reason, funding from DfE has been reduced by 20% for 2023-24. However, the net increase to the current cost element of the Central Schools Service Block can facilitate a partial off-set of the 20% reduction. It is proposed, therefore, that the reduction in contributions be limited to 15% which equates to a reduction of £0.095m. These proposed contributions are as follows:

Table 5: Contributions to combined budget

		22-23	23-24	Reduction	
		£m	£m	£m	%
School Improvement	Continued support for School Improvement Staff with permanent contracts	0.238	0.202	-0.036	-15%
LSCB	Contribution towards governance process for child protection	0.022	0.018	-0.003	-15%
School Intervention	Consultant Headteacher role supporting Primary & Secondary	0.098	0.083	-0.015	-15%

	education				
PFI (Support)	Contribution towards the asset management costs to support PFI schools	0.044	0.038	-0.007	-15%
PFI (CLC)	Contribution towards the building costs for closed City Learning Centres	0.049	0.042	-0.007	-15%
Looked after Children Education Services	The service reviews the educational progress of Looked After Children, provides training to staff and some direct support to pupils	0.101	0.086	-0.015	-15%
Business Rates	Funding for continuing costs for VA Schools	0.077	0.065	-0.012	-15%
Governors Forum	Contribution towards the cost of maintaining the Forum	0.002	0.001	-0.001	-15%
Total		0.631	0.536	-0.095	-15%

- The PFI Affordability Gap budget is driven by the December RPI%. As this is not yet available, no change has been made to the 2023-24 budget at this time. The impact of the change in RPI% will be applied to the budget later in January 23 but as this is a Wirral Council funded budget, any change will have no impact on the DSG funding available to schools.
- The budget for retained duties of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) is unchanged for 2023-24. Overall, DSG contributes £1.23m towards the cost of services that were previously funded from the ESG. In 2022-23 Forum agreed to de-delegate £0.5m on behalf of Maintained Primary, Secondary and Special Schools towards the full year costs of ESG General Duties.

6.4 De-delegated budgets

As in previous years the budgets held for Contingency, Special Staff (maternity, paternity, and trade union duties), the School Library Service, Insurance (Governors Aided), and Behaviour Support have been delegated to schools, and a decision will be required for any de-delegation from existing school budgets for these services. A decision will also be required for de-delegation of costs associated with the former General Duties of the Education Services Grant and School Improvement.

6.5 High Needs Pupils

6.5.1 Additional Resource £1.137m increase

The budget for Units of Resource has been increased by £1.423m to reflect the on-going increase in applications for assessment. An increase has been applied for Primary pupils (£1.354m) and Secondary pupils (£0.069).

The other budget in this area including the personal budget, interim education and inclusive practice are adjusted based on the demand in 2022-23.

6.5.2 Top-Ups £1.226m increase

The established banding system will be used to allocate element 3 top up funding to each specialist provision. This budget has been increased by £1.226m in line with the increase in places across special schools, resourced provision and 6th Form/FE provision as identified in the Individual Schools Budget section. As per paragraph 4.1.5 above, an additional one-off funding was announced by ESFA on 16th December 2022 and the amount allocated to Wirral is £2,315,773. The guidance indicates that the additional funding is for maintained special schools, special academies, pupil referral units and AP academies and 3.4% of their place funding plus the average top-up funding in financial year 2022-23 must be allocated to them. A provisional calculation shows that the funding to be distributed is £975,706, and the remaining has been utilised to address the overall growth in the budget.

A small increase in funding for Exceptional Need, which is available to Special Schools, Alternative Provision, and Mainstream Resources Provision where an assessed pupil's needs indicate that enhanced staffing is necessary. The budget has been increased by £0.008m to reflect the forecast increase in staff costs.

6.5.3 Contingency £0.126m increase

This budget has been increased to reflect the additional support that is needed to generate the physical space needed for the increase in places.

6.5.4 Independent Special Schools £2.061m increase

The increase in the 2023-24 budget reflects the additional demand in places that was identified in Autumn 2022 and also growth in the contribution to looked-after-children education plans which has been forecast to increase.

7.0 3-YEAR FORECAST

Although not for consideration for the 2023-24 budget setting process, the 3-year forecast has been included to demonstrate the impact of demand and planned changes that are to be implemented to respond to this challenge.

7.1 Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools

7.1.1 For primary schools, pupil numbers are expected to fall in 2024-25, 2025-26, but to increase in 2026-27 in line with local birth-rate statistics. This has been off-set with a forecast increase in school funding.

7.1.2 For secondary schools, pupil numbers are expected to increase for 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 in addition to a forecast increase in school funding.

7.2 Central Schools Services

7.2.1 The majority of these activities relate to administrative functions and as such the changes in the forecast years is minimal. The exception to this is the contribution to combined budgets where the funding and thus contribution will reduce by 20% per annum.

7.3 High Needs

7.3.1 The forecast has been informed by continuing demand and the High Needs strategy. The main influences from the High Needs strategy are as follows:

- Impact of volume and complexity for special school pupils transitioning from Primary to Secondary.
- Increase in Wirral capacity to reduce reliance on Out of Borough and Independent School places.
- Maximise/increase mainstream base provision.
- Review of Wirral Hospital School and Home & Continuing Education Service.
- Review of other funding streams:
 - Exceptional Needs process;
 - IPFAs.

7.3.2 The impact of this has can be seen across the 3-year forecast where the costs are increasing across both the special and mainstream schools budgets to reflect increased places but with a partial off-set in additional resources and independent school places where the provision is reducing.

7.4 Early Years

7.4.1 3/4-year old Pupil numbers are expected to increase from 2025-26 following 3 consecutive years of reduction in line with local birth-rate statistics. In addition, an increase to the funding has been forecast.

8.0 USE OF RESERVES

As reported in a separate report at this Forum meeting, the DSG reserve is expected to end 2022-23 with a cumulative deficit of £5.357m. The impact on the DSG reserve of the budget setting process reflects a worsening position for 2023-24 but then improving from 2024-25 onwards. The table below summarises this impact. The reserve balance across the 2023-24 budget year and 3 forecast years reflects the impact of increasing demand and the changes that are planned to meet demand whilst minimising the impact on expenditure. It is expected that the strategies that are to be adopted will deliver a positive reserve balance by the end of 2026-27.

Table 6: Use of reserves

	2023-24 Budget £m	2024-25 Forecast £m	2025-26 Forecast £m	2026-27 Forecast £m
Surplus/-deficit b/fwd.	-5.357	-5.570	-5.024	-3.092
Contribution to/-from reserves	-0.213	0.546	1.932	3.798
Surplus/-deficit c/fwd.	-5.570	-5.024	-3.092	0.706

9.0 BUDGET TIMETABLE

The Schools Budget and advice from Forum will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its budget meeting on 15th February 2023.
Will be approved by full Council as part of Budget Council on (check date)

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the views of Schools Forum are sought on the Schools Budget for 2023-24.
- 10.2 That in accordance with ESFA guidelines the Forum approves the reduced Contributions to Combined Budgets of £0.536m in 2023-24 for:
- School Improvement
 - Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
 - School Intervention
 - PFI Support
 - PFI CLC
 - Looked after Children Education Services
 - Business Rates, and
 - Governors Forum
- 10.3 That the Schools Budget and views of the Schools Forum be referred to the budget meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 15th February 2023.

Simone White
Director for Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1 - Schools Budget changes 2023-24

	£m	£m	£m
2022-23 Schools adjusted base budget			197.104
Add back Academy recoupment			119.052
2022-23 Gross Schools Budget			316.156
Budget changes:			
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary & Secondary:			
Net decrease in pupils on roll	-0.058		
Funding Formula elements	12.895	12.837	
High Needs:			
Special Schools places	1.489		
SEN Base places	0.079	1.682	
FE/6th Form places	0.114		
Hospital School	0.134	0.134	14.653
Early Years			
Early years demand		1.184	
Early years rate change		0.513	1.697
Central School Costs			
Admissions		0.015	
School Redundancy Costs		-0.002	
Licences & subscriptions		0.027	
Contingency		-0.008	
Combined budgets reduced contribution		-0.095	
PFI Affordability Gap		0	-0.063
High Needs Pupils			
Additional Resources:			
Units of resource	1.423		
Personal Budgets	-0.012		
Inclusive practice		1.137	
Interim Education	-0.200		
Staffing for Independent Setting	-0.074		
Top-ups:			
Top-ups	1.226		
Supplementary Funding 2022-23	-0.961	1.249	
Additional funding 2023-24	0.976		
Exceptional need	0.008		
Contingency		0.126	
Independent provision		2.061	4.573
Total Budget changes			20.860
2023-24 Gross Schools Budget			337.016
2023-24 Dedicated Schools Grant			335.344
2023-24 Call on reserve			0.213
2023-24 Net Schools Budget			1.459

Appendix 2 - Schools Budget 2023-24

	2022-23 Budget £	2022-23 Forecast (Nov-22) £	2023-24 Budget £	2024-25 Forecast £	2025-26 Forecast £	2026-27 Forecast £
Individual Schools Budget						
Primary	96,718,989	96,718,989	124,686,368	129,736,710	134,991,613	138,683,842
Secondary	22,291,955	22,291,955	125,975,398	128,052,798	128,895,401	134,254,888
Special	13,411,216	13,577,246	14,972,721	15,570,891	16,135,253	16,702,168
Wirral Hospitals School	1,589,422	1,589,422	1,728,663	1,814,396	1,903,662	1,997,354
SEN Bases	1,112,565	977,193	2,071,000	2,346,000	2,517,833	2,692,000
Sixth Form/Further Education	268,000	268,000	1,614,000	1,734,000	1,854,000	1,974,000
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	131,378	131,378	0	0	0	0
Individual Schools Budget Total	135,523,525	135,554,183	271,048,150	279,254,796	286,297,763	296,304,252
Central School Costs						
Early Years	19,733,630	19,748,430	21,430,382	22,254,017	23,210,573	24,169,115
Admissions	388,009	372,540	402,604	411,799	421,270	431,025
School Redundancy Costs	76,000	76,567	74,000	72,000	70,000	68,000
Licenses and subscriptions	259,856	259,856	286,976	301,325	316,391	332,211
Schools Forum	10,600	2,500	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
Contingency	25,434	0	17,718	60,197	96,247	127,057
Contribution to combined budgets	630,450	630,450	535,883	428,706	342,965	274,372
PFI Affordability Gap	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500
Retained duties Central (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000	730,000
Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools						
Library Service	183,783	183,783	0	0	0	0
Insurances	24,909	7,202	0	0	0	0
School Specific contingencies	31,245	31,245	0	0	0	0
Special Staff Costs	785,478	785,478	0	0	0	0
Behaviour Support	142,131	142,131	0	0	0	0
School Improvement	149,999	149,999	0	0	0	0
Retained duties de-delegated (ex-ESG)	502,098	502,098	0	0	0	0
High Needs Pupils						
Additional resources	9,665,491	10,698,229	10,802,569	10,662,239	10,946,567	10,491,195
SEN top-ups	16,936,469	17,502,152	18,185,525	19,012,739	19,880,919	20,868,394
High Needs contingency	561,104	929,226	687,205	752,699	779,736	806,774
Independent Special Schools	6,734,980	8,247,338	8,795,780	9,849,700	9,558,600	9,558,600
Home Tuition	364,166	364,166	364,166	364,166	364,166	364,166
Support for SEN	2,127,817	2,080,294	2,127,817	2,127,817	2,127,817	2,127,817
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	58,200	58,200	58,200	58,200
Non-delegated school costs Total	41,847,719	45,212,955	44,538,543	46,301,689	47,162,979	47,707,912
Total Costs	197,104,874	200,515,568	337,017,075	347,810,501	356,671,315	368,181,279
Funding						
Dedicated School Grant	-195,355,485	-195,389,569	-335,344,289	-346,897,175	-357,143,534	-370,520,007
Contribution to/-from DSG Reserve	-289,889	-3,666,499	-213,286	546,174	1,931,719	3,798,228
Funding Total	-195,645,374	-199,056,068	-335,557,575	-346,351,001	-355,211,815	-366,721,779
Grand Total	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500	1,459,500

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 17th JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

De-Delegation of School Budgets

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks a decision by Forum representatives of maintained schools on the possible de-delegation of a number of services to schools, where there is a preference to continue a central service.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2013-14 following DfE regulations a number of services were delegated to schools that were previously provided centrally by the LA. There are some of these service areas where Schools Forum members, in their relevant phase, are able to decide, on behalf of their schools, that funding should be de-delegated and taken out of formula budgets before schools receive them. These amounts would then continue to be held centrally to fund specific services for schools. Regulations provide for different decisions being made for each phase. The members eligible to vote are shown on the attached table.

3. BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

- Contingency

The budget for exceptional/unforeseen costs that it would be unreasonable for governing bodies to meet. There is no change to the per pupil rate of £2.15 for Secondary schools nor a change in the rate of £1.13 for Primary schools respectively.

- Special Staff Costs

Teacher maternity, paternity and trade union facility costs for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

The current rate seems to be sufficient to cover the demand and the special staff costs is forecast to be in line with the budget in the financial year 2022-23 therefore the rate for Special Staff (Maternity and Paternity) remains unchanged.

With regard to Trade Union Facility Time, guidance confirms that representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off during working hours to undertake Trade Union duties and relevant training. Wirral, like many LAs has a local agreement in place. The budget for facility time includes non-teacher representation. Where funding is not de-delegated schools manage their own budget and make their own

facility time arrangements. The rate for 2023-24 has increased by 11p to £3.71 per pupil, anticipating pay award for 2023-24 academic year.

- **School Library Service**

The provision of learning resources to schools, such as books, artefacts, posters, and DVDs. The School Library Service per pupil rate remains unchanged this year at £8.78 per Primary school pupil.

- **Insurance**

The cost of governor's liability insurance for Aided schools.

- **Behaviour Support**

The cost of a small team working with Wirral's Primary, Secondary and special schools. There is no change to the per SEN PA rate of £29.04 for Secondary schools nor for the £17.35 rate for Primary schools respectively.

- **School Improvement**

School Improvement was included as a de-delegated service from September 2017 following the withdrawal of ESG. The budget supports the improvement / intervention programme with schools.

- **Former ESG General Duties**

These are the cost of education services previously funded from Education Services Grant (ESG) to support maintained schools, including asset management (landlord) responsibilities, some premature retirement costs, and statutory / regulatory costs around, finance, LMS and internal audit.

- **The School Improvement and Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (SIMBG)**

From 2023-24 the SIMBG will be included in the de-delegated budget. The tiered funding model has been applied as a preferred option for the de-delegation of the SIMBG as agreed at the November Forum meeting.

4. DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2022-23

In the January 2022 meeting members of the forum made the following decisions: -

- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all the budget areas.
- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £365,940.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all the budget areas.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £57,920.
- The Special School Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £76,140.

From November 2022

- The tiered funding model was applied as a preferred option for the de-delegation of the SIMBG.

5. SUMMARY OF BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

The tables below identify the budget for primary and secondary schools, how the budget is allocated through the formula and the amount per pupil to be deducted if it is de-delegated.

Primary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School (300 Pupils) £
Contingency	22,614	Pupil	1.13	339
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	550,530	Pupil	27.51	8,253
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	74,245	Pupil	3.71	1,113
School Library Service	175,705	Pupil	8.78	2,634
Insurance	23,814	Pupil	1.19	357
Behaviour Support	106,392	SEN PA **	17.35	*1,595
School Improvement	116,670	Pupil	5.83	1,749
Total	1,069,970	(*31% LPA pupils/**6,132)		16,040

Secondary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
Contingency	7,721	Pupil	2.15	2,150
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	123,638	Pupil	34.43	34,430
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	13,323	Pupil	3.71	3,710
Behaviour Support	33,917	SEN PA **	29.04	*9,445
School Improvement	28,441	Pupil	7.92	7,920
Total	207,039	(*33% LPA pupils / **1,168)		57,655

Ex Education Service Grant (ESG) – General Duties

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Amount per Pupil £	Primary Average per School (300 Pupils) £	Secondary Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
ESG General Duties	409,512	Pupil-Maintained Schools only	17.35	5,205	17,350
ESG General Duties– Special School Contribution	90,488				
Total	500,000				

School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (SIMBG)

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Primary Average per School (300 Pupils) £	Secondary Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
SIMBG	308,700	Tiered Funding Model	3,400	12,000
SIMBG– Special School Contribution	23,200			
Total	331,900			

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2023-24: -
 - a. Contingency
 - b. Special Staff Costs, including TU Facilities Time
 - c. School Library Service
 - d. Insurance
 - e. School Improvement
 - f. Behaviour support
2. The Primary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £347,208.
3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2023-24: -
 - a. Contingency

- b. Special Staff Costs, including TU Facilities Time
 - c. School Improvement
 - d. Behaviour support
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.
 6. As per DfE guidance, the Primary and Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £308,700
 7. As per DfE guidance, the Special School Forum representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £23,200,

Simone White
Director for Children, Families and Education

Forum Members eligible to Vote

Group	Name	Category of Membership	School/establishment
Primary School Representatives	Andy Ramsden	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead S)	Oxton St Saviours
	Sue Ralph	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead N)	St Michael & All Angels
	John McDonald	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)	St Alban's Primary
	Emma Johnson	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)	Greasby Junior
	Chris Mervyn	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)	Brackenwood Infant School
	Charlotte Scott	Primary Governor	St George's Primary
	Shaun Allen	Primary Governor	Raeburn Avuenue
	Julie Merry	Primary Governor	Overchurch Infants/Cathcart
	Tony Norbury	Primary Governor	Prenton Primary
Secondary School Representatives	Simon Goodwin	Secondary Headteacher	South Wirral High
Special School Representatives	Margaret Morris	Special Headteacher	Elleray Park
	To be confirmed	Special Governor	

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 17th JANUAR 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS BUDGET VARIATIONS 2022-23

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the anticipated variations for the current year 2022-23 schools budget.

2.0 2022-23 SCHOOLS BUDGET

2.1 Overall the schools budget is forecast to overspend by £3.377m which is mainly due to pressure in the High Needs Block. This reflects an increase in the overspend of £0.402m from the position reported at the November 2022 meeting. The table below summaries the outturn position by funding block and a more detailed analysis is attached in Appendix 1.

	2022-23 Budget £	2022-23 Forecast £	2022-23 Variation Under/-Over spend £
Schools Block	119,142,322	119,142,322	0
Schools Block de-delegated	1,819,643	1,801,936	17,707
Central School Services Block	3,579,849	3,531,413	48,436
High Needs	52,379,430	55,776,114	-3,396,684
Early Years	20,183,630	20,263,782	-80,152
DSG Grant Income	-195,355,485	-195,389,569	34,084
Total before contribution to/-from Reserve	1,749,389	5,125,999	-3,376,610
Movement on DSG Reserve	-289,889	-3,666,499	3,376,610
Total after contribution to/-from Reserve	1,459,500	1,459,500	0
Cumulative reserve balance b/fwd from 2020-21			-1,690,030
In-year contribution to/-use of reserve			-3,666,499
Cumulative reserve balance c/fwd to 2023-24			-5,356,529

2.2 The 2021-22 financial year closed with a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve cumulative deficit position of £1.690m. The current forecast outturn position means that the year-end addition to reserve balance will be increased to £3.667m thus delivering a cumulative £5.357m deficit position at the end of 2022-23.

3.0 2022-23 BUDGET

3.1 There have been no changes to the budget since the position reported at the June 2022 meeting.

4.0 2022-23 FORECAST BUDGET VARIATIONS

The budget variations that make up the £3.377m overspend are identified in the table attached Appendix 1. The reasons for the variations as well as comments on specific budget areas are given below.

4.1 Special Schools £166K adverse

The budget includes additional places to address demand, and as reported at June 2022 meeting, the anticipated increase in number of places will exceed the budget set aside for 2022-23. The forecast reflects the allocation of additional 157 places on a temporary basis from September 2022. The final number of places to be allocated to the special schools might increase further depending on the demand.

4.2 SEN Bases £135K favourable

A favourable variance has been slightly increased from the position reported at the November 22 meeting of £121k due to an adjustment to the allocation to the SEN Base project. Additional base places created with the project are 24 places in 2 schools from September 22 and additional 13 places in 2 schools from January 23.

4.3 Early Years £15k adverse

The forecast position assumes that the take-up of 2- and 3–4-year-old provision will be in line with planned activity. The position will be monitored during the year as more information becomes available. The in-year overspend relates to the Disability Access Fund (DAF) ring-fenced funding which is confirmed £14,800 more than the figure included in the budget - £116,800 for 2022-23.

4.4 Schools Block de-delegated £17.7k favourable

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

4.5 Central School Costs £48.4K favourable

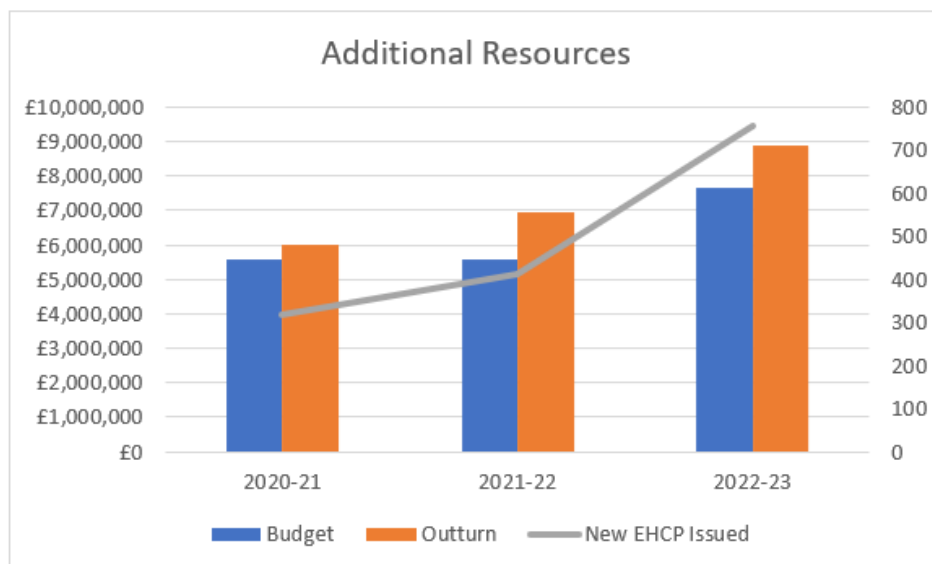
- Admissions - £15k favorable variance due to staff costs.
- Schools Forum - £2.5k favourable. There is no formal spend plan for this budget at this time and anticipated fully underspend, however two more meetings in this financial year including the January 23, it is forecasted a small amount to be spent by the end of March 23.
- Contingency - £25.4k favourable. No potential calls on this contingency have been identified at this time.

4.6 Special Education Needs - Additional resources £1.032m adverse

Demand on this budget keeps growing in line with the requests for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. Requests increased by around 38 % in the period to December 22 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 £873k

for Primary school pupils and £368k 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 to December 22 is 607, compared with 414 issued in 2021-22.

The graph is the comparison of the budget, outturn/forecasted outturn, and numbers of the new EHCP issued /forecasted to be issued.



	Budget	Outturn	New EHCP Issued
2020-21	£5,567,200	£6,021,938	318
2021-22	£5,567,200	£6,952,272	414
2022-23	£7,653,857	£8,904,554	757

Please note the outturn and EHCP number for 2022-23 are forecasted figures.

4.7 Special Education Needs – Top Ups £567k 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	9,625,088	9,863,216	-238,128
Top-Ups for Resourced Provision	2,217,681	2,034,764	182,917
Alternative Provision	1,318,200	1,318,200	-0
FE & 6th Form Top-Ups	2,225,000	2,579,787	-354,787
Additional Nursing Support	160,000	131,765	28,236
Exceptional Needs	1,390,500	1,574,420	-183,920
Total	16,936,469	17,502,152	-565,683

An underspend position of £99k was reported at the November 22 meeting, however, the forecast is revised to be £567k overspend. The movement is due to the increased allocation of Exceptional Need and the top up costs at the special schools and Resourced Provisions (Bases).

The need for the top up budget has increased according to the increase in the number of places in the special schools and Resourced Provisions (Bases). The costs for the new academic year were understated in the previous forecast, and the forecast for this period has been adjusted based on the October census.

4.8 Independent Special Schools £1.512m adverse

The demand continues to increase more than anticipated and this budget is forecasted to be an overspend of £1.512m despite the budget has been increased in 22-23.

4.9 Support for SEN £47k favourable

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 and all are expected to be delivered within the overall 2022-23 budget with a small underspend.

4.10 Dedicated Schools Grant £34k favourable

The favorable variance relates to the following adjustments:

- High Needs Recoupment £5,833
- High Needs Import Export £6,000
- Early Years 21-22 grant adjustment £7,451
- DAF allocation adjustment £14,800

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the report and the forecast financial position of the Schools Budget for 2022-23.

Simone White

Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1 - Budget Variations 2022-23

	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast	2022-23 Variation
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary	96,718,989	96,718,989	0
Secondary	22,291,955	22,291,955	0
Special	13,411,216	13,577,252	-166,036
Wirral Hospitals School	1,589,422	1,589,422	0
SEN Bases	1,112,565	991,639	120,926
Sixth Form/Further Education	268,000	268,000	0
Early Years	19,199,369	19,214,169	-14,800
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	131,378	131,378	0
Individual Schools Budget Total	154,722,894	154,782,804	-59,910
Central School Costs			
Early Years Costs	534,261	534,261	0
Admissions	388,009	372,674	15,335
School Redundancy Costs	76,000	75,803	197
Licenses and subscriptions	259,856	259,856	0
Schools Forum	10,600	5,300	5,300
Contingency	25,434	0	25,434
Contribution to combined budgets	630,450	630,450	0
PFI Affordability Gap	1,459,500	1,459,500	0
Retained duties Central (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000	0
Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools			
Library Service	183,783	183,783	0
Insurances	24,909	7,202	17,707
School Specific contingencies	31,245	31,245	0
Special Staff Costs	785,478	785,478	0
Behaviour Support	142,131	142,131	-0
School Improvement	149,999	149,999	0
Retained duties de-delegated (ex-ESG)	502,098	502,098	0
High Needs Pupils			
Additional resources	9,665,491	10,944,870	-1,279,379
SEN top-ups	16,936,469	16,837,881	98,588
High Needs contingency	561,104	1,055,536	-494,432
Independent Special Schools	6,734,980	8,141,456	-1,406,476
Home Tuition	364,166	364,166	-0
Support for SEN	2,127,817	2,058,636	69,181
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non-delegated school costs Total	42,381,980	45,330,525	-2,948,545
Total Costs	197,104,874	200,113,328	-3,008,454
Funding			
Dedicated School Grant	-195,355,485	-195,389,569	34,084
Total before Movement in DSG Reserve	1,749,389	4,723,759	-2,974,370
Contribution to/-from DSG Reserve	-289,889	-3,264,259	2,974,370
Grand Total	1,459,500	1,459,500	0

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Meeting Date	Tuesday 17th January 2023	March 2023 Provisional meeting	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Virtual / Physical	Virtual		
Budget	Budget Monitoring 22-23 Q3 Schools Budget 23-24 De-delegation of budgets		Provisional outturn 2022-23 Schools Budget 2023-24 School Balances update -
Consultation			- - - -
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
Working Groups			High Needs Early Years
Other	Home Continuing and Education Service (HCES) update Energy update Wirral School Library Service		LACES /LAC PP Update Alternative Provision Update Home Tuition update Agree Meeting dates

