

**Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Education Board

Date: Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024

Time: 8.45 am

Place: MS Teams

Contact: Robert Harris

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**

- 2 Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising (Pages 3 - 6)**
Minutes attached

- **** Schools Forum Matters**

- 3 Review of Education Board and proposal to establish School Forum and Education Strategy Group**
Report of Director Education, Early Years and Inclusion (to follow)

- 4 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Early Years Funding 2024/25 (Pages 7 - 20)**
Joint report of Senior Finance Business Partner and Early Years Consultant

- 5 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget 2024/25 (Pages 21 - 34)**
Report of Senior Finance Business Partner

- 6 Date and time of future meetings**
To be advised for March and June 2024.

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Education Board

Date: Tuesday, 12th December, 2023

Place: Darwin Room - Tickfield

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Present: J Ladner (Chair)
N Kelly, S Clements, B Stickley, E Matthews, Dr R Bevan (Vice-Chair), L Thorne, J Johnson, D Woollard and J Mullan

In Attendance: Councillor Boyd
M Marks, R Harris, P Grout

Start/End Time: 8.45 am - 10.30 am

18 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board discussed the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, noting the potential governance changes (see Minute 21 below).

Resolved:

1. That Jane Ladner continues in the role as the Chair of the Education Board until June 2024.
2. That Robin Bevan continues in the role as Vice-Chair of the Education Board until June 2024.

19 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Jones, S Ayub and J Hartley.

20 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 9 October 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 9 October 2023, be confirmed as a correct record.

21 Review of Education Board and proposal to establish School Forum and Education Strategy Group

The Board considered a report of the Director of Education, Early Years and Inclusion seeking a decision, in principle, the establishment of Southend School Forum, to continue the work of the Education Board, and the establishment of the Education Strategy Group.

The Board discussed the proposal to establish a Schools Forum and highlighted concerns regarding the limited business of the Schools Forum and potential attendance issues, given that Schools Forums have less and less flexibility around the schools funding formula and would have limited business.

Resolved:

1. That, in principle, the establishment of a Southend Schools Forum and Education Strategy Group be supported and that a further report detailing the governance and partnership arrangements be presented to the Education Board at its meeting in January 2024 for final approval/adoption. Subject to the decision at the Board January 2023 meeting the Education Board will continue to the end of the academic year 2023/24 and then transfer to the School Forum, following elections held in the summer 2024.

2. That an information workshop for all heads/principals/managers of education settings be arranged in the Spring term to ensure that providers understand the roles and responsibilities of sector representatives on the school forum/Education Board so that nominations and potential representatives are fully informed of their roles and responsibilities.

3. That it be noted that the SENDAP and Early Years Forum, subject to resolution 1 above, will be established in the spring term to ensure full contribution to the new arrangements in September 2024.

22 Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 Budget Planning and 2023/24 Forecast Outturn

The Board considered a report from the Senior Finance Business Partner seeking a decision in principle concerning the setting of the 2024/25 Individual School Block funding allocations per pupil, in view of the very restrictive revisions of any such changes to the formulae as now administered through the National Funding Formulae (NFF). The report also sought a decision on the final indicative 2024/25 DSG budget allocations for de-delegated maintained school block allocations and central block funded services to schools and updated on the Dedicated School Grant forecast spend balances for 2023/24.

On consideration of the report the Board requested that the historic commitments and legacy issues be revisited at the Autumn term meeting.

Resolved:

1. That, with regard to individual school's budget (ISB) planning for 2024/25, to continue on the trajectory of adopting the principles of the National Funding Formulae (NFF), as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.6 of the submitted report, and therefore:

(i) Any mainstream school that attracts their core NFF pupil led funding factors (i.e. with no need for Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) funding floor protections to be applied), to receive the full NFF applied rates as set out in paragraph 5.4.2. of the report.

(ii) All remaining mainstream schools whose per 2024/25 per pupil led funding rates are either above the revised NFF mandatory 2024/25 minimum funding amounts per pupil or core NFF funding rate per pupil, as set out in paragraph

5.4.3. of the report, to receive the same maximum NFF built in allowance of a 0.5% uplift per pupil.

2. That the de-delegation of funding be centrally retained from the Schools block for Staff cover costs (Public Duties).

3. That the amounts and services that will continue to be funded centrally from the Central Block, where the local authority holds a statutory responsibility for all schools, as set out in paragraph 10.3 of the report, be approved.

4. That, on the basis of the decisions undertaken through both the December 2023 DSG paper and the following January 2024 DSG report (which is for noting only, with the exception of the Early Years 2024/25 funding rates), will be recommended to Council for final approval in February 2024.

5. That it be noted that, in line with the principle decisions of both the March 2019 and the December 2020 Education Board DSG papers, the growth fund to support schools will continue to be held centrally within the School's block and distributed to provide the extra required planned places within the authority, as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report.

23 Sub Group Minutes

The Board noted the minutes of the Resources Sub Group held on 27th November 2023 and the minutes of the Vulnerable Learners Sub Group held on 30th November 2023.

The Board also received a verbal update on the work and activity of the Performance Sub Group and noted that a summary report would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

24 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 8.45am – Tickfield Centre/MS Teams to be confirmed.

Chair: _____

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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Executive Director of Children and Public Health
to

Education Board

on

23rd January 2024

Agenda
Item No.

4

Report prepared by:
Paul Grout - Senior Finance Business Partner
Dianne Borien - Early Years Lead
In consultation with
Liz Hunt – Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years
Resource Sub Group

DSG Early Years Funding 2024/25

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present, update and set the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget Early Years funding rates for 2024/25.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Early Years (EY) funding rates for 2024/25 are set as laid out in this paper (section 6 and 7) including centrally retained balances and to therefore summarize:
- 2.1.1 **For 3&4 year old funding**, from the 1st April 2024:
- Uplift the EY Provider base rate to £5.30 per hour (an increase of 9.7% from the original 2023/24 rate, an increase of 3.1% when including the EY Supplementary grant introduced from September 2023)
 - Uplift the eligible deprivation rate to 49p per hour
 - Move to a 97% EY provider passport rate, retaining an additional £181,000 per annum to expand and enhance EY Centrally retained support.
- 2.1.2 **For 2 year old disadvantage entitlement** funding, from the 1st April 2024:
- Uplift the EY Provider base rate to £7.82 per hour (an increase of 37.7% from the original 2023/24 rate, an increase of 3.8% when including the EY Supplementary grant introduced from September 2023)
 - Retain the existing 99.3% EY provider passport rate.
- 2.1.3 **For the new 2 year old eligible working parent** funding, from the 1st April 2024:
- Set the EY Provider base rate at £7.48 per hour.

- Implement with a 95% EY provider passport rate, and the remaining 5% supporting EY Centrally retained.
- 2.1.4 **For the new 9 month to 2 year old eligible working parent** funding, from the 1st September 2024:
- Set the EY Provider base rate at £10.20 per hour.
 - Implement with a 95% EY provider passport rate, and the remaining 5% supporting EY Centrally retained.
- 2.1.5 Implement a Special Education Needs Inclusion EY Provider support Fund (**SENIF**) across all funding streams at 1.4% of total funds available within that stream.
- 2.1.6 And for noting only, From the 1st April 2024 the early years pupil premium (**EYPP**) rate is now set at 68p per hour across all streams for eligible children, and the Disability Access Fund (**DAF**) is now set at £910 per annum per eligible child.

3 Background

- 3.1 In the 2023 Governments Spring Budget they announced the following key and new headlines in relation to parental access of free child care:
- 3.1.1 From April 2024, eligible working parents of two-years old will be able to access 15 hours of free child care.
- 3.1.2 From September 2024, eligible working parents 15 hours of free child care will be extended to all children from the age of nine months to when the child starts school.
- 3.1.3 From September 2025, this will be further extended to 30 hours of free child care for eligible working parents from the age of nine months to when the child starts school.
- 3.2 The announcement of this new free child care offer for eligible working parents is obviously a significant change and a large national public investment in child care. The Governments intention of this significant change is to naturally support parents to return to work and helping to grow the economy by making child care more accessible. These eligible entitlements apply from the term after your child turns that age.
- 3.3 The expansion of the Early Years Child Care offer is also timed with the governments ambitions of wrap around child care whereby by 2026 the aim is for all parents and carers of primary school aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare from 8am – 6pm to further support parents to access employment. The aim is that this is also a self-sustaining funded model through parental demand and parental payments. Therefore separate to the DSG, the Government have also released start up grants to Councils in order to help achieve this particular aim for wrap around child care for primary aged children. The Government have also released capital grants to Councils to

support both the rollout of the early year entitlement offers from April 2024 and wrap around places from September 2024.

