

Norfolk Schools Forum Agenda

Meeting Details

Date: Friday 6 December 2024

Time: 9am

Venue: Cranworth Room, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2UA

Membership	Organisation	Representing
Martin White (Chair)	Nebula Federation	Maintained Primary Governors
Adrian Ball	Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust	Academies
Helen Bates	Roman Catholic Church Diocese	Church Representative
Stephen Beeson	Norwich Diocesan Board of Education	Church Representative
Martin Colbourne	City College Norwich	16-19 Representative
Steven Dewing	Sapientia Education Trust	Academies
Lacey Douglass	Freelance Early Years Advisor	Early Years Representative
Mike Grimble	Avenue Junior School	Maintained Primary Governors
Bob Groome	National Education Union	Joint Consultative Committee
Glyn Hambling	Unity Education Trust	Alternative Provision Representative
Carole Jacques	Earlham Nursery School	Nursery Schools Representative
Joanne Philpott	Ormiston Academy Trust	Academies
Sarah Porter	Unity Academy Trust	Academies
Rachel Quick	The Wherry School	Special School Academy
Sarah Shirras	The Hive Federation	Maintained Primary Schools
Matthew Smith	Sheringham Woodfields School	Maintained Special Schools
Daniel Thrower	Wensum Academy Trust	Academies
Joanna Tuttle	Aylsham High School	Maintained Secondary Schools
Vicky Warnes	National Education Union	Joint Consultative Committee
Vacancy	N/A	Academies
Vacancy	N/A	Academies

Officers	Job Title
Michael Bateman	Assistant Director – SEND Strategy and Partnerships
Martin Brock	Accountant (Schools, Special Educational Needs and Early Years)
John Crowley	Assistant Director of Intelligence and Education Sufficiency
Dawn Filtness	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Strategic Lead
Samantha Fletcher	Assistant Director – Education Strategy
Jane Hayman	Assistant Director – SEND System Improvement Lead
Sarah Jones	Director of Partnerships, Inclusion and Practice
Nicki Rider	Assistant Director – SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy and Sufficiency
Sara Tough OBE	Executive Director of Children’s Services
James Wilson	Director of Sufficiency, Planning and Education Strategy

For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda please contact the Committee Officer:

Laine Tisdall on 01603 222 053
or email committees@norfolk.gov.uk

Agenda

1. **Welcome from the Chair**
0900 to 0905
 2. **Apologies for absence**
 3. **Minutes** **Page 3**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024
0905 to 0910
 4. **Matters Arising**
0910 to 0930
 - **Summary of Actions from November 2024 Schools Forum** **Page 25**
 - **Update on Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer**
 5. **Strategic Planning (including Local First Inclusion)** **Verbal update**
(to note that feedback from the DfE following the meeting on Tuesday 17 December will be considered at the January 2025 meeting of the Schools Forum)
0930 to 0935 (Information)
 6. **Provisional DSG Allocations for 2025/26** **Page 30**
0935 to 1000 (Information and Discussion)
 7. **Notional SEN Allocation Methodology** **Page 44**
1000 to 1040 (Recommendation)
- Break (timing at discretion of Chair)*
8. **Element 3** **To follow**
1100 to 1145 (Recommendation)
 9. **Schools Forum Identity** **Verbal update**
1145 to 1155 (Discussion)
 10. **Schools Forum Substitutes** **Verbal update**
1155 to 1205 (Discussion)
 11. **Forward Work Plan** **Page 65**
1205 to 1210 (Information and Discussion)
 - **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair January 2025**
 12. **Any Other Business**
1210 to 1230
 13. **Date of Next Meeting**

Martin White
Chair, Norfolk Schools Forum

Date Agenda Published: Friday 29 November 2024

Norfolk Schools Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 November at 9am, Cranworth Room, County Hall,

Present

Martin White (Chair)
Stephen Beeson
Steven Dewing
Lacey Douglass
Mike Grimble
Bob Groome
Glyn Hambling
Carole Jacques
Joanne Philpott
Sarah Porter
Rachel Quick
Sarah Shirras
Matthew Smith
Joanna Tuttle
Vicky Warnes

Organisation

Nebula Federation
Norwich Diocesan Board of Education
Sapientia Education Trust
Freelance Early Years Advisor
Avenue Junior School
National Education Union
Unity Education Trust
Earlham Nursery School
Ormiston Academy Trust
Unity Schools Partnership
The Wherry School
St. Williams Primary School
Sheringham Woodfields School
Aylsham High School
National Education Union

Representing

Maintained Primary Governors
Church Representative
Academies
Early Years Representative
Maintained Primary Governors
Joint Consultative Committee
Alternative Provision Representative
Maintained Nursery Schools
Academies
Academies
Special School Academy
Maintained Primary Schools
Maintained Special Schools
Maintained Secondary Schools
Joint Consultative Committee

Also Present

Martin Brock
John Crowley
Dawn Filtness
Samantha Fletcher
Jane Hayman
Kate Philpin
Laine Tisdall
James Wilson

Title

Accountant – Schools, SEN, and Early Years
Assistant Director - Intelligence and Education Sufficiency
DSG Strategic Lead
Assistant Director – Education Infrastructure and Partnerships
Assistant Director – Sufficiency, Planning and Education Strategy
HR Business Partner (Schools)
Committee Officer, Democratic Services
Director for Sufficiency Planning and Education Strategy

1. Apologies and substitutions

1. Apologies were received from Daniel Thrower, Sara Tough, Sarah Jones, and Michael Bateman

2. Matters Arising

2. The appointment to the academy vacancies on the Schools Forum could not take place at this meeting due to an administrative error. The application was once again live, due to close at the end of November 2024. Two responses had been received to date, with a small likelihood that the successful representatives would be able to attend the December meeting.
2. Mike Grimble announced that December 2024 would be his last meeting as a Forum Member. The issue of a replacement Maintained Primary Representative was raised. Officers **AGREED** to look further into this.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20 September 2024 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings subject to the following correction:

- Item 4.3, bullet point 5 – Confirmation had been received from Norfolk County Council’s Cabinet at their September 2024 meeting of a £35m uplift Element 3 ‘top-up’ funding for mainstream schools, to cover the 2024/25 financial year.

4. Strategic Planning (including Local First Inclusion)

4.1 Officers introduced the report, which provided a summary of the Local Authority’s submission of a revised safety valve plan to the Department for Education (DfE) in October 2024.

4.2 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- No formal response had been received from the DfE presently, with no information available regarding the future of the overall safety valve programme. A meeting with DfE ministers was due to take place later in November 2024.
- Officers expressed optimism that the meeting with the DfE would be positive, but there was a need to remain aware of the significant High Needs Block deficit, which continued to increase. There were no solutions at present to resolve the cumulative deficit. The sheer volume of the deficit was such that Norfolk County Council was exposed to material risk. There was hope that the new Government would introduce reforms in this area.
- The in-year deficit now stood at c. £57m, with the cumulative deficit had increased to over £300m before contributions.
- It was hoped that a more material update regarding the DfE’s opinion on Norfolk’s Safety Valve programme could be brought to the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.

4.3 The following points were raised and discussed:

- A Forum Member expressed concern that the point where independent special schools were expected to be in positive territory had been pushed back from 2025-26 to 2027-28. Officers stated that the total number of referrals into the system for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or Alternative Provision had outstripped capacity before the safety valve deal was agreed. While most children in a Specialist Resource Base (SRB) were successfully reintegrated into mainstream inclusion with limited resources, the overall effect was still an increased number of referrals. Tribunals would often overrule local decision making, which then fed into the increase in use of independent special schools, as they would be the only establishments able to offer a place for the child. It was felt that the six-year timeline to bring the deficit into balance was not doable without national reform or extra funding. Progress was possible over the revised timescale of 8 to 10 years, but this was still a best-case scenario.
- A Forum Member expressed concern that spending on special schools appeared to decline within the report. Officers noted that special schools were running beyond capacity. The local authority was attempting to ensure there was a percentage gap between vacant places and the number of children in the system. This was a long-term aim, which would ensure that children remained in their local area. The strategy was modelled in a way that, over its lifetime, the usage of the independent sector would be reduced. The Forum Member expressed concern that this would not be achievable. Officers stated that inflation was taken into account within the figures, with the strategy being continuously remodelled over the next few years.

- The Chair noted that the preparation of budgets always looked at the worst-case scenario, but often in practice the situation would be better than modelled. However, this had never been the case for the High Needs Block.

4.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **COMMENT**, **SUPPORT** and **CHALLENGE** on the following points:

1. The summary information provided from the submission to the DfE on the revised LFI plan, taking into account the anticipated timeline of activity following this submission.
2. Norfolk County Council's recommendations to Government regarding the LFI plan, seeking partnership working with the DfE for a Norfolk and national solution to the ongoing challenges to the SEND system.

5(1) Provisional DSG Allocations for 2025/26 and Autumn DSG Consultation

5.1 Officers introduced the report, which set out the information received to date from the DfE in relation to 2025-26 National Funding Formula (NFF) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocations.

5.2 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- Information regarding the provisional NFF allocations was still awaited from DfE. These were expected in late November, with the final DSG allocations following prior to Christmas. Indications were that the NFF would stay largely the same for 2025-26.
- There were indications that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for mainstream schools was shifting down to -0.5% to 0% in 2025-26, compared to 0% to 0.5% in 2024-25. This suggested that the allocations would be tight. Some indicative NFF factor values were available online.
- The MFG for special schools was set at 0%.
- The Local Authority needed to reapply for Exceptional Circumstances.
- Several grants were to be rolled into the NFF for 2025-26, including the Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG), the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG), and the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG).
- Officers were not expecting to have an authority pro forma tool to model provisional schools' budgets, as the DfE indicated that they would not provide one.

