

# Notice of Schools Forum

Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2021 at 9.00 am

Venue: Via MS Teams



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## Membership:

### Chairman:

Geoff Cherrill

### Vice Chairman:

Patrick Earnshaw

Russell Arnold  
Mark Avoth  
Lauren Dean  
Kate Carter  
Jon Chapple  
Ben Doyle  
Linda Duly

Phillip Gavin  
Brigid Hincks  
Sue Johnson  
Nadine Lapskas  
Dorian Lewis  
Angela Malanczuk  
David Newman

Jacqueline Page  
Jeremy Payne  
Sean Preston  
Michael Reid  
Dave Simpson  
S Thomas

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All Members of the Schools Forum are summoned to attend this remote meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view this remote meeting by way of email request to the meeting contact below – joining instructions will then be provided.

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5093>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Andrew Hind on 01202 126691 or email [andrew.hind@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.hind@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email [press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

6 September 2021



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app



## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests

Do any matters being discussed at the meeting directly relate to your registered interests?

Disclosable  
Pecuniary Interest

Yes

Declare the  
nature of the  
interest

Do NOT  
participate in  
the item at the  
meeting. Do  
NOT speak or  
vote on the  
item EXCEPT  
where you hold  
a dispensation

You must leave  
the room  
during the  
debate unless  
you hold a  
dispensation

Other Registerable  
Interest

Yes

Declare the  
nature of the  
interest

You may speak  
on the matter  
ONLY if  
members of the  
public are also  
allowed to  
speak at the  
meeting

Otherwise, do  
NOT speak or  
vote on the  
matter and  
leave the room  
during the  
debate unless  
you hold a  
dispensation

No

Does the matter **directly** relate to your  
financial interest or well-being or those  
of a relative or close associate?

Yes

You must disclose the interest.

Does the matter affect your financial  
interest or well-being:  
(a) to a greater extent than it affects the  
financial interests of the majority of  
inhabitants of the ward affected by  
the decision and;  
(b) a reasonable member of the public  
knowing all the facts would believe  
that it would affect your view of the  
wider public interest

Yes

You may speak on the matter ONLY  
if members of the public are also  
allowed to speak at the meeting

Otherwise, do NOT speak or vote on  
the matter and leave the room during  
the debate unless you hold a  
dispensation

What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it  
lead a fair minded and informed  
observer to conclude that there was  
a real possibility or a real danger that  
the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision,  
did the decision maker have a closed  
mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision,  
they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer  
([susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk))

### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely  
in terms of the public  
interest

### Integrity

Councillors must avoid  
placing themselves under  
any obligation to people or  
organisations that might try  
inappropriately to influence  
them in their work. They  
should not act or take  
decisions in order to gain  
financial or other material  
benefits for themselves,  
their family, or their friends.  
They must declare and  
resolve any interests and  
relationships

### Objectivity

Councillors must act and  
take decisions impartially,  
fairly and on merit, using the  
best evidence and without  
discrimination or bias

### Accountability

Councillors are accountable  
to the public for their  
decisions and actions and  
must submit themselves to  
the scrutiny necessary to  
ensure this

### Openness

Councillors should act and  
take decisions in an open  
and transparent manner.  
Information should not be  
withheld from the public  
unless there are clear and  
lawful reasons for so doing

### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with  
honesty and integrity and  
should not place themselves  
in situations where their  
honesty and integrity may  
be questioned

### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit  
these principles in their own  
behaviour. They should  
actively promote and  
robustly support the  
principles and be willing to  
challenge poor behaviour  
wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>   |         |
| <b>2. Apologies for Absence</b><br>To receive any apologies for absence.   |         |
| <b>3. Declarations of Interest</b><br>Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.         |         |
| <b>4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b><br>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Friday 25 June 2021, as a correct record.   | 5 - 8   |
| <b>5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Budget Monitoring 2021-22</b><br>To note the contents of the report.   | 9 - 14  |
| <b>6. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Announcements in July to 2022-23</b><br>To note the contents of the report.  | 15 - 18 |
| <b>7. Extension of Terms of Office for Schools Forum Members</b><br>To agree that the term of office of members of schools forum be extended until the end of the current school year.   | 19 - 20 |
| <b>8. Forward Plan</b><br>To consider and note the Forward Plan  |         |
| <b>9. Dates of Future Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 November 2021 at 9.00am</li><li>• 13 January 2022 at 9.00am</li></ul>  |         |
| <b>10. Any Other Business</b><br>To consider any other business, which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.   |         |
| <b>11. Exclusion of the Public and Press</b><br>To consider passing the following Resolution (if required):<br><br>"RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting |         |

for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) [INSERT PARAGRAPH NUMBER HERE] of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Said Act as the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it".

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE  
SCHOOLS FORUM  
25 June 2021**

Present:

**Maintained – Secondary**

None in attendance

**Maintained Primary**

Brigid Hincks – Chair of Governors, St Joseph's Primary School

**Mainstream Academies - Primary**

Kate Carter – CEO, TEACH

Jon Chapple – Head of Twynham Primary School

**Mainstream Academies - Secondary**

Dr Dorian Lewis – Head of Bournemouth School

Nadine Lapskas – Head of LeAF Studio School

Catherine Turner – Bourne Academy

**All-Through Academies**

None in attendance

**AP Academy**

None in attendance

**Maintained – Special**

Geoff Cherrill – Head of Winchelsea School (**Chairman**)

**Maintained – PRU**

Philip Gavin – Head of Christchurch Learning Centre

**Academies – Special**

Andy Connell – Finance Director, AAT

**Early Years Representative**

Sue Johnson – Jack in the Box, Bournemouth

Kelly Yates – Dean Park Day Nursery

**14-19 Representative**

Jacqui Page

### **Invited Elected Members**

Councillor Nicola Greene – Cabinet Member for Covid Resilience and Schools

Councillor Mike White – Cabinet Member for Children's Services

### **Invited Attendees**

Jo Collis-Heavens, Finance Manager for Children's Services, BCP Council

Andrew Hind, Interim Pupil Place Planning Admissions and School Finance Manager, BCP Council

Steve Ellis – Management Accountant, BCP Council

Geraint Griffiths – Operational Manager, Inclusion and Family Services, BCP Council

Nicola Webb – Assistant Chief Financial Officer, BCP Council

Terry Reynolds – Education Consultant, BCP Council

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Simpson (The Epiphany School) and Russell Arnold (The Quay School)

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None were declared

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Thursday 14 January 2021, were approved as a correct record.

### **4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020-21**

Nicola Webb introduced a written report on the DSG and highlighted the following points:

- The budgeted deficit for this financial year was £4.9 m, the actual deficit was £3.2m.
- The High Needs Budget had been met for the year as there were savings from prior years, funding adjustments, and savings from other blocks.
- The accumulated deficit had increased from £4.6m to £7.8m. This was expected to rise and had been budgeted for.
- The EHCP growth was less than the budget had planned for, although this could have been an unexpected effect of the pandemic.
- The average cost per plan was higher than budgeted for. The EHCP was slightly higher than budget overall, but there were savings from other areas, particularly around medicals.

### **5. EHCP Funding in Schools**

The Chairman invited Forum Members to discuss the methodology behind how additional funding was triggered for schools with higher percentages of pupils with EHCPs and at which point relevant data was collected and subsequently shared and acted upon to allow for the funding to be made available.

Kate Carter explained that an academy could exceed the relevant percentage *after* the October census and not be able to access the funding. This particularly affects infant and primary schools, where pupils typically arrive without an EHCP, and the time it takes to get an EHCP means that they will not be in place on October census day. A school may have more than 3% of children on EHCPs for most of the year, but not on census day, and thus miss out on funding. This could have the effect of discouraging schools to accept children with SEND arriving after census day. Is there a way to work around this?