4 Foreword

- 4.1 On the 13th December 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) officially released the 2024/25 DSG Early Years (EY) funding rates to support this major new initiative including the indicative total allocation of 2024/25 funds.
- 4.2 In pure head line terms, this new funding has increased Southend's local annual DSG EY balances by an additional £5.6M. Rising to an indicative opening 2024/25 £16.4M from a £10.8M latest budget allocation in 2023/24.
- 4.3 The Councils response to how this additional funding will be distributed in 2024/25 in accordance with the conditions of the DSG for each existing and new EY funding stream is considered and recommended within the next sections of this paper. **Appendix 1 – Early Years 2024/25 Funding rates** displays the entirety of the recommended approach for the distribution of the 2024/25 EY funds and of which considers each respective EY funding stream within.

5 2024/25 Overarching DfE Conditions of the EY DSG Grant

- 5.1 Prior to consideration of the actual funding rates for passport and EY centrally retained balances it is important to note the following key DfE funding conditions of the grant Councils must follow:
- 5.1.1 At least 95% of each of the EY entitlement funding streams must be planned to be passported on to EY providers. The 95% includes the following:
- base rate funding for all providers
 - supplements for all providers (note - additional deprivation funding is a mandatory requirement for 3&4 year old funding)
 - lump sum funding for Maintained Nursery schools (N/A in Southend)
 - funding paid directly to providers from the special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF)
 - contingency funding
- 5.1.2 The remaining 5% of planned expenditure can include the following:
- centrally retained funding for EY central services or EY services in-kind, including special educational needs and disability (SEND) services
 - transfer of funding to any of the other early years entitlement
 - any extra hours that local authorities choose to fund in addition to the governments entitlement hours
 - any funding movement out of the early years block
- 5.1.3 Eligible provider payments in relation to early years pupil premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) are outside of the 95% passport requirements and must be paid on in full.

5.2 If Councils wanted to retain more than 95% of EY entitlement funding then this would require a disapplication request to the DfE.

6 2024/25 Early Years Funding rates

6.1 Each separate EY funding stream must be considered and planned and the recommendations for each stream are contained within this section and the next section highlighting the requirements of the centrally retained balances. All the hourly rates quoted are as displayed in **Appendix 1 – Early Years 2024/25 Funding rates**.

6.2 3&4 year old universal

6.2.1 For 2024/25 the DfE have confirmed an hourly rate in of £5.59 per hour for an expected opening estimated take up of 2,422 Part Time Equivalent (PTE*). The hourly rate in is an increase of 5.1% or 27p per hour from the latest 2023/24 rate in*, and a 11.6% or 58p per hour increase from the opening hourly rate in of 2023/24 if excluding the implementation of the September 2024 EY supplementary grant.

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

Latest 2023/24 rate in* includes both the 2023/24 DSG hourly rate in and the DfE EY supplementary grant implemented from Sept 2023, which has now been rolled into the DSG from 2024/25 so therefore the increase % shown is the new DSG funding in addition to this grant.

6.2.2 Southend has traditionally held a very high passport rate through for 3&4 year old funding and as shown in 2023/24 this was held at 98.6% and is 3.6% above the statutory requirement of 95%. It has not been wrong to hold this high level of passport rate as ultimately the Council has been seeking to ensure a very high level of available funding has been passed on to Southend EY providers to support sustainability. However, Southend Council itself can no longer propose to continue to hold this traditional level of passport rate, given its now own wider heavy financial challenges but also balancing the needs to sustain and enhance a EY central service fit for future requirements and expansion. Further details are provided in **section 7** as to how the EY centrally retained balances will be invested in 2024/25 moving forward.

6.2.3 It is not however proposed that the Council moves to a 95% passport rate for 3&4 year old funding, as the Council is still very minded to the financial pressures and financial sustainability of EY providers. It is therefore proposed the Council moves to an implemented passport rate of 97% in 2024/25. With a 97% passport rate of funding, this will still provide EY providers with a new 3.1% hourly rate uplift from 2024/25 when including the 2023/24 EY supplementary grant within to a **base rate** of £5.30 per hour out (from the current total £5.14 per hour out base rate in 2023/24). It must also remain minded without the Introduction of the EY supplementary grant that was implemented in September 2024 (DfE conditions of which was a 100% passport through rate). This new proposed £5.30 hourly base rate out has in fact risen by 9.7% from the opening 2023/24 hourly base rate out of £4.83 per hour. The DfE have also stated their intention that in futures years they wish to move to a statutory minimum passport rate of 97% but will assess this position with the roll out of the new EY funding streams.

- 6.2.4 Southend has continued with a **mandatory deprivation supplement** attached to those eligible for EYPP. This has proved a successful and streamlined method of targeting by ensuring this additional funding reaches the respective EY providers as quickly as possible for those eligible children. Given the 2023/24 EY supplementary grant was purely applied to the base rate of providers, it is proposed to increase the deprivation supplementary hourly rate by the fully applied 11.6% funding uplift and therefore raising the deprivation supplementary hourly rate from 44p per hour in 2023/24 to now 49p per hour in 2024/25.
- 6.2.5 It also proposed that the key requirement of a Special Educational Needs Inclusion fund (**SENIF**) for EY providers of 3&4 year olds, and a requirement which will now be utilized further for each of the EY funding streams individually. It is again proposed to apply the full 11.6% funding uplift to this fund in 2024/25. It must also remain noted the 3&4 year old SENIF is topped by an additional £100,000 per annum from Southend's High Need block, so the amount of funds attributable directly from the Early years block remains relatively small at circa £34,000 per annum which is an equivalent deducted circa 2p per hour of the hourly rate funded in.
- 6.2.6 Therefore, after the considerations of 6.2.2 through to 6.2.5 covering the plans for the EY provider base rate, deprivation supplementary rate and SENIF the opening EY 3&4 year old funding now provides a remaining total sum of £232,000 in 2024/25 (an increase of £135,000) from 2023/24 contributing to **EY centrally retained balances** (again further details of which are provided in section 7).
- 6.2.7 In terms of the overall opening 2024/25 funding for the 3&4 year old universal entitlement funding and to conclude. This is **total DSG funding in of £7.719M**, proposing to be distributed out at £7.317M for the EY providers base rate, £136,000 for EY provider deprivation supplementary funding, £34,000 for EY providers SENIF (note in addition to the £100,000 from the High Needs block) and £232,000 to support EY centrally retained balances.

6.3 **3&4 year old extended for eligible working parents**

- 6.3.1 For 2024/25 there are no changes to the 2023/24 approach where by Councils must fund the additional 15 hrs per week for eligible working parents on the same hourly rate basis as the 3&4 year old universal. Therefore the hourly rates in and proposed rates out for 2024/25 and % uplift changes from 2023/24 are exactly the same to the 3&4 year old universal offer. The DfE has also funded the opening expected take up of eligibility at 826 **PTE***.

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

- 6.3.2 Therefore to conclude in terms of the overall opening 2024/25 funding for the 3&4 year old extended entitlement funding. This is **total funding in of £2.632M**, planned to be distributed out at £2.495M for the EY providers base rate, £46,000 for EY provider deprivation supplementary funding, £12,000 for EY providers SENIF and £79,000 to support EY centrally retained balances.

6.4 2 year old – eligible disadvantaged

6.4.1 For 2024/25 the DfE have confirmed an hourly rate in of £7.99 per hour for an expected opening estimated take up of 368 Part Time Equivalent (PTE*). The hourly rate in is an increase of 5.4% or 41p per hour from the latest 2023/24 rate in*, and a 36.7% or £2.27 per hour increase from the opening hourly rate in of 2023/24 if excluding the implementation of the September 2024 EY supplementary grant.

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

Latest 2023/24 rate in* includes both the 2023/24 DSG hourly rate in and the DfE EY supplementary grant implemented from Sept 2023, which has now been rolled into the DSG from 2024/25 so therefore the increase % shown is the new DSG funding in addition to this grant.

6.4.2 The DfE highlight that most councils already implement a much higher passport rate than the 95% minimum statutory requirement, and Southend has also always followed this approach recognising the EY provider required increased child care staffing ratios for 2 year olds and key importance of child care availability for disadvantaged 2 years old to support their development, holding a passport rate of 99.3% in 2023/24.

6.4.3 As a collective total, it is not proposed to change this passport rate for 2024/25 so that has been set to maintain at 99.3%, but it is now proposed to include in 2024/25 a specific **SENIF** fund allocation within the 2 year old funding stream. It is not a statutory requirement to hold a dedicated SENIF fund for 2 years old, or the new further 9mth to 2 year old offer but it is now considered good practice and encouraged to do so, and Southend supports this approach to ensure very young children and from birth that have an identified lower level or emerging SEN are supported as quickly as possible. For 2024/25, this will be a relatively small fund at £23,000 per annum but is proposed to be set on the same % basis of 1.4% of total available funds as is set within the 3&4 year old offer (when including the £100,000 top up from High Needs). We would expect over time, the appropriate size of all SENIF fund allocations will be re-determined as the supporting reach of this fund is established.