5.3 The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Chair pondered as to when schools would expect an understanding of their circumstances. An officer stated that normal budget timescales would apply for schools' final budget shares. An APT for final mainstream budgets was expected from the DfE in December but that would still not allow for publishing of any budgets before Christmas.
- A Forum Member stated that communications should be sent out to schools regarding the delay to indicative figures, as there were concerns that if the figures were delayed until the New Year, it could result in redundancies. This was **AGREED** by officers.

5.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **CONSIDER** the information received to date from the DfE in relation to 2025-26 National Funding Formula and DSG allocations, to inform decision making and recommendations required elsewhere within the November 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.

5(2) DSG Consultation – Summary of Responses

5.5 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the number of responses to the autumn 2024 consultation survey with Norfolk Schools.

5.6 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- The report covered the Local Authority's thoughts from the learning encountered from the consultation.
- There had been an increase in the numbers of pupils and numbers of schools represented in the consultation compared to previous years. However, the total number of responses remained low, with a significant weighting of responses towards the academy sector.
- There had been a shift in responses over the years, from primarily headteachers and governors historically, to chief executive officers (CEOs) and financial partners in trusts. Maintained responses were more likely to come from headteachers.
- Sessions had been held with CEOs of academy trusts covering Norfolk, where similar questions were asked. While not part of the formal consultation response, feedback from the sessions would be taken forward.
- A meeting was held yesterday with maintained schools, achieving approximately 50% representation. While this was not part of the formal consultation response, similar questions were asked, and this enabled representative views across the spectrum to be obtained.
- Different engagement levels had been noticed between online and face to face sessions. The point of view from the Local Authority was that briefings were fine to be held online, but engagement sessions needed to be face-to-face. This required more commitment, but stronger dialogue was noted.

5.7 The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Chair expressed concern that two responses from schools had been removed from the results as the schools in question were covered by a trust response, as this seemed to suggest that the trust's response was more valuable than the school's response. Officers clarified that if more than one response was received from a school, a trust response would be taken with regard to indicative figures, as there needed to be only one response from each school. This was covered in the guidance notes. All responses were included in the narrative even if duplicates. The Chair asked officers to inform the affected schools, which was **AGREED** to.
- The Vice-Chair stated that there were approximately 33 multi-academy trusts in Norfolk, representing 58% of primary schools and 99% of secondary schools in Norfolk. Not all were involved with the consultation, but it was important for their role.
- The Vice-Chair expressed concern regarding the number of responses from maintained primary schools. A realignment of engagement activities with small primary schools could potentially help boost the number of responses in future consultations.

5.8 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the level of representation of schools, pupils and types of provision represented by the consultation responses and engagement events received, including consideration of any groups that may be under-represented and whether this would affect the interpretation of the responses.
2. To **PROVIDE** any feedback and proposed solutions regarding the conduct of the consultation for consideration by the LA

5(3) DSG Consultation – Broader Engagement and Specialist Outreach

- 5.9 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools specifically in relation to the broader engagement and specialist outreach questions.
- 5.10 The LFI Executive Board planned to sign off an official response to consultation views at a future meeting. A large-scale communications exercise would likely follow in the New Year, to ensure all respondents heard back from the LFI programme and to show how their feedback evolved the strategy.
- 5.11 The following points were raised and discussed:
- A Forum Member (Rachel Quick) declared an interest in this item due to her representation. Concern was expressed that some of the language was pejorative towards parents, given that this was a public report. The contents of an EHCP legally bound local authorities to fund it at its noted level within the plan. The report stated that schools should be given autonomy to work out what their resources could be used for. However, it is enshrined in law that the funding was given to a child with an EHCP. Further concern was expressed that parents could feel effectively divorced from the mainstream sector due to the language within, as it seemed to suggest parents were being unreasonable. Officers clarified that the report was summing up feedback from respondents, with the language being their own words rather than the views of the Local Authority. The Chair stated that there had to be a choice between asking the question in the open or ignoring the responses. Openness was key, otherwise there would be no chance to alter the culture and change mindsets.
 - A Forum Member proposed that the next consultation should make clear to all respondents that all responses would be published in full within the public domain. This was **AGREED** to by officers.
 - A Forum Member noted that while some comments were concerning, this also appeared to be the first consultation where people were prepared to be open and honest. This could be seen as a positive step to enable mindsets to be changed.
 - A Forum Member commented that there was a quantity of strong feedback with common themes from the consultation, however the next challenge was to see how this could be moved forward. It was suggested that a follow-up paper be brought to a future meeting of the Schools Forum or the LFI Reference Group. Officers confirmed that a paper would be submitted to the next LFI Reference Group meeting, with it likely being cascaded to the LFI Executive Board. It was acknowledged that the responses formed a good evidence base for the next several years.
- 5.12 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:
1. To **CONSIDER** the information provided within the report to inform decision making and recommendations required elsewhere during the November 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.
 2. To **PROVIDE** any comments or feedback for consideration in relation to the ongoing development of the Local First Inclusion programme.

5(4) DSG Consultation – Mainstream Schools’ Funding Model Affordability

5.13 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools in relation to options for ensuring affordability of the mainstream schools’ funding model. The options related to the funding distribution formula of the Schools Block of the DSG from April 2025

5.14 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- As the allocations were still unknown, it was unclear at this stage whether affordability methodology would be required.
- There had been movement from a hard cap on gains to adjusting NFF values for 2024-25. Norfolk was still mirroring the NFF but ensuring affordability within the definition of mirroring. It was important not to presume this was the correct answer for 2025-26.
- There was strong preference indicated for Option 1, for the adjustment of NFF values, compared to Option 2, which was to reintroduce a hard cap for future gains.

5.15 The following points were raised and discussed:

- A Forum Member noted that the move from a hard cap on gains to adjusting NFF values was intended to be for one year only in response to sparsity issues, with concern expressed that some schools would lose out. It was queried as to whether this question would be posed each year from there on. Officer stated there was no reason as to why the question could not be asked each year from a Local Authority view. The sparsity issue was not necessarily a one-off issue, if a school become eligible for sparsity funding for the first time and the Local Authority had reintroduced a cap, the school would not be able to access the funding as the DfE’s default cap calculation would remove sparsity from their baseline despite that they had not received it in the previous year, resulting in a large cap figure. This scenario could happen if a hard cap was brought back, although it was acknowledged this was unlikely.
- A Forum Member commented that it was important to make a school equitable, therefore the adjustment of NFF values was the right approach for Norfolk.
- The Chair stated that the reintroduction of a hard cap on gains would be a retrograde step. Officers stated that the Local Authority took a decision many years ago to move towards the NFF as quickly as possible, with lobbying to change sparsity funding also occurring. If a cap was reintroduced, this would move Norfolk further away from NFF principles, leaving some schools exposed.
- A vote was held on whether to recommend Option 1. With 14 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 0 abstentions, the recommendation was **CARRIED**.

5.16 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** Option 1 as the approach to ensure affordability of the mainstream schools’ funding formula for 2025-26 for Norfolk.

5(5) DSG Consultation – Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer

5.17 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools specifically in relation to the proposed Schools Block to High Needs Block transfer. The proposed changes related to the funding distribution formula of the Schools Block of the DSG from April 2025

5.18 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- Element 3 was to be considered in detail at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.
- The Local Authority advised that a block transfer request had been submitted to the DfE as the deadline was the previous day, but that it could be withdrawn or amended.
- Officers advised that, given the awaited reforms to SEND indicated by Government to be announced in the spring, and the need for the DfE to support any change to the principles of the Safety Valve plan, the LA did not believe it was sensible to make significant changes to the approach until there was a clear steer from Government.
- The paper signalled that in future years, the Local Authority would seek to reduce the 1.5% block transfer or remove it entirely. It was important to be in a position where the DfE would signal support for Norfolk's approach.
- At present, the block transfers were effectively routing funds out of the Schools Block and into the High Needs Block and back into schools via a different methodology.
- Some feedback (both from the consultation as well as from other engagement) suggested that leaving the funding within the Schools Block would ensure that the Local authority had the correct funding in place for schools in Norfolk, which would therefore mean Element 3 funding would be earmarked for the most significant needs in the county. If this occurred, it would remove some bureaucracy from the system and provide certainty for schools.
- The Local Authority's proposal was set out in the report, showing the rationale for the options available.

5.19 The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Vice-Chair requested clarification that the Schools Forum could only make a decision on one element of the block transfer at this meeting, that being the continuation of the 0.5% movement from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2025-26. It was queried whether the second recommendation within the paper, regarding if the additional 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would continue, just required a steer from the Schools Forum rather than a decision at this stage. An officer stated that the latest communication from the government was they were expecting the support of Schools Forums across the UK for proposed block transfers, although it was currently unclear the approach the new Secretary of State would take if not supported. The DfE wished for local authorities and Schools Forums to effectively speak with one voice when it came to block transfers.
- The Chair noted that the Schools Forum did not make a decision on their support for the Local Authority's request to the Secretary of State for an additional block transfer in November 2022 but then had to propose a retrospective recommendation on it for the Secretary of State to grant the application. In November 2023, a decision was made by Schools Forum to support the application to the Secretary of State for an additional 1% block transfer, and this would presumably also be made at the present meeting.
- The Chair expressed concern that there appeared to be a lack of logic in taking money from schools via the block transfer and then returning it to schools using the same formula via Element 3. An officer stated that, while in theory an alternative formula could be used, there was no clear alternative identified at this stage.