Steve Ellis explained that the decision to set a 3% threshold was a local one agreed in the shadow forum. It was intended to be for one year, but no alternative has been agreed since. It would be open to forum to agree something different. Regarding the timing of data collection. He added that he thought it was open to base it on termly censuses and was already in the hands of forum. It was asked whether the allocation had to be applied for, or was it automatically allocated. It was confirmed that it was automatic. It was asked if allocations could go up and down termly. It was answered that this was potentially possible.

**It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that BCP moves from an annual collection of data on EHCPs, to a termly collection of data.**

It was asked if back payments were available. The chair answered that the decision applied from the time of the decision.

Sian Thomas asked when it was planned to align the system for all schools in BCP. Geoff Cherrill briefed the Forum on the establishment of the High Needs Board including the Leader, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Children's Services. The monitoring of the HNB was thus being monitored strategically by the most senior members and officers of the council. Discussions have commenced about bringing into alignment banding across mainstream and special schools. Terry Reynolds replied that the question was getting very high level attention, and addressing the fairness of the banding system and the implications of inherited systems from the predecessor authorities. He highlighted that there was substantial work required to get agreement on a new system before it could be implemented. Sian Thomas asked if there would be changes introduced for September 2021. Terry Reynolds confirmed that there would not.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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## BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH, and POOLE SCHOOLS FORUM

Subject	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitoring 2021-22
Meeting Date	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Report Author (s)	Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer <a href="mailto:nicola.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk">nicola.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Contributors	Steve Ellis, Management Accountant
Status	Public
Classification	For information
Executive Summary	<p>The report considers the projected year end position for the DSG budget 2021-22 of a balanced position against the £9.6 million budgeted funding gap.</p> <p>The cumulative deficit at 31 March 2022 is forecast to be £17.4 million.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the contents of the report.
Reasons for Recommendations	Budget monitoring is an important element of current year financial management and budget planning for future years.

## Summary DSG Forecast

1. The DSG budget for this year was set with a funding gap of £9.6 million, adding to the deficit brought forward. The quarter one projection is for a balanced position against the budget set.

**Table 1: Summary DSG Forecast 2021-22**

			<b>Funding</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Net</b>
Early Years	Budget	£000's	-21,283	21,283	0
	Forecast	£000's	-21,283	21,245	-38
	Variance	£000's	0	-38	-38
School Block	Budget	£000's	-227,785	227,624	-161
	Forecast	£000's	-227,785	227,603	-181
	Variance	£000's	0	-21	-21
Central School Services Block	Budget	£000's	-2,058	2,058	0
	Forecast	£000's	-2,058	2,049	-9
	Variance	£000's	0	-9	-9
High Needs Block	Budget	£000's	-48,850	58,587	9,737
	Forecast	£000's	-48,916	58,709	9,793
	Variance	£000's	-66	122	56
Total DSG	Budget	£000's	-299,976	309,552	9,576
	Forecast	£000's	-300,042	309,606	9,564
	Variance	£000's	-66	54	-12

## Estimated DSG Income

2. The early years adjustment has not yet been finalised for 2020-21 due to the move to termly census for 2021-22. The allocation for the current year is therefore still provisional but is expected to match spend.
3. The central schools services block remains as budgeted.
4. The £66,000 additional high needs block funding is made up of two adjustments. BCP had received an extra £12,000 for special free school places and £54,000 from the import / export adjustment.

## Estimated DSG Expenditure

5. Estimated expenditure for each block is summarised in the appendix. The budgeted overspend on the high needs block, after the 0.5% transfer from schools block, of £9.7 million is offset by the unallocated schools block funding of £161,000.

### **Early Years Block Spend**

6. The early years adjustment has not yet been finalised for 2020-21 due to the move to termly census for 2021-22.
7. The allocation for the current year is therefore still provisional but the funding paid to providers is expected to broadly match the revised allocation. A saving against the cost of the LA duties for this block is expected of £38,000.

### **Schools Services Block Spend**

8. The mainstream schools funding formula is being paid to mainstream schools and recouped by the ESFA as per the formula set in January 2021.
9. A small saving on non-domestic rates bills is expected of £21,000.
10. The growth allocations will be finalised after the autumn census, the forecast is therefore still as budget. The unallocated schools block of £161,000 will contribute to the overall DSG position at year end.