6.4.4 In consideration of sections 6.4.2 and 6.4.3 in terms of the EY provider **base rate** itself for disadvantaged 2 year olds from 2024/25 this is now proposed to be set at £7.82 per hour, an increase of 3.8% per hour from the latest 2023/24 EY rate (including the EY 2023/24 supplementary grant implemented from September 2024) or a 37.7% increase excluding the supplementary grant. The **EY centrally retained balance** will also be £12,000 per annum given the continued 99.3% passport rate (a small increase of £3,000 from 2023/24).

6.4.5 Therefore, to concludes in terms of the overall opening 2024/25 funding for the 2 year old eligible disadvantage entitlement funding. This is **total funding in of £1.677M**, planned to be distributed out at £1.642M for the EY providers base rate, £23,000 for EY providers SENIF and £12,000 to support EY centrally retained balances.

6.5 **2 year old – eligible working parents (new for 2024/25)**

- 6.5.1 For 2024/25 the DfE have confirmed an hourly rate in of £7.99 per hour for an expected opening estimated take up of 504 Part Time Equivalent (PTE*), and is the same funding rate in as the disadvantaged 2 year olds.

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

- 6.5.2 In view that this is a completely new requirement for Councils and in turn requiring additional EY Centrally retained support to monitor, assist and advise EY Providers. It is proposed to implement this fund at the statutory minimum requirement of a 95% passport rate which in turns allows the maximum sum available to resource EY Centrally retained services (as further referenced in Section 7). It also in terms of good practise advised that within the passport rate a further dedicated sum of funds are set aside to support SENIF. Which is set at the same rate as the other EY funding streams allocating 1.4% of funds to contribute to SENIF.
- 6.5.3 It is also a conditional requirement that the disadvantaged 2 year old EY provider rate (excluding SENIF) is **at least** equivalent to this new 2 year old eligible working parent offer.
- 6.5.4 Therefore in consideration of sections 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 in terms of the EY provider **base rate** itself for 2024/25 is proposed to be set at £7.48 per hour, with a separate SENIF EY Provider inclusion fund allocation of £32,000 per annum.
- 6.5.5 And to conclude in terms of the overall opening 2024/25 funding for the 2 year old eligible working parent entitlement funding. This is **total funding in of £2.298M**, planned to be distributed out at £2.151M for the EY providers base rates, £32,000 for EY providers SENIF and £115,000 to support EY centrally retained balances.

6.6 **9mth to 2 year old – eligible working parents (new for 2024/25 from Sept 2024)**

- 6.6.1 For 2024/25 the DfE have confirmed an hourly rate in of £10.89 per hour for an expected opening estimated take up of 256 Part Time Equivalent (PTE*)

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

- 6.6.2 Again, in view that this is a completely new requirement for Councils and in turn requiring additional EY Centrally retained support to monitor, assist and advise EY Providers. It is again proposed to implement this fund at the statutory minimum requirement of a 95% passport rate which in turns allows the maximum sum available to further resource EY Centrally retained services (as further referenced in Section 7). Again, it also in terms of good practise advised that within the passport rate a further dedicated sum of funds are set aside to support SENIF in this now very young co-hort of children, which is set at the same rate as the other EY funding streams allocating 1.4% of funds to

contribute to SENIF. Again, to remain minded we would expect over time, the appropriate size of all SENIF fund allocations will be re-determined as the supporting reach of this fund is established.

6.6.3 Therefore in consideration of sections 6.6.2 the EY provider **base rate** itself for 2024/25 is proposed to be set at £10.20 per hour, with a separate SENIF EY Provider inclusion fund allocation of £22,000 per annum.

6.6.4 And to conclude in terms of the overall opening 2024/25 funding for the 9month to 2 year old eligible working parent entitlement funding. This is **total funding in of £1.587M**, planned to be distributed out at £1.485M for the EY providers base rates, £22,000 for EY providers SENIF and £79,000 to further support EY centrally retained balances.

6.7 Contingency Funding

6.7.1 It must also be noted as referenced under section 5.1.1 the DSG conditions of the grant allows councils to able to set aside some funding within any of the EY funding streams for Contingency and that funding would also count within the 95% passport rate, even if it was not utilized or needed. The principal of this contingency funding is therefore to enable and support DSG balances should there be fluctuations in funding where more funding was passed out (based on appropriate head count payment data) than received in which as repeated in the main DSG Education Board papers is based on the annual January EY census's.

6.7.2 Given our local historic and effective management of DSG EY balances to date and the fact that Southend Council hold as reported through the main DSG Education update papers an Early Years DSG reserve balance. It is welcome to confirm it is not proposed for 2024/25 to create a contingency fund which inturn would naturally reduce rates available to passport through to providers as presented in this paper and/or reduce centrally retained EY balances.

6.7.3 This approach of course has some risk particularly as the new funding streams come online, so the EY DSG balances will continue to be monitored through the main DSG budget and forecasts papers through business as usual and therefore should any adverse forecasts presents themselves then this current position on contingency funding for future years will need to be reviewed.

6.8 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

6.8.1 EYPP is purely for noting as any child falling eligible the full funding rate will and must be passported on.

6.8.2 For 2024/25, EYPP eligibility has now been expanded to include not only any eligible children receiving the universal 3&4 year entitlement offer (which is the current conditions in 2023/24), but also now in 2024/25 any eligible child receiving either of the 2 year old entitlement offers and the 9 month to 2year old offer from September 2024.

6.8.3 In 2024/25 the EYPP rate is set at 68p per hour. Collective PTE* take up is planned at 897. The 2024/25 rate is a 3% increase from the 2023/24 rate

including the 2023/24 EYPP EY supplementary grant and returns an opening expected collective fund of £348,000.

PTE* as DfE defined, assume all children access the full entitlement of 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

6.9 Disability Access Fund (DAF)

- 6.9.1 DAF is also purely for noting, whereby any child falling eligible the full funding rate will and must be passported on.
- 6.9.2 For 2024/25, DAF eligibility has also now been expanded to include not only any eligible children receiving the universal 3&4 year entitlement offer (which is the current conditions in 2023/24), but also now in 2024/25 any eligible child receiving either of the 2 year old entitlement offers and the 9 month to 2year old offer from September 2024.
- 6.9.3 In 2024/25 the DAF rate is set at £910 per annum. Expected total take up is planned at 163 children. The 2024/25 rate is a circa 6% increase from the 2023/24 rate including the 2023/24 DAF EY supplementary grant and returns an opening expected collective fund of £148,000.

7 Requirement of the Centrally retained balances

- 7.1 Local Authorities (LA's) have a number of key duties in relating to the provision of Early years child care in their area, and these include so far as reasonably practicable to secure sufficient childcare in their area for working parents, and those eligible to receive from the other benefit entitlement offers. LAs also have a duty to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents and provide information, advice and training to child care providers. The LA should also ensure there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of children with special education needs and disabilities.
- 7.2 With the introduction of the new entitlement offers, this is obviously seeking to drive a significant expansion of accessible child care from now the age of 9 months for eligible working parents up to when the child starts school that the Council also now has a direct statutory duty to oversee. In turn, this of course will require far more provision of available, accessible and good quality child care in local area's.
- 7.3 There is no new ongoing direct funding for the Councils to oversee and support these expanded early years entitlements aside from the Early Years funding that is made available through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Council therefore has to make an appropriate assessment of the funding that is available for it to now cover both existing and these now expanded duties and to sustain that support going forward. It also has to be recognised that this is also new provision and EY teams are likely to change and adapt as this now widened service provision beds down over the years to come.
- 7.4 The introduction of these new entitlement offers has unfortunately also fallen at the same time Councils are facing significant financial pressures themselves. Where demands on key statutory services for the most vulnerable have continued to increase with unavoidable cost pressures and whereby the

Councils own income is not able to keep pace with these cost pressures. Therefore unfortunately Council savings have had to be found and delivered in many areas across the Council and this is as demonstrated through its own Council and Cabinet budget papers for 2024/25.