- The Chair proposed that the views of Forum Members on the block transfer be put in wording for officers to refer to in their discussions with the DfE. This was **AGREED**.
- A Forum Member stated that although schools were to receive £1.2bn extra funding during the 2025/26 financial year, the share of this money would not make a noticeable difference due to various factors. A larger DSG allocation would effectively mean schools would lose money earmarked for wage growth due to a % block transfer. Schools could potentially perceive that a larger pot of money was available, when in actuality they would be no better off than before. The Forum Member proposed that the Local Authority plan for a £9m block transfer given the uncertainty of the allocations, which while not potentially the full 1.5% originally earmarked, would potentially be a fairer offer, sending a better message to schools. Officers stated that this had not been previously considered and was worthy of further investigation.
- A Forum Member noted that the level of uncertainty regarding allocations had the knock-on effect of increasing the difficulty of decision-making. The evidence base was not robust enough to show that the block transfers were having a tangible difference to of school and child-centred improvement. Concern was expressed regarding the inequalities behind the methodology, as there was not enough evidence to prove the money was making a difference and serving children's needs. An officer reflected that substantial funding had been put into Element 3, with very little evidence that it had made a difference. There were planned changes to the Element 3 distribution which, if implemented, would hopefully see fair and equitable funding.
- The Chair proposed that the Schools Forum take a decision on the continuation of the 0.5% block transfer and instead comment on the local authority's and Secretary of State's request for a further 1% transfer, enabling officers to take onboard concerns and suggestions from Forum Members. If necessary, a vote on the recommendation could be held in December 2024 or January 2025. Officers stated that this was not possible as the DfE had already been informed that the vote would be taken at this meeting of the Schools Forum.
- A Union Representative stated that he had to be mindful of the number of colleagues he was currently representing in consultations and redundancies. The additional 1% block transfer had been a major factor in the majority of his work across the past two months.
- A Forum Member expressed concern regarding the assumption that Element 3 funding would reduce if the 1.5% block transfer was not approved, as there was no correlation between the two. The proposal, as it stood, was for 1.5% of general school funding to be transferred to High Needs. It was felt the 1.5% should not impact on Element 3. Officers stated that the local authority could not approve any proposals which increased the High Needs Block deficit, as this would impact the local authority's finances. If the block transfer percentage was reduced in future years, an equivalent reduction in High Needs Block spending would be required. The local authority could not make changes to the block transfer without ensuring that it was cost-neutral, with only the Element 3 proportion realistically variable. It was noted that future Government reforms could change the regulations around this.

- A Forum Member expressed concern that while block transfers had to be made cost-neutral for the local authority, this was not cost-neutral for schools. Some schools had difficulties arising from decisions not to grant them Element 3 funding for specific children as it was felt that their needs could be met through the school's general offer such as teaching assistants. However, a number of teaching assistant posts had been lost recently due to the 1.5% block transfer. The overall impact this was having on school environments had to be taken into consideration. Officers stated that the increase in the LFI budget over the past few years outweighed the amount taken out through block transfers. It was therefore not accurate that the block transfer was the only cause of pressures on school budgets.
- The Vice-Chair commented that schools were seeing the investment being made, but that the timeline was extensive to the point that results were not yet being seen.
- A Forum Member noted that schools were now in a position where they did not have the capacity or facilities to meet the needs of EHCPs as the required staff were no longer in place, due to there being no money in the general school budget for them. An officer stated that the local authority recognised this was an issue in some schools. Work was underway to investigate ways of producing EHCPs in such a way that a child's needs were met effectively but in sympathy with the efficient education of others and school systems, widening the school's flexibility to be able to meet needs. There was a need to infuse confidence in the mainstream system for both parents and schools, to enable a comprehensive plan to be formed that was properly resourced.
- A Forum Member expressed concern that the contents of an EHCP could be changed due to funding rather than the needs of a child. Lack of funding did not mean that the needs of the child changed, with the possibility that complex needs might not be identified. Officers clarified that any such changes to the production of EHCPs would be an extensive and complex piece of work that resulted in the needs of the child being met appropriately but that there remained flexibility for the school in how this was achieved.
- A Forum Member stated that stability was a regular theme in the responses to the consultation. While it was recognised that the current system was not working, stability and certainty was important for schools. Concern was expressed that the same upheaval experienced in 2024/25 would be repeated in 2025/26.
- The Vice-Chair placed on record that he remained uncomfortable regarding the changing yardstick from the DfE, which was asking the Schools Forum to provide a steer and vote on a proposal which did not appear in the terms of reference.
- A Forum Member requested clarity regarding safety valve funding, expressing concern that it could possibly be unavailable. An officer confirmed that the best knowledge available to the local authority was that the safety valve deal stands, with an allocation of funding available. Norfolk had received £30m of the £70m allocation, with a further £40m potentially still available.
- The Vice-Chair queried that if there was a different approach that could be considered and taken if safety valve funding was not forthcoming in the future. An officer stated that if the government changed its policy and did not continue to support safety valve programmes for local authorities, this would have a much wider impact. However, this would be considered if it occurred.
- The Schools Forum held a vote on the continuation of the movement of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2025-26. With 14 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 0 abstentions, the recommendation was **CARRIED**.

- Officers and the Chair suggested an amendment to the second recommendation, with it now reading “ continuation of the additional 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would be supported for 2025-26, **with a maximum overall block transfer of £9.7m** “. The amendment was **AGREED** by Forum Members.
- The Schools Forum took a vote on the amended recommendation regarding the additional 1% block transfer. With 3 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 10 abstentions, the recommendation was **CARRIED**.
- The Vice-Chair placed on record that his vote today did not go against the notion that he supported fully the LFI’s approach. The DfE had put the Schools Forum in a position where they did not have the relevant information on hand to make informed decisions. Forum Members agreed, stating strong support for LFI. The abstentions in the vote on the additional 1% block transfer was based on lack of available information, rather than opposition to the strategy.
- A Forum Member queried if the 1% block transfer could be revisited at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum. Officers agreed to contact the DfE forthwith to obtain further information, with it potentially being brought back to the January 2025 meeting if necessary.
- Following a discussion with the Chair, it was **AGREED** that all comments from this section of the meeting would be minuted, and a statement based upon these comments would be circulated among Forum Members for sign-off before submitting to the DfE

5.20 Having considered the feedback from the autumn 2024 DSG Consultation, the Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **APPROVE** the continuation of the movement of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2025-26.
2. To **PROVIDE** a clear indication as to whether continuation of the additional 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would be supported for 2025-26, with a maximum overall block transfer of £9.7m

5(6) DSG Consultation – Notional SEN

5.21 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools specifically in relation to the Notional SEN questions. The proposed changes related to the funding distribution formula of the Schools Block of the DSG from April 2025.

5.22 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- There were two aspects to consider, the first relating to average proportion of budget share that were allocated to Notional SEN in Norfolk for 2025-26. The options available were to increase the Notional SEN allocation by 1.5% to 9.11% of the budget share for 2025-26, or to propose an alternative approach.
- The second aspect related to methodology for Notional SEND, either to align with the DfE recommended approach or remain with the current Norfolk methodology.
- The Local Authority believed that Norfolk should move to be in line with the national average for Notional SEND as soon as possible and align with the DfE’s approach to methodology.
- It was important to note that this was a system-led change, feedback illustrating support for moving in the direction of the national average, but incrementally.

5.23 The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Chair noted that the Local Authority proposal in the report presumed the continuation of the 1.5% Schools Block to High Needs Block transfer for 2025-26 and queried if this was being withdrawn or kept in the proposals, given the debate earlier in the meeting. Officers confirmed that it was intended to carry on at present.
- The Schools Forum took a vote on whether to recommend the proposal to increase the average Notional SEN allocation in Norfolk by 1.5% for 2025/26. With 13 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 2 abstentions, the recommendation was **CARRIED**.
- Forum Member stated that an informed decision on the methodology was required. It was suggested that the recommendation be revised to now read the following: “The Schools Forum recommends the proposal to **amend reconsider** the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN allocations to align with the DfE recommended approach and to ask the LA to bring back a detailed proposal to the next Forum meeting”. This revision was **AGREED** by officers and Forum Members.
- The Schools Forum unanimously **CARRIED** the revised methodology recommendation on a show of hands.

5.24 Having considered the proposed changes accordingly, the Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** the following:

1. The proposal to increase the average Notional SEN allocation in Norfolk by 1.5% to 9.11% of the budget share for 2025-26.
2. The proposal to reconsider the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN allocations to align with the DfE recommended approach and to ask the LA to bring back a detailed proposal to the next Forum meeting.

5(7) DSG Consultation – Element 3

5.25 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools specifically in relation to Element 3 funding for mainstream schools. The considerations related to the funding distribution formula of the High Needs Block of the DSG from April 2025

5.26 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- There was a general acknowledgement that changes were required, as the current system could not continue in its current form.
- The LFI Reference Group was exploring the utilisation of information around the needs-led elements of the proposals, which would be based on ongoing conversations between the Local Authority and schools. A further report would be brought to the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.

5.27 The following points were raised and discussed:

- Forum Members proposed a vote of thanks to officers for their production of informative papers regarding responses to the consultation.
- The Chair noted that Element 3 workshops held earlier in 2024 had helped move the proposals forward. The workshops had now evolved into the LFI Reference Group and this was good for wider system working.

5.28 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the consultation responses shared and the key themes identified to inform the final development work for the model.
2. To **AGREE** to consider the future model at an additional Schools Forum meeting in December 2024.

6. Early Years Budget Grant

6.1 Officers introduced the report, which was produced in response to the Government's announcement that additional funding would be awarded to local authorities during 2024-2025 to support early years providers with their costs, following the recent teacher pay award. Additional funding would be distributed through a new grant, the Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG), covering September 2024 to March 2025. Norfolk County Council intended to distribute the funding through additional payments to all providers in the Autumn and Spring terms.

6.2 The following key elements were highlighted to the Schools Forum:

- There was no requirement to consult with providers around the grant, however this had been discussed with the consultative group. No decision was required from the Schools Forum, but advice was sought regarding the approach from the Local Authority.
- The first allocation of funding was earmarked to three nursery schools based on the pupils attending them. The remainder of the funding was as yet unallocated, but there was flexibility as to where it could be distributed.
- The view of the Early Years consultative group was to distribute the remaining funding across all types of provision to help them to meet increased staffing costs.