### **Central Schools Services Block Spend**

11. The continuation of schools forum meetings on-line and small savings on the cost of performance licencing are expected to deliver a £9,000 saving against the budget.

### **High Needs Block Spend**

12. Early data on the number of EHCP's for the coming year suggests a £122,000 overspend in addition to the £9.7 million year funding gap, due to higher-than-expected average costs resulting from higher than budgeted use of independent and non-maintained special schools. This is offset by the additional £66,000 funding allocated by the ESFA.

### **Recommendations**

13. The forum is recommended to note the contents of this report.

## **Financial Implications**

14. The DSG deficit was budgeted to grow by £9.6 million in 2021-22. The cumulative deficit at 31 March 2022 is therefore forecast to be £17.4 million.

## **Legal Implications**

15. It is a requirement of the council to monitor budgets during the financial year and best practice that the schools forum is made aware of issues relating to the DSG.

## Appendix

Budget Monitoring	Early Years £000's	Schools £000's	Central Services £000's	High Needs £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast	
						Outturn £000's	Variance £000's
DSG 2 year olds NFF	-2,427				-2,427	-2,427	0
DSG 3 year olds NFF	-18,661				-18,661	-18,661	0
DSG Pupil Premium	-118				-118	-118	0
DSG Disability Access Fund	-77				-77	-77	0
DSG Prior Year					0		0
DSG NFF School Block		-225,765			-225,765	-225,765	0
DSG Premises		-1,679			-1,679	-1,679	0
DSG Growth Fund NFF (final)		-1,435			-1,435	-1,435	0
Block Transfer		1,094		-1,094	0	0	0
DSG High Needs Block				-47,756	-47,756	-47,822	-66
DSG Central School Services Block			-2,058		-2,058	-2,058	0
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>-21,283</b>	<b>-227,785</b>	<b>-2,058</b>	<b>-48,850</b>	<b>-299,976</b>	<b>-300,042</b>	<b>-66</b>
Providers - 2 year olds	2,364				2,364	2,364	0
Providers - 3 and 4 Year olds	18,037				18,037	18,038	0
Providers SEN top up grants	501				501	501	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	118				118	118	0
Disability Access Fund	77				77	77	0
Early Years LA duties	185				185	147	-38
Mainstream Schools Formula		227,344			227,344	227,323	-21
Growth Fund - budget		280			280	280	0
School Admissions			423		423	423	0
Servicing Schools Forum			18		18	10	-8
Ex ESG Services (all schools)			1,088		1,088	1,088	0
Commitments - Premature retirements			20		20	20	0
Commitments - ASD Base / other			275		275	275	0
Licences Purchased by DfE			234		234	233	-1
Place Funding				12,849	12,849	12,984	135
Top up Funding - State Sector				16,971	16,971	16,354	-617
Top up Funding - Independent/NMSS				15,351	15,351	16,143	792
Top up Funding - Post Schools				4,791	4,791	4,382	-409
Top up Funding - Pre schools				24	24	30	6
Top up Funding - Excluded Pupils/AP				1,844	1,844	1,534	-310
Commissioned Services including Outreach				1,534	1,534	1,578	44
Hospital Education Top up				98	98	0	-98
Bespoke SEN /Therapies				2,870	2,870	1,981	-889
Awaiting school placement				0	0	1,535	1,535
Support for Inclusion				141	141	71	-70
Special Schools Teachers Pay & Pension Grants				740	740	743	3
Early Years Central SEN support				616	616	616	0
Sensory Impaired Service				758	758	758	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>227,624</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>58,587</b>	<b>309,552</b>	<b>309,606</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>In-year (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,737</b>	<b>9,576</b>	<b>9,564</b>	<b>-12</b>
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit bf</b>						7,853	
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit cf</b>						17,417	

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**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTHCURCH and POOLE  
SCHOOL'S FORUM**