- 7.5 Based on the recommendations of **section 6**, EY centrally retained balances will now rise as total from £138,000 in 2023/24 or equivalent 1.3% of the latest 2023/24 total EY funding of £10.8M, to £517,000 in 2024/25 or equivalent 3.2% of the latest 2024/25 total EY funding of £16.4M, and therefore an additional total of £379,000 in 2024/25 or equivalent 1.9% of funding of the total latest 2024/25 EY funding.
- 7.6 To remind, the current £138,000 centrally retained funds both EY provider training (through third parties) and a dedicated EY Finance and liaison officer. There has also been a crucial Operation and Intelligence data post agreed to be funded by DSG EY reserve balance for the last three financial years to manage the EY funding system which providers access and from which is the core basis for receiving their funding on a monthly basis.
- 7.7 The additional £379,000 of EY Central retained funding in 2024/25 will in summary be used to sustain, expand and increase the quality of the EY central service. Whilst the required numbers of these roles will take further shape and recruited in 2024/25 (within affordability of this allocation) the key areas of this investment will be used to:
- 7.7.1 Fund “Entitlement and Sufficiency officers”. There is a need to expand and enhance the identification and sufficiency across all providers and support with sustainability issues. This is to ensure the required numbers of settings remaining open, or support to open new provision, to meet the increased demand.
- 7.7.2 Fund an “Early Years teacher”. There is no qualified teacher in the current team and this is a gap. Supporting and challenging providers to improve the outcomes for all children, particularly the disadvantaged is crucial. This will lead to improvements for children when transitioning into to school and school readiness, including leading to better outcomes across the 17 Early Learning Goals for children at the end of their reception year.
- 7.7.3 Fund “Child Care improvement officer’s”. The Council must ensure quality, through training, support, challenge including network meetings and manager meetings. It is imperative to raise the quality of the environment for teaching, learning and assessment, and to ensure all providers are Ofsted ready. There are gaps for quality first teaching and training to ensure the achievement and attainment of all children is improved to meet and surpass national levels.
- 7.7.4 To make permanent the “Operation and Intelligence data post”, so the EY data and funding system continues to be well maintained, developed and interrogated. (further consideration will be needed as to whether this post is expanded)
- 7.7.5 Other functions of the EY team that again will need to be expanded, to include supporting EY providers with the promotion and recruitment of child care providers. For example, advertising, linking in with career fayres, and guiding those who wish to explore or start a career in childcare. The team must also support and advise EY Providers in relation to all aspects of the EY funding streams and therefore business planning with EY Providers. This work also

includes administration of recording keeping for DAF and SENIF allocations and payments.

- 7.8 Some of the roles above have been funded via 3rd party service level agreements. For 2024/25, all EY centrally roles will be directly employed and managed by the EY Head of Service. This will allow greater direct supervision, steer and shaping for further development of these roles over time.
- 7.9 Whilst the introduction of these government legislative changes places more requirements on Councils it does provide an opportunity locally to re-shape and balance existing resources for EY Centrally retained services. As referenced for reasons highlighted in 6.2.2 historically the Council has held a very high passport rate on 3&4 year old funding and therefore kept EY DSG Centrally retained balances to a very low proportion of total DSG EY funding.
- 7.10 However, the historic knock on effect of this has been to place further strain on the Council's own resources to directly fund EY Centrally retained support functions. The proportion of total EY Centrally retained funding in 2023/24 has been funded at ratio of 73% council general fund resources compared to 27% EY DSG centrally retained resources. This is out of quilter with other local authorities and schools forums who have historically funded far greater proportions of EY Centrally retained service through the EY DSG balances.
- 7.11 Therefore within the now £379,000 additional EY DSG balances for 2024/25, it is proposed that £100,000 of this funding will be re-based in 2024/25 and moved from the EY DSG centrally balances to the Councils own general fund balance and therefore enabling the Council to save £100,000. This still leaves £279,000 of additional funding to fund the roles as illustrated in section 7.7. The £100,000 saving will of course play a small part contributing to the Councils own significant financial challenges. However, what is actually the more critical issue by generating this saving, is that the existing financial resources in totality that support EY Centrally retained services are now protected from any reductions.
- 7.12 Therefore excluding the new DSG funding available, which will for all Councils see a far higher proportion of EY Centrally retained services funded through DSG, would rebase the existing 2023/24 funding rolling into 2024/25 to a ratio split of 54% council general fund to 46% DSG. It could still be challenged this is not far enough, but it is a considerate and proportionate re-basing in view of the wider and expanded funded provision for Early Years moving forward. The revised total proportional split for 2024/25 EY Centrally funding will move to a ratio of 35% General Fund to 65% DSG EY Centrally retained. Again, other Councils will still have greater proportions of funding falling to DSG EY centrally retained but this is a balanced position for considerations as laid out in this paper. There is also risk that if take up does not reach the expected DfE levels then this reduces funding not only in terms of what is paid out and comes in, but also therefore to support EY DSG Centrally retained services as this is always a proportion not a fixed sum of the total funding incoming.

8 Other options (and why not)

- 8.1 The recommended 2024/25 option is of course as laid out in this paper (within sections 6 and 7) with a balanced consideration towards the required and increased EY Centrally retained services to both safeguard existing EY Centrally retained services as a total, expand and further upskill this crucial provision. All EY providers will also receive uplifts on their current base rates (and over 9.5% when excluding the EY supplementary grant for 3&4 year olds that was introduced from September 2024), as well as now incorporating SENIF funds across all EY eligibility streams.
- 8.2 There are a number of multiple and other optional combinations that could be considered as the conditions of grant are separately applicable for each of EY funding entitlement streams. However, whilst none of these options are recommended, to give an example of two other potential options and why they are discounted is as follows:
- 8.2.1 **Example Alternative option 1:** Move all EY funding streams to a 95% passport rate (so including 3&4 year old funding and 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement funding). Whilst this option would generate a further annual £275,000 for EY Central Retained Services to the recommended option, it would only provide a 1.0% uplift in the EY Provider base funding rates (not the proposed 3.1%) for 3&4 year olds and a (0.7%) reduction (not the proposed 3.8%) for 2 year old disadvantaged funding on top of the EY supplementary grant introduced in September 2023. Neither of which are considered practical or feasible for EY providers to support sufficiency.
- 8.2.2 **Example Alternative option 2:** Move all EY funding streams to a 98% passport rate. This option would provide EY Provider base funding rates uplifts of 4.1% (not the proposed 3.1%) for 3&4 year olds, 2.4% for disadvantaged 2 year olds (not the proposed 3.8% so a reduction) on top of the EY supplementary grant introduced in September 2023, a 3.3% increase on the new eligible 2 year old working parents entitlement offer (from the proposed), and a 3.2% increase on the new eligible 9 month to 2 year old working parents offer (from the proposed). And EY Centrally retained balances would reduce by (£190,000) per annum from the current recommended option. This is not deemed practical or feasible for disadvantage 2 year old funding and would require reductions in the EY centrally retained services impacting on both capacity and quality of central support.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 This paper and recommended proposals presents a balanced budget for 2024/25 Early Years (EY) Funding, incorporating the new entitlement offers and strengthening the EY centrally retained support. Early Years Funding will be under going a significant expansion in 2024/25 and therefore actual take up, quality support and promotion will need close monitoring and assessment.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Early Years Funding rates 2024/25