6.3 The following points were raised and discussed:

- A Forum Member noted that a large proportion of school based early years provision did not employ teachers and asked if there was scope for the Local Authority to distribute the majority of funding to those institutions with teachers, with the remainder across the nursery sector. Concern was expressed that the approach could lower quality and standards across the board. Officers noted that across the sector, there was a wide range of staff qualifications, training awards and provision. Flexibility was key given the complexity of the sector.
- A Forum Member stated that most of the representatives on the Early Years consultative group were not teacher-led nurseries, as this model was expensive to provide.
- The Chair queried as to who had authority to make the decision in this area. Officers confirmed that the decision lay with the Local Authority. There was no requirement to hold consultations, however this was done as a matter of principle.
- Officers confirmed that feedback on the approach would be considered before a final decision was taken. This would then be communicated as soon as possible.

6.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the approach to distributing the Early Years Budget Grant to providers, which could then be utilised to support future decision making regarding any similar grants

7(1) Iceni Primary and Secondary - Disapplication

- 7.1 Officers introduced the report, which was produced in response to the separation of Iceni Academy from being an all-through school to being two separate schools (Iceni Primary Academy and Iceni Secondary Academy). In preparation for the 2025-26 funding formula, Norfolk County Council made a disapplication request for a baseline adjustment for both schools in 2025-26 as advised by the DfE. The deadline for submission of disapplication requests to the DfE was the 18 November 2024, prior to this meeting of the Schools Forum.
- 7.2 The disapplication request was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- 7.3 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the disapplication for the re-baselining of Iceni Primary Academy and Iceni Secondary Academy, following a significant change process to separate the former Iceni Academy all-through school.

7(2) Amalgamation Protection – Disapplication

- 7.4 Officers introduced the report, which was produced following the submission of a disapplication request for a second financial year of amalgamation protection (2025/26), for the value of 70% of two lump sums, on behalf of Brisley CE Primary Academy. The deadline for submission of disapplication requests to the DfE was the 18 November 2024, prior to this meeting of the Schools Forum.
- 7.5 A Forum Member (Stephen Beeson) declared an interest in this item due to Brisley being part of DNEAT and confirmed he would abstain on the vote.
- 7.6 The disapplication request was put to a vote. With 14 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 1 abstention, the disapplication was **CARRIED** by Forum Members.
- 7.7 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the disapplication request for a second (and final) year of amalgamation protection for Brisley CE Primary Academy at 70% of two lump sums, for the 2025-26 financial year.

7(3) Exceptional Premises Factor – Disapplication

- 7.7 Officers introduced the report, which was produced following the submission of a disapplication request for the continued use of the exceptional premises factor for five schools that currently receive additional premises funding within the formula. The deadline for submission of disapplication requests to the DfE was the 18 November 2024, prior to this meeting of the Schools Forum.
- 7.8 There was uncertainty on whether an agreement had been reached regarding the figure for Surlingham Primary School.
- 7.9 The following points were raised and discussed:
- A Forum Member (Steven Dewing) declared an interest as one of Sapiientia Education Trust's schools appeared on the disapplication request and confirmed he would abstain on the vote.
 - The Chair declared an interest as he was currently the Chair of Surlingham Parish Council who submitted invoices to Sapiientia, confirming he would abstain from the vote.
 - The Vice-Chair declared an interest as Magdalen Academy was currently part of UET, confirming he would abstain from the vote.
 - A Forum Member (Stephen Beeson) declared an interest due to one of the schools being part of DNEAT and confirmed he would abstain from the vote.

- The figures for Surlingham Primary School were queried. Officers stated that the catering electricity costs had been deducted following a DfE query, as they should be paid from the schools' budget share, and that only rent costs were requested in the disapplication. The amount was questioned by the relevant Trust who were of the view it should be for the whole invoiceable amount. It was **AGREED** that Local Authority officers would follow this up with the Trust and DfE to ensure that the final amount was correct.
- A Forum Member pondered whether this would become an annual disapplication request. Officers stated this was the first instance of being asked to resubmit a disapplication request, as the exception premises factors had been agreed several years prior.
- The Chair noted that the figure for the lease Winterton Primary School and Nursery, at £10,000, seemed to be a bit vague. It was understood that part of the building was leased from the church, with clarification requested if this was definitely the case. Officers **AGREED** to source further details, with an update to be provided at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.
- The disapplication request was put to a vote. With 11 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 4 abstentions, the disapplication was **CARRIED**.

7.10 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the proposed disapplication for use of the exceptional premises factor for hire or lease of buildings or land where the school premises was unable to provide the necessary facility.

8. Growth Fund (Schools Block)

8.1 Officers introduced the report, which detailed the proposed Growth Fund for the 2025-26 financial year and its criteria for distribution, subject to approval from the Schools Forum.

8.2 Officers highlighted the following key elements from the report:

- There was an underspend on the 2024-25 figures. However, most of the underspend was utilised for a correction to the figures of Brisley and Weasenham primary schools within the Schools Block.
- A list of proposed allocations for 2025-26 was included in the report. It was noted that Wymondham College Prep School was to be removed from the list and brought back at a later date. This was due to this establishment being one considered on a pupil variation, with not all of the additional classes being operational at present.

8.3 The following points were raised and discussed:

- The Chair queried the inclusion of Cringleford Prep on the list. Officers confirmed this was the new primary school in the area.
- A Forum Member requested clarification regarding the allocation of £75,000 to Cringleford Prep for "ongoing post opening costs". Officers clarified this covered a leadership grant and a resources grant, which mirrored DfE processes to fund a school after it opens. This looked at empty year groups and new pupil intake, with a formula used to calculate this. The budget plans for Cringleford convinced the Local Authority to follow the DfE's formulas.
- A Forum Member asked for further details regarding the £372,000 underspend in 2024-25. Officers confirmed this was sitting in the Schools Block, however the overspend to correct Brisley and Weasenham had offset these figures.

- A Forum Member asked who would pay for what between the DfE and the Schools Block regarding academies. Officers confirmed that the figures related to the Schools Block. The Growth Fund related to September to March in the school year. If an academy was growing, the Local Authority would need to pay out for April to August. This was then reimbursed by the DfE, with no additional cost elements.
- The Chair queried £163,000 of post opening costs for new schools within the figures. Officers confirmed this related to Silfield Primary and Cringleford Prep.
- Decision 1, to approve a reduced figure of £984,500 (removing Wymondham College Prep) centrally retained fund for pre-16 growth in 2025-26 was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- Decision 2, to approve the pre-16 growth fund criteria, was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.

8.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:

1. A £984,500 centrally retained fund for pre-16 growth in 2025-26
2. The pre-16 growth fund criteria as detailed within the report.

9. Falling Rolls Funding

- 9.1 Officers introduced the report, which set out the outcome from the Falling Rolls Working Group, which met on the 17 October 2024
- 9.2 The principles of a Falling Rolls fund were discussed for 2025-26. The belief of the working group was that one was not required presently, but to keep this under review. The data illustrated that the expected bounce back in numbers was not being seen, with a declining birth rate also noticed by officers.
- 9.3 Decision 1, to approve the recommendation that a Falling Rolls fund was not to be introduced as part of the 2025-26 funding formula for Norfolk Schools, was unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- 9.4 Decision 2, to consider and review the approach to Falling Rolls on an annual basis, was unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- 9.5 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:
1. The recommendation made by the Falling Rolls working group not to introduce a Falling Rolls fund as part of the 2025-26 funding formula for Norfolk schools.
 2. That the approach to Falling Rolls should be considered and reviewed by LA Officers on an annual basis, to identify when this funding mechanism may be required, engaging with Schools Forum where necessary.

10. Central School Services Block

- 10.1 Officers introduced the report, which detailed the funding of central services from the Central School Services Block (CSS) for 2025-26, subject to approval from the Schools Forum.
- 10.2 Officers highlighted the following key elements from the report:
- The allocation for the CSS had not yet been received, meaning that last year's figures and principles were being worked with.
 - Four decisions were required to be taken by the Schools Forum.

10.3 The following points were raised and discussed:

- A Forum Member queried if the 20% VAT increase on independent school fees confirmed by the government had been taken into account. Officers stated that the £100,000 figure was a contribution towards the overall costs. It was confirmed that fees would be exempt if the child had an EHCP in place, with the Local Authority having particular tax arrangements regarding VAT for any other places.
- The Chair requested further details relating to Decision 4, as it was unclear in the report as to what it funded. Officers stated the funding in this block contributed towards the overall cost.
- The Vice-Chair requested clarification regarding residual funding for historic commitments and how long these would continue to be funded. An officer stated this was a theoretical statement as to what the CSS could fund, however, Norfolk did not have any historical commitments to fund, having been removed the previous year.
- Decision 1, to approve the level of admissions funding at £487,000, was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- Decision 2, to approve the level of funding for the Norfolk Schools Forum at £30,000, was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- Decision 3, to approve the level of funding for Fees to Independent Schools for pupil without SEN, was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- Decision 4, to approve funding for responsibilities held for all schools from CSS Block, including Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant for centrally employed staff at £2.714m plus inflation, was put to a vote and unanimously **CARRIED** by Forum Members on a show of hands.
- A Forum Member asked if further information on Decision 4 could be requested at an earlier date in 2025. Officers stated this would be difficult to achieve, as this was a contribution to the overall service provision costs.