Subject	<b>Dedicated School Grant (DSG) - Announcements in July for 2022-23</b>
Meeting Date	14 September 2021
Classification	For information
Executive Summary	<p>Announcements were made in July 2021 by the DfE for mainstream school funding, central school services and the high needs block.</p> <p>Based on the same number of pupil numbers BCP funding in 2022-23 is changing compared with the current year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) schools NFF total is increasing by £5.4 million (2.4%)</li> <li>b) funding rate for the central school services block for on-going council functions continues to reduce by 2.5% per annum</li> <li>c) high needs block allocations provide for an 8% increase</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the contents of the report.
Reasons for Recommendations	The schools forum is not yet required to make any decisions for the 2022-23 DSG budgets but needs to be made aware of the latest funding announcements.
Report Author	Nicola Webb – Assistant Chief Finance Officer Email: <a href="mailto:nicola.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk">nicola.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</a> Phone: 01202 128764

**DSG announcements for 2022-23 in July 2021**

1. The DfE announced DSG funding values for 2022-23 on 19 July for the schools national funding formula (NFF), high needs, and central services blocks. Announcements have not yet been made for the growth fund within the schools block or for the early years block. DSG funding compared with the forecast for 2021-22 is included in Table 1 below:

**Table 1 – DSG Settlement 2022-23 (based on October 20 census pupils)**

Funding Block	Forecast 2021-22	Forecast 2022-23	Annual Change	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
<b>Early Years</b>				
2-year olds Entitlement	2,427	2,427	0	Not yet known
3-year olds Entitlement	18,661	18,661	0	
Pupil Premium	77	77	0	
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	118	118	0	
<b>Total Early Years</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Schools Block</b>				
Primary	117,756	120,223	2,467	2.1%
Secondary	108,010	110,941	2,931	2.7%
<b>Total NFF</b>	<b>225,766</b>	<b>231,164</b>	<b>5,398</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
Premises	1,679	1,699	20	Not yet known
Growth - not yet announced	1,435	1,435	0	
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>228,879</b>	<b>234,298</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Central School Services</b>				
NFF	1,767	1723	(44)	-2.5%
Commitments	291	233	(58)	-20%
<b>Total Central School Services</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>(102)</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
<b>Total High Needs</b>	<b>47,822</b>	<b>51,630</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Total DSG Funding</b>	<b>300,042</b>	<b>309,167</b>	<b>9,125</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

### Schools Block NFF

2. Schools block allocations are calculated based on updated NFF values for 2022-23 applied to data from the October 2020 school census to determine the primary and secondary units of funding. These unit of funding are final for 2022-23 and will be applied to the October 2021 census pupil numbers for allocations notified in December.
3. Nationally, school funding is increasing by 3.2% overall, and by 2.8% per pupil, compared with 2021-22. The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) per pupil is set at 2% and the minimum per pupil funding levels are also increasing by 2%.
4. For BCP compared with 2021-22 the increase in the NFF total is £5.4 million (2.4%) for the same number of pupils.

**Table 2: Mainstream Schools NFF 2022-23**

	Final 2021-22 NFF			2022-23 July Announcements			Change
	Pupil Numbers	Unit Value £	Funding £000's	Pupil Numbers	Unit Value £	Funding £000's	Funding £000's
Primary	27,555	4,273.40	117,756	27,555	4,362.96	120,223	2,467
Secondary	19,166	5,635.49	108,010	19,166	5,788.41	110,941	2,931
<b>Total NFF</b>	<b>46,722</b>		<b>225,766</b>	<b>46,722</b>		<b>231,164</b>	<b>5,398</b>