Appendix 1 - Early Years 2024/25 Funding rates

Recommended, if printed, to print in A3 Portrait

	C							A							E							D							B							F							F - E			(B - A) / A			(B - H) / H			FYI of Education Board only		
	2023/24 Latest DSG Budget							2023/24 Latest DSG Budget							2023/24 Latest DSG Budget							2024/25 Opening DSG Budget							2024/25 Opening DSG Budget							2024/25 Opening DSG Budget							Change in DfE Funding allocated (decrease) / Increase £'000			Reduction / Increase £ per hour for EY Providers %			Reduction / Increase £ per hour for EY Providers %			2023/24 EY Supplementary Grant From Sept 2023		
	Funded rate in per hour £	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding in £'000	Funded rate out per hour £	% expected take up of core allocation	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding out £'000	Funded rate in per hour £	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding in £'000	Funded rate out per hour £	% expected take up of core allocation	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding out £'000	Funded rate in per hour £	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding in £'000	Funded rate out per hour £	% expected take up of core allocation	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding out £'000	Funded rate in per hour £	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding in £'000	Funded rate out per hour £	% expected take up of core allocation	Budgetted PTE	Total Funding out £'000	Change in DfE Funding allocated (decrease) / Increase £'000	Reduction / Increase £ per hour for EY Providers %	Reduction / Increase £ per hour for EY Providers %	Additional rate per hour £	Total Funded rate out per hour £	% increase - G / A																				
3 & 4 year old universal core	5.01	2,422	6,918	4.83	100%	2,422	6,669	5.59	2,422	7,719	5.30	100%	2,422	7,317	648	9.7%	3.1%																																					
3 & 4 year old deprivation attached to universal				0.44	20%	484	122				0.49	20%	484	136	14	11.6%	11.6%																																					
3 & 4 year old SEND Inclusion Fund (SENIF)				0.02	100%	2,422	30				0.02	100%	2,422	34	4																																							
3 & 4 year old centrally retained to support universal				0.07	100%	2,422	97				0.17	100%	2,422	232	135																																							
3&4 year old Universal Subtotal			6,918			6,918				7,719			7,719	801																																								
3 & 4 year old extended entitlement core	5.01	826	2,359	4.83	100%	826	2,274	5.59	826	2,632	5.30	100%	826	2,495	221	9.7%	3.1%																																					
3 & 4 year old deprivation attached to extended entitlement				0.44	20%	165	41				0.49	20%	165	46	5	11.6%	11.6%																																					
3 & 4 year old SEND Inclusion Fund				0.02	100%	826	10				0.02	100%	826	12	1																																							
3 & 4 year old centrally retained to support extended entitlement				0.07	100%	826	33				0.17	100%	826	79	46																																							
3&4 year old Extended entitlement Subtotal			2,359			2,359				2,632			2,632	273																																								
2 year old core - disadvantaged entitlement	5.72	368	1,200	5.68	100%	368	1,192	7.99	368	1,677	7.82	100%	368	1,642	450	37.7%	3.8%																																					
2 year old - core disadvantaged entitlement SEND inclusion Fund				0.11	100%	368	23				0.11	100%	368	23	23																																							
2 year old centrally retained				0.04	100%	368	8				0.06	100%	368	12	3																																							
2 year old disadvantage entitlement Subtotal			1,200			1,200				1,677			1,677	476																																								
2 year old core - eligible working parents								7.99	504	2,298	7.48	100%	504	2,151	2,151																																							
2 year old - eligible working parents SEND inclusion Fund											0.11	100%	504	32	32																																							
2 year old centrally retained											0.40	100%	504	115	115																																							
2 year old eligible working parents Subtotal										2,298			2,298	2,298																																								
9 month to 2 year old rate (from Sept 24) - eligible working parents								10.89	256	1,587	10.20	100%	256	1,485	1,485																																							
9 month to 2 year old SEND inclusion Fund											0.15	100%	256	22	22																																							
9 month to 2 year old centrally retained											0.54	100%	256	79	79																																							
9mth to 2 year old eligible working parents Subtotal										1,587			1,587	1,587																																								
3 & 4 year old early years pupil premium	0.62	563	199	0.62	100%	563	199	0.68	563	218	0.68	100%	563	218	19	9.7%	3.0%																																					
2 year old early years pupil premium								0.68	318	123	0.68	100%	318	123	123																																							
9mth to 2 year olds early years pupil premium								0.68	16	6	0.68	100%	16	6	6																																							
early years pupil premium Subtotal			199			199				348			348	149																																								
Disability Access Fund (DAF) - for 3&4 year olds			79			79				116			116	116	37																																							
DAF for 2 year olds										25			25	25	25																																							
DAF for 9mth to 2 year olds										7			7	7	7																																							
DAF Subtotal			79			79				148			148	70																																								
*DAF rate is £910 per annum per eligible child from the 1st April 2024 (rising from £858.92 in 2023/24)																																																						
Early Years Total			10,755			10,755				16,408			16,408	5,653																																								
3&4 year old SEND Inclusion Fund - High needs funding			100			100				100			100	100	-																																							
Grand Total			10,855			10,855				16,508			16,508	5,653																																								
Local Passport % directly through for 3& 4 year old funding (excludes centrally retained)																																																						
Local Passport % directly through for 2 year old funding (excludes centrally retained) - disadvantaged																																																						
Local Passport % directly through for 2 year old funding (excludes centrally retained) - eligible working parents																																																						
Local Passport % directly through for 9mth to 2 year old funding (excludes centrally retained) - eligible working parents																																																						
SENIF as a % of total fund - 3&4 year old funding																																																						
SENIF as a % of total fund - 2 year old disadvantaged																																																						
SENIF as a % of total fund - 2 year old eligible working parents																																																						
SENIF as a % of total fund - 9mth to 2 year old funding																																																						

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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Executive Director of Children and Public Health
to

Education Board

on

23rd January 2024

(following the 2024/25 funding principles agreed at the Education Board 12th December 2023)

Report prepared by:

Paul Grout

Senior Finance Business Partner

Agenda
Item No.

5

Dedicated Schools Grant budget 2024/25

1 Purpose of Report

To present the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget including the DSG Individual School budgets for 2024/25.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the 2024/25 DSG Budget, be noted, and has been set as agreed in accordance with the approved funding principles of the 13th December 2023 DSG Education Board finance papers.

3 Background

- 3.1 This paper sets out the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for the financial year 2024/25 which is also to be set by the Council as part of the annual budget cycle finalized in February 2024.
- 3.2 This paper also follows both previous and detailed DSG Education Board (EB) funding papers considering the 2024/25 budget, as presented in both the October 2023 and December 2023 board meetings. The principle funding decisions approved at the December 2023 board meetings are made clear for reference within each section of this paper.
- 3.3 This paper now also follows the Department for Education (DfE) DSG 2024/25 funding block announcements made on the 19th December 2023, and release of the 2024/25 DfE Authority Proforma Tool (APT) on the 19th December 2023.
- 3.4 The DfE release of the 2024/25 APT, therefore enables the EB to also formally set the final distribution of the 2024/25 school block funds to Individual Schools, using the updated numbers on roll for each School as per the latest DfE October 2023 school census data, and in line with the previous funding

agreements of the December 23 EB meeting which set the principle 2024/25 per pupil DSG rates for each school. The APT will be submitted back to the DfE by the Council.

3.5 This paper also displays the 2024/25 DSG funding allocations for de-delegated funds, growth fund, central schools block, early years block (remains DfE provisional) and high needs block (High needs in totality only and remains DfE provisional).

3.6 And as agreed, at the March 2019 EB Board Meeting, and the December 2019 Board meeting, this paper present's the growth fund rates for 2024/25.

4 Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations 2024/25 (Set by the DfE)

4.1 The Department for Education (DfE) has set out the following funding blocks for Southend's Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25 (col.A);

	A	B	A – B
	2024/25 £M	2023/24* £M	Inc / (dec) £M
Schools Block	153.807	144.168	9.639
Growth Fund	0.933	0.780	0.153
Schools Block Subtotal	154.740	144.948	9.792
Early Years Block (Provisional)	16.408	10.755	5.653
High Need (HN) Block (Provisional)	33.971	32.222	1.749
Central Block	1.345	1.376	(0.031)
Grand Total	206.463	189.300	17.163

2023/24* High Need Block is Final, Early Years remains Provisional until July 24

Appendix 2 – “DSG budget 2024/25”, provides the detailed allocation including movement from the latest 2023/24 budget.

4.2 Although the EB and Council remain responsible for allocating the entirety of DSG, the final actual DSG amount awarded to the Council will exclude funding for mainstream academy schools, national non-domestic rates for all mainstream schools, High Need place funding for academy schools, colleges and further education providers, and free special schools. These excluded amounts are paid directly to those settings by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and known by the term ‘recoupment’ to DSG funds. Therefore the final estimated allocation expected to be awarded to the Council is **£66.012M**, after considering these estimated recoupment deductions of **£140.451M** which are also listed separately for each funding block in Appendix 2.

4.3 Within the DSG Schools Block funding allocation:

4.3.1 The primary pupil led funding element has been set at £72.810M based on a total unit of funding of £4,915.94 per primary pupil (£4,669.71 in 23/24) for 14,811 number of pupils (14,761 in 23/24). The total uplift % per pupil is 5.3% but note this also includes the mainstream school supplementary grant now included in the DSG.

- 4.3.2 The secondary pupil led funding has been set at £79.905M based on a total unit of funding of £6,502.71 per secondary pupil (£6,166.85 in 23/24) for 12,288 number of pupils (12,027 in 23/24). The total uplift % per pupil is 5.4% but note this also includes the mainstream school supplementary grant now included in the DSG.
- 4.3.3 The premises factor funding is allocated at £1.091M (£1.070M in 23/24) and the funding for growth is allocated at £0.932M (£0.780M in 23/24).
- 4.4 The DfE Early Years funding rates applied to the DSG allocation for 2024/25 have been set at £5.59 per hour for 3 & 4 year olds (uplift of 5.1% from £5.14 in 2023/24) and £7.99 per hour for 2 year olds (uplift of 5.4% from £7.54 in 2023/24). The 2023/24 rates include the new EY supplementary grant paid outside of the DSG in 2023/24 but now included in the DSG for 2024/25. There is also a new 2024/25 rate from Sept 2024 for 9month to 2 year olds. Full consideration to the EY rates and newly implemented Government entitlement offers for 2024/25 are provided **in the separate paper** for this January 2024 EB named **“DSG Early Year Funding Rates for 2024/25”**. The total early years block allocation remains provisional for 2024/25 as the allocations will be adjusted for take up of provision by the DfE in July 2024 and a further final adjustment in July 2025 (based on both the January 2025 and January 2024 early years census data).
- 4.5 The high needs block provisional allocation has been increased by a further £1.749M in 2024/25 on its core funding.
- 4.6 The high needs block is still provisional until the final funding allocation is expected to be announced in July 2024, where by the DfE will be updating the final funding allocation in recognition that the authority meets all the high need place funding costs in their home area regardless of the pupil's own home authority residence (excluding free special schools). And this is known in the DfE high need funding terminology context as the “high need import and export funding adjustment”. The home authority will be compensated in relation to high need place funding where that authority supports more pupils (than the previous year) who live outside of the home resident authority area than pupils they have been required to place in another LA area, or on the contrary, a reduction in the local funding adjustment will be applied if the opposite event occurs.
- 4.7 The 2024/25 Central Block allocation has been set with an amount of £1.049M for ongoing responsibilities (£1.006M for 23/24) funded at a rate of £38.70 per pupil for 27,099 pupils (£37.54 rate per pupil and 26,788 pupils in 23/24) funding for historic commitments is now set at £0.297M (£0.371M in 23/24) a continued reduction of 20% from the previous years allocation.