10.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:

1. The level of Admissions funding (£487,000)
2. The level of funding for the Norfolk Schools Forum (£30,000)
3. The level of funding for Fees to Independent Schools for pupil without SEN (£100,000)
4. Funding for responsibilities held for all schools from CSS Block, including Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant for centrally employed staff (estimated at £2.714m plus any inflation received through CSS Block)

11. Norfolk Schools Forum Forward Work Plan

11.1 Officers introduced the current forward work plan to the Forum.

11.2 The following items were scheduled for the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum:

- Provisional DSG Allocations
- Element 3
- Notional SEN Allocation formula
- Update on Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer

11.3 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the forward work plan.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 The May 2025 meeting of the Schools Forum, currently scheduled for Friday 9 May 2025, could take place on this date at County Hall, due to the post-County Council elections period resulting in none of the civic rooms at County Hall being available on this date. Officers agreed to come back with an alternative proposal for this meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 The additional meeting of the Schools Forum was confirmed for 9am on Friday 6 December 2024, to take place in the Cranworth Room at County Hall

13.2 The Schools Forum rose for a short intermission for non-maintained representatives to leave the meeting.

13.3 Martin White, Mike Grimble, Carole Jacques, Sarah Shirras, Matthew Smith, and Joanna Tuttle remained within the Cranworth Room for the final two items on the agenda. Kate Philpin (Officer) joined for this item.

14. DSG Consultation – Maintained Schools

14.1 Officers introduced the report, which summarised the responses to the autumn 2024 consultation with Norfolk schools specifically in relation to issues affecting maintained schools only.

14.2 The following points were raised and discussed:

- A Forum Member requested clarification regarding the borrowing by schools amendment and how this fitted into schools no longer being permitted to enter finance leases. Concern was expressed that this would cause a conflict. Officers stated there was an exceptions list which covered a number of scenarios.
- Following a decision by the Chair, it was **AGREED** that the eight amendments would be voted on en bloc.
- The Maintained Representatives of the Schools Forum unanimously **CARRIED** the eight amendments to Norfolk's Scheme for Financing Schools on a show of hands

14.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **CONSIDER** the feedback from the consultation survey in relation to the possible delegations for maternity leave holiday pay for support staff and shared parental leave, to inform decision making in relation to the De-Delegation item.
2. To **CONSIDER** the feedback from the consultation survey in relation to options for internal audit, to inform decision making in relation to the De-Delegation item.
3. To **APPROVE** the following proposed amendments for Norfolk's Scheme for Financing Schools:
 - Change to section 3.6 'Borrowing by schools' for the treatment of leases under IFRS16, ending the distinction between operating and finance leases with all leases treated as finance leases for accounting purposes

- Change to section 3.6 'Borrowing by schools' and Annex J for the use of credit cards/purchasing cards
- Change to section 3.5.1 'Restrictions on accounts' for amendment to the list of allowable banks that schools are permitted to use
- Change to 4.2d 'Restrictions on carrying forward surplus balances' to bring up to date wording to reflect the current operation of the balances mechanism
- Change to section 4.41 'Reporting on deficit balances,' which is covered elsewhere in the Scheme
- Proposal for combining and updating the wording of sections 4.5 and 4.5.1 'Planning for deficit balances' into one new section
- Change to section 4.8 'Balances of closing and amalgamating schools'
- Change to sections 4.9e and 4.9g within 'Licensed deficits'

15. De-Delegation (Maintained Schools)

15.1 Officers introduced the report, which detailed the proposed de-delegation of services from primary and secondary schools' budgets in 2025-26 (with nursery and special schools invited to buy-back into the same services), subject to approval by the Maintained Representatives of the Schools Forum.

15.2 The following points were raised and discussed. A number of votes were held on various proposals within the report.

- Decision 1A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 1B was **LOST** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 1C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 1D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 2 was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - At the suggestion of the Chair, it was decided to consider Decision 3C before Decision 3A.
 - Decision 3C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands. Decision 3A was therefore **LOST** as it was superseded.
 - Decisions 3B and 3D were **LOST** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 3E was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 3F was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- A Forum Member requested further details regarding the Trade Union Facility Time. An officer stated trade unions provided a service to schools, where maintained schools had money delegated to cover their expenses, while academies could buy into the Facilities Time budget.
- Decision 4A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 4B was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 4C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - Decision 4D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
 - A Forum Member requested clarification regarding special circumstances. Officers confirmed it covered suspension of staff and jury service, considering the length of time of those circumstances.

- Decision 5A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 5B was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 5C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 5D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 6A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 6B was **LOST** on a show of hands.
- Decision 6C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 6D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- A Forum Member queried the definition of safeguarding redeployment. Officers confirmed this related to salary protection. There were no changes to the wording. however, the budget had reduced this year due to a number of historical salary protections which had recently expired.
- The Chair asked if redeployment still occurred. An officer stated that the redeployment element consisted of a paid member of staff who tried to avoid positions of redundancy occurring in schools. The budget was their annual salary.
- Decision 7A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 7B was **LOST** on a show of hands.
- Decision 7C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 7D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 8A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 8B was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 8C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 8D was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 9A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 9B was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 9C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- The Chair expressed interest in the consultation responses to the audit proposals, as there were several responses which were left blank.
- A Forum Member asked why the first-year cost was higher than the second-year costs. While officers advised that this had been addressed in the relevant briefing, Forum Members confirmed they wanted to request that a further review was done to see if the cost for the first year could align with later years. Officers **AGREED** to take advice with the Lead Audit Officer (not present at this meeting) and to report back at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum if the cost could be reduced for year one.
- A Forum Member requested further details regarding RAG ratings as they referenced health checks, but there seemed to be a disconnect within the system.
- Decision 10A was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 10B was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- Decision 10C was unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.
- A Forum Member expressed concern regarding a “light touch” approach to auditing, as special schools were currently dealing with approximately £400,000 worth of payroll errors from the past two years.

15.4 The Norfolk Schools Forum **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **AGREE** that the maternity budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 1A).
2. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the maternity budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 1C).
3. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the maternity budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 1D).
4. To **AGREE** that maternity budget should continue to cover the costs of the holiday pay element of term-time support staff on maternity leave in 2025-26 (Decision 2).
5. To **AGREE** that SPL statutory and salary costs should be de-delegated for maintained primary schools for 2025-26 (Decision 3C).
6. To **DECIDE** to buy back into an SPL budget for maintained nursery schools in 2025-26 on the same basis as mainstream maintained schools (Decision 3E).
7. To **DECIDE** to buy back into an SPL budget for special schools 2025-26 on the same basis as mainstream maintained schools (Decision 3F).
8. To **AGREE** that the Trade Union Facility Time budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 4A).
9. To **AGREE** that the Trade Union Facility Time budget for the secondary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 4B).
10. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Trade Union Facility Time budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 4C).
11. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Trade Union Facility Time budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 4D).
12. To **AGREE** that the Special Circumstances budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 5A)
13. To **AGREE** that the Special Circumstances budget for the secondary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 5B).
14. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Special Circumstances budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 5C).

15. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Special Circumstances budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 5D).
16. To **AGREE** that the Suspended Staff budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 6A).
17. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Suspended Staff budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 6C).
18. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Suspended Staff budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 6D).
19. To **AGREE** that the Redeployment/Safeguarding budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 7A).
20. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Redeployment/Safeguarding budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 7C).
21. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Redeployment/Safeguarding budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 7D).
22. To **AGREE** that the Disabled Staff budget for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 8A).
23. To **AGREE** that the Disabled Staff budget for the secondary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 8B)
24. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Disabled Staff budget for maintained nursery schools for 2025-26 (Decision 8C).
25. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Disabled budget for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 8D).
26. To **AGREE** that Free School Meals eligibility for the primary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 9A)
27. To **AGREE** that Free School Meals eligibility for the secondary sector should be de-delegated for 2025-26 (Decision 9B).
28. To **DECIDE** to buy back into the Free School Meals eligibility for maintained special schools for 2025-26 (Decision 9C).
29. To **AGREE** to charge the cost of internal audits to maintained primary/secondary schools' budgets, for implementation of a minimum risk-based assurance approach in 2025-26 (Decision 10A).

30. To **AGREE** to charge the cost of internal audits to maintained primary/secondary schools' budgets, for implementation of a minimum risk-based assurance approach in 2025-26 (Decision 10B).

31. To **AGREE** to charge the cost of internal audits to maintained primary/secondary schools' budgets, for implementation of a minimum risk-based assurance approach in 2025-26 (Decision 10C).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 13:02

**Martin White, Chair
Norfolk Schools Forum**



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Minutes Item No.	Agenda Item	Action	To Do	By Whom	Response
2.2	Matters Arising	Mike Grimble announced that December 2024 would be his last meeting as a Forum Member. The issue of a replacement Maintained Primary Representative was raised. Officers AGREED to look further into this.	Further investigation necessary by officers.	John Crowley	The LA will contact all Heads and Chairs of Governors for maintained mainstream primary schools to request nominations of either a Head or Governor (preferably with experience of schools' financial management). If required, they will be contacted to vote on nominees.
5.3, bullet point 2	Provisional DSG Allocations for 2025/26 and Autumn DSG Consultation	A Forum Member stated that communications should be sent out to schools regarding the delay to indicative figures, as there were concerns that if the figures were delayed until the New Year, it could result in redundancies. This was AGREED by officers.	Communications to be sent out to all schools regarding the delay in allocations	Martin Brock	The LA will publish a technical paper with formula allocations from the 25-26 APT (only) by end of January. This will be communicated to schools w/c 02/12/24.
5.7, bullet point 1	DSG Consultation – Summary of Responses	The Chair expressed concern that two responses from schools had been removed from the results as the schools in question were covered by a trust response, as this seemed to suggest that the trust's response was more valuable than the school's response. Officers clarified that if more than one response was received from a school, a trust response would be taken with regard to indicative figures, as there needed to be only one	Schools to be notified of duplicate responses.	Martin Brock	Affected schools/trusts/federations have been informed via email of how the LA used the information from their responses as part of the consultation feedback to Schools Forum at the November meeting.