5. Updated school data from the October 2021 census will not be reflected in the NFF primary and secondary units of funding until 2023-24 but the school level budget allocations for 2022-23 will use the updated school data supplied by the DfE in December.
6. The funding factors used in the 2022-23 schools national formula remain the same, with some technical changes:
  - a. To improve the accuracy in identifying schools' remoteness, road distances instead of straight-line distances are now used in calculations. This has significantly increased the number of schools attracting sparsity funding nationally.
  - b. The funding lag for the "FSM6" deprivation funding factor has reduced by 9 months, by moving from using the previous year's January census to the October census for measuring eligibility.
  - c. In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests is used as a proxy for the 2020 tests, following the cancellation of assessment due to the pandemic.
  - d. Pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 attract funding for mobility on the basis of their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school (the May 2020 census did not take place due to the pandemic).
7. NFF funding value changes are as follows:
  - a. Increase of 3% to basic entitlements, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum.
  - b. Increase of 2% to the floor, the minimum per pupil levels and free school meals (FSM).
8. Local authorities will continue to determine final allocations for all local mainstream schools in 2022-23.
9. In the local formula the minimum funding guarantee must be set between 0.5% and 2%.
10. Schools' business rates will be paid by the ESFA to billing authorities directly on behalf of all state funded schools from 2022-23 onwards.
11. Local authorities continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block allocations to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval.

### **Central School Services Block (CSSB)**

12. The funding rate for the CSSB for on-going functions continues to reduce by 2.5% per annum. Final allocations will be updated in December with pupil numbers from the October 2021 school census.
13. The funding for historic commitments has been reduced by the usual 20% at this stage but it is hoped that, as in previous years, the DfE will provide an opportunity for the case to be made that funding should be restored to previous levels.

## **High Needs Block**

14. The high needs block allocations announced provide for an 8% increase in funding to reflect the continued rise in high needs pupils and costs. Adjustments will be made in December 2021 to reflect the autumn place return, and again in summer 2022 to reflect the cross border flow of pupils (import/export adjustment) identified from the January 2022 census.
15. The guidance for high needs funding arrangements will be available in late summer.

## **DSG Deficit management**

16. The DfE recognises that despite their best efforts and the increased funding for the high needs block, it may still not be possible for a local authority to clear an historic DSG deficit over the next few years. BCP is in this position.
17. In these cases, the department expects to work together with the local authority to agree a plan of action to enable the local authority to pay off its deficit over time. The department will need convincing evidence from the local authority that it would be impracticable to pay off a historic deficit from the DSG it would expect to receive in future years.
18. The department will discuss the evidence requirement with selected local authorities and has provided a template to assist all local authorities report their plans for managing the DSG.
19. The department will continue to approach selected local authorities to begin discussions with them during 2021. These discussions are detailed, and to make this process manageable it will be necessary to limit discussions during 2021-22 to a small number of authorities. The department expects to expand the discussions to other local authorities in later years. It is clear that BCP will need to engage in discussions with the DfE at some point.

## **Background Papers**

July 2021 announcements from the DfE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2022-to-2023>



## BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH, and POOLE SCHOOLS FORUM

Subject	Extension of Terms of Office of Schools Forum Members
Meeting Date	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Report Author (s)	Andrew Hind, Interim Pupil Place Planning, Admissions and Schools Funding Manager andrew.hind@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
Contributors	
Status	Public
Classification	For decision
Executive Summary	To agree that the term of office of members of schools forum be extended until the end of the current school year
<b>Recommendations</b>	Schools Forum: a) agrees that the terms of office of current members of schools forum be extended until the end of the current school year (i.e. until 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) b) any place falling vacant before 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 will be filled by a by-election conducted in the same way as normal elections to schools forum
Reasons for Recommendations	The Department for Education is moving towards a “hard” national funding formula. In that context the future role of Schools Forum is uncertain. Continuing with the current membership represents the most efficient use of resources for a limited period until the future role of the forum becomes clear.

### Background

1. The past 18 months have seen considerable disruption to schools and the local authority as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, schools funding is increasingly determined by a national schools funding formula, with unknown implications for the future of Schools Forum.
2. Renewing the membership of Schools Forum through elections would require administrative resources on the part of schools, other settings, and the council. Given the uncertainty it may be preferable to defer elections.
3. If Schools Forum believes elections are needed, the recommendations to this report may be amended, and arrangements and timetable for elections can be approved and implemented.

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