

Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 8 July 2021

2.00pm

Remote Meeting

Via MS Teams

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Contact: Andy McHale



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b) Governance Benchmarking Report

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a) County Council Network (CCN) and Society of County Treasurer's (SCT) Report

b) LA and SEND Data Update

Agenda Item 11 F40 Group Update

a) DfE Meeting 11 June 2021

b) Executive Committee Meeting 14 June 2021

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Date of Next Programmed WSF Meeting

Thursday 23 September 2021 at 2.00pm Via MS Teams



MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

Thursday 8th July 2021
At 2.00pm
Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interests
With Items on the Agenda
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting 20th May 2021 (attached)
5. Matters Arising
Liberata Transfer Update (verbal update)
(WCC Representatives in attendance)
6. Any Other Business
7. Schools Forum Regulatory Matters
 - a) Change to the Schools Forums (England)
Regulations 2012 (verbal update)
 - b) Governance Benchmarking Report (attached)
8. Maintained Schools Balances 2020-21 (attached)
9. DSG Outturn 2020-21 (attached)

Phil Rook

Director of Resources

Worcestershire
Children First

Worcestershire
County Council

PO Box 73
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2YA

Tel 01905 846300

E-mail

prook@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

10. High Needs Issues
 - a) County Council Network (CCN) and Society of County Treasurer's (SCT) Report (attached)
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/education/2021/jun/30/english-county-councils-warn-of-13bn-special-educational-needs-deficit>
 - b) LA and SEND Data Update (attached)

11. F40 Group Updates
 - a) DfE Meeting 11th June 2021 (attached)
 - b) Executive Committee Meeting 14th June 2021 (attached)

12. WSF Meeting Schedule Academic Year 2021/22 (attached)

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 2.00pm
Via MS Teams

Please pass apologies to Andy McHale who can be contacted on
amchale@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk



worcestershire county council

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

Thursday 20th May 2021
Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams

The meeting started at 2.05 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

WSF Members

Malcolm Richards (Chair)	-	Governor, Bromsgrove
Bryn Thomas (Vice Chair)	-	HT Wolverley CE Secondary School
Marie Pearse	-	HT Evesham Nursery School
Paul Essenhigh	-	Executive HT Catshill Middle, Catshill First and Nursery Schools
Nathan Jones	-	HT Meadow Green Primary School
Lizzie Dixon	-	HT Franche Primary School
Adrian Ward	-	HT Trinity High School
Bec Garratt	-	HT Wyre Forest School
David McIntosh	-	Governor, Wyre Forest
Jeff Robinson	-	Governor, Malvern Hills
Lorraine Petersen	-	Governor, Bromsgrove
Stephen Baker	-	Union Representative
John Bateman	-	Governor, Aspire Alternative Provision (AP) Free School
Greg McClarey	-	Archdiocese of Birmingham
Catriona Savage	-	PVI Sector
Tom Jenkins	-	PVI Sector

Local Authority (LA)

Phil Rook	-	Director of Resources Worcestershire Children First
Andy McHale	-	Senior Finance Business Partner Worcestershire Children First
Caroline Brand	-	Schools Finance Manager Worcestershire County Council
Chris Bird	-	Senior Finance Business Partner Worcestershire Children First
Rob Phillips	-	Accountancy Officer School Funding Worcestershire County Council
Gabrielle Stacey	-	Assistant Director SEND and Vulnerable Learners Worcestershire Children First

1. APOLOGIES

Emma Pritchard	-	Principal Black Pear Trust
Chris King	-	CEO Severn Academies Educational Trust
Tim Reid	-	Church of England Board of Education
Edward Senior	-	16-19 Providers
Sarah Wilkins	-	Director of Education and Early Help Worcestershire Children First
Councillor Marcus Hart	-	Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education Worcestershire County Council

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 Chris Bird declared an interest as a foundation trustee of the Lady of Lourdes MAT.

2.2 Lorraine Petersen declared an interest as a Governor of Lokrum Fields independent specialist setting.

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

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (21st January 2021)

Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Place Partnership Limited (PPL)

Phil confirmed that the transfers advised at the last WSF meeting had taken place. The contact is Andy Moran for the Council and Chris Hall for Acivico and meetings were being held on a regular basis, Phil reminded the forum if any issues arise let him know.

5.2 Medical Education Pathway

Phil advised that the Cabinet report circulated to the WSF had been approved on 18th March 2021. Gabrielle advised there had been 11 responses to the soft market testing and confirmed the next steps which involved a formal consultation on proposed funding changes with delivery by an OFSTED registered provider

5.3 Retirements

The Chair confirmed the end of the academic year would see the retirements of two longstanding WSF colleagues, Andy McHale Financial Adviser and Clerk to the WSF and Stephen Baker WSF Union Representative.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Liberata

(a) Phil advised on the current position in that accounts payable and receivable services would transfer back into WCC from 1st June 2021. Phil further advised payroll would stay with Liberata, but HR support would transfer back to WCC on 1st September 2021.

(b) Phil also confirmed that schools finance support from Liberata would transfer back into WCF from 1st September 2021 as well as the Schools Finance Team currently in WCC transferring into WCF at the same time. This would enable all school funding policy matters and schools finance support to be located within WCF. A member of the WSF commented that this was a positive move and schools would welcome the change.

(c) The TUPE process was currently being started and there would be further communications with schools and SBMs as the transfers progressed.

6.2 Proposal for a New Secondary School in Worcester City Council Boundary

(a) Andy advised that Cabinet had approved in February 2021 for a new secondary school and the WSF would be briefed at a future meeting on the detailed proposals. There is currently a short consultation on principles.

(b) In response to a query from a member of the WSF, Andy confirmed there had been no confirmation yet on the proposed location for the new school.

7. WCC ISSUES

7.1 Cabinet Report 4th February 2021 Agenda Item 4 – 2021-22 Draft Budget and MTFP Update 2022-24

Andy confirmed the approval of the WCC budget and Council Tax by WCC Cabinet and Council. The report contained details on the provisional DSG for 2021-22 and the HN deficit.

7.2 Local Elections 6th May 2021 Outcomes

Phil confirmed the results and that previous ruling administration had increased its majority. Council had met earlier on 20th May 2021 to elect a Leader and approve political structures and appointments. Phil advised the Leader had appointed the Cabinet and Councillor Marcus Hart is Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Councillor Andy Roberts is Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.

8. BUDGET ISSUES 2021-22

8.1 Letters to Schools

The WSF noted the issues in the letter to schools on budget allocations for 2021-22. This confirmed the DfE NFF Year 4 parameters including the NFF funding rates, the mainstreaming of the former grants to support teachers' pay and pensions, the MFG and no capping.

8.2 Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for Mainstream Schools

(a) The WSF noted the final APT position for 2021-22 and the comparison to 2020-21.

(b) Andy confirmed this reflected the DfE NFF Year 4 parameters and was just affordable in the Schools Block quantum for 2021-22 as reported at the January 2021 WSF meeting.

8.3 Early Years Hourly Rate

(a) Andy introduced the item and the WSF noted the discussions on the hourly rates for April 2021 with the WSF early years representatives. The letter confirmed increases of £0.04 for the 2, 3 & 4-year-old rates and that given the impact of COVID on attendance at settings the LA would likely to receive a clawback of DSG later in the year. It was confirmed that LAs would be able to submit termly count data for DSG purposes in 2021-22 instead of relying on the January census data.

(b) In response to a query from a member of the WSF on head count data for the Spring Term 2021, Rob advised this was been assessed but numbers were less than expected. The WSF recognised this was a national issue and LAs would continue to challenge the DfE.

8.4 DfE Action Plans – Schools in Financial Difficulty

(a) The WSF noted the requirements for the LA mandated by the DfE.

(b) Members of the WSF commented as follows: -

- The LA needs to consider peer support in this area as some HTs have considerable experience in managing complex deficit situations.
- The impact of COVID on schools that generate significant traded income cannot be underestimated as a major contributor to schools' current financial positions.
- There is a need to support governors in their strategic role for such schools.
- In any reply to the DfE the LA needs to make it very clear of the impact of the low funding position of WCC.

(c) Phil advised the first step is for the LA to attend the DfE workshops indicated in the letter and then the LA would respond accordingly.

9. SCHEME FOR FINANCING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS APRIL 2021

9.1 In response to a query from a member of the WSF, Andy advised that directed changes already approved by the WSF in September 2020 relating to schools in deficit did not represent a conflict of interest.

9.2 Andy further advised of some further minor required changes to the Scheme because of updates to the DfEs statutory guidance.

9.3 The WSF noted the changes and the maintained school members approved the changes from April 2021.

RESOLVED –

On a show of hands, the 9 WSF maintained school members approved the required changes to the WCC Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools and for its publication on the WSF web site.

10. DfE CONSULTATIONS 2022-23

10.1 Sparsity Funding

The WSF noted the LA response in supporting the proposed changes with the caveat any change must be supported by a relevant increase in Schools Block DSG estimated to be £0.984m.

10.2 Funding for School Business Rates

(a) The WSF noted the DfE proposal for the ESFA to manage the issue on behalf of all schools.

(b) Andy advised there was no information how the changes would impact on the DSG and APT or the schools in the nursery or specialist sectors. Also, the impact on 2-tier LAs like WCC was unclear as it is the District Council that are the rating authorities.

11. HIGH NEEDS ISSUES

11.1 DfE Consultation 2022-23

(a) Andy advised of a short DfE consultation on the historic factor used with the national HN DSG formula and that the national SEND review had yet to report.

(b) The WSF noted the LA response and expressed its disappointment that it only related to a minor aspect of the HN DSG and not the fundamental funding issues. It was felt the proposal for using historic data up to 6 years out of date was wholly inappropriate.

11.2 F40 Survey and DfE Submission

The WSF noted and concurred with the issues raised by the F40 Group with the DfE in response to the short consultation. It was felt the response was good and contained more detail than the LA response. Phil advised WCC using the national lobbying through the Society of County Treasurer's (SCT) was a useful tactic.

11.3 Schools Week Article 5th May 2021

(a) Phil advised that a small number of LAs had brokered some financial support from the DfE to assist in their HN deficit recovery. However, it was noted this has many conditions attached that it would be difficult for those LAs to meet.

(b) A member of the WSF advised of an analysis from the County special schools particularly around top up funding. Other WSF members from other sectors felt this would be useful to share. Phil commented on the complexities of the issue and that the DfE will point to the additional DSG allocated but that has not even kept pace with the increasing demands.

11.4 OFSTED SEND Reinspection and WCC Management Plan Updates

(a) Gabrielle advised the reinspection is imminent, the LA is ready and has been strengthening the continuum of provision with some very good support from schools. There are continuing issues on the capacity in special schools and limited accommodation options. The significant impact of post 19 has led to this being a priority for the DfE capital allocation of £1.9m as revenue spend in non-County provision of over £9m is not sustainable.

(b) Gabrielle took the WSF through the latest work stream position and progress to date. The WSF noted the current positions.

(c) The WSF commented as follows: -

- A member of the WSF raised concerns on the projected EHCP table requesting clarity on the projections.
- There are concerns on the numbers of pupils in independent and private providers at significant cost.
- The data is key and WCF are moving in the right direction, but issues remain in inclusivity in some mainstream schools.
- Parents can argue at SEND tribunal for more expensive provision.
- Due to COVID there has been an increase in the numbers requiring support in early years settings.
- There has been an improvement in the last 12 months in the SEND processes, particularly on timescales for EHCPs.

(d) On the projection data, Gabrielle agreed to review and advise the WSF further.

12. F40 GROUP UPDATES

12.1 Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) Survey

The WSF noted the outcomes of the survey and the impact on the F40 Group LAs on the move to using the October census data.

12.2 Campaign Objectives 2021

The WSF noted the objectives.

12.3 Executive Committee 8th March 2021

The WSF noted the minutes.

12.4 Vice Chair Meeting 9th March 2021

The WSF noted the minutes.