		response from each school. This was covered in the guidance notes. All responses were included in the narrative even if duplicates. The Chair asked officers to inform the affected schools, which was AGREED to.			
5.11, bullet point 2	DSG Consultation – Broader Engagement and Specialist Outreach	A Forum Member proposed that the next consultation should make clear to all respondents that all responses would be published in full within the public domain. This was AGREED to by officers.	Long term action for the 2025 consultation.	Martin Brock / Dawn Filtness	Noted for 26-27 consultation
5.19, bullet point 22	DSG Consultation – Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer	A Forum Member queried if the 1% block transfer could be revisited at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum. Officers agreed to contact the DfE forthwith to obtain further information, with it potentially being brought back to the January 2025 meeting if necessary.	Information to be sought from the DfE, likely to be brought back to the January 2025 meeting of the Schools Forum as an additional report.	Martin Brock / Dawn Filtness	To be added to future agenda as appropriate
5.19, bullet point 23	DSG Consultation – Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer	Following a discussion with the Chair, it was AGREED that all comments from this section of the meeting would be minuted, and a statement based upon these comments would be circulated among Forum Members for sign-off before submitting to the DfE	Comments from this section of the meeting to be minuted early for conversion into a statement, to then be agreed by Forum Members for sharing with the DfE.	Laine Tisdall / Dawn Filtness / James Wilson	Statement drafted and approved by Forum Members. With subsequent agreement of the Chair, this has been shared as a letter to all LA Maintained Headteachers, Chair of Governors for LA Maintained Schools, Academy Headteachers and CEOs. COMPLETED

6.3, bullet 4	Early Years Budget Grant	Officers confirmed that feedback on the approach would be considered before a final decision was taken. This would then be communicated as soon as possible.	Consider the feedback as to whether the funding should be directed to teacher-led provision due to the funding being as a result of teacher pay increases, ahead of a final decision being made by the LA on distribution of the funding	John Crowley	See below
7.9, bullet point 5	Exceptional Premises Factor – Disapplication	The figures for Surlingham Primary School were queried. Officers stated that the catering electricity costs had been deducted following a DfE query, as they should be paid from the schools' budget share, and that only rent costs were requested in the disapplication. The amount was questioned by the relevant Trust who were of the view it should be for the whole invoiceable amount. It was AGREED that Local Authority officers would follow this up with the Trust and DfE to ensure that the final amount was correct.	Updated figures to be sought and provided at a future Schools Forum meeting.	Martin Brock	Trust contacted. Awaiting further information/evidence from the Sapientia Education Trust on rental costs following the November SF meeting (if still being queried).
7.9, bullet point 7	Exceptional Premises Factor – Disapplication	The Chair noted that the figure for the lease Winterton Primary School and Nursery, at £10,000, seemed to be a bit vague. It was understood that part of the building was leased from the church, with clarification requested if this was definitely the case. Officers AGREED to source further details, with an update to be provided at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum.	Updated figures to be sought and provided at a future Schools Forum meeting.	Martin Brock	The latest invoices from the Diocese confirm £2,500 per quarter for the Winterton Primary School rent, therefore a total cost of £10,000 per annum. Evidence in the form of invoices showing the most recent rental costs has been provided to the DfE as part of the disapplication request

					submitted for review by Secretary of State.
12.1	Any Other Business	The May 2025 meeting of the Schools Forum, currently scheduled for Friday 9 May 2025, cannot take place on this date at County Hall, due to the post-County Council elections period resulting in none of the civic rooms at County Hall being available on this date. Officers will come back with an alternative proposal.	Options for either a new date or alternative venue for May 2025 will be considered Officers and brought back to Forum.	Laine Tisdall	An alternative venue has not been identified due to the necessity for the room to be suitable to be a public meeting and for recording reasons. Therefore, alternative dates have been identified and will be completed when we know if we're undertaking a poll with members or an alternative approach
15.2, bullet points 39 and 40	De-Delegation (Maintained Schools)	<p>A Forum Member asked why the first-year cost was higher than the second-year costs. While officers advised that this had been addressed in the relevant briefing, Forum Members confirmed they wanted to request that a further review was done to see if the cost for the first year could align with later years. Officers AGREED to take advice with the Lead Audit Officer (not present at this meeting) and to report back at the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum if the cost could be reduced for year one.</p> <p>A Forum Member requested further details regarding RAG ratings as they referenced health checks, but there seemed to be a disconnect within the system.</p>	Further details to be sourced from Adrian Thompson and brought to the December 2024 meeting of the Schools Forum	Martin Brock / Dawn Filtness	It can be confirmed that the total cost of the 2025-26 audit provision will be £22.5k, which (based upon Oct 2023 census data) is equivalent to £0.75 per pupil. The final per pupil amount will be confirmed once the final DSG allocations and updated Oct 2024 census data is received. The LA will seek to achieve management efficiencies for future years as the model beds. The approach to RAG rating will be updated in line with the change of audit arrangements for maintained schools

Response re 6.3, Early Years Budget Grant Matters Arising

Since the November meeting, the local authority (LA) has considered the points raised and the suggestion to direct funding to teacher-led school-based providers. Officers have concluded that this is not a viable approach this year and intend to distribute as per the proposed methodology outlined in the paper to November's Forum, subject to appropriate Member decision making.

There are two key reasons for distributing funding through the base rate, rather than restricting to teacher led nursery classes:

- To allocate only to teacher led provisions would, effectively, re-introduce a quality supplement; quality supplements are not part of our funding methodology any longer, and so the effect would only be short-term and so would, in effect, be withdrawn in April when the additional funding uplift is incorporated into the Early Years DSG (as in previous years).
- The LA do not hold up-to-date information about the operating model in academies, so it is not known which are teacher-led.

Going forwards, the LA will undertake the following actions:

- Surveying all early years providers to find out the operating models and qualification levels of all settings to better understand and inform future discussions on such topics.
- Inviting additional members to join the Early Year Consultative Group (EYCG) to better represent the school sector. This is to ensure that schools are represented that operate both a teacher-led nursery class (1:13) model as well as 1:8 models, whilst also including both academy and LA maintained representatives.
- Further engage with the EYCG how we support high quality early education going forward, communicating the outcomes of these discussions to Schools Forum to support the shaping of future funding formulae ahead of consultation.

Schools Forum

Item No: 6

Report title:	Provisional DSG Allocations for 2025-26
Date of meeting:	6 December 2024

Executive summary

This report sets out indicative levels of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for 2025-26 as published in the DfE's National Funding Formula provisional allocations.

Note: The information received from DfE on 28/11/24 has been reviewed for inclusion within this paper with a quick turnaround for distribution to Schools Forum Members. Please be aware that it will be subject to further checking of understanding.

Schools Forum are asked to:

- **Consider and, if appropriate, comment on the changes to the DfE's National Funding Formula and the increase in overall DSG funding for 2025-26, including previously separate grants which will be rolled into the DSG from April 2025.**

1. Dedicated Schools Grant 2025-26

1.1 National Funding Increases

The Department for Education announced arrangements, and provisional National Funding Formula allocations, for 2025-26 on their website on 28 November 2024.

To improve opportunities for our children and young people, the new Labour government is investing in education with an additional £2.3 billion for mainstream schools and young people with high needs for 2025-26. This means that overall core school funding will total almost £63.9 billion next year compared to £61.6 billion in 2024-25.

£1 billion of the £2.3 billion increase is being allocated as high needs funding in 2025-26. This will bring total high needs funding to £11.9 billion nationally. The high needs NFF will ensure that every local authority receives at least a 7% increase per head of their projected aged 2-18 population, with the majority of authorities seeing higher gains. There is a limit on the gains of 10% per head. This is an important step in realising the government's vision to reform England's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision to improve outcomes and return the system to financial sustainability. The government have stated that they will work with parents, teachers, and local authorities to take this work forward.

The DfE state that funding through the mainstream schools national funding formula (NFF) is increasing by 2.23% per pupil on average in 2025-26, compared to 2024-25.

This includes a 1.28% increase to ensure that the 2024 teachers and support staff pay awards continue to be fully funded at national level in 2025-26.

Please see the links below for detailed information.

Policy paper:

[National funding formula for schools and high needs 2024 to 2025](#)

Provisional allocations:

[National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Pre-16 Schools operational guidance:

[Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

High Needs operational guidance:

[High needs funding arrangements: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

1.2 Norfolk's Provisional DSG Allocations

The DfE's published provisional Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Norfolk for 2025-26 is **£841.069m**, excluding the Early Years Block¹, growth funding, and falling rolls funding:

	£(m)
Schools Block (exc. growth/falling rolls)	683.276
High Needs Block	152.724
Central School Services Block	5.070
Provisional DSG Allocation (exc. EY)	841.069

Provisional DSG allocations for the Schools Block exclude funding to be received through the growth and falling rolls factors. No estimation for 2025-26 has been made as the LA has not yet received the DfE's calculator tool, but for reference the additional amount for growth and falling rolls received in 2024-25 was £3.403m.

Previously separate Teacher Pay, Pension, and Core School Budget grants have been rolled into the baselines of provisional DSG allocations for 2025-26.

DSG allocations for 2025-26 will be updated by the DfE in December'24 for:

- Final pupil data and an allocation for the Growth and Falling Rolls factor in the Schools Block;
- Final pupil data for the Central Schools Services Block;
- an update to special schools places and import/export adjustment in the High Needs Block;
- a provisional funding allocation for Early Years Block.

¹ Provisional Early Years Block allocations are expected to be published in December 2024. The current EY Block allocation for the 2024-25 financial year is £71.874m (as at the Nov'24 DSG update).

1.3 Schools Block

Norfolk’s latest provisional Schools Block DSG allocation published by the DfE for 2025-26 is £683.276m (including TPAG/TPECG/CSBG rolled into the NFF) compared to £632.034m received in 2024-25. This excludes the growth and falling rolls factor allocations for both years.

It is assumed that a similar level of growth fund and falling rolls funding may be received for 2025-26. The figure was £3.403m for 2024-25.

The estimated Schools Block DSG for 2025-26 is as follows (2024-25 shown for comparison):

	2024-25 (£m)	2025-26 (£m)	Change (£m)
Schools Block (exc. growth/falling rolls allocation)	632.034	683.276	51.242
Growth and Falling Rolls allocation (estimated amount for 2025-26)	3.403	3.403*	0.000
ESTIMATED SCHOOLS BLOCK	635.437	686.679	51.242

*No provisional allocation received for 2025-26. Estimate based on 2024-25 allocation.

The level of like-for-like increase in overall formula funding between years is not easily apparent from the DfE’s published allocations due to the rolling in of Teachers’ Pay Additional Grant, Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution Grant and Core Schools Budget Grant - the latter having been uplifted to a full year but without a separate illustration of the full amount rolled into the overall Schools Block allocation.

The DfE state that funding through the mainstream schools national funding formula (NFF) is increasing by 2.23% per pupil on average in 2025-26, compared to 2024-25 and that this includes a 1.28% increase to ensure that the 2024 teachers and support staff pay awards continue to be fully funded at national level in 2025-26.

The calculations from DfE show that £36.418m of grants are included in the calculation of the 2024-25 baseline, which the LA recognises to be made up of amounts received in 2024-25:

	2024-25 Grant Received (£)
TPAG	10.477
TPECG	12.830
CSBG	13.111
	36.418

The Schools Block Technical Note [Schools block national funding formula 2025 to 2026: technical note](#) states within section 2.8 that for CSBG the DfE have recalculated the rates to cover full year costs before adding them to the baseline. This does not appear to be the case as the amount showing as included for CSBG within the 2024-25 baseline is only the 2024-25 amount received which was a part year allocation. This has been queried with the DfE and a response is awaited. It is unlikely to affect allocations overall, since the correct amounts for CSBG will have been included within the NFF for 2025-26, however it makes the comparison of increase for formula funding between years difficult.

Based on the individual uplifted factor values for CSBG listed within the Schools Block Technical Note for inclusion in the 2025-26 NFF, which have an average uplift of 66% compared to 2024-25, the LA's best estimate of the CSBG included within the 2025-26 Schools Block formula is £13.111m x 166% = £21.764m (an uplift of £8.653m).

The LA therefore estimates that the grants included within the £51.242m overall Schools Block DSG uplift between 2024-25 and 2025-26 are:

	2024-25 Grant Received (£)
TPAG	10.477
TPECG	12.830
CSBG	21.764
	45.071

On that basis, the formula uplift element is estimated by the LA to be in the region of **£6.171m** (£51.242m less previously separate grants uplifted for full year of £45.071m), which is less than a 1% uplift.

The final allocations for the 2025-26 Schools Block will not be confirmed until December 2024.

Information on technical changes to the National Funding Formula including unit rates for NFF factors in 2025-26 are included in **Appendix A**.

1.3.1 Norfolk's Allowable Range of Unit Values

Local authorities are required to move their local formulae a further 10% closer to National Funding Formula (NFF) unit values in 2025-26 (building on the 10% movement made towards the NFF in previous years), except where the funding formula mirrors the National Funding Formula.

Norfolk is one of many LAs that already 'mirrors' the National Funding Formula (NFF) unit rates. Mirroring is defined by the DfE as using rates for each of the funding factors that are within 2.5% of the respective NFF values published by the DfE.

To aid the transition to allowable 2025-26 funding values, the DfE have published the acceptable factor value range for each local authority. The allowable range for Norfolk is shown in the table in **appendix B**.

1.3.2 NFF vs Local Formula

Norfolk County Council (NCC), as the organisation with responsibility for setting the formula for Norfolk in consultation with schools and Norfolk's Schools Forum, proposes to continue to mirror the National Funding Formula unit values and methodologies for 2025-26, updated to reflect the new values published by the DfE.

A Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will be set between the allowable range of minus 0.5% to 0.0%. Setting the MFG protection at 0.0% (the highest permitted for 2025-26) is preferable if it is affordable as it ensures per-pupil protection for all schools through the formula, based on like-for-like pupil data. See **appendix C** for details of the MFG calculation. A reduction in unit values within the range allowed for Norfolk (within the allowable range that mirrors NFF), may need to be applied in order to ensure that the final formula is affordable. The DfE's compulsory Minimum Per-Pupil Funding Levels of at least £4,955 per pupil for primary schools, and at least £6,465 per pupil for secondary schools, will be met.

1.3.3 Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer

In accordance with DfE expectations that local authorities should be working towards balancing the DSG overall as a grant, including repaying brought forward cumulative deficits, the Local Authority (NCC) is required to consider the transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2025-26 to meet the ongoing pressures of the High Needs Block and to continue working towards recovery of the current cumulative and in-year DSG deficit. A disapplication was initially submitted for a transfer of 1.5% to the DfE/Secretary of State in November 2024, and the DfE have been advised that this should be capped at £9.7m as per November 2024 Schools' Forum meeting. A decision is currently awaited.

1.3.4 Direct National Funding Formula

It should be noted that Government policy continues to be towards transferring to a direct National Funding Formula, which will determine school funding allocations directly rather than through a local formula. Further details are also included in **appendix A**.

1.4 High Needs Block

The department has confirmed the following aspects of the High Needs NFF for 2025-26:

- the funding floor is set at 7% so each local authority will see an increase of at least 7% per head of population
- the gains cap is set at 10%, allowing local authorities to see gains up to this percentage increase under the formula

- The MFG for 2025-26 will be 0% using schools' 2024-25 funding baselines, equivalent to the upper end of the MFG range for mainstream schools. The operation of the MFG will be the same as in previous years and applies only to each school's place and top-up funding. The local authority must have a disapplication request approved to use a lower percentage.
- Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG), Teachers' Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG) and the 2024-25 Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) will be paid as a single separate grant for CSBG for special schools and alternative provision for 2025-26, rather than (as they are for mainstream schools) being rolled into the NFF and paid through the DSG.

There is an indicative increase to High Needs Block for 2025-26 of £10.361m as shown below, compared to the latest HN Block allocation for 2024-25 (as updated November 2024):

	2024-25 (£m)	2025-25 (£m)	Change (£m)
High Needs Block	142.363	152.724	10.361

Any further updates to the High Needs Block allocation for 2025-26, including for additional special/AP places in the January'24 AP Census and October'24 Schools Census will not be confirmed until December.

This level of increase in High Needs Block funding will not resolve the ongoing High Needs Block overspend pressure due to the level of cumulative DSG deficit, and the anticipated ongoing and increasing demand.

In the LA's October LFI plan, High Needs Block funding of £146.584m had been estimated for 2025-26, so the provisional increase in HN Block funding for 2025-26 is £6.140m higher than the amount included in the disapplication submission to the DfE in November.

1.5 Central Schools Block

There is an indicative increase to Central Schools Services Block for 2025-26 of £0.808m as shown below:

	2024-25 (£m)	2025-26 (£m)	Change (£m)
CSS Block	4.262	5.070	0.808

However, the 2025-26 allocation includes funding for the rolling in of the centrally employed teachers elements of both the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (£0.303m) and Core Schools' Budget Grant (£0.585m) into the 2024-25 baseline of the CSS Block – with the CSBG element having been recalculated to cover the full-year salary costs. Also, additional copyright licences DSG funding of £0.031m to cover increased licences costs received in the November'24 DSG update for 2024-25, included in the 2024-25 figure in the table above, has been rolled into the DSG baseline.

The DfE's formula for distribution of CSS Block funding to LA's has changed in 2025-26 from being a per-pupil amount plus an amount for historic commitments, to:

- a per-pupil amount;
- a deprivation amount based on FSM6 data;
- an additional per-pupil amount for an increase in copyright licences cost;
- a 20% reduction in the historic commitments element (a reduction of approximately £0.016m for Norfolk).

Local authorities have been protected so that the maximum per pupil year-on-year reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities (which excludes the historic commitments element) is at -2.5%, while the year-on-year gains cap was set by DfE at the highest affordable rate, of 2.98%. The DfE calculations show that Norfolk's allocation for ongoing responsibilities has reduced by -1.27% per-pupil overall (which works out to approximately a funding reduction of £0.053m based on the allocation for ongoing commitments received in 2024-25).

The use of the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG was discussed at the November Schools Forum meeting when decisions were taken on centrally retained budgets for the responsibilities held by the LA for schools.

1.6 Early Years Block

The DfE will not publish provisional 2025-26 DSG allocations for the EY Block until December'24.

Schools Forum are asked to:

- **Consider and, if appropriate, comment on the changes to the DfE's National Funding Formula and the increase in overall DSG funding for 2025-26, including previously separate grants which will be rolled into the DSG from April 2025.**

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g., equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Appendix A - National Funding Formula

National Funding Formula Changes for 2025-26

Key features of the 2025-26 schools NFF include:

- An increase in factor values in the NFF to increase the amount of funding available to schools.
- Through the minimum per pupil funding levels, every primary school will attract at least £4,955 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £6,465 per pupil.
- The funding floor will continue to protect schools from sudden drops in their per-pupil funding.
- Rolling the 2024 to 2025 Teachers' Pay Additional grant (TPAG), Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution grant (TPECG) and Core Schools Budget grant (CSBG) into the schools NFF, ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets.
- Two changes to the operation of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor in the schools NFF, outlined below.

Changes to the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor

For 2025-26, the DfE are making two structural changes to the how the PFI factor works in the schools NFF. These changes are:

- From 2025-26 they will be providing pro-rata funding when a PFI contract is coming to an end in the financial year (such that funding is only provided for the part of the year when the contract is still in place).
- The DfE are also setting conditions that local authorities need to meet to receive above-inflation increases in PFI funding (with the expectation that these will be the exception). In calculating a school's PFI funding, the lower of the local authority's 2024-25 PFI premises factor and the school's PFI funding from the 2024-25 NFF is now be taken as the baseline for calculating the 2025-26 PFI factor. As in previous years, this baseline is then uplifted in line with the Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) growth. If local authorities want to request that the funding is increased by a higher amount, they will need to submit an affordability model to the Department.