5 Schools Block – Individual School Block (ISB) allocations - £153.802M

- 5.1 As illustrated for each School in “Appendix 1 - 2024/25 final Individual school budget allocations”. The DfE release of the December APT enables the LA to formally set the distribution of the 2024/25 school block funds to individual schools, using the updated numbers on roll (NOR) for each School as per the latest DfE October 2023 school census data, and in line with the previous funding agreements approved at the EB on the 13th December 2023 distributing the agreed principle funding amounts per pupil for each school.
- 5.2 Therefore the funding per pupil (as illustrated in Appendix 1) for individual school allocations have been set on the following agreed principles which mirrors the National Funding Formulae:
- 5.2.1 The minimum per pupil levels are set at £4,610 for primary schools (£4,405 in 2023/24) and for secondary schools £5,995 (£5,715 in 2023/24), both with an equivalent circa 1.4% increase from 2023/24. And to simply remind from 2020/21 the minimum amounts per pupil are also now a mandatory funding factor, and these are set as a fixed amount.
- 5.2.2 Where schools are attracting their underlying core NFF allocations, the NFF has built in an increase of circa 1.4% from the 2023/24 Pupil led funding factors: basic entitlement, additional needs factors and lump sum, and 1.6% specifically to the free schools meals factor.
- 5.2.3 And for those Schools whose per pupil led funding rate is already above both 5.2.1 and 5.2.2/3, the NFF funding floor per pupil led rate has been set at a maximum 0.5% increase from their 2023/24 per pupil led base line, as agreed.
- 5.2.4 To continue from 5.2.2, as highlighted and referenced in and December DSG EB 2023 paper for all schools who are attracting their core underlying NFF rate it was made clear that these per pupil rates can only be shared and confirmed once the DfE have processed the October 2023 census and therefore once the formal 2024/25 APT has been released in late December 2023.
- 5.2.5 It must therefore now be noted, that between the October 2022 census and October 2023 census there has been a considerable increase shift in some schools where more pupils are now attracting in particular the IDACI A and the early years foundation stage profile prior attainment factors. In turn, what this has meant for the 2024/25 APT to be technically compliant within the affordability of the 2024/25 DSG individual school block allocation (which is based on the October 2022 pupil factor values), is a required and consistent proportionate partial scaling back of 20.2% of the full funding gains above MFG (minimum funding guarantee) 0.5% per pupil. This adjustment has been applied through the additional MFG factors within the APT, but therefore also maintains the principle of reflecting the core NFF funding rates through the formulae. In 2025/26, those effected schools will also see these full per pupil uplift gains realized from 2024/25

on the basis their public characteristic factors do not materially change in their October 2024 census from their October 2023 census.

- 5.3 Premises factor funding – Business rates. As from the 1st April 2022, Business rates for all local mainstream schools are now paid centrally through the ESFA to the billing authorities. Schools retain business rates liability and will need to continue to record notional accounting entries for matching income and expenditure in their 2024/25 accounts. The 2024/25 rates are currently set at the 2023/24 levels as estimates, these will therefore be adjusted centrally through the ESFA for 2024/25 liabilities and schools can gain access to the ESFA rate’s portal for updated figures.
- 5.4 The DfE have also approved the continued disapplication request for the exceptional circumstance funding that is applied to St Marys Primary School which covers the rental of their second school site. The DfE agreement has only been given for 2024/25 and any further future year approvals will need to be re-assessed by the DfE.
- 5.5 The separate teachers’ pay grant for 2023/24 (TPAG) supporting the teachers pay award from September 2023 will continue to be paid outside of the DSG in 2024/25 and therefore continue as a separate grant.

Other key points for noting in the 2024/25 NFF funding formulae and APT:

- 5.6 Basic entitlement rates per pupil per annum have been set as per the NFF rates, at;

Primary	£3,575.11
Key Stage 3	£5,040.48
Key Stage 4	£5,681.83

- 5.7 The Primary to Secondary funding ratio is set at 1:1.32.
- 5.8 The numbers of pupil on roll (NOR) in and registered in the APT as per the October 2023 census compared to the October 2022 census, has increased by a net of 309 pupils, which is a growth of 260 pupils in secondary and a growth of 49 pupils in primary. The total NOR in October 2023 is therefore now 27,104 pupils (split Primary 14,812 and Secondary 12,292), compared to the previous year of 26,795 pupils (split Primary 14,763 and Secondary 12,032).
- 5.9 The total Individual School block allocation for the 2024/25 funding formula is an increase in the totality of Individual School block allocations of £9.639M from the 2023/24 allocation, £4.948M of which is due to the previous 2023/24 Mainstream School supplementary grant now paid into the DSG for 2024/25 and the remaining £4.691M is due to both an overall increase in the NOR and funding factors referred to in 5.2.

6 Schools Block – Centrally retained de-delegated lines – £4,495 (applicable to maintained schools only)

- 6.1 The 2024/25 de-delegated per pupil funded amounts have been set as agreed in the EB December 2023 paper, at £1.00 per pupil for staff costs covering public duties returning an annual de-delegated sum of £4,495. And please note this budget has been set on the expectation that the one further maintained primary schools has academized by the 1st April 2024 from the Individual School block allocations (Appendix 1).

7 Schools Block – Centrally retained growth fund - £0.780M

- 7.1 The DSG 2024/25 growth fund amount has been set in accordance with the principles agreed in the EB March 2019 and December 2019 papers, where by the 2024/25 DSG amount awarded for growth will be held centrally and distributed to schools who have been required by the Council to increase their number of intake classes. It must also continue to remain minded that as agreed in the March 2019 EB paper growth to ensure funding allocations are sensibly managed and distributed, that growth funding is managed on a long term basis allowing any one year to either over or under spend but provided the total application of the growth fund remains affordable within the life cycle of the planned growth.

- 7.2 Appendix 3 displays an updated growth fund model (the original model itself was first shared at the March 2019 EB). And as previously advised and shown in the model the DSG growth funding allocations are determined by the DfE, using an annual funded rate per pupil for primary and secondary schools, multiplied by their respective positive middle super output area pupil growth (MSOA) between the two most recent October census's. MSOA has always been highlighted as a difficult measure to predict, so hence why it is important, and continues to be that the model itself is refreshed on an annual basis.

MSOA* - is defined by the office for national statistic, as a small enough geographical area to detect pockets of growth, based on school post codes grouped within a particular area.

- 7.3 The updated growth model (as shown in Appendix 3) has therefore now been updated considering the following two factors and the conditions as laid out above:
- 7.3.1 The first factor, is the DfE have updated the 2024/25 growth funded per pupil rates (funding coming into the DSG) by 2.0% from 2023/24 on both the primary and secondary rates.
- 7.3.2 The second factor, is to remind, MSOA growth is not only driven by the requirement of new intake classes but also any further throughput pupil growth within a school, for example, if the number of current year 11 pupils are less than the current number of year 7 pupils in a school (which can occur regardless of any new approved intake class) and Southend continues to experience that particular throughput growth in Secondary.
- 7.4 Therefore, based on all the factors above the growth rates applied from September 24 can now be increased a further 3% to £4,444 per primary pupil and £5,271 per secondary pupil and the original proposed rates for 2023/24 are now final. The rates still remain below the NFF minimum rates per pupil

distributed in the ISB but are above the AWPU rates , but it also remains minded, these rates are not intended to be at the NFF minimum rates as growth is only temporary support funding for new intake classes until that year's pupil growth is formally captured in the annual October census and therefore core funding of a school. But none the less welcome that these funding increases can still be applied for 2024/25.

7.5 In relation to the new NFF DfE falling rolls fund allocation for 2024/25, Southend did not trigger any additional funding allocation through the NFF Funding Formulae. A DfE must criteria for any Council being able to consider a falling rolls fund is that the 2022 SCAP shows that any reduced schools places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years (a mandatory requirement). Southend's SCAP does not show this, so, it is also not possible to even consider a falling rolls fund for 2024/25. This will of course be kept under review on an annual basis and should the criteria be met the formulae for distribution will be presented to the Education board for recommendation and approval.

8 **Early Years Block (Provisional) - £16.507M** (including the £100,000 applied from the HN block to the Early Years block to top up the EY Special Education Needs inclusion fund).

8.1 The full details of the Early Years block allocation and proposed funding rates for 2024/25 and centrally retained balances are covered within the **separate paper** for this January 2024 Education Board called "**DSG Early Years funding rates for 2024/25**".

9 **High Needs Block (Provisional) - £33.871M** (including the £100,000 applied from the HN block to the Early Years block to top up the EY Special Education Needs inclusion fund).

9.1 As first shared in the October 2023 EB DSG paper, including an explanation of. The 2024/25 High Needs block under NFF has seen further confirmed growth in funding from the DfE of now £1.749M compared to the latest 2023/24 ongoing budget allocation.

9.2 And, as reminded in both the October 2023 and December 2023 EB DSG papers, the actual full detailed application of this additional 2024/25 funding will be considered as part of the EB June 2024 High Need detailed allocation budget paper. June was agreed through the EB to allow enough time for the SEND team in consultation with respective special schools and mainstream schools to allocate the expected in borough EHCP banded rates for the following academic year 2024/25, a major and significant exercise that accounts for a large and rightly proportion of the HN funds before any further funding considerations are put forward by the LA for further permanent funding allocations.

10 **Central Block - £1.478M** (including £133,000 drawn from the Central Block DSG reserves, as previously agreed in the December 2020 and 2023 EB DSG papers)

10.1 The central block budgets have been set in accordance with agreement of the December 2023 DSG EB paper.

10.2 The final 2024/25 amounts are therefore confirmed as;

	2024/25 Amount
From Central Services Block	
Combined Budgets (historic commitments)*	£296,515
CLA/MPA Licences*	£158,594
Schools Admissions	£294,317
Servicing of Schools Forum	£18,700
Centrally employed teacher contr.	£95,322
ESG Retained Duties*	£481,800
Actual In Year funding Total	£1,345,248
+ Combined Budgets (historic commitments)* - funded from remaining central block reserves	£133,373
Revised Funding Total	£1,478,621

CLA/MPA Copyright Licences* - annual copyright licence charge set by DfE. Final figure tbc

Retained Duties* - Former Education Services Grant - ongoing funding to support LA Statutory duties – for Child and Educational Leadership, Planning and Budget planning, monitoring, Education Welfare and Asset Management

Combined Budgets (historic commitments)*, and note this budget allocation has been further increased by £133,000 for 2024/25 from the DSG Central block reserves. So the total commitments can remain sustained at £430,000 for 2024/25.

11 Conclusion

11.1 This paper sets the overall 2024/25 funding position for Dedicated School Grant funds and a balanced position for the distribution of the 2024/25 Individual School Budget Shares.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – DSG Final Individual Schools Budget allocations 2024/25

Appendix 2 – DSG Budget 2024/25 and comparison to 2023/24

Appendix 3 – DSG Growth fund rates from September 2024

Appendix 2 - DSG 2024/25 budget and comparison to the latest 2023/24 Budget
Recommended, if printed, to print in A3 Portrait

			A	B	C = A + B	F	G = F - C
			£	£	£	£	£
			2023/24			2024/25 Budget Variation from previous year increase / (decrease)	
Block	S251 Line ref.	Summary Line	Original Budget	In Year Budget adjustments	Latest Budget	Original Budget	
Schools Block - Individual School Block allocations	1.0.1	Maintained - Primary *	23,777,186	-	23,777,186	21,857,817	(1,919,369)
	1.0.1	Maintained - Secondary	-	-	-	-	-
	1.0.1	Academy Recoupment - Primary *	45,295,239	-	45,295,239	51,116,719	5,821,480
	1.0.1	Academy Recoupment - Secondary	74,144,572	-	74,144,572	79,882,002	5,737,430
	X.X.X	22/23 NNDR - recoupment all schools	945,863	-	945,863	945,863	-
		Subtotal Individual School Block allocations	144,162,860	-	144,162,860	153,802,401	9,639,541
Schools block - Centrally retained	1.1.9	De-delegated - Staff costs (Public duties) - Primary *	5,146	-	5,146	4,495	(651)
	1.4.10	Growth Fund	707,104	40,000	747,104	932,812	185,708
		Schools Block Total	144,875,110	40,000	144,915,110	154,739,708	9,824,598
Early Years	1.0.1	9mth - 2 y/o provision - eligible working parents				1,485,345	1,485,345
	1.0.1	2 y/o provision - eligible working parents				2,151,002	2,151,002
	1.0.1	2 y/o provision - disadvantaged entitlement	1,369,634	(177,582)	1,192,052	1,642,036	449,984
	1.0.1	3 and 4 y/o provision - Universal	6,965,925	(175,196)	6,790,729	7,452,614	661,885
	1.0.1	3 and 4 y/o provision - Additional eligible working parents	2,190,888	124,717	2,315,605	2,541,303	225,698
	1.0.1	Disability Access Fund	78,660	-	78,660	148,330	69,670
	1.0.1	Early Years Pupil Premium	198,755	114	198,869	347,681	148,812
	1.0.1	EY SEND Inclusion Fund	165,000	736	165,736	222,021	56,285
	1.3.1	Central Expenditure (CE) on Children under 5	140,940	(2,931)	138,009	517,194	379,185
	1.3.1	CE EB Agreed one off investment funded from Reserves	142,000	-	142,000	0	(142,000)
		Early Years Block Total	11,251,802	(230,142)	11,021,660	16,507,526	5,485,866
		High Needs Block total	35,255,508	(384,000)	34,871,508	33,870,909	(1,000,599)
Central block	1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	429,888	-	429,888	429,888	-
	1.4.14	Copyright Licenses	158,594	-	158,594	158,594	-
	1.4.2	School Admissions	275,617	-	275,617	294,317	18,700
	1.4.3	Servicing of School Forums	18,700	-	18,700	18,700	-
	X.X	Protected Centrally Employed teacher employer pension contribution	95,332	-	95,332	95,322	(10)
	1.5.1/1.5.2/1.5.3	Retained duties	457,380	-	457,380	481,800	24,420
		Subtotal excluding Contribution to combined budgets	1,005,623	-	1,005,623	1,048,733	43,110
		Central Block total	1,435,511	-	1,435,511	1,478,621	43,110
		Grand Total	192,817,931	(574,142)	192,243,789	206,596,764	14,352,975
DSG - Funding Income							
		Schools Block - ISB Retained - Primary *	(23,782,332)	-	(23,782,332)	(21,862,312)	1,920,020
		Schools Block - ISB Academy Recoupment	(119,439,810)	-	(119,439,810)	(130,998,721)	(11,558,911)
		Schools Block - NNDR Recoupment All Schools	(945,863)	-	(945,863)	(945,863)	-
		Schools Block - ISB subtotal	(144,168,005)	-	(144,168,005)	(153,806,896)	(9,638,891)
		Growth fund	(779,864)	-	(779,864)	(932,812)	(152,948)
		Schools Block subtotal	(144,947,869)	-	(144,947,869)	(154,739,708)	(9,791,839)
		Central Block	(1,376,266)	-	(1,376,266)	(1,345,248)	31,018
		Early years Block - (9 mth to 2 y/o) - eligible working parents	-	-	-	(1,586,524)	(1,586,524)
		Early years Block - (2 yr olds) - eligible working parents	-	-	-	(2,297,508)	(2,297,508)
		Early Years Block (2 yr olds) - eligible disadvantaged entitlement	(1,379,280)	178,833	(1,200,447)	(1,676,848)	(476,401)
		Early Years Block (3&4 yr olds - Universal)	(7,096,244)	178,482	(6,917,762)	(7,718,621)	(800,859)
		Early Years Block (3&4 yr olds - Additional eligible working parents)	(2,231,873)	(127,050)	(2,358,923)	(2,632,012)	(273,089)
		Early Years Disability Access Fund	(78,660)	-	(78,660)	(148,330)	(69,670)
		Early Years Pupil Premium	(198,746)	(123)	(198,869)	(347,683)	(148,814)
		Early years subtotal	(10,984,803)	230,142	(10,754,661)	(16,407,526)	(5,652,865)
		High Needs Funding Block	(24,169,508)	424,834	(23,744,674)	(25,464,909)	(1,720,235)
		High Needs Recoupment	(8,436,000)	(40,834)	(8,476,834)	(8,506,000)	(29,166)
		High Needs total	(32,605,508)	384,000	(32,221,508)	(33,970,909)	(1,749,401)
		DSG Funding Total	(189,914,446)	614,142	(189,300,304)	(206,463,391)	(17,163,087)
		DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed * Early Years	(167,000)	-	(167,000)	-	167,000
		DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed * Central Block	(59,245)	-	(59,245)	(133,373)	(74,128)
		DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed * High Needs block	(2,750,000)	-	(2,750,000)	-	2,750,000
		DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed * Growth	72,760	(40,000)	32,760	-	(32,760)
		Total Net DSG Budget	-	0	0	0	0

Primary * = 2024/25 Maintained original budget updated (from the Dec-23 allocation) reflecting the one further expected academy conversions prior to the 1st April 24

Appendix 3 - DSG Growth fund rates from September 2024

If printed, recommend to print in A3 Colour and Landscape

			DSG Financial Year - April to March								
Key	School census date: Start of Academic year		Final	Final	Original	Est.	Est.	Est.	Est.	Est.	
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
			Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	
			Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	
A A1	Primary Pupil no.s	actual census count	14,857	14,761	14,811						
		estimated census count									
		census growth from previous year	-138	-96	50						
		% of previous years local growth applied to MSOA growth for the following year	103%		311%						
		*MSOA growth from previous year	62	59	187						
		* Local growth (new classes required for this no. of pupils) - est.	-	60	30	-	-	-	-	-	
		local growth equivalent no. of new classes (FYI only)	-	2	1						
B B1	Secondary Pupil no.s	actual census count	11,771	12,027	12,288						
		estimated census count				12,348	12,348	12,378	12,378	12,408	
		census growth from previous year	316	256	261	60	0	30	30	30	
		% of previous years local growth applied to MSOA growth for the following year	150%	252%	230%	150%	150%	150%	150%	150%	
		*MSOA growth from previous year	316	303	276	90	0	45	45	45	
		* Local growth (new classes required for this no. of pupils) - est.	180	120	60	0	30	30	30	0	
		local growth equivalent no. of new classes (FYI only)	6	4	2	0	1	1	1	0	
C D	DfE unit funding rate	ACA adjustment applied	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.004	
		Primary per pupil	£1,490	£1,525	£1,556	£1,556	£1,556	£1,556	£1,556	£1,556	
		Secondary per pupil	£2,208	£2,283	£2,329	£2,329	£2,329	£2,329	£2,329	£2,329	
		Secondary compared to primary ratio	48.1%	49.7%	49.7%	49.7%	49.7%	49.7%	49.7%		
E = A * C F = B * D	DfE Calculated Growth fund	Primary	£92,396	£89,235	£290,138	-	-	-	-	-	
		Secondary	£697,662	£690,629	£642,674	£210,000	-	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	
		total	£790,059	£779,864	£932,811	£210,000	-	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	
		Growth fund awarded	£790,059	£779,864	£932,811	£210,000	-	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	
		Any local available movement within School Block DSG allocation	£6,172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		H = E + F + G	£796,231	£779,864	£932,811	£210,000	-	£105,000	£105,000	£105,000	
Local Growth fund rates	I J	%	15%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
		Growth funded unit rates for each academic year	Primary per pupil	£3,923	£4,315	£4,444	£4,444	£4,444	£4,444	£4,444	£4,444
			Secondary per pupil	£4,652	£5,117	£5,271	£5,271	£5,271	£5,271	£5,271	£5,271
			Secondary compared to primary ratio	18.6%	18.6%	18.6%	18.6%	18.6%	18.6%	18.6%	
	I * 30 J * 30	Equivalent annual funding to support a new class	Primary	£117,690	£129,450	£133,320	£133,320	£133,320	£133,320	£133,320	
			Secondary	£139,560	£153,510	£158,130	£158,130	£158,130	£158,130	£158,130	
	K K - H	Growth funding forecast *	Primary *	£85,275	£123,104	£185,645	£55,550	-	-	-	-
			Secondary *	£842,398	£707,090	£440,335	£131,775	£92,243	£158,130	£158,130	£65,888
			Exceptional Asylum support Growth *		£36,681	£10,000					
			Total growth fund forecast - April to March	£927,673	£866,876	£635,980	£187,325	£92,243	£158,130	£158,130	£65,888
		overspend / (underspend)	£131,442	£87,012	(£296,831)	(£22,675)	£92,243	£53,130	£53,130	(£39,113)	
		Cumulative overspend / (underspend)	£10,135	£97,147	(£199,684)	(£222,359)	(£130,117)	(£76,987)	(£23,857)	(£62,969)	
FYI only	NFF local AWPU Rate	Primary (Years R - 6)	£3,228	£3,406	£3,575	£3,575	£3,575	£3,575	£3,575	£3,575	
		Secondary (KS3 - Year 7 - 9)	£4,552	£4,802	£5,040	£5,040	£5,040	£5,040	£5,040	£5,040	
		Secondary compared to primary ratio	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	

* MSOA "Middle Super Output area" - defined by office for the national statistics and school postcode information. Schools are categorised into MSOA population area's and only positive growth within a MSOA area is counted

* Local growth (new classes required for this no. of pupils) - as agreed by the School Admissions team and please note this can only ever be best estimate up until the Sept intakes are confirmed. Changes can also occur in year

* 2024/25 - Note this year and onwards are forecast estimates for planning purposes only. And can include any year group bulge (where new classes are required)

* MSOA growth from previous year - For forecasting processes is caveated that this is again, best estimates for future years. Determined by Final Oct census no.s of each year, and what would fall into MSOA growth is subject to a number of variations outside of the planned school class growth alone. This Model will therefore be updated each year, once the DfE have supplied the actual growth fund amount for the following financial year.

* Growth funding forecast applicable for maintained schools is 7/12's of the year only, as their core DSG funding is applied and updated from April. Academy core DSG funding applies from Sept, so a full years growth funding is applied before that years new intake class is included in their core DSG allocation.

* Growth funding methodology - is managed on a long term basis, allowing any one year to either over or underspend provided the total allocation of growth is affordable within the life cycle of the planned growth

* Exceptional Asylum Seeker growth - As approved at the June 2023 Education Board. Agreed for 2022/23 and 2023/24 funding years (back dated payments applied in 2023/24 financial year). Stops 31st March 24 for an eligible Maintained School, 31st August 2024 for an eligible Academy School

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Southend Education Board (EB), Resources Sub Group (RSG)

15th January 2024, 4.15pm-5.15pm, (MS teams)

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting

Membership of the sub group for Resources	(nominations received) representation
3 nominations from the Education Board (Headteacher/Governor)	Robin Bevan (secondary) CHAIR Jane Ladner (secondary, governor) Sarah Clements (primary, head teacher)
4 other members nominated from the four associations. (optional composition of RSG)	Andy Douglas (early years, primary, head teacher) Ben Stickley (early years, primary, secondary, CEO) Jackie Mullan (special, CEO) Vacant
1 school business manager nominated from the RSG	Simon Oxenham (SHSB)
Council Officer representation as required for the papers	Paul Grout (Senior Finance Business Partner) Dianne Borien (Early Years Lead) Optional: Liz Hunt (Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years)

Time	Agenda item	Decision? Action
4.15	Membership Apologies And council officer representation as required for papers Officers present: Paul Grout Dianne Borien	Apologies from Robin Bevan Jackie Mullan (Chaired) Welcome to new RSG members: Sarah Clements Ben Stickley
	Membership Vacancies	1 vacancy remaining With the addition of the new members there is now good representation across educational provision. Decision to be made at the next RSG as to whether to fill the vacancy or delete the vacancy when the substantive chair is present.

4.20	Minutes of the last meeting 27.11.23	<p>No amendments. Minutes agreed.</p> <p>Rolling “Acton note” applicable for this school term - Liz Hunt will write to all schools to encourage additional buy in to the public duty fund with an instruction link on how to do so.</p>
4.25	<p>DSG Early Years Funding 202525</p> <p>DRAFT Paper supplied</p> <p>Officer Leads – Paul Grout & Dianne Borien</p>	<p>Discussion through the paper.</p> <p>No paper amendments.</p> <p>Key points to note:</p> <p>Assessment for sustainability for EY providers is strongly supported by a good quality EY Centrally retained service.</p> <p>And assurance required around the value of EY Centrally retained services. Will be picked up moving forward through the newly proposed EY Forum and feeding into future School Forums.</p>
5.15	<p>AOB</p> <p>FYI only:</p> <p>Date of next meetings and current forward plan</p> <p>Future RSG meeting dates – MS Teams or Southend High School for boys 4:15 pm to 5.30/6.00 pm current planned papers ahead of Education Board (EB):</p> <p>June 2024 (Date tbc ahead of EB date 18th June 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG Final Outturn 2023/24 • DSG High Need detailed budget allocations 2024/25 <p>Meeting close</p>	<p>5 mins</p> <p>3rd or 4th June, date to be confirmed with Robin Bevan.</p>