13. ACADEMIES UPDATE

13.1 The WSF noted the academies position as at 1st April 2021.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

The date of the next WSF meeting: - Thursday 8th July 2021 at 2pm via MS Teams

Appendix 4

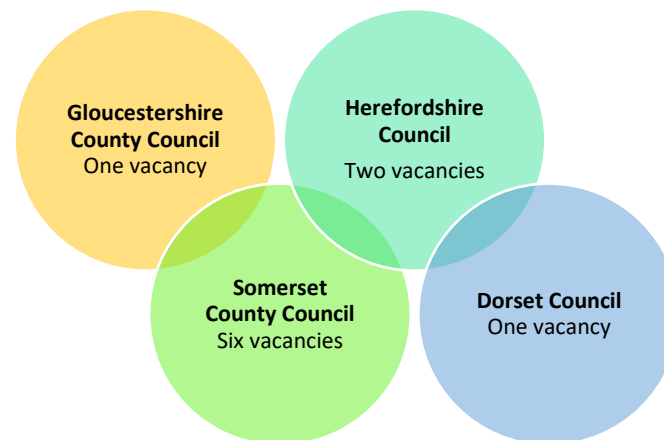
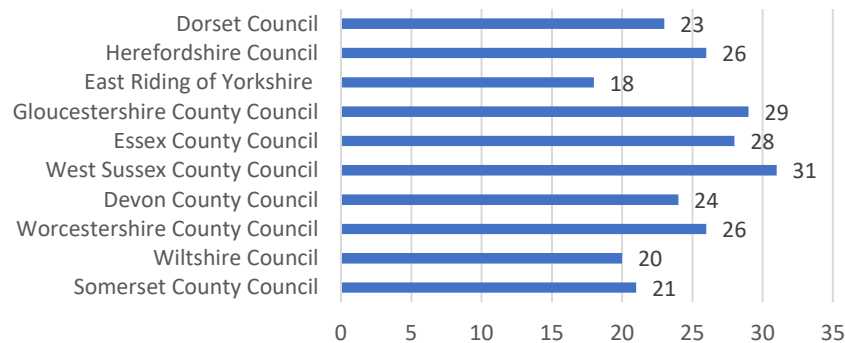
Schools Forum Governance

SWAP Benchmarking Summary

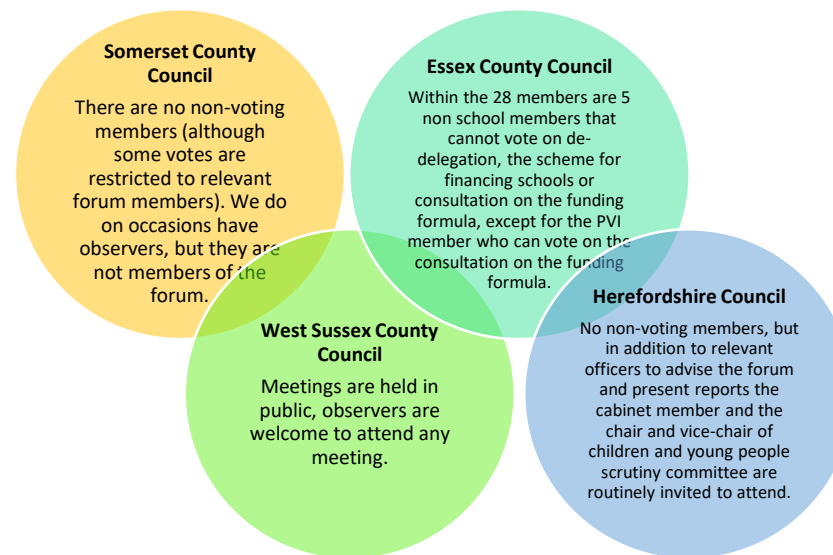
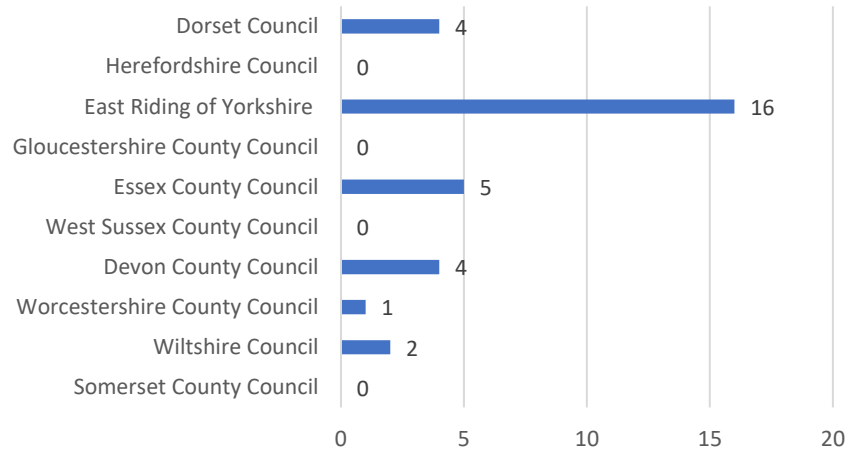
Issue Date: June 2021

SWAP Benchmarking summary – Schools Forum Governance

1. How many voting members are there in the Schools Forum?



2. How many non-voting members (observers) are there?





3. Please provide a copy of your constitution or structure which sets out the number of members (voting and non-voting, including observers) and the phases they represent.

Somerset County Council - The Somerset Schools Forum does not have an agreed Constitution or Terms of Reference setting out its rules of operation, but processes are based on published EFSA guidance.

West Sussex County Council - The Forum has the following membership: (a) Schools Members: 9 primary school representatives (6 headteachers, or senior staff member including at least one nursery school representative and 3 governors), 5 secondary school representatives (3 headteachers, or senior staff member and 2 governors), 2 special school representatives (one headteacher, or senior staff member and one governor) 1 Alternative Provision representative (b) Academies Members: 4 representatives for academies with secondary aged pupils, 4 representatives for academies with primary aged pupils. NB: For the purposes of Schools Forum representation all Free Schools in West Sussex are deemed to be academies. (c) Non-schools Members: one representative of the Diocese of Chichester Church of England Diocesan Board; one representative of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Catholic Education Service; one representative of the Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector; one representative of teaching staff in schools; one representative of non-teaching staff in schools; and one representative of institutions (other than a school or an academy) providing education to 16-19 year-olds.

Wiltshire Council - Primary 6 (4 maintained reps, 2 Academy reps); Secondary 4 (1 maintained rep, 3 Academy reps); Special 2 (1 maintained rep, 1 Academy rep); Post-16 1; Early Years 2; Diocese 2; Teaching Unions 1 non-voting; Youth Observer 1 non-voting; Governor Special 1; Governor Secondary 1; Governor Primary 1.

Worcestershire County Council

 Worcestershire membership.pdf
 Worcestershire Constitution.pdf

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

 ERYC Constitution 2018.pdf

Gloucestershire County Council

 Gloucestershire Consitution.pdf

Devon County Council

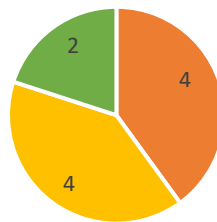
 Devon education Forum - constitution.f

Herefordshire Council

[Herefordshire constitution](#)

Dorset Council [Dorset constitution](#)

4. How many meetings are held in a 12 month period?



■ 4 meetings ■ 5 meetings ■ 6 meetings

5. What is the schedule of meetings throughout the year?

Somerset County Council - January, March, May, July, October, November

Wiltshire Council - January, March, June, October, December (if there is an emerging or urgent issue then an additional meeting will be convened but this is the general pattern of meetings)

Worcestershire County Council - January, March, May, July, September, November

Devon County Council - January, March, June, September, November

West Sussex County Council - January, March, June, September, November

Essex County Council - January, May, July, September, November

Gloucestershire County Council - January, June, September, November

East Riding of Yorkshire Council - January, June, October plus additional one if needed

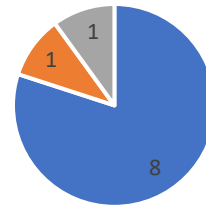
Herefordshire Council - January, March, June or July, October

Dorset Council - January, (February), March, July, November

6 & 7. What training do you provide for Forum members? Does training just cover the powers and responsibilities of the Forum, or do you include other training such as Chairmanship?

- Somerset County Council** - SCC does not currently provide induction or training for Forum members. Training may be carried out informally between peers/phase groups.
- Wiltshire Council** - Limited, but more around the responsibilities and powers of the Forum.
- Worcestershire County Council** - Relevant updates and changes in roles/responsibilities provided through meeting schedule. New members can request LA induction by the clerk and forum member peer support. Mainly roles and responsibilities. Chair and Vice Chair are appointed as experienced in managing meetings and have pre meetings with the LA.
- Devon County Council** - Forum finance & constitution to newly appointed and annually review. Chair support provided as required.
- Herefordshire Council** - Induction session with key officers at election. Powers and responsibilities, and general advice on the conduct of the meeting.
- West Sussex County Council** - new members induction training and refresher training on request. Training covers power and responsibilities, school funding - finance, constitution and TOR of WS Schools Forum.
- Essex County Council** - No formal training is given. New members are provided with Terms of Reference, good practice guide, powers and responsibilities and link to past papers. Offered a discussion if required.
- Gloucestershire County Council** - All new members attend a briefing session, delivered by the Head of Education Strategy and Development, and the Finance Manager (Schools Strategy and Capital). Topics covered include: the Schools Forum Constitution, the Forum, how it operates and the Forum member's role; how the funding works; local and national context; and the big issues for the Forum.
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council** - Once a year Forum members are reminded of the roles and responsibilities of the Schools Forum. Training is also available to Forum members before each meeting on the technical aspects of the Schools budget. Training covers mainly just roles and responsibilities. No training has been provided on Chairmanship. Until last year the East Riding had only had three different Chairman of the Schools Forum since 2003.
- Dorset Council** - Induction training following elections. Training covers powers and responsibilities as well as finance and Schools' funding.

8. Is training carried out internally or by external provider, or both?



■ Internally ■ Not answered ■ N/A

9. In order to ensure that there are suitable candidates each year for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, do you undertake any succession planning within the Forum?

Somerset County Council - No formal succession planning currently takes place.

Wiltshire Council - We have a very stable forum and the current Chair and Vice chair have significant experience of their roles. With the role of Chair becoming vacant, succession planning arrangements have been put in place.

Worcestershire County Council - All forum members including the Chair and Vice Chair are appointed for 2 year period and can serve more than one term. Previous Chair and Vice Chair post holders have stood for more than one term for continuity and experience. Chair normally changes upon retirement or term of office expiry, succession planning is managed by LA in conjunction with senior forum members.

Devon County Council - Associations (eg HT/govs) may do.

West Sussex County Council - No.

Essex County Council - No but it is something we need to think about as current Chair will be retiring at the end of their current term.

Gloucestershire County Council - Yes for the position of Chair.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council - Has not been necessary in the past but this is something we will be looking at, particularly as it has become increasingly difficult in recent years to recruit new Forum members.

Herefordshire Council - It is usual for the vice-chair to step up to become the chair after serving their 2 year term but not mandatory. The chairperson will be automatically re-elected to the form if the end of their term of forum membership comes part way through their term as chair to ensure continuity.

Dorset Council - No formal succession planning

10. If non-voting members (observers) have questions or comments that they would like to put forward during meetings, how are these managed? Can they ask questions through the Chair during a meeting or do questions have to be put forward in advance of the meeting?

Somerset County Council - Standard process would be for questions from any non-forum member attendees to be addressed under the public question time agenda item, but the Chair has discretion to vary this as they see fit. SCC standard practice is for questions to be submitted 3 clear days in advance of the meeting, but again the chair can vary this at their discretion.

Wiltshire Council - Questions can be asked through the Chair and do not need to be raised in advance.

Worcestershire County Council - The non voting member observer member (ESFA) only attends when they request to the LA they wish do so and is able to contribute to the meeting like a voting member via comment or question. As required the meetings are public with any public participation made through forum members who represent the participant.

Devon County Council - During - our 1 observer (cabinet member) uses appropriately. Not felt need to have another mechanism .

Herefordshire Council - It is rare but questions or comments from the cabinet member or scrutiny chairperson may be put through the chair without notice.

West Sussex County Council - Observers are asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting.

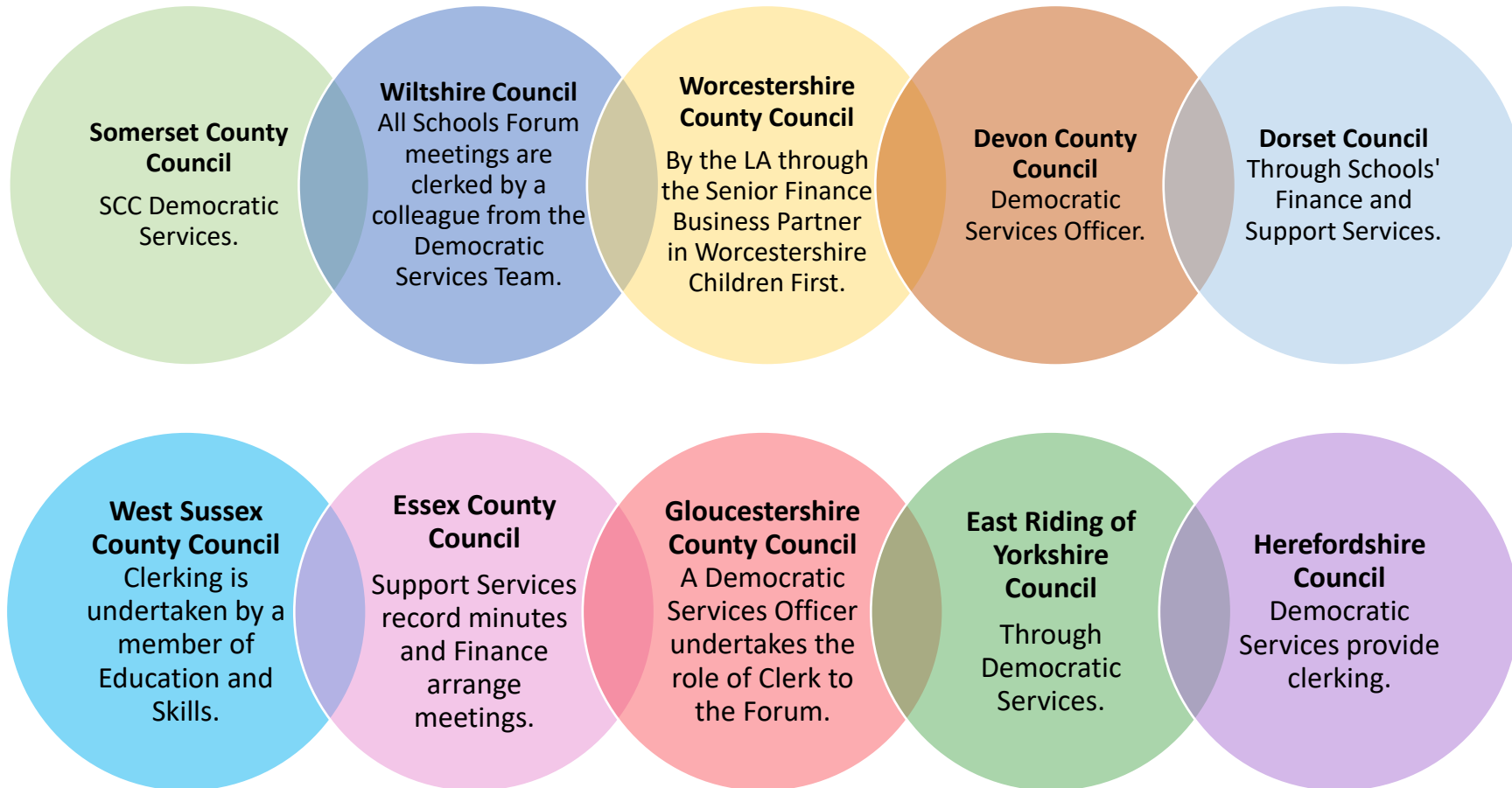
Essex County Council - If there are any observers wanting to speak, the Chair will decide at an appropriate time to adjourn the meeting to allow the observer to speak and then the meeting is readjourned.

Gloucestershire County Council - There are no members of the Forum who are just observers.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council - They can ask questions throughout the meeting.

Dorset Council - The desire to contribute under a particular agenda item would be discussed with the Chair in advance of the meeting either by telephone or email. If an observer wished to speak during the meeting, the Chair would need to give them permission. Generally observers only attend to listen..

11. How are the meetings clerked? Is this through Democratic Services or through schools' finance and support services?



REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
MAINTAINED SCHOOL BALANCES 2020-21

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform the WSF of the revenue balances held by maintained schools for the financial year 2020-21.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Individual school budgets are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Pupil Premium and other government grants for specific projects. Funding for post-16 expenditure in Secondary and High Schools is allocated by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

2.2 The WSF are reminded that the LA has provision in its Scheme for Financing Schools to challenge excess surplus balances held by schools over the permitted level for their sector. However, in view of the current financial pressures on schools, permission is requested for the challenge process to again be light touch this year.

3.0 SUMMARY BALANCES

3.1 Overall school balances have increased this year by £2,639,744 from £1,275,952 to £3,915,696. This is 2.25% of total in-year revenue funding and represents an increase of 1.49% on 2019-20. This information has been adjusted to reflect the transfer of outstanding balances of schools who converted to academies prior to 2019-20 and within the financial year. An analysis of year-end balances by school and sector is attached in **Appendix A**.

3.2 Summary of year-end balance by sector is shown in table below. * Denotes the balances as a percentage of total in-year funding (excludes school generated income).

	2020-21 £	*2020-21 %	2019-20 £	*2019-20 %	Variance £
Nursery & Primary	7,679,488	6.66%	5,371,893	4.74%	2,307,595
Secondary	(6,711,259)	(17.95%)	(6,262,050)	(17.55%)	(449,209)
Special	2,712,171	14.53%	1,920,465	11.13%	791,706
PRUs	235,296	8.99%	245,644	9.55%	(10,348)
Total	3,915,696	2.25%	1,275,952	0.76%	2,639,744

3.3 The average balance by phase adjusted for converted academies as detailed in **Appendix A** is shown in the table below:

	2020-2021 £	2019-2020 £	Variance £
Nursery & Primary	73,841	49,283	24,558
Secondary	(671,126)	(626,205)	(44,921)
Special	542,434	384,093	158,341
PRUs	78,432	81,881	(3,449)

4.0 SCHOOLS IN DEFICIT

4.1 The number of schools ending the financial year in deficit has decreased by seven. In total there were 32 schools compared to 39 at the end of 2018-2019. This is detailed in the table below:

	2020-2021	2019-2020	Variance
Nursery & Primary	25	33	-8
Secondary	6	6	-
Special	0	0	-
PRUs	1	0	+1
Total	32	39	-7

4.2 The total value of deficit balances for 2020-2021 is £10,182,496 as detailed in the table below. This is an increase of £1,031,860 from 2019-2021. The largest deficit balance for 2020-2021 is £3,473,811. This is an increase of £650,678 from £2,823,133 at the end of 2019-2020.

	2020-2021 £	2019-2020 £	Variance £
Nursery & Primary	(2,632,483)	(2,463,962)	(168,521)
Secondary	(7,545,658)	(6,686,674)	(858,984)
Special	-	-	-
PRUs	(4,355)	-	(4,355)
Total	(10,182,496)	(9,150,636)	(1,031,860)

4.3 The number of maintained schools setting budgets for 2021-2022 is 116 of which 30 have set a deficit budget. 26 schools ending 2019-2020 in deficit have set a deficit budget for 2021-2022. The total value of the deficit budgets is £11.3m against the value of surplus budgets of £6.8m.

4.4 Schools setting a deficit budget have received a letter from the Chief Finance Officer outlining the budget deficit recovery and monitoring requirements of the County Council. These include: -

- No new appointments or changes to existing contracts being made without the County Council's approval,
- The school must work with the County Council and School Improvement Advisors to return to an in-year surplus within 18 months and a balanced position within two years, or by exceptional agreement five years. The expectation being that all savings made in-year contribute to reducing the deficit,

- All virements must be authorised by the County Council, after approval has been sought in line with the school's Finance Policy,
- The school provides the County Council with minutes evidencing discussion with Governors regarding recovery plans and progress against the budget,
- That a monthly budget monitoring report which includes the annual budget outturn is submitted to the County Council.

4.5 As the deficit recovery plans continue to be monitored, it is anticipated that there will be a requirement for some schools to attend a Schools Causing Concern meeting to review progress.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The WSF notes and discusses the above position.

Robert Phillips

Accountancy Officer – School Funding
Worcestershire County Council

July 2021

SCHOOL BUDGET & CARRY FORWARD SUMMARY

Worcestershire County Council

Delegated in-year funding	2019-20	2020-21
	£	£
Primary	113,435,467	115,251,219
Secondary	35,676,656	37,382,698
Special	17,250,519	18,667,640
PRU's	2,572,427	2,618,489
Total delegated in-year funding	<u>168,935,068</u>	<u>173,920,046</u>

Carry Forward

Carry Forward Range

	Primary		Secondary		Special		PRU's		Total	
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
<£0	33	25	6	6	-	-	-	1	39	32
£0-<£25,000	16	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	17	11
£25,001-£50,000	12	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	14	16
£50,001-£100,000	23	21	1	1	-	-	1	-	25	22
£100,001-£200,000	10	11	-	1	1	1	1	2	12	15
£200,001-300,000	12	10	1	1	1	-	-	-	14	11
>£300,000	3	10	-	1	3	4	-	-	6	15
Total	<u>109</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>122</u>

Average Balance	49,283	73,841	(626,205)	(671,126)	384,093	542,434	81,881	78,432
Lowest Balance	(374,994)	(433,057)	(2,823,133)	(3,473,811)	155,453	170,564	12,906	(4,355)
Highest Balance	458,833	626,067	293,640	382,108	658,390	720,175	156,284	133,073
Total Value of deficits	(2,463,962)	(2,632,483)	(6,686,674)	(7,545,658)	-	-	-	(4,355)
Schools in Deficit in Current & Previous Year	19	23	6	6	-	-	-	-
Academy (Conversions)	7	5	1	1	-	-	-	-

Appendix A Schools' Carry-forward analysis 2019-20 & 2020-21		Total Resources 2019-20 *			2019-20 CFWD inc interest			Total Resources 2020-21 *			2020-21 CFWD inc interest			Movement	
Cost Centre	School	£	£	%	£	£	%	£	£	%	£	£	Reductions	Increases	
	NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOLS														
SM1001	EVESHAM NURSERY SCHOOL	395,742	(45,757)	(11.56)	428,614	(102,055)	(23.81)		(56,298)						
SM3000	ABBERLEY PAROCHIAL PRIMARY	494,624	57,419	11.61	548,527	32,481	5.92		(24,938)						
SM2002	ALVECHURCH, CROWN MEADOW FIRST	1,576,651	23,843	1.51	1,652,187	64,495	3.90						40,652		
SM2006	ASHTON-UNDER-HILL FIRST	511,804	78,889	15.41	529,704	95,016	17.94						16,127		
SM3300	ASTLEY C.E. PRIMARY	503,916	135,513	26.89	537,630	139,981	26.04						4,467		
SM3302	BARNT GREEN ST. ANDREW'S C.E. FIRST	936,284	27,578	2.95	1,036,700	69,806	6.73						42,227		
SM3001	BAYTON C.E. PRIMARY	522,127	(22,211)	(4.25)	576,718	13,704	2.38						35,916		
SM3002	BELBROUGHTON C.E. PRIMARY & NURSERY	824,860	38,131	4.62	815,365	31,610	3.88		(6,521)						
SM2008	BEOLEY FIRST	493,289	(596)	(0.12)	535,235	39,006	7.29						39,602		
SM3011	BEWDLEY, ST ANNE'S CE PRIMARY	1,220,491	(99,628)	(8.16)	1,257,801	(239,024)	(19.00)		(139,396)						
SM3397	BEWDLEY PRIMARY	1,672,277	66,026	3.95	1,995,612	219,484	11.00						153,458		
SM3005	BLAKEDOWN C.E. PRIMARY	729,001	(30,485)	(4.18)	845,917	(12,829)	(1.52)						17,656		
SM3306	BREDON HANCOCK'S ENDOWED FIRST	748,686	28,223	3.77	755,783	63,232	8.37						35,008		
SM3008	A BROADHEATH C.E. PRIMARY														
SM3308	BROADWAS C.E. PRIMARY	481,421	72,495	15.06	507,050	42,961	8.47		(29,534)						
SM2013	BROADWAY FIRST	521,427	28,559	5.48	607,331	110,370	18.17						81,810		
SM2015	BROMSGROVE, CATSHILL FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY	1,477,738	72,769	4.92	1,555,354	90,436	5.81						17,667		
SM2016	BROMSGROVE, CHARFORD FIRST	2,176,511	299,863	13.78	2,332,077	351,611	15.08						51,748		
SM2017	BROMSGROVE, FINSTALL FIRST	1,244,858	93,322	7.50	1,346,271	81,006	6.02		(12,316)						
SM2018	BROMSGROVE, LICKEY END FIRST	705,896	(124,994)	(17.71)	717,106	(148,843)	(20.76)		(23,850)						
SM2019	BROMSGROVE, MEADOWS FIRST	1,893,218	416,593	22.00	1,996,203	509,705	25.53						93,113		
SM2020	BROMSGROVE, MILLFIELDS FIRST	1,381,266	250,471	18.13	1,440,639	323,570	22.46						73,100		
SM2021	A BROMSGROVE, SIDEMOOR FIRST & NURSERY	1,718,691	(190,958)	(11.11)	1,757,977	(174,587)	(9.93)						16,372		
SM2901	RUBERY, LICKEY HILLS PRIMARY	1,926,413	78,689	4.08	2,047,740	39,054	1.91		(39,634)						
SM2022	BROMSGROVE, BLACKWELL FIRST	835,986	202,266	24.19	963,331	219,134	22.75						16,867		
SM3014	A CALLOW END C.E. PRIMARY	507,993	34,927	6.88											
SM3330	CHADDESLEY CORBETT ENDOWED PRIMARY	910,020	(10,642)	(1.17)	981,645	16,596	1.69						27,238		
SM3018	CHURCH LENCH C.E. FIRST	481,374	75,972	15.78	435,497	42,940	9.86		(33,032)						
SM3019	CLAINES C.E. PRIMARY	917,400	53	0.01	994,308	26,071	2.62						26,018		
SM3020	CLEEVE PRIOR C.E. FIRST	384,687	1,751	0.46	424,593	17,870	4.21						16,119		
SM3022	CLENT PAROCHIAL PRIMARY	509,057	48,695	9.57	562,784	8,618	1.53		(40,077)						
SM2032	CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PRIMARY	416,176	(91,583)	(22.01)	472,122	(96,713)	(20.48)		(5,129)						
SM3016	COOKLEY SEBRIGHT ENDOWED PRIMARY	1,069,692	12,110	1.13	1,117,576	(11,016)	(0.99)		(23,126)						
SM3027	CROPTHORNE-WITH-CHARLTON C.E. FIRST	489,842	(23,271)	(4.75)	482,504	(69,575)	(14.42)		(46,304)						
SM3029	DEFFORD-CUM-BESFORD C.E. FIRST	386,730	13,463	3.48	410,868	19,772	4.81						6,309		
SM2034	DODFORD FIRST	418,705	20,724	4.95	423,446	27,870	6.58						7,146		
SM2035	DROITWICH, WESTLANDS FIRST	1,344,734	231,507	17.22	1,366,602	293,477	21.47						61,971		
SM2036	DROITWICH, CHAWSON COMMUNITY FIRST	1,608,686	139,210	8.65	1,902,259	239,797	12.61						100,587		
SM3317	DROITWICH, ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	958,915	29,462	3.07	1,030,086	28,458	2.76		(1,004)						
SM3038	ECKINGTON C.E. FIRST	451,164	72,888	16.16	442,323	61,636	13.93		(11,253)						
SM3039	ELDERSFIELD LAWN C.E. PRIMARY	503,682	8,478	1.68	548,102	51,193	9.34						42,714		
SM3040	ELMLEY CASTLE C.E. FIRST	342,384	(188,875)	(55.16)	396,204	(208,481)	(52.62)		(19,605)						
SM3042	EVESHAM, ST RICHARD'S C.E. FIRST	1,520,193	231,040	15.20	1,585,807	193,943	12.23		(37,097)						