NFF Factor Values

The DfE's NFF funding values for 2025-26, are shown below along with the current 2024-25 formula for comparison.

Funding Factor	2024-25 Formula £ NFF unit rates	2025-26 Formula £ NFF unit rates
Age Weighted Pupil Unit		
Primary	3,562	3,847
Key Stage 3	5,022	5,422
Key Stage 4	5,661	6,113
Minimum Per Pupil Funding		
Primary	4,610	4,955
Secondary	5,995	6,465
Additional Needs Funding		
Primary FSM	490	495
Secondary FSM	490	495
Primary FSM6	820	1,060
Secondary FSM6	1,200	1,555
Primary IDACI A	680	685
Primary IDACI B	515	520
Primary IDACI C	485	490
Primary IDACI D	445	445
Primary IDACI E	285	285
Primary IDACI F	235	235
Secondary IDACI A	945	950
Secondary IDACI B	740	745
Secondary IDACI C	690	695
Secondary IDACI D	630	635
Secondary IDACI E	450	450
Secondary IDACI F	340	340
Low Prior Attainment		
Primary LPA	1,170	1,175
Secondary LPA	1,775	1,785
EAL		
Primary EAL	590	595
Secondary EAL	1,585	1,595
Mobility		
Primary Mobility	960	965
Secondary Mobility	1,380	1,385
Lump Sum		
Primary Lump Sum	134,400	145,100
Secondary Lump Sum	134,400	145,100
Sparsity		
Primary Sparsity	57,100	57,400
Secondary Sparsity	83,000	83,400
Split Sites (NEW)		
Basic Eligibility	53,700	54,000
Distance Funding	26,900	27,000

Progress towards a Direct National Funding Formula

The basic structure of the high needs NFF for 2025-26 is not changing, as the Government is taking time to carefully consider what changes are needed, both to make sure that we establish a fair education funding system that directs funding to where it is needed, and to support the SEND reforms that will be taken forward.

Local authorities will continue to use funding through the schools NFF to determine final allocations for all local mainstream schools. The DfE will continue with the same approach to “tightening” local formulae as in previous years. Local authorities will be required to move their local formulae factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2024 to 2025, unless they are already mirroring the NFF (Norfolk’s formula already does).

Appendix B - National Funding Formula

The allowable ranges for Norfolk's Authority Proforma Tool formula in 2025-26 are shown in the table below:

Factor	2025-26 NFF (£)	2025-26 APT Minimum (£)	2025-26 APT Maximum (£)
Primary basic entitlement	3,847.00	3,750.83	3,943.18
KS3 basic entitlement	5,422.00	5,286.45	5,557.55
KS4 basic entitlement	6,113.00	5,960.18	6,265.83
Primary FSM	495.00	482.63	507.38
Secondary FSM	495.00	482.63	507.38
Primary FSM6	1,060.00	1,033.50	1,086.50
Secondary FSM6	1,555.00	1,516.13	1,593.88
Primary IDACI F	235.00	229.13	240.88
Primary IDACI E	285.00	277.88	292.13
Primary IDACI D	445.00	433.88	456.13
Primary IDACI C	490.00	477.75	502.25
Primary IDACI B	520.00	507.00	533.00
Primary IDACI A	685.00	667.88	702.13
Secondary IDACI F	340.00	331.50	348.50
Secondary IDACI E	450.00	438.75	461.25
Secondary IDACI D	635.00	619.13	650.88
Secondary IDACI C	695.00	677.63	712.38
Secondary IDACI B	745.00	726.38	763.63
Secondary IDACI A	950.00	926.25	973.75
Primary EAL	595.00	580.13	609.88
Secondary EAL	1,595.00	1,555.13	1,634.88
Primary LPA	1,175.00	1,145.63	1,204.38
Secondary LPA	1,785.00	1,740.38	1,829.63
Primary mobility	965.00	940.88	989.13
Secondary mobility	1,385.00	1,350.38	1,419.63
Primary lump sum	145,100.00	141,472.50	148,727.50
Secondary lump sum	145,100.00	141,472.50	148,727.50
Primary sparsity	57,400.00	55,965.00	58,835.00
Secondary sparsity	83,400.00	81,315.00	85,485.00
Middle-school sparsity	83,400.00	81,315.00	85,485.00
All-through sparsity	83,400.00	81,315.00	85,485.00
Split sites basic eligibility funding	54,000.00	52,650.00	55,350.00
Split sites distance funding	27,000.00	26,325.00	27,675.00

Appendix C – Minimum Funding Guarantee

(including DfE worked example)

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a mandatory part of the funding formula which protects schools against significant changes in the overall level of funding received through the pupil-led factors of the funding formula. In 2025-26, LA's will be able to set the level of MFG between minus 0.5% and 0%. It is proposed that if it is affordable when the DfE's Authority Proforma Tool is received by the LA to model the local funding formula for 2025-26, Norfolk should use the maximum MFG value of 0% to prevent per-pupil reductions for schools (and in line with special schools' 2025-26 MFG which has been set at 0% by the DfE).

A calculation of MFG is required for each individual school comparing per-pupil funding in the current financial year (2024-25) and in the new year being calculated (2025-26) through the funding formula.

Excluding the school-led factors of lump sum, sparsity, rates, split sites, PFI, and amalgamation protection if applicable, the remaining funding allocated to a school based on pupil-led factors cannot reduce by more than minus 0.5% on a per-pupil basis when the MFG is set at minus 0.5%, and cannot reduce at all on a per-pupil basis when the MFG is set at 0%. Where required, MFG funding to ensure this minimum level is met is added as a separate line into a school's budget share.

It is important to understand that whilst the level of funding per-pupil is protected to an extent via the MFG, a school's funding can reduce in total where the number of pupils has reduced between years. Also, the MFG provides either for a maximum per-pupil reduction (if set as a minus %), or no per-pupil reduction when set at 0%, but there is no limit to the amount that a school can gain unless a funding cap is also applied.

A funding cap is one option available within the local formula if the overall formula being used is not affordable within the total DSG allocation received once all funding factors have been calculated for schools and all protections have been applied. A good example of this is when a Schools Block to High Needs Block transfer is made, which reduces the overall amount of funding available to distribute to schools via the funding formula. The other option, which has been agreed with Schools Forum for 2025-26, is to adjust the local factor values in the funding formula to ensure affordability without the need for a gains cap.

For information only, a cap on gains calculation would work in the same way as an MFG calculation. The minimum protection from MFG still applies, but with a cap in place there is then a restriction on the maximum level of per-pupil gains. This means that a gain that is above the cap % value set by the LA would produce a negative adjustment on the budget share to offset some of the overall gains. This would never result in a budget share that didn't meet MFG requirements or the mandatory Minimum Per-Pupil Levels (£4,955 per-pupil and £6,465 per-pupil in 2025-26 for primary and secondary pupils respectively).

All MFG and cap calculations are calculated and validated through the DfE's Authority Proforma Tool prior to submission of schools' budgets to the DfE.

A worked example from the DfE below shows how MFG is calculated (based on MFG of 0%):

Line	Description	Items and calculation	Amount
1	School budget share (SBS) 2024 to 2025 (inclusive of any MFG and capping)	N/A	£3,010,000
2	TPAG, TPECG and CSBG adjustment for 2024 to 2025 (includes an uplift for annualised CSBG)	N/A	£200,000
3	2024 to 2025 rates	N/A	£40,000
4	Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during 2023 to 2024	N/A	£105,000
5	2025 to 2026 lump sum	N/A	£130,000
6	2025 to 2026 sparsity value (including any additional sparsity funding for very small schools)	N/A	£25,000
7	Agreed MFG exclusions and technical adjustments	N/A	£0
8	2024 to 2025 MFG baseline (including TPAG, TPECG and annualised CSBG)	$1 + 2 - (3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)$	£2,910,000
9	Funded number on roll in 2024 to 2025	N/A	500
10	MFG baseline value per pupil	N/A	£5,820
11	MFG protected value per pupil	$10 \times (100\% + \text{MFG threshold})$	£5,820
12	Formula funding 2025 to 2026 (includes rates)	N/A	£3,102,000
13	2025 to 2026 rates	N/A	£42,000
14	2025 to 2026 lump sum	N/A	£130,000
15	2025 to 2026 sparsity value (including any additional sparsity funding for very small schools)	N/A	£25,000
16	Agreed MFG exclusions and technical adjustments	N/A	£0
17	2025 to 2026 base funding	$12 - (13 + 14 + 15 + 16)$	£2,905,000

18	Funded number on roll in 2025 to 2026	N/A	500
19	2025 to 2026 base funding per pupil	17 divided by 18	£5,810
20	Guaranteed level of funding	11×18	£2,910,000
21	MFG adjustment	$20 - 17$	£5,000
22	Final 2025 to 2026 SBS	$12 + 21$	£3,107,000

Schools Forum

Item No: 7

Report title:	Notional SEN 2025-26
Date of meeting:	6 December 2024

Executive summary

This report summarises Norfolk's Notional SEN budget methodology compared to local and statistical neighbours, as well as the DfE recommended approach, and proposes amending Norfolk's methodology to align with the DfE recommended approach from April 2025.

Schools Forum are asked to:

- **Consider and recommend to the local authority either (i) the proposal to amend the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN allocations to the principles of option 3, or (ii) an alternative methodology**

1. Introduction

As part of the autumn consultation, the LA consulted schools on changes to the calculation of Notional SEN for 2025-26 in relation to both the scale of the budget and the methodology of calculation. See section 8 (pages 13-20) of the [DSG consultation paper 2024](#) for more information.

On the basis of number of responses, number of schools represented, and the number of pupils represented, the feedback from the consultation provided:

- a strong preference for continuing to move towards the national average incrementally in relation to the overