

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **SCHOOLS FORUM – 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION**

#### **SCHOOLS BUDGET 2021-22**

---

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the Schools Budget for 2021-22 so that Forum can indicate their views on the proposals outlined. The report describes the financial changes to be considered by Schools Forum and Policy and Resources Committee. The proposed budget totals £300,710,669 for Early Years, Maintained Schools, Academies, colleges, and providers for the financial year 2021-22.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Schools Funding Allocations were issued by the Department for Education on 17th December 2020. 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.

In summary, the main factors driving DSG in 2021-22 are as follows:

- school funding increased by 4% overall with every secondary school allocated at least £5,415 per pupil and every primary school allocated at least £4,180 per pupil
- funding from the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPG/TPECG) has been added to the formulae from 2021-22 and equates to £180 per pupil for primary schools and £265 per pupil for secondary schools
- local authorities will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee in their local formulae, which for 2021-22 is between +0.5% and +2.00% (previously +0.50% to +1.84%)
- the incorporation of the 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), ensuring that the deprivation funding through the NFF continues to target schools most likely to need additional funding
- 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
- Early Years hourly rates paid to local authorities will increase by £0.08 for 2-year old's and £0.06 for 3&4-year old's
- High needs funding is increasing by a further £730m ensuring that every local authority receives an increase of at least 8% per head of population

- central schools services funding in 2021 to 2022 will increase by 4% 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

2.1 The budget allocations to services do not take account of any financial pressures related to COVID-19. In preparing the schools budget for 2021-22 it has been assumed that any consequences of and/or requirements associated with COVID-19 will be separately funded or manageable within existing resources.

### 3.0 GRANT FUNDING

#### 3.1 Pupil Premium

In addition to DSG, Pupil Premium provides funding targeted towards deprivation. It has been confirmed that Pupil Premium will continue for 2021-22 although the rates will remain at 2020-21 levels.

#### 3.2 Other Grant Funding

3.2.1 The funding for Primary PE and Sport Premium, Year 7 Catch-up Premium, and Extended Rights to Home to School Transport are expected to continue in 2021-22, although this is still to be confirmed.

3.2.2 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 for 2021-22. Allocations will be published in Spring 2021.

#### 3.3 Dedicated Schools Grant

3.3.1 From April 2018 DSG has been made up of 4 blocks including the Central Schools Services Block and with restrictions on moving funding between the blocks, as described above. The blocks indicate the level of expenditure anticipated in each budget area. The allocation for 2021-22 indicates a £24.5m increase (excluding Early Years) which is an overall increase of 8.9%. The budgets presented have not transferred any funding between block allocations.

3.3.5 The Blocks in their current format are summarised as follows:

Block	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	Change £	Change %
Schools Block	211,908,043	230,289,791	18,381,748	8.67%
Early Years	21,354,340	21,644,246	289,906	1.36%
High Needs	40,792,890	46,623,200	5,830,310	14.29%
Central Schools	2,139,153	2,153,432	14,279	0.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>276,194,426</b>	<b>300,710,669</b>	<b>24,516,243</b>	<b>8.88%</b>

3.3.2 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 2020 census, and have changed as follows:

<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>All-Through</b>	<b>Total</b>
October 19 census	25,778	18,174	1	43,953
October 20 census	25,647	18,468	1	44,116
Increase / (Decrease)	(131)	294	0	163

3.3.3 Early Years funding is based on a combination of the census in January 2020 and January 2021 and thus will not be confirmed until Spring 2021. The funding of £21.644m announced in December is based on the January 2020 census and is to be reviewed in Spring 2021 thus the funding available is indicative at this time.

3.3.4 The High Needs Block provides resources to fund high needs students up to the age of 24, including the Hospital School. Additional funding has been provided to meet growing needs across all authorities. For Wirral, an additional £5.8m has been included for this. Growth can be used flexibly to adjust locally to high needs places as well as to the top ups provided. Several changes are described later in this report.

## **4.0 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

### **4.1 Schools Block £230.3m**

4.1.1 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 maintained schools using the formula factor rates used in the National Funding Formula thus this is the basis on which funding will be allocated to individual schools.

#### **4.1.2 Academies**

Currently there are 16 secondary academies and 13 primary academies. 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.

#### **4.1.3 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

Local Authorities have discretion over the level of MFG in their local formula as part of the 'soft' formula. For 2021-22 LAs can apply MFG of between plus 0.5% and plus 2.00% per pupil to protect schools from large formula changes. Following a consultation with all primary, secondary, and special schools, School Forum in November 2020 supported a plus 1.25% Minimum Funding Guarantee for the 2021-22 mainstream schools funding formula.

### **4.2 Early Years Block £21.6m**

4.2.1 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 2021-22, has increased by £0.08 for 2-year old's, and £0.06 for 3- and 4-year-olds.

4.2.2 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%.

4.2.3 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 and Pupil Premium.

#### 4.3 **High Needs Block £46.6m**

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.
- School bases which receive £6,000 per place.
- Alternative Provision Bases funding of £10,000 per place.
- Place funding in Wirral’s FE provision at Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6<sup>th</sup> 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 / Statements.
- The central provision of SEN support.

#### 4.1 **Central School Services Block £2.2m**

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 Education Services Grant (ESG) retained duties is included within this block, together with funding for historic commitments.

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.

## 5.0 2021-22 BUDGET CHANGES

### 5.1 Proposed 2021-22 Schools Budget savings

There are no specific budget savings proposed as part of this Schools Budget report.

### 5.2 Individual Schools Budget

#### 5.2.1 Primary, Secondary and Academy Budgets £8.920m increase

The significant changes within this area are as follows:

- There is a net increase in school rolls, which results in an overall budget increase of £1.04m. There are 163 more pupils on roll in October 2020 compared to October 2019. Primary numbers have reduced by 131 from 25,778 to 25,647 (a 0.51% reduction) while Secondary numbers have increased by 294 from 18,175 to 18,469 (a 1.62% increase).
- There has been an increase in the estimated Business Rates payable of £36.9k resulting from inflation and re-assessment of the liability for 3 schools.
- The PFI Affordability Gap delegated to schools has been increased by the estimated cost of inflation (£23.7k). This will be updated once the December 2020 RPI rate is published.
- There is Headroom within the budget, which arises from a difference in the pupil funding received in DSG and the funding allocated within the ISB. This totals £7.815m (3.73%) and has been split proportionately between primary and secondary budgets.

#### 5.2.2 6<sup>th</sup> Form Funding

The Schools Budget includes funding for High Needs students in 6<sup>th</sup> Forms. All other post 16 funding is through the National Funding Formula for 6<sup>th</sup> Forms.

#### 5.2.3 High Needs Places £0.390m 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 reduction of 5 places at SEN bases.

In December 2020, 142 places in specialist provision Year 7 September 2021 were expressed preferences by parents/carers. The final allocation for Year 6 Year 7 key transfer will not be known until 15 February 2021 (statutory deadline). In addition to these 142 requests, it is anticipated that there will be additional

requests for specialist provision after 15 February and before 31 August 2021. There are (approximately) 135 potential places available in specialist provision in September 2021. There are therefore more pupils due to leave primary special schools year 6 in August 2021 than will be leaving secondary special schools.

In addition, need has been identified for an additional KS2 base, an SEMH base, a CAMHS step-down base and a further class at an existing special school. Further need may be identified during the financial year 2021-22.

For 2020-21 this growth in demand was addressed by including additional places in the budget and a further 40 places have been set aside for this purpose in the 2021-22 budget and will be allocated via a commissioning process.

All changes have been reported to the ESFA where necessary and have been reflected in the budget as follows:

#### **Full Year Effect of changes made in 2020-21**

- Bebington Sports College increase by 5 places to 30
- Woodchurch High Engineering College reduce 5 places to 15
- Oldershaw reduce by 5 places to 30

#### **Changes from April 2021**

- Additional places introduced – 40 places

### **5.2.4 Teachers Pay and Pension Employer Contribution Grants £10.303m increase**

Funding previously received through the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG) supplementary fund, has been allocated through the schools NFF and High Needs funding. The impact of this is to increase funding for mainstream schools by £180 per Primary school pupil and £265 per Secondary school pupil. Similarly funding for special schools has been increased by £661 per pupil based on actual cost in 2020-21.

This will streamline the way in which the funding through the grants is delivered, as well as recognising the fact that these grants are part of schools' core funding.

### **5.2.5 Early Years £0.436m increase**

Early Years funding for 2021-22 will be based on census counts in January 2021 (5/12ths) and January 2022 (7/12ths). The final allocation will not therefore be known until June/July 2022. Early Years funding announced in December 2020 is based on the January 2020 census but will be updated to reflect 2021 census data once it becomes available. The budget has been set on the basis that take-up will be around 98% of the pupil numbers identified in the January 2020 census and will be flexed during 2021-22 as census information is updated.

The January 20 census showed a falling roll for 2-year old's and universal - & 4-year-olds compared to the January 19 census, mirroring a drop in birth rates for the related period. A further drop in numbers is predicted for the January 2021 census, although this will be kept under review.

The extended offer of an additional 15 hours for working parents was introduced from autumn 2017, with the DfE's expectation being that extended hours claimed

would eventually be around 60% of universal hours. 2021-22 funding is expecting this take-up to be 48.8% reflecting a 3% increase from 2020-21. The 2021-22 budget has been set on the basis that take-up of the extended offer will be 48.8%.

<b>Pupil numbers</b>	<b>Jan-20</b>	<b>Jan-19</b>	<b>Change</b>
2-year olds (PTE)	1,027	1,055	-28
3/4-year olds (universal PTE)	4,680	4,814	-134
3/4-year olds (extended PTE)	2,283	2,204	79

As outlined above in paragraph 4.2.1 the hourly rates paid by DfE to Wirral will increase by £0.08 to £5.38 for 2-year old's and £0.06 to £4.45 for 3&4-year-olds. The expenditure budget relates 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.

### 5.3 High Needs Top-Ups £2.560m

The proposed budget for SEN Top-ups is £29.4m, an increase of £2.5m from 2020-21 which is made up as follows:

- **Statements £0.291m** – a net increase of £91.1k for personal budgets and 0.52m plus £200k for units of resource for out of borough placements. These increases reflect the current/on-going level of demand.
- **Special Schools £0.368m** – special school top-ups budgets are under increasing pressure, with increased complexity of need being reflected in the application of higher rate top-up bands. The budget also assumes all special schools are full throughout the year and this includes the additional 40 places identified in 5.2.3.
- **FE and 6<sup>th</sup> Form £0.367m** – increasing demand and complexity has put pressure on this budget and the increase will support the current level of on-going plans plus potential further growth of around 30 new plans.
- **Exceptional Need £0.568m** – this budget has been increased to reflect the growth in applications from September 2020 plus potential growth for a further 20 new applications.
- **Independent Special Schools £0.986m** – there has been an increase of in this budget to reflect the funding currently committed resulting from increase in demand, as well as an estimate of further placements made during 2021-22.
- **Nursing Support (£0.060m)** – this net reduction is made up of a reduction of £200k for the Clinical Psychology Team to reflect how the service is currently delivered. The £200k reduction has been partially offset by the additional funding that replaces the Teachers Pay and Pension Employer Contribution Grants in relation to centrally employed teaching staff and additional funding for medical equipment and specialist 'learning beds'.
- **Home Tuition £0.000m** – the budget for the Home Tuition service remains unchanged for 2020-21, despite projected overspends in 2019-20. This is due to a planned review of the service and charges during 2021.

- **Contingency £0.040m** – this budget has been increased by £50k and covers the potential cost of:
  - The 90% guarantee to maintained mainstream schools to limit the demands on low-cost high incidence SEN budgets used to support statements (£145k).
  - Any unforeseen consequences arising from top-ups, places, or exceptional cases (£265k).

These changes are summarised in the table below, and together with the place changes outlined in 5.2.3 mean that the pressures estimated on the High Needs budget total £2.950m.

	2021-22 budget £	2020-21 budget £	Change £
<b>Statements</b>			
Early Years	450,000	450,000	0
Primary	3,243,600	3,243,600	0
Secondary (including 5th Forms)	2,323,600	2,323,600	0
Primary & Secondary - out of borough	200,000	0	200,000
Personal Budgets	200,000	108,700	91,300
Other	111,100	111,100	0
	<b>6,528,300</b>	<b>6,237,000</b>	<b>291,300</b>
<b>Top-ups</b>			
Special Schools (& 6 <sup>th</sup> Forms / Hospital)	8,867,600	8,427,900	439,700
SEN Units (resourced & AP)	976,300	1,048,600	(72,300)
Alternative Provision	1,318,200	1,318,200	0
Further Education (6 <sup>th</sup> form college & providers)	2,050,000	1,683,200	366,800
Exceptional Need	1,350,000	782,000	568,000
Nursing Support	160,000	159,900	100
Contingency	400,000	360,000	40,000
Independent Non-maintained Special Schools	5,120,000	4,134,000	986,000
Home Tuition	400,500	400,500	0
	<b>20,642,600</b>	<b>18,314,300</b>	<b>2,328,300</b>
<b>Others</b>			
SEN Support	2,132,300	2,192,200	(59,900)
Special Schools Transport	58,200	58,200	0
	<b>2,190,500</b>	<b>2,250,400</b>	<b>(59,900)</b>
<b>High Needs Total</b>	<b>29,361,400</b>	<b>26,801,700</b>	<b>2,559,700</b>

## 5.4 Central School Services £226.2m increase

5.4.1 **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 former General Duties of the Education Services Grant and School Improvement.

5.4.2 **Central School Services block** - the centrally held budgets for 2021-22, mainly funded by the Central Schools Services Block of DSG have increased by

£0.226m. The services delivered by these budgets are explained below along with the reasons for any changes to the budget for 2021-22.

- School Admissions (£380,000). 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 £7.8k has been applied to this budget to reflect forecast staff costs.
- School redundancy costs (£81,000). This budget covers the continuing cost of premature retirement of teachers and staff that have arisen from closing schools. There is no change to this budget.
- Licences and Subscriptions (£243,800). 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 2021-22 budget has reduced by £1,100 to reflect the costs announced by DfE in December 2020.
- Schools Forum (£10,600). Unchanged from 2020-21).
- Contingency (£7,600). This relates to the 'headroom' within the Central School Services Block for 2021-22.
- Contributions to combined budgets (£700,500). Unchanged from 2020-21.
- Early Years (£518,700 funded from the Early Years block). Unchanged from 2020-21.
- The Authority's contribution to the PFI Affordability Gap (£1,459,642, an increase of £211,942, funded by the LA and subject to change based on the December RPI% when it is available.
- Retained duties of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) (£730,000, unchanged from 2020-21). Overall, DSG contributes £1.2m towards the cost of services that were previously funded from ESG. In 2020-21 Forum agreed to de-delegate £500,000 on behalf of Maintained Primary, Secondary and Special Schools towards the full year costs of ESG General Duties. The table below identifies the services delivered and the funding source.

<b>Estimated cost of ESG services</b>	<b>£</b>
Education Welfare	454,800
Asset Management	152,600
Statutory/Regulatory duties	998,600
Premature retirement/redundancy	128,300
Monitoring national curriculum assessment	65,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799,300</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>	
School budget retained duties	730,000
General duties (de-delegation)	504,800
Council funded	564,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799,300</b>

### 5.4.3 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 2021-22. However, the net increase to the current cost element of the Central Schools Service Block off-sets the 20% reduction. It is proposed, therefore, that there be no reduction in the combined budgets. These contributions are as follows:

- **Discretionary Rate Relief (£85,280)**

This budget funds continuing costs for Discretionary Rate Relief in Voluntary Aided schools.

- **School Improvement (£264,000)**

This budget supports the continued funding for School Improvement staff with permanent contracts.

- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board (£24,000)**

The LSCB provides governance of child protection arrangements, undertakes serious case reviews, training and employs a Designated Officer for Allegations. The Board is funded from partner organisations including Social Care, Schools, Police, Health and Probation

- **School Intervention (£108,800)**

This budget supports the continuing funding for the consultant Headteacher role supporting primary and secondary schools.

- **PFI – City Learning Centres (£54,800)**

The 3 City Learning Centres closed in summer 2016 after which budgets for running costs were delegated to schools. There is an ongoing requirement to fund PFI costs for 2 of the 3 buildings. Provision has been made within the council for some costs (£118,400) and the Home Tuition Service (£40,000). This residual budget is required until a more lasting solution is found.

- **PFI Support (£49,440)**

A small team within Asset Management manages the PFI contract on behalf of the Council and provides support / advice to PFI schools. This budget provides part of the funding needed to support the ongoing contract management.

- **LACES (£112,400)**

The service reviews the educational progress of Looked After Children, provides training to staff and some direct support to pupils.

- **Governors Forum (£1,780)**

## **6.0 USE OF RESERVES**

- 6.1 The DSG reserve position brought forward on 1 April 2020 reflects a deficit position of £1.3m and was agreed as part of the year end accounts for 2019-20. The £1.1m deficit is a net position after ring-fencing Early Years Disability Access Fund underspends of £178,140 for future use.
- 6.2 The Schools Budget for 2020-21 is forecast to deliver an in-year deficit of £1.4m resulting in a cumulative deficit of £2.4m by the end of 2020-21. The majority of the overspend relates to pressures in the high needs block. The budget proposes the transfer to reserve of the £2.7m unallocated High Needs funding for 2021-22. This will result in a broadly balanced reserve position.

## **7.0 INFLATION**

- 7.1 Although the mainstream schools' budget has received increased funding, there is no specific provision in the budget for pay awards. The cost of pay awards for 2021-22 is expected to be low given the public sector pay freeze announced in November 2020 for all but those employees earning less than £24k per annum. Any additional cost over and above any increase in budget allocations and Teachers Pay Grant will need to be met from existing budgets.
- 7.2 There is no general provision for price inflation, although costs for school rates and PFI continue to reflect RPI increases.

## **8.0 BUDGET TIMETABLE**

- 8.1 The Schools Budget and advice from Forum will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its budget meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## **9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The budget for 2021-22 is compiled from the base budget for 2020-21 approved by Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and updated for any issues identified in this report. The projected budget (DSG and council contribution) is £299,487,100 and is summarised below. A more detailed analysis of the 2021-22 budget is shown in Appendix 1. A comparison of the 2021-22 and 2020-21 budgets are summarised in Appendix 2.

	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>
Schools Block	230,289,800
Central School Services Block	3,613,100
High Needs Block	43,940,000
Early Years Block	21,644,200
<b>TOTAL BEFORE CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVE</b>	<b>299,487,100</b>
Contribution to reserves (High Needs)	2,683,100
<b>TOTAL AFTER CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVE</b>	<b>302,170,200</b>
<b>Funded by...</b>	
DSG	300,710,700
Council (PFI Affordability Gap)	1,459,500
<b>NET TOTAL FOR HIGH NEEDS BLOCK</b>	<b>302,170,200</b>

9.2 As described in paragraph 6.0, the DSG reserve is expected to end 2020-21 with a cumulative deficit of £2.4m. The High Needs block of the DSG grant has increased by £5.8m for 2021-22 (paragraph 3.3.5), and the budget changes described in this report result in surplus High Needs funding of £2,683,134 for 2021-22. It is proposed that this is transferred to the DSG reserve to offset the deficit.

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That the views of Schools Forum are sought on the Schools Budget for 2021-22 including the changes within SEN and Central costs.
- 10.2 That the net increase in the current cost element of the Central School Services block be used to off-set the reduction in historic cost element and thus retaining the Combined Budgets at the 2020-21 level.
- 10.3 That £2,683,100 of surplus High Needs funding for 2021-22 be transferred to the DSG reserve to offset the deficit position.
- 10.4 That the Schools Budget and views of the Schools Forum be referred to the budget meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**Paul Boyce**  
**Director for Children, Families and Education**

## Appendix 1 - Schools Budget changes 2021-22

	£000	£000
2020-21 Schools adjusted base budget		175,150
Add back Academy recoupment		101,502
<b>2020-21 Gross Schools budget</b>		<b>276,652</b>

### Budget changes:

#### **Individual Schools Budget**

Net increase in number of pupils on roll	1,044	
Rates	37	
PFI Affordability	24	
NFF changes (headroom)	7,815	
Special school/SEN base places	390	
TPG/TPECG	10,303	
Early years rate change	436	
	<u>20,049</u>	

#### **High Needs Pupils**

Out of borough units of resource	291	
Special school top-ups	368	
FE & 6th Form top-ups	367	
Exceptional needs	568	
Independent provision	986	
Nursing Support	(60)	
Contingency	40	
	<u>2,560</u>	

#### **Central School costs**

Admissions	8	
Contingency	8	
Licenses and subscriptions	(1)	
PFI Affordability Gap	212	
	<u>226</u>	

**Total budget changes** **22,835**

<b>2021-22 Gross Schools budget</b>	<b>299,487</b>
2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant	(300,711)
Contribution to reserve	2,683
<b>2021-22 Net Schools budget</b>	<b>1,460</b>

## Appendix 2 - Schools Budget 2021-22

	<b>2021-22 Proposed Budget £</b>	<b>2020-21 Net Budget (Jan 2021) £</b>
<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>		
Primary	116,038,300	82,980,000
Secondary	114,251,500	25,293,000
Special	12,622,600	11,368,300
Wirral Hospitals School	1,412,000	1,354,300
SEN Bases	958,000	962,200
Sixth Form/Further Education	36,000	36,000
Early Years	20,675,500	20,239,300
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	0	466,000
<b>Individual Schools Budget Total</b>	<b>265,993,900</b>	<b>142,699,100</b>
<b>Central School Costs</b>		
Early Years	518,700	518,700
Admissions	380,000	372,200
School Redundancy Costs	81,000	81,000
Licenses and subscriptions	243,800	244,900
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
Contingency	7,600	0
Contribution to combined budgets	700,500	700,500
PFI Affordability Gap	1,459,600	1,247,700
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000
<b>Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools</b>		
Library Service	0	188,200
Insurances	0	25,600
School Specific contingencies	0	66,100
Special Staff Costs	0	701,400
Behaviour Support	0	107,000
School Improvement	0	150,700
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	0	504,800
<b>High Needs Pupils</b>		
Statements	6,528,300	6,237,000
SEN top-ups	14,722,100	13,419,800
High Needs contingency	400,000	360,000
Independent Special Schools	5,120,000	4,134,000
Home Tuition	400,500	400,500
Support for SEN	2,132,300	2,192,200
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
<b>Non-school and school delegated Total</b>	<b>33,493,200</b>	<b>32,451,100</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>299,487,100</b>	<b>175,150,200</b>
<b>Funding</b>		
Dedicated School Grant	(300,710,700)	(174,546,400)
Contribution to DSG Reserve (High Needs)	2,683,100	643,900
<b>Funding Total</b>	<b>(298,027,600)</b>	<b>(173,902,500)</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,459,500</b>	<b>1,247,700</b>