Appendix A Schools' Carry-forward analysis 2019-20 & 2020-21										
Cost Centre	School	Total Resources 2019-20 *	2019-20 CFWD inc interest		Total Resources 2020-21 *	2020-21 CFWD inc interest		Movement		
SM3043	EVESHAM, ST.ANDREW'S C.E.FIRST	1,300,759	86,170	6.62	1,471,714	116,199	7.90			30,029
SM2041	EVESHAM, SWAN LANE FIRST	1,525,234	243,337	15.95	1,580,840	301,634	19.08			58,297
SM3010	FAR FOREST LEA MEMORIAL C.E. PRIMARY	600,739	(51,717)	(8.61)	597,128	(27,899)	(4.67)			23,818
SM2047	FAIRFIELD FIRST	556,193	217,680	39.14	586,512	222,337	37.91			4,657
SM3324	FLADBURY C.E. FIRST	470,431	2,959	0.63	535,801	46,564	8.69			43,605
SM5201	FLYFORD FLAVELL FIRST	412,203	43,043	10.44	473,941	57,562	12.15			14,520
SM3048	GRIMLEY & HOLT C.E. PRIMARY	484,336	(58,578)	(12.09)	524,594	(63,415)	(12.09)	(4,837)		
SM2055	HAGLEY PRIMARY	2,579,865	274,687	10.65	2,771,164	402,357	14.52			127,670
SM3329	HALLOW C.E. PRIMARY	836,573	(24,501)	(2.93)	970,158	(31,126)	(3.21)	(6,625)		
SM3049	HANBURY C.E. FIRST	608,576	15,694	2.58	668,610	46,124	6.90			30,430
SM3053	HARVINGTON C.E. FIRST	938,102	132,352	14.11	992,956	155,017	15.61			22,665
SM3056	HIMBLETON C.E. FIRST	398,478	78,267	19.64	402,457	83,401	20.72			5,133
SM3057	HINDLIP C.E. FIRST	499,691	45,322	9.07	503,084	52,937	10.52			7,615
SM2907	KIDDERMINSTER, COMBERTON PRIMARY	1,991,389	133,723	6.72	2,077,260	210,679	10.14			76,955
SM2910	KIDDERMINSTER, FRANCHE COMMUNITY PRIMARY	4,031,988	417,808	10.36	4,248,259	626,067	14.74			208,259
SM2911	KIDDERMINSTER, OFFMORE PRIMARY	1,497,057	(207,512)	(13.86)	1,594,692	(180,562)	(11.32)			26,951
SM3021	KIDDERMINSTER, ST CATHERINE'S CE PRIMARY	1,750,419	110,708	6.32	1,894,844	222,719	11.75			112,011
SM3023	A KIDDERMINSTER, ST GEROG'S CE PRIMARY & NURSERY									
SM3331	KIDDERMINSTER, ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY	1,248,242	84,136	6.74	1,340,108	148,670	11.09			64,534
SM2914	LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY	730,384	(39,530)	(5.41)	786,909	(17,174)	(2.18)			22,356
SM3350	LINDRIDGE ST. LAWRENCE'S C.E. PRIMARY	473,946	(48,166)	(10.16)	456,843	(43,320)	(9.48)			4,847
SM3210	A MALVERN, NORTHLEIGH C.E. PRIMARY	1,281,821	(185,807)	(14.50)						
SM3358	MALVERN, ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	728,767	(33,044)	(4.53)	892,613	78,398	8.78			111,442
SM3359	MALVERN WELLS C.E. PRIMARY	498,566	16,930	3.40	482,970	5,613	1.16	(11,317)		
SM3360	WEST MALVERN ST JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY	527,923	(14,324)	(2.71)	503,917	35,195	6.98			49,519
SM3074	MALVERN, WYCHE C.E. PRIMARY	630,579	15,589	2.47	666,658	69,992	10.50			54,403
SM3400	MALVERN, THE GROVE PRIMARY	1,164,326	(96,207)	(8.26)	1,123,926	(38,232)	(3.40)			57,974
SM3077	A MARTLEY C.E. PRIMARY									
SM3365	OMBERSLEY ENDOWED FIRST	645,331	5,660	0.88	664,448	9,308	1.40			3,648
SM3084	OVERBURY C.E. FIRST	419,453	76,105	18.14	443,182	93,889	21.19			17,784
SM2118	PEBWORTH FIRST	324,643	24,118	7.43	352,881	45,853	12.99			21,734
SM3085	PENDOCK C.E. PRIMARY	342,705	19,990	5.83	350,806	7,897	2.25	(12,094)		
SM2119	PERSHORE, ABBEY PARK FIRST & NURSERY	946,668	(12,484)	(1.32)	977,086	(34,054)	(3.49)	(21,570)		
SM3368	PERSHORE, HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC PRIMARY	921,020	72,630	7.89	1,011,038	69,118	6.84	(3,511)		
SM2128	REDDITCH, BATCHLEY FIRST	1,957,929	(86,901)	(4.44)	2,009,489	(77,021)	(3.83)			9,880
SM3091	A REDDITCH, FECKENHAM C.E. FIRST	548,567	59,368	10.82						
SM2131	A REDDITCH, HOLYOAKES FIELD FIRST									
SM2192	REDDITCH, MOON'S MOAT FIRST	1,225,955	116,029	9.46	1,350,651	304,301	22.53			188,273
SM2141	A REDDITCH, ROMAN WAY FIRST	1,025,651	(11,553)	(1.13)	934,960	(22,328)	(2.39)	(10,775)		
SM3092	A REDDITCH, ST. GEORGE'S C.E. FIRST									
SM3093	REDDITCH, ST. LUKE'S C.E. FIRST	782,917	31,194	3.98	827,031	58,892	7.12			27,698
SM5202	A REDDITCH, ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC FIRST	1,099,642	78,588	7.15						
SM3094	A REDDITCH, ST. STEPHEN'S C.E. FIRST									
SM2136	REDDITCH, TENACRES FIRST	1,363,462	120,518	8.84	1,433,804	174,629	12.18			54,112
SM2137	REDDITCH, WOODROW FIRST	1,776,468	74,417	4.19	1,802,487	99,537	5.52			25,120

Appendix A Schools' Carry-forward analysis 2019-20 & 2020-21									
Cost Centre	School	Total Resources 2019-20 *	2019-20 CFWD inc interest		Total Resources 2020-21 *	2020-21 CFWD inc interest		Movement	
SM2920	REDDITCH, OAK HILL FIRST	2,159,667	221,344	10.25	2,302,754	347,982	15.11		126,638
SM3097	ROMSLEY, ST. KENELM'S C.E. PRIMARY	968,216	52,774	5.45	1,028,397	42,650	4.15	(10,124)	
SM3098	RUSHWICK C.E. PRIMARY	767,151	(12,777)	(1.67)	832,739	22,190	2.66		34,967
SM2921	RUBERY, HOLYWELL PRIMARY & NURSERY	1,932,203	164,071	8.49	2,069,019	229,381	11.09		65,309
SM3099	SEDGEBERROW C.E. FIRST	755,340	162,983	21.58	781,402	159,503	20.41	(3,480)	
SM2147	STOKE PRIOR FIRST	674,151	(4,907)	(0.73)	730,730	10,077	1.38		14,983
SM3381	SYTCHAMPTON ENDOWED FIRST	411,834	(169,568)	(41.17)	478,455	(183,659)	(38.39)	(14,091)	
SM3382	TARDEBIGGE C.E. FIRST	694,804	78,299	11.27	727,800	116,597	16.02		38,297
SM3105	TIBBERTON C.E. FIRST	406,247	35,648	8.77	415,952	44,226	10.63		8,578
SM3109	A UPPER ARLEY C.E. PRIMARY	445,386	(76,734)	(17.23)	429,355	(103,787)	(24.17)	(27,053)	
SM3107	UPTON-UPON-SEVERN C.E. PRIMARY	979,412	(85,925)	(8.77)	1,111,809	(129,796)	(11.67)	(43,871)	
SM3108	UPTON SNODSBURY C.E. FIRST	379,832	65,697	17.30	383,821	34,495	8.99	(31,201)	
SM3110	WHITTINGTON C.E. PRIMARY	896,346	61,977	6.91	951,715	83,127	8.73		21,149
SM2161	A WORCESTER, CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY	2,609,785	13,994	0.54	2,849,766	(161,971)	(5.68)	(175,964)	
SM3387	WORCESTER, OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC	866,326	25,807	2.98	906,707	50,937	5.62		25,130
SM2173	A WORCESTER, PERDISWELL PRIMARY	1,742,439	200,863	11.53	1,847,893	224,794	12.16		23,931
SM2200	WORCESTER, PITMASTON PRIMARY	2,653,117	279,923	10.55	2,931,186	374,143	12.76		94,220
SM3114	WORCESTER, ST. BARNABAS C.E. PRIMARY	2,115,570	1,338	0.06	2,236,500	58,968	2.64		57,630
SM3116	WORCESTER, RED HILL C.E. PRIMARY	1,157,715	(374,994)	(32.39)	1,410,070	(433,057)	(30.71)	(58,063)	
SM3389	WORCESTER, ST. GEORGE'S C.E. PRIMARY	958,050	63,234	6.60	998,953	115,690	11.58		52,456
SM3390	WORCESTER, ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	927,445	(25,455)	(2.74)	994,745	18,782	1.89		44,237
SM3391	WORCESTER, ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY	1,867,828	217,277	11.63	1,997,829	256,188	12.82		38,912
SM2202	A WORCESTER, OLDBURY PARK PRIMARY								
SM2188	WYTHALL, MEADOW GREEN PRIMARY	1,309,214	(8,864)	(0.68)	1,359,028	(21,961)	(1.62)	(13,098)	
SM2906	PERSHORE, ABBEY PARK MIDDLE	1,205,637	(5,414)	(0.45)	1,259,256	92,464	7.34		97,878
SM2197	RUBERY, BEACONSIDE PRIMARY & NURSERY	1,151,051	96,664	8.40	1,195,073	111,400	9.32		14,736
SM2916	DROITWICH, WESTACRE MIDDLE	2,066,010	458,833	22.21	2,350,848	608,586	25.89		149,753
SM2917	A DROITWICH, WITTON MIDDLE	1,973,083	147,180	7.46					
	TOTAL NURSERY & PRIMARY	113,435,467	5,371,893	4.74	115,251,219	7,679,488	6.66	(996,789)	3,438,640
	SECONDARY SCHOOLS								
SM4401	BROMSGROVE, ASTON FIELDS MIDDLE	2,732,446	(323,749)	(11.85)	2,935,666	(338,448)	(11.53)	(14,699)	
SM4402	BROMSGROVE, CATSHILL MIDDLE	1,647,231	34,327	2.08	1,906,881	136,405	7.15		102,078
SM4403	BROMSGROVE, PARKSIDE MIDDLE	3,025,335	(196,721)	(6.50)	3,328,040	(136,080)	(4.09)		60,641
SM4408	EVESHAM, BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE	979,954	(449,732)	(45.89)	1,133,073	(519,966)	(45.89)	(70,234)	
SM4576	EVESHAM, ST. EGWIN'S C.E. MIDDLE	2,185,563	57,073	2.61	2,411,008	258,728	10.73		201,655
SM4418	A REDDITCH, BIRCHENSALE MIDDLE								
SM4001	THE BEWDLEY SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM	4,979,597	(118,632)	(2.38)	5,278,969	(186,424)	(3.53)	(67,793)	
SM4002	BROMSGROVE, NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH	5,439,303	(2,823,133)	(51.90)	5,706,777	(3,473,811)	(60.87)	(650,679)	
SM4006	A The Demontfort School	5,004,469	39,583	0.79	4,004,628	57,159	1.43		17,576
SM4503	Wolverley Ce Secondary	4,039,385	(2,774,708)	(68.69)	4,818,805	(2,890,928)	(59.99)	(116,221)	
SM5402	B Worcester, Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College	5,643,374	293,640	5.20	5,858,852	382,108	6.52		88,468
	TOTAL SECONDARY	35,676,656	(6,262,050)	(17.55)	37,382,698	(6,711,259)	(17.95)	(919,625)	470,417

Appendix A Schools' Carry-forward analysis 2019-20 & 2020-21		Total Resources 2019-20 *	2019-20 CFWD inc interest		Total Resources 2020-21 *	2020-21 CFWD inc interest		Movement	
Cost Centre	School								
	SPECIAL SCHOOLS								
SS7015	BROMSGROVE, CHADSGROVE	2,524,342	320,831	12.71	2,819,242	505,287	17.92		184,456
SS7001	BROMSGROVE, RIGBY HALL	2,498,482	216,555	8.67	3,055,798	615,400	20.14		398,845
SS7026	Wyre Forest New Special School	5,310,985	569,236	10.72	5,495,977	720,175	13.10		150,940
SS7009	REDDITCH, PITCHEROAK	2,543,168	155,453	6.11	2,637,076	170,564	6.47		15,111
SS7025	FORT ROYAL COMMUNITY PRIMARY	4,373,541	658,390	15.05	4,659,547	700,745	15.04		42,355
	TOTAL SPECIAL	17,250,519	1,920,465	11.13	18,667,640	2,712,171	14.53	-	791,706
	PRU'S								
SS1103	PERRYFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL	912,118	76,455	8.38	935,975	133,073	14.22		56,618
SS1121	THE FORGE SECONDARY SCHOOL	899,408	12,906	1.43	904,538	(4,355)	(0.48)	(17,261)	
SS1105	THE BEACON PRIMARY SCHOOL	760,901	156,284	20.54	777,976	106,579	13.70	(49,705)	
	TOTAL SPECIAL	2,572,427	245,644	9.55	2,618,489	235,296	8.99	(66,966)	56,618
	TOTAL DELEGATED BUDGETS	168,935,068	1,275,952	0.76	173,920,046	3,915,696	2.25	(1,983,380)	4,757,381
	B = Bank account school								
	O = Opening school/Newly delegated school								
	C = Closed school								
	A = Academy								
	=Academies Closed in Previous Year								
	* Total Resources does not include carry-forward or "school generated other income"								

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
DSG OUTTURN 2020-21

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the DSG outturn position for the financial year 2020-21 including the implications for the DSG in future years.

2. DSG OUTTURN 2020-21

2.1 The DSG is currently allocated by the DfE to LAs using their National Funding Formula (NFF) in four blocks – Schools, Central School Services, High Needs and Early Years.

2.2 The majority of the Schools Block DSG is delegated to schools with any variation to the budgets allocated forming individual school carry forward balances. There are also payments to high needs providers from the High Needs Block DSG and early years' providers for 2, 3- and 4-year olds from the Early Years Block DSG.

2.3 The centrally retained DSG contains specific services, which are limited by the requirements of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. The full list for 2020-21 is attached for information at **Appendix A**. Worcestershire makes provision for specific aspects as indicated, some of which must be approved by the WSF on an annual basis.

2.4 Both schools carry forward balances and variations on the other elements of the DSG are required to be carried forward. Both carry forward positions are reported as part of the County Council's year end accounts and for the non-schools DSG represents the accumulated carry forward position since the introduction of the DSG from 2006/07.

2.5 The statutory funding regulations put significant restrictions on the use of any non-schools DSG surplus carry forward including provisions for de-delegated and pupil growth funding. This is detailed by the DfE in their Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guidance 2020-21. There are further detailed provisions for DSG deficits relating to High Needs pressures.

2.6 Also, in terms of Schools Forum powers and responsibilities for the DSG Reserve, these only relates to deciding how to fund from the Schools Budget any deficit carried forward on central expenditure. The use of any DSG Reserve is for determination by the LA.

2.7 At its meeting on 24th June 2021, the WCC Cabinet received a report detailing provisional outturn figures for 2020-21, which included the DSG reserve. The provisional position is detailed in **Table 1** below. The year-end position is still subject to external audit of WCCs year-end accounts.

Table 1: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020-21

	£'m	£'m
Accumulated Deficit 1 April 2020		6.2
High Needs Deficit 2020/21		4.0
Schools Block Pupil Growth Contingency Adjustments	-2.1	
Early Years and Central Block Underspends	-1.6	-3.7
Deficit 31 March 2021		6.5

2.8 Whilst DSG allocations are generally forecasted to continue to rise, DSG spend is forecasted to rise at a faster rate for Worcestershire the deficit will increase to around £15 million by the end of 2021/22 which is attributed to spending on High Needs despite the additional funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22 as shown in the table below. As shown below High Needs spend significantly exceeds funding by £25 million in the period 2017/18 – 2020/21.

Financial Year	DSG High Needs Block Allocation (net)	High Needs Block Spend	Variance Overspend (£)	Variance (%)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2017/18 (act)	38,988	42,361	3,373	8.7%
2018/19 (act)	39,909	48,880	8,971	22.5%
2019/20 (act)	43,592	52,314	8,722	20.0%
2020/21 (act) *	51,863	55,828	3,965	7.6%
2021/22 (est)	59,819	64,760	4,941	8.3%

* Subject to external audit

2.9 Whilst school balances increased from a net surplus of £1.3 million at 31/3/2020 to £3.9 million at 31/3/2021, the non-schools Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will carry forward a slightly (£0.3 million) increased deficit of £6.5 million due to continued underfunding by Government of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

2.10 The DSG position for the end of the financial year comprised a £4 million overspend in the High Needs Block, partly offset by £3.2 million underspends in the Schools and Early Years blocks. This resulted in an in-year deficit of £0.3 million.

2.11 Looking forward this is a significant concern. The Schools Block underspend is a result of a timing difference of pupil growth income which is expected to be distributed in 2021/22. The Early Years underspend will be required to fund any clawback by the DfE, expected in the Autumn Term 2021, due to variations in the Spring Term 2021 numbers. The forecast cost pressure for High Needs is also growing and the DSG forecast deficit for future years will be reviewed over the Summer.

2.12 Whilst the carried forward deficit will be offset against future DSG income this is a two year accounting adjustment that needs to be addressed by Government going forward and WCC and WCF are lobby with other bodies to support schools in achieving their financial plans and finding a long term funding solution.

2.13 Details on allocations made from the Pupil Growth Fund supporting basic need are attached for information at **Appendix B**.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The WSF are requested to: -

- Note the centrally retained DSG areas in **Appendix A**.
- Note the DSG carry forward position 2020-21 as detailed in the report.

Phil Rook
Director of Resources
Worcestershire Children First

Andy McHale
Senior Finance Business Partner
Worcestershire Children First

June 2021

DETAILS OF DSG CENTRALLY RETAINED SERVICES 2020-21

APPROVAL REQUIRED	SERVICE AREAS
<p><u>De-delegated Services for Maintained Schools</u></p> <p>Requires Schools Forum Maintained School Members by Phase to Decide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingencies. # (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools) See criteria below for information. • Behaviour support services – delegated. • Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners. # * • Free school meals eligibility. # * • Insurance – delegated. • Museum and library services – no provision made from DSG. • Staff costs supply cover (e.g. long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties). # • Contribution to responsibilities the LAs hold for maintained schools only (previously funded by Education Services General Duties Grant) – no provision made from DSG; funded by WCC base budget. • Additional School Improvement – no DSG provision made. <p># Indicates currently de-delegated * Part of Babcock Contract until June 2020</p>
<p><u>Centrally Retained</u></p> <p>Not Requiring Schools Forum Approval</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Needs Block provision. ~ • Central Licences negotiated by the Secretary of State. ~ <p>~ Indicates currently centrally retained</p>
<p><u>Centrally Retained Prior To Local Schools Formula Allocation</u></p> <p>Requires Agreement of Schools Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy. ^ • Funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement. ^ • Funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years – no DSG provision made.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back-pay for equal pay claims – no DSG provision made. • Remission of boarding fees at maintained and academies – no DSG provision made. • Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils – no DSG provision made. • Central Early Years block provision. ^ • Any movement of funding out of the Schools Block – none transferred. • Any deficit from the previous funding period that reduces the amount of the schools’ budget – no adjustment made. • Any deficit brought forward on de-delegated services, which is met by the overall schools’ budget – no adjustment required. <p>^ Indicates currently centrally retained</p>
<p><u>Centrally Retained Prior to Local Schools Formula Allocation</u></p> <p>Requires Approval of the Schools Forum for Each Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions. ▸ • Servicing of Schools Forum. ▸ • Contribution to responsibilities the LAs hold for all schools (previously funded by Education Services Retained Duties Grant). ▸ <p>▸ Indicates currently centrally retained</p>
<p><u>Centrally Retained Prior to Local Schools Formula Allocation</u></p> <p>(No new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2012-13)</p> <p>Requires Approval of the Schools Forum for Each Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital expenditure funded from revenue (i.e. no new projects can be charged to the central schools’ budget) – no provision made as previous budget now time expired. • Contribution to combined budgets (Early Intervention Family Support Service). @ • Existing termination of employment costs (i.e. no new redundancy costs can be charged to the central schools’ budget) – no provision made as previous budget now time expired. • Schools budget funded prudential borrowing costs – no previous historic provision made. • Schools budget funded SEN transport costs – no previous historic provision made. <p>@ Indicates currently centrally retained</p>

Criteria for Use of School Specific Contingency (SSC) Funding

'Contingencies can be retained centrally for maintained schools but only for a limited range of circumstances: -

- a) Exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet.*
- b) Schools in financial difficulties.*
- c) Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.'*

DfE definition

Access to the SSC for Maintained Schools

A request in order to access School Specific Contingency (SSC) funding in relation to DfE circumstance a) above, can only be made in the following situations: -

- 1) To support a school that has incurred additional expenditure following a serious and unexpected critical incident.
- 2) To support a school that is experiencing exceptional difficulties in providing an adequate standard of education for its pupils. Before agreeing to allocate any funding in relation to this situation, the following criteria apply: -
 - a) The school is LA maintained.
 - b) The school following a Section 5 inspection, or LA review is categorised as being in OFSTED and/or LA categories 3 or 4, i.e. giving significant cause for concern; and/or the school has a specific time limited issue.

Either of which may impact on the school's ability to provide an adequate standard of education or be at significant risk of doing so.

- c) All other solutions and sources of funding have been explored and there are no other options available to support the school and address the identified need.
- d) The LA action plan for the school identifies expenditure which is required to bring about necessary improvements and which cannot be met from the school's own budget. The need must be identified as both significant and urgent.

(This may include the purchase of equipment or services to provide the statutory elements of the school curriculum, to ensure health and safety standards are met, to fund secondments, staffing restructures or additional staffing needs where the provision within the school is currently inadequate and pupils are at significant risk, etc. Please note this is not a fully exhaustive list.)

- e) The amount of funding requested should be time limited and set against agreed outcomes. The amount requested should reflect actual costs to be incurred wherever possible.
- f) The LA action plan must have been discussed with the relevant Schools Manager; Headteacher and Chair of Governors before being brought to the School Specific Allocation Meeting.
- g) Regular Project Board meetings if relevant will be in place to monitor progress and the school SLT and Governing Body will be accountable for the use of any funding awarded.

In respect of DfE circumstances b) and c) above these will be assessed for individual schools as they arise at the discretion of the LA.

APPENDIX B

PUPIL GROWTH FUND 2020-21

		£	£	£
		2019-20	2020-21	Total
<u>Pupil Growth Fund Basic Need Approvals</u>		Full Year Effect Academies Only April 2020 to August 2020	Part Year Effect All Schools September 2020 to March 2021	
Maintained Schools				
Blakedown CE Primary	Sept 2014	0	30,625	30,625
St. Joseph's RC Primary	Sept 2014	0	43,750	43,750
St. Andrew's First	Sept 2015	0	41,563	41,563
Leigh and Bransford Primary	Sept 2016	0	37,188	37,188
Red Hill CE Primary	Sept 2017	0	50,312	50,312
Rushwick CE Primary	Sept 2017	0	17,500	17,500
Holy Redeemer RC Primary	Sept 2018	0	8,750	8,750
Hanbury CE Primary	Sept 2019	0	28,437	28,437
Fairfield First	Sept 2020	0	13,125	13,125
Sub Total Maintained		0	271,250	271,250
Academies				
Lyppard Grange Primary	Sept 2013	24,036	0	24,036
Heronswood Primary	Sept 2014	16,024	48,125	64,149
Wychbold First	Sept 2016	8,012	17,500	25,512
Christopher Whitehead Secondary	Sept 2017	41,845	128,333	170,178
Nunnery Wood High	Sept 2017	98,176	131,250	229,426
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	Sept 2017	41,845	110,833	152,678
Somers Park Primary	Sept 2018	30,904	52,500	83,404
The Chantry High	Sept 2018	17,704	122,500	140,204
Stourport High	Sept 2018	72,425	43,750	116,175
Kempsey Primary	Sept 2019	13,735	50,313	64,048
Hanley Castle High	Sept 2020	0	32,083	32,083
Total	Sub Total Academies	364,706	737,187	1,101,893
	Grand Total	364,706	1,008,437	1,373,143

Notes

Allocations made on approved formula of: -
 Difference between new admissions in September against leavers in top year group in previous year at Primary and KS3 AWPU in 2019-20 and Primary and Secondary MFLs in 2020-21.
 Academies have to be funded for full year due to year in lagged funding.

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



AGENDA ITEM 10B)
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
8TH JULY 2021

HIGH-LEVEL NEEDS UPDATE

National context

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for High Needs (HN) allocated to LAs by the DfE from their National Funding Formula (NFF) - based on a range of factors including an element to reflect historic spend.

Allocations vary by LA with some allocated more HN as a % of overall DSG than others - 2021-22 DSG HN Highest 23.9%; Lowest 11.83%; LA Average 15.41% (WCC 14.26% 121st out of 150 LAs difference to average is £5.5m).

LAs are able to transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools Block DSG into another block, with the approval of their schools forum – DfE expects to see evidence of discussion and the vote with the schools forum. (For WCC about £1.7m).

LAs must submit disapplication requests to the Secretary of State where: -

- LA wishes to move more than 0.5% of the Schools Block DSG, and

- Schools forum has turned down a proposal from the LA to move any amount of funding out of the Schools Block DSG, but the LA wishes to proceed with the transfer.

WCC policy to ring-fence the DSG blocks and to replicate the DfE NFF for mainstream schools leaving no flexibility for DSG Schools Block transfer. This is supported by schools and the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF)

National context and Lobbying Government

County Council's Network and Society of County Treasurers have written to Gavin Williamson to urgently address the issue.

CCN is the voice of England's county and unitary councils, who are some of the largest councils in the country.

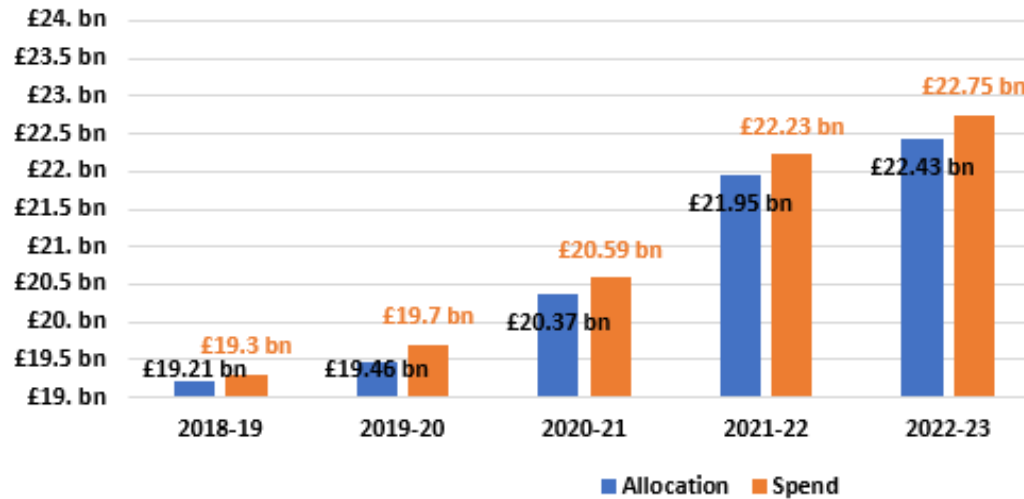
Impacts on financial sustainability with a cliff edge in 2022/23 the point at which the statutory override ends and the deficits return to councils' balance sheets with the requirement to offset the deficits with other reserves.

Even if the SEND Review is able to solve the existing structural challenges and ensure costs stop rising, the deficits will remain and must be addressed if local authorities are to be on a firm footing to support pandemic recovery in the coming years.

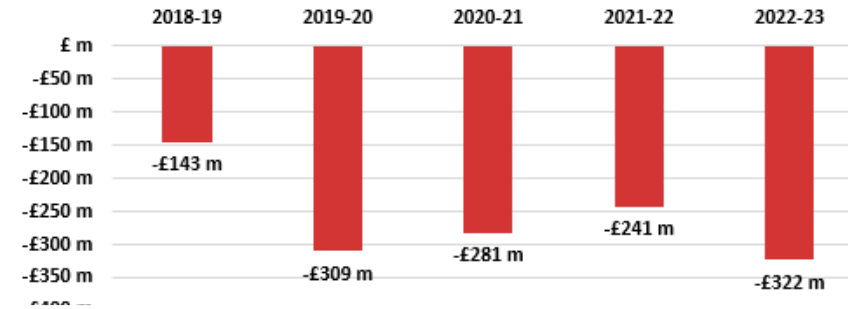
In cumulative terms, High Needs deficits have increased or are forecasted to increase throughout the surveyed period; currently at almost £750m this is forecasted to almost double to over £1.31bn by March 2023.

National Context and Deficits

DSG Allocation v DSG Spend



High Needs Deficits (In-Year)



Cumulative High Needs Deficits



Worcestershire Position

Summary Position for Dedicated Schools Grant	
	£m
Accumulated Deficit 1 April 2021	6.5
Catch-up on School and EY Blocks	3.2
Projected High Needs Deficit 2021/22	5.0
Projected Saving on Other Blocks	0.0
School Funding Position	0.0
Projected Accumulated Deficit 31 March 2022	14.7
Projected High Needs Shortfall 2022/23	4.0
Projected Accumulated Deficit 31 March 2023	18.7

Early Years clawback of £950k

Pupil growth will be required for basic need

Cabinet agreed 24 June 2021 to establish a specific reserves of £2.4m to support ongoing deficit

Financial Year	DSG High Needs Block Allocation (net)	High Needs Block Spend	Variance Overspend (£)	Variance (%)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2017/18 (act)	38,988	42,361	3,373	8.7%
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2020/21 (act) *	51,863	55,828	3,965	7.6%
2021/22 (est)	59,819	64,760	4,941	8.3%

* Subject to external audit

HLN management plan

Workstreams:

- WS1 - Finance
- WS2 - Top up Funding
- WS3&7 - Commissioning & Therapies
- WS4 - Capacity in Mainstream Schools
- WS5 - Continuum of Provision
- WS6 - Section 19

HLN management plan (1)

OUTCOMES:

1. Spend from the HLN budget is monitored closely and reported on regularly to identify where savings can be made and ensure transparency
2. HLN top up funding process is fit for purpose and transparent
3. SEND commissioning activity ensures positive outcomes for CYP
4. SEND commissioning activity ensures good value for money
5. Costs of out of area and independent placements for CYP with EHCPs are kept to a minimum. These placements achieve good outcomes for CYP and wherever possible will be of time limited duration as pupil progress means provision is available in county.
6. Mainstream schools in Worcestershire have the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to meet the needs of the majority of CYP with SEND
7. Where it is agreed that mainstream education is not appropriate for a minority of CYP, a continuum of effective specialist provision and service delivery is available within Worcestershire to meet need
8. Bespoke provision for children who are unable to attend school because of medical difficulties, permanent exclusion & other reasons (Section 19, Education Act 1996) is value for money and achieves positive outcomes for CYP
9. Reconfigure the delivery of individual therapy for children as defined in their EHCP to be funded through the Core Services provided under the NHS core contract.

HLN management plan (2)

Special Schools involvement:

- December 2020 - Engagement with Special Schools via online survey to gather their views on current top up funding descriptors and process for schools to request additional funding for pupils with or without an EHCP.
- March/April 2021- engagement with Special Schools via focus groups to gather feedback on reviewed top up funding and process for schools to request additional funding for pupils with or without an EHCP, addressing feedback from first engagement in December 2020.
- April 2021 - Special School headteacher sat on the SEND Locality Hub Panel to provide a support and expertise for mainstream schools
- June 2021 – Engagement with Special Schools via online survey to gather their views on current top up funding monetary values

Context: Top Up Funding



Current WCF top-up funding bands were introduced in the 2014/15 academic year and have not increased in value in-line with inflation.

Top-up levels would have needed to grow by 2.3% a year to keep pace with inflation, which has increased by 15.7% since 2014.

Inflationary pressures mean the average per pupil top-up has declined by at least a third since 2014 causing significant pressures on budgets whilst maintaining quality of provision.

Worcestershire special schools receive less funding than national and regional comparators.

Context: Special Schools



Increased costs to special schools in staffing due to inflation and annual increments and pay awards. Special schools have been disproportionately affected (90% of revenue spent on staffing budgets).

Current spend/pupil on staffing is significantly lower than national average.

Increases in numbers of CYP on role at has increased budgets but special schools are now at capacity, creating risk of special schools going into deficit budgets as financial reserves decline.

HSSA view that E3 funding (£10.3k) is required in addition to place funding to fund a basic placement in a special school.

Funding situation poses risk of impacting on: quality of provision offered (including to pupils with the most complex needs, outcomes achieved, future spend on independent placements and preventative work in mainstream schools.

Context: Further national perspectives



Local authorities have a statutory duty (Section 42 Children & Families Act 2014) to secure the special educational provision in section F of a child's EHCP. There should be sufficient funding for this and consultation with special schools regarding the funding bands.

Majority of Local Authorities have deficits in their HLN budget. Management of the HLN budget requires a multifactorial approach.

The DfE has made additional investment into the HLN budget in recent years. This additional funding has been used to reduce the deficit in Worcestershire, with Top Up Banding remaining the same.

Approaches taken by other LAs to manage their budget and reduce reliance on independent (high cost placements) include:

- Agreement with DfE to increase funds to reduce HLN funding deficits based on local action planning to improve management of budget going forward. **Lots of criteria and contribution from LA required.**
- Agreement with Local Councillors to borrow money for investment needed in SEND. **Revenue effectively is using general fund which requires approval from Secretary of State following statutory instrument.**
- Using DfE capital program to develop new provision through 'Free School' bids. **Small allocation from DfE.**
- Increasing HLN block by moving financial resource from within the DSG (Worcestershire is within the bottom 10% nationally with regard to % of DSG ringfenced for HLN funding). **Would impact affordability for NFF.**



HSSA proposals

- 1) Increase top up funding values by placing all pupils at a current E3 funding level as a baseline or by increasing the value of all bands by approximately 25-30%
- 2) Agree a comprehensive capital plan to develop Special School capacity and learning environments

Current review of Top Up Funding

Reviewed descriptors for current top up funding bands to ensure consistency

Monetary values being reviewed for current top funding bands – will include financial modelling of impact of changes

Interim banding levels being considered to manage wide gaps between some bandings in addition to higher top up funding bands for CYP with complex needs

Approach to measuring impact of Top Up Funding on pupil outcomes to be agreed e.g. placement forms

Further considerations: SEND provision plan



- SEND provision plan will be published for feedback from stakeholders in July focusing on special school places, SEMH, autism, 19-25, sensory impairment and residential placements in existing Worcestershire special schools
- Proposals to Cabinet in Autumn 2021 for consideration of recommendations
- 2021-22 DfE SEND capital fund will prioritise 19-25 provision – area of high cost spend on independent placements

Further considerations: Top up funding



- Cost of increasing Top Up funding bands in 9 special schools
- To E3: £5.8 million (increasing 21/22 deficit by 145%)
- By 25% across all Top Up Funding bands: £2.9 million (73% increase)
- Current reserves across 5 maintained special schools (as of 31/3/21): £2.7 million
- Financial position of special school academies not available
- Unit cost analysis required for provision for CYP with SEND in special schools to understand the need for increase – Top Up Funding will focus on needs of individual children
- Deficit would increase further with mainstream schools – presumption that any changes would apply to all educational settings
- Impact of increasing top slice of DSG would impact on budgets of mainstream schools including those already in deficit with a potential reduction in spend from notional SEN funding on preventative agenda
- Changes to top slice would require Schools' Forum and Cabinet approval
- Vacancy for academy special school representative at Schools' Forum



Notes of meeting with DfE held on Friday, June 11, 2021

DfE:

- Tony Foot, Director of Strategic Finance
- Tom Goldman, Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit
- Maria Brennan, School Funding Policy Advisor

f40:

- Cllr James McInnes, f40 Chair / Deputy Leader, Devon CC
- Emily Proffitt, Deputy Chair, Staffs Primary Headteacher
- Margaret Judd, Finance Manager, Dorset Council
- Andrew Minall, Finance Business Partner, Hampshire CC
- Karen Westcott, Secretary of f40

1. Introduction

JMcl thanked the team from the Department for Education for the opportunity to meet.

Both parties felt the meetings were beneficial in enabling information and ideas to be shared.

TG said the DfE appreciated the new data and feedback it received from f40 and urged the group to continue sharing any new information it received from members, as and when it became available.

2. Fairness of funding

Levelling up

JMcl said f40's main focus continued to be fairness of funding across schools in England, ensuring that all schools received enough funding to enable them to operate properly, before additional funding was given for deprivation etc.

Three-year rolling programme

JMcl said f40 also wanted to see a three-year rolling funding programme continue for education to enable schools to plan their budgets more effectively and efficiently. He said f40 had appreciated the announcement of a three-year funding package back in 2019 and they wished to see it continue.

TF said he could see great value in long-term settlements and felt optimistic that the next Spending Review would bring another three-year funding programme.

He said he hoped the indicative NFF budget for 2022-23 would be announced later this summer.

National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation

JMcl asked if there was likely to be a consultation on the National Funding Formula (NFF) this year?

TG said they were anticipating a series of consultations on the 'hard' NFF beginning soon, although nothing was certain yet.

TF said building on experience of previous consultations, it was felt a series of consultations would be more beneficial than one big consultation, so that they could first get the basic architecture and principles right, before moving on to consult on the detail.

TG said it was a long-term programme and something that could not be rushed.

AM asked if the seven principles used in the original development of the NFF would continue to be used as a guide during the new consultations, and TG said they would be.

TG asked where f40 felt the Department for Education had drifted away from those original principles, to which both AM, and MJ agreed the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL). They said it was not judging schools fairly and was effectively the formula for many schools negating the pupil characteristics part of the formula.

AM said the MPPFL meant that schools with a higher level of need and costs could be receiving the same level of funding as schools with a lower level of need. He said the MPPFL also did not take account of smaller schools.

MJ said small schools were not being judged fairly, or in the same way. She said small schools appeared to receive fair funding because they were receiving above Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels. However, she said this was only because the lump sum was divided by small numbers on roll, which mathematically gave large per pupil values. She said they were, therefore, assumed to be adequately funded – which may not be the case.

AM said, in Hampshire, 50% of schools were funded on the MPPFL, meaning that for a significant proportion of schools in the county, they were funded on the basis of a single formula factor, which was unresponsive to school and pupil changes.

TF said he appreciated that was an extreme case and recognised the issue. He said the average was 16%, so he appreciated the impact it could have on those with larger numbers.

[Post meeting note, in Dorset this is 26.6%]

TG asked what alternative f40 would like to see instead of the MPPFL? He asked if f40 felt there were excessive differentials between deprived areas and areas with less deprivation.

AM said the issue was how much funding was locked in. He said the NFF was meant to be more flexible and fair, but the protections locked in some of the old unfairness.

MJ said at the moment everything was compartmentalised.

MJ said there had always been historic problems in funding levels between schools with high deprivation and lower deprivation. She said a school without deprivation still needed enough money to operate without the add-ons that some other schools received. She said steps needed to be taken to ensure that balance and flexibility remained.

MJ said lump sum and sparsity were examples of this. She said she believed that lump sum needed to be interlinked with sparsity. And prior attainment should be interlinked with

deprivation. However, by compartmentalising individual aspects of the formula it was becoming less flexible for schools.

TG said he agreed the DfE needed to look at the overall impact of any changes made, and he said it was helpful to hear these suggestions.

AM said Free School Meals were traditionally a proxy for deprivation and now appeared to be simply a figure to pay for the meal. This further constrained flexibility and added focus around sufficiency of funding for specific things. TG noted that, in the NFF, the use of FSM was considered to address the cost of providing meals; FSM6 was used as a proxy for educational disadvantage.

AM also said there should be more interaction between the Schools NFF and High Needs funding. He said they needed to be considered together.

TG said, hopefully, when the SEND review was published it would enable that link to be made across both School and High Needs funding. He said he hoped any changes in SEND would avoid perverse incentives.

TG and TF said they would bear all of the points in mind.

Pupil Premium

JMcl raised the issue of changes in the way Pupil Premium was being calculated this year and the impact it was having on schools. He said data collected by f40 members had shown a shortfall in funding of £36m this year for schools in those 42 local authority areas alone.

EP explained how the number of pupils receiving Free School Meals in her school, while relatively low, had increased by about 40% between October and January, but that the increase had not been taken into account in the Pupil Premium funding this year, due to the changes.

She said the school was having to meet the shortfall in funding in order to support those extra pupils. She said while the numbers in her school were fairly small, other schools had been impacted more greatly and were, therefore, having to meet greater shortfalls in funding themselves.

AM said he understood why the DfE had made the changes, to bring all streams of education funding under the October census, but it was difficult for schools this year when they were dealing with Covid. He said budgets were already stretched.

TG said the DfE understood the impact of the changes to Pupil Premium, but they felt it was important to recognise that the change was being applied across the board, and the NFF was also being moved to the October census, where it would increase allocations.

TG said the DfE would be publishing the full impact of the changes resulting from using the October census, instead of the January census, to determine funding. He said the DfE did recognise the impact. [Post meeting note: published on 24/6/21: [Pupil premium: effective use and accountability - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pupil-premium-effective-use-and-accountability)]

AM acknowledged that there could be future offsetting gains, but that they were not synchronised into the same year, leading to losses in an extraordinary year where deprivation had become much more of an issue than for a normal year.

3. SEND

JMcl asked when the Government SEND review would be published.

TG said colleagues were working hard on the review, but he did not have a date.

JMcl said f40 was aware that the Government was working with five local authorities with particularly high SEND deficit budgets to look at how they could reduce them. He asked what the long-term plan for SEND was.

TG said they were working with the local authorities with the biggest deficits in the hope of getting them onto an even keel in advance of the SEND review having an impact, given that that would take some time.

He said it would be a rolling programme, with other local authorities invited to work with the DfE over time. He said the current plan was to have at least two more rounds of the programme.

TG said the DfE also wanted to support a wider group with less intervention (and less support attached), in order to help them manage their High Needs budgets. TG said that programme would be introduced soon.

TG said the long-term plan would come with the review. He said there were similar increases in the overall DSG budget for 2022-23 as there was in 2021-22.

TG said they had advised local government to set aside the overspend in the High Needs budget in their accounts until 2022/23.

JMcl asked what would happen after that? TG said the overall plan across Government was that, over time, future DSG funding would be sufficient to deal with the High Needs deficits. He acknowledged that it was a substantial challenge and said it would be a major topic of conversation at the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

TG said they wanted to come out of the CSR with a plan to tackle the deficits.

JMcl said it was reassuring from a local authority perspective to know that the issue was being dealt with.

EP said the notional funding schools received for SEND did not meet the need and the number of children with EHCPs. She said schools were under pressure to provide support to SEND pupils without more investment.

TG said the DfE hoped that more money could be made available for capital funding to provide more special school places, but they would not know until the CSR was announced if it would materialise or how much it would be. He said some capital funding had already been allocated.

EP said that would be very helpful as it was a battle to find places at special schools for children with SEND who needed them. She said more capital funding was vital.

JMcl said the number of EHCPs continued to rise and the system needed to be radically changed to create other options.

AM agreed and said local authorities and schools were running very hard in order to stand still and fundamental change was required.

JMcl said he was concerned too many children were sent to special schools and he believed more children with SEND should be provided with the right support in mainstream schools.

4. Covid

JMcl said f40 believed a long-term plan of investment was required to help schools and pupils recover from Covid. He emphasised that a quick fix would not work. He said while £1.4b had been promised and it was appreciated, he hoped further investment would be made to ensure children were ready to learn and well supported academically, emotionally, and physically.

EP said teachers and headteachers had worked tirelessly during the past year, with each school facing its own particular pressures and difficulties. She said while additional support was needed, it should be flexible, allowing schools to use any additional funding in the best ways that suited them.

She said the common theme running through schools was that, in the main, younger Foundation Stage children had been impacted the greatest by the pandemic. She said the school closures had resulted in many young children not developing at the expected rate, so many were not ready for school or were behind where they would normally be.

EP said unless additional support was offered for those in Early Years, Reception and Year 1, the trend would continue as they progressed further up school. She said it was not just about academic achievement, it was also about ensuring the emotional well-being and good mental health of pupils.

She said while the Covid catch-up funding provided so far was appreciated, more was needed. She said schools needed to know what was coming down the line in order to plan how to use it in the most effective way.

JMcl said he understood that more catch-up funding would be announced in due course, and that the £1.4b was just the beginning.

TF said Government had made it clear this was part of Covid recovery funding and it would review it again in the lead up to the CSR.

TF asked what f40 thought about Covid catch-up funding and suggestions that the school day be extended.

EP said her staff were already exhausted, working from 7.30am to 6pm each day, and then often marking and planning lessons in the evening.

She said it was particularly difficult at primary level where there were less staff. She said if a longer school day was to go ahead, it would need financial input.

AM said he attended a meeting with heads last week and whilst the additional funding was welcomed, it needed to be better targeted. He said it was important to get children ready to learn and into a routine first – emotional well-being was paramount.

EP agreed. She said children needed to be immersed in play and re-socialising.

JMcl said he had spoken to many young people who said they had been impacted by the pandemic just as much as adults.

He said f40 was not in favour of lengthening the school day, particularly if children were to be taught by unfamiliar people. Children needed to be mentally healthy and in the right frame of mind before they would learn.

JMcl said he also believed every school should have a member of staff who specialised in the mental health of children.

TF said they appreciated the comments and would share them with the wider DfE team and the Treasury when Covid recovery for schools was being considered.

5. Early Years

EP said Early Years had been hugely impacted by Covid, particularly with regards to the readiness of children. She said many children in the Foundation Stage were not ready to learn, and both their development and emotional well-being had been impacted.

She said unless their learning skills were in place, it would continue to be difficult in Foundation Stage, and it would ripple through schools as the children got older. She welcomed the announcement last week for Covid catch-up funding for Early Years, but said additional investment was required.

TG said the DfE was working hard to reassure maintained nurseries with regards to nursery school funding. He asked if f40 thought the DfE should be targeting much of their support towards the bottom end of primary schools in Reception and Year 1? EP said 'yes' as those year groups had been most impacted academically. EP said the older children had been impacted more emotionally.

TG said the feedback was very helpful and he would make sure the information was passed along.

MJ said not all Early Years providers were going out of business, but there had certainly been a fall in demand, which had impacted on the financial stability of some. She said the market may need to shrink to suit demand.

TG said the DfE had not seen a huge impact on the Early Years market at this stage, but it was monitoring it closely.

MJ said funding for Early Years had not changed for a long time, so when providers had to operate with fewer children during Covid it made it much more difficult for them to make ends meet.

EP said if she was to specify where extra Covid catch-up funding should be targeted she would ask for additional funding for Key Stage 1 and extra funding for mental and emotional well-being of all pupils. She said that had been missing from the funding announcement last week.

JMcl said the recovery of schools and pupils would not take six months – it would take several years – and mental health support should be provided long-term.

And EP said the more notice schools had about extra funding, the easier it would be to ensure it was targeted in the right places.

MJ agreed and said with more notice, money could be used more efficiently, with less needless spend and waste.

JMcl thanked TF, TG and MB for their time and assured them that when new data or information became available from f40 members, it would be shared with the DfE.

Ends



f40 Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, June 14, 2021 – Conference call

1. Attendances, apologies, and changes to committee membership

Present: Cllr James McInnes (Chair, Dep Leader at Devon CC); Karen Westcott (Secretary); Emily Proffitt (Staffs primary headteacher and Dep Chair); Margaret Judd (Dorset Council); Andrew Minall (Hampshire CC); Jackie Smith (CEO Brunel SEN MAT & Uplands Educational Trust); Christine Atkinson (East Riding of Yorkshire CC); Carole Thomson (Oxfordshire Schools Forum); Richard Soper (Worc Community Trust); Phil Haslett (Glos CC); Annette Perrington (Swindon BC); Julia Harnden (ASCL); Cllr Andrew Leadbetter (Devon CC); Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Cambs CC); Cllr Alex Dale (Derbyshire CC); Ed Francis (Worc SEND primary headteacher).

Apologies: Steve Edmonds (NGA); Matt Western MP (Vice Chair); Cllr Bob Standley (East Sussex); Deborah Myers (East Riding).

KW informed members that unfortunately Labour MP Matt Western's office had informed her that he would be standing down from his role as Vice Chair of f40 as he was now Shadow Minister for Universities and felt he did not have the time to commit to the group. JMcl wished to thank MW for his time and efforts with f40 and said he fully understood his reasons for stepping down, although it was unfortunate and a loss to the group.

Action: KW to write to Matt Western to thank him and wish him well.

Action: KW to approach another member of the Labour Party to invite them to become the Labour Vice Chair of f40.

KW also informed the Executive that at the last local elections in May Cllr Mary Evans (Suffolk) and Cllr Peter Downes (Cambs) had both stood down as councillors and so were no longer members of the f40 Executive. And, unfortunately, Cllr Richard Long (Kent) was not re-elected. While they were not present, JMcl thanked them for their efforts and said their contributions to f40 meetings had been much appreciated and they would be missed.

JMcl welcomed new members Cllr Bryony Goodliffe, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Andrew Leadbetter, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools at Devon CC, and Ed Francis, Headteacher at Fort Royal SEND Primary School in Worcestershire.

JMcl also informed members that as of May 2021 he was no longer Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools at Devon CC. He was now Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services. He said although he was no longer directly involved in education, for continuity, and provided members were in agreement, he would continue as the chairman of f40. He said Cllr Andrew Leadbetter, who had taken over as Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools in Devon, was joining the f40 Executive.

KW also informed members that Leicestershire County Council was no longer a member of the f40 group as it was not a member of the LGA and therefore not permitted to join Special Interest Groups.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record of the meeting.

- 3. Pupil Premium survey submitted to the DfE – noted.**
- 4. f40 response to DfE consultation on high needs funding submitted – noted.**
- 5. f40 response to DfE consultation on sparsity submitted – noted.**
- 6. Meeting with f40 Conservative Vice Chair Gary Streeter on March 9 – noted.**

KW said during the meeting with Gary Streeter the issue of rescheduling the f40 conference and holding an MPs' briefing had been discussed. It was agreed that November 2021 would be a good time to hold both the conference and the MPs' briefing. GS kindly offered to sponsor the MPs' briefing and to book a committee room for it at the House of Commons. It was agreed that a Tuesday would probably be the best day – Tuesday, November 9 was agreed.

KW informed members that rooms had been provisionally booked at the LGA for the conference on that day, and she was liaising with Gary Streeter's office about booking a committee room at The Commons. However, she noted that the conference was dependent upon Covid restrictions being lifted and things getting back to normal by then.

It was agreed by members that if the conference could not go ahead, a series of one-hour webinars could be organised, with speakers and Q&A sessions.

Action: KW to progress and investigate.

7. Meeting with the DfE funding team on June 11, 2021 – update.

JMcl updated everyone on the meeting with the DfE on June 11 and said the notes had not yet been finalised.

He briefly gave a synopsis and said he, EP, MJ, AM and KW had had a very good discussion with Tony Foot, Director of Strategic Finance at the DfE, Tom Goldman, Deputy Director of the Funding Policy Unit, and Maria Brennan, School Funding Policy Advisor. He said both parties felt the meetings were beneficial in enabling information and feedback to be shared. The DfE urged f40 to continue sharing any new data and information it received from members as and when it became available.

JMcl said a full note of the meeting would be shared in due course. However, he briefly summarised the meeting:

Fairness of funding

JMcl had informed the DfE that f40's main focus continued to be fairness of funding across schools in England, ensuring that all schools received enough funding to enable them to operate properly, before additional funding was given for deprivation etc.

f40 had also stressed the importance of a continued three-year rolling funding programme to enable schools to plan their budgets more effectively and efficiently. He said f40 had appreciated the announcement of a three-year funding package in 2019 and they wished to see it continue.

JMcl told the Executive that the DfE also saw the value in three-year settlements and felt optimistic that the next Spending Review would bring another three-year funding programme. He said the DfE said steps were being taken to continue levelling up funding.

Pupil Premium

JMcl said f40 had raised the issue of changes in the way Pupil Premium was being calculated this year and the impact it was having on schools.

EP explained to the DfE how the number of pupils receiving free school meals in her school, while relatively low, had increased by about 40% between October and January, but that the increase had not been taken into account in the Pupil Premium funding this year, due to the changes. She said the school was having to meet the shortfall in funding in order to support those extra pupils. She said while the numbers in her school were fairly small, other schools had been impacted more greatly and were, therefore, having to meet greater deficits themselves.

AM said he understood why the DfE had made the changes, to bring all streams of education funding under the October census, but it was difficult for schools this year when they were dealing with Covid.

The DfE team said they understood the impact of the changes to Pupil Premium, but they felt it was important to recognise that the change was being applied across the board, and the NFF was also being moved to the October census, where it would increase allocations.

AM acknowledged that there could be future offsetting gains, but that they were not synchronised into the same year, leading to losses in an extraordinary year where deprivation had become much more of an issue than for a normal year.

National Funding Formula consultation

JMcl said the DfE had indicated that, as expected, they would be consulting on the 'hard' National Funding Formula, however, it would be a series of consultations, rather than one big consultation, although nothing was certain yet.

The DfE said building on experience of previous consultations, it was felt a series of consultations would be more beneficial than one big consultation, so that they could first get the basic architecture and principles right, before moving on to consult on the detail.

AM asked if the seven principles used in the original development of the NFF would continue to be used as a guide during the new consultations, and the DfE said they would be.

f40 was asked where it felt the NFF had drifted away from those original principles. f40 said it believed the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL) was not judging schools fairly or taking account of pupils' characteristics, and was leaving small schools without sufficient funding.

The DfE team had asked what alternative f40 would like to see instead of the MPPFL. f40 said the issue was how much funding was locked in. f40 said the NFF was meant to be more flexible and fair, but protections locked in some of the old unfairness.

f40 also said Schools NFF and High Needs funding should be interlinked.

The DfE hoped that when the SEND review was published it would enable the link to be made across both School and High Needs funding. The DfE said it hoped any changes in SEND would avoid perverse incentives.

Covid

JMcl said f40 had stressed to the DfE how it believed a long-term plan of investment was required to help schools and pupils recover from Covid. He said f40 had emphasised that it was not a quick fix and while £1.4b had been promised now, they hoped further investment would be made to ensure children were ready to learn and were well supported academically, emotionally, and physically.

JMcl said the DfE indicated this was part of Covid recovery funding and Government would review it again in the run up to the CSR.

He said the DfE team had been eager to hear the experiences and feedback from headteacher EP.

EP had explained to the DfE that teachers and headteachers had worked tirelessly during the past year, with each school facing its own particular pressures and difficulties. She said while additional support was needed, it should be flexible, allowing schools to use additional funding in the best ways that suited them and individual children, and a long-term plan of support was required.

She said the common theme running through schools was that, in the main, younger Foundation Stage children had been most severely impacted academically by the pandemic. She said the school/nursery closures had resulted in many young children not developing at the expected rate, so many were not ready for school or were behind where they would normally be. However, she said older children in primary school had been impacted more emotionally.

EP said unless additional support was offered for those in Early Years, Reception and Year 1, the trend would continue as they progressed further up school. EP also stressed that the mental health of children needed additional support. She said children needed to be immersed in play. JMcl said he believed someone who specialised in mental health of children should be present in every school.

PH said in the f40 Executive meeting that headteachers in Gloucestershire had voiced similar desires, to see flexible funding and support, which they could use how they felt was most suitable to them.

JMcl said f40 had made it clear that it did not support extending the school day or creating weeks of extra learning during the school holidays, particularly where teaching staff were unfamiliar to children. He said f40 believed children needed to be ready to learn and happy before additional tuition was provided through extending the day.

SEND

JMcl said the DfE had indicated that work on the Government SEND review was continuing and it would be published, although no date was given.

JMcl said the issue of deficit SEND budgets had been discussed and the DfE said it would be working with local authorities with the biggest deficits in the hope of getting them onto an even keel in advance of the SEND review having an impact, given that that would take some time.

The DfE said it would be a rolling programme, with other local authorities invited to work with them over time.

The DfE also wanted to support a wider group with less intervention (and less support attached), in order to help them manage their High Needs budgets.

JMcl said Government's long-term plan would come with the review.

The DfE said they had advised local government to set aside the overspend in the High Needs budget in their accounts until 2022/23.

JMcl asked what would happen after that? The DfE said the overall plan across Government was that, over time, future DSG funding would be sufficient to deal with the High Needs deficits.

JMcl said it was reassuring from a local authority perspective to know that the issue was being dealt with.

JMcl said the DfE also hoped more capital funding for SEND could be available in the future to help create additional places at specialist SEND schools.

MJ said much of the discussion around SEND funding with the DfE revolved around Comprehensive Spending Reviews in the future, rather than now, but she said all of the issues were on their radar.

JS said the capital funding that had been made available to SEND had been very welcome, but more was needed. She said it was a drop in the ocean when comparing how many additional places were required.

JS also said the change in the regulations, which meant the responsibility for commissioning new SEND Free Schools sat at local authority level, was a problem as local authority budgets were under so much strain. She said if budgets were tight, local authorities may not get the support they needed to actually commission a new school. JS said policy was the biggest issue in SEND and understanding just how much additional funding was needed. She said the problem was far bigger than Government realised.

EF said his SEND primary school was originally built for 140 pupils, but it now had 240 pupils. He said the school was bursting at the seams. He had tried to encourage Worcestershire County Council to borrow money to build a new special school, as had been done in Norfolk. However, he said his suggestion had so far not progressed.

EF said two years ago, changes to teacher salaries and pensions increased his wage bill by £200,000 but his budget had not increased accordingly. He said SEND funding was a postcode lottery, depending on how generous the local authority was with regards its top-up funding. Top-up funding in Worcestershire had not increased since 2013, he said.

JMcl said he hoped the SEND review would give guidance to all local authorities on how much support they should be giving to SEND.

PH agreed and said more capital funding was needed for SEND. He said Gloucestershire County Council received £2.8m in extra funding. A new school would have cost £7m, so they could only afford to extend a current facility. It's just not enough, he said.

JH said if the Spending Review gave more long-term funding plans, maybe over four or five years, it would enable local authorities to plan budgets more efficiently and effectively. She said it was just hand to mouth, at the moment.

PH said recent investment in SEND, along with the three-year funding package, was welcome and had made an impact. He said continued investment and visibility of what funding was coming would help authorities and schools to plan.

AM said f40 made it clear to the DfE that everyone in education was having to run just to stand still at the moment.

JS said the capital funding issue was very significant. She said she had just hired a fundraiser at her SEND MAT, with the target of raising a six-figure sum in order to provide sensory rooms and splash pools at her schools – which were basic requirements.

She said the red tape was impossible to overcome and if SEND school buildings did not provide the right sort of environment for pupils, Ofsted inspections would be unsuccessful.

Early Years

JMcI said the f40 group raised concerns around Early Years funding with the DfE. EP said the DfE said the challenges with Early Years were on their radar.

MJ said f40 repeatedly stressed the importance of ensuring that the youngest children were ready to learn in order to get the foundations right so they could reach their potential throughout their schooling and in later life.

EP had explained to the DfE how Early Years had been hugely impacted by Covid, particularly with regards to the readiness of children. She said many children in the Foundation Stage were not ready to learn, and both their development and emotional well-being had been impacted.

She welcomed the announcement last week for Covid catch-up funding for Early Years, but said additional investment was required.

EP said to the DfE that if she was to specify where extra Covid catch-up funding should be targeted she would ask for additional funding for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and extra funding for mental and emotional well-being of all pupils. She said that had been missing from the funding announcement last week.

The DfE said the feedback was helpful and they would make sure it was shared.

Action: KW to provide the full notes of the meeting with the DfE to members of f40.

8. Covid impact on schools

PH said in the main, in Gloucestershire the maintained schools had come out of Covid very well, many with increased balances, and the main concern now was around young children being ready for school. However, he said he did not believe schools had yet felt the full impact of Covid and the impact on budgets, and that would likely come much later down the line.

JMcl agreed and said he had seen similar in Devon and felt the DfE could not use the past year as an example of how well schools were coping. He agreed that the long-term implications of Covid may not be felt for some time.

MJ said she believed the increases in balances was a one-off, and that it was probably due to schools being closed for long periods, so not having to spend the same amount, rather than being able to make savings. She said it would be wrong for the DfE to use this past year as a benchmark.

JS said at her SEND MAT, any savings that were made were wiped out by extra expenditure on PPE. She said schools have had to spend their budget differently. However, she said Covid was not over, and she still had staff off sick with Covid, or isolating, and she was anticipating another wave.

EF said at his SEND primary school there had been a lot of extra costs, including cleaning. He also said some of his staff were off with Covid, or shielding, and three people were off with Long Covid. He said the costs continued to rise.

PH agreed that specialist provision had been hit hard, so the DfE had to differentiate between the different providers.

EP said she believed all schools may be affected by Long Covid and felt schools had not yet felt the maximum impact of the pandemic.

9. Consultation on the National Funding Formula

It was agreed that the f40 Executive and the Financial Managers Research Team (FMRT) may meet to discuss the consultation, and f40's response, once dates were announced.

Action: KW to monitor and arrange meetings as required.

10. LGA annual report requested

KW informed members that the LGA had requested an annual report by the end of June.

Action: KW to draft the annual report and provide it to the LGA.

11. Membership invoicing

KW said more than half of f40 members had now paid their subscription fee for the year.

12. Financial update

KW updated members on the financial position and said the bank balance was healthy.

13. Update on tender process for f40 Secretariat role

KW and JMcl updated members on the current discussions with the procurement officer at Derbyshire County Council around the re-tendering process for the Secretariat role. They said they were waiting for an update on what steps f40 needed to take.

AD said as he was an elected member for Derbyshire County Council, he would be happy to liaise and get involved, which was appreciated.

Action: KW to email the procurement officer again, copying in AD and JMcl, so he was included in the discussions.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held in mid-September via Microsoft Teams.

Action: KW to circulate a doodle poll to ascertain the most convenient date.

[Post meeting note, the next f40 Executive Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 20, at 2pm.]

AGENDA ITEM 12
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
8th JULY 2021

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
PROPOSED FORUM MEETING DATES ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

CURRENTLY ALL MEETINGS ARE PLANNED TO BE HELD REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS – THIS MAY CHANGE AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES

DATE	TIME AND LOCATION
Thursday 23 rd September 2021	2pm MS Teams
Thursday 18 th November 2021	2pm MS Teams
Thursday 20 th January 2022	2pm MS Teams
Thursday 24 th March 2022	2pm MS Teams
Thursday 19 th May 2022	2pm MS Teams
Thursday 7 th July 2022	2pm MS Teams

PLEASE NOTE

There may be a need to review this meeting schedule due to: -

- Announcements by the DfE on the NFF and other policy changes.
- Confirmation of school funding budget information.
- The ability, or otherwise, to hold face to face meetings

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR THE MEETINGS

The dates will include some standard items such as: -

September 2021

National Decisions for 2022-23 and NFF (if available)

Outcomes of DfE HN Funding Review

Local Notification and Consultation on National Funding Changes 2022-23 (if any)

November 2021

National Decisions for 2022-23 and NFF

Local Notification and Consultation on National Funding Changes 2022-23 (if any)

January 2022

School Funding Settlement 2022-23

Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022-23

Final Schools Block Allocations APT 2022-23

March 2022 and May 2022

DfE National Funding Update

July 2022

DfE National Funding Update

Potential Consultation Issues 2023-24 and future years

Schools Balances 2021-22

DSG Outturn 2021-22

There will also be additional items as they arise during the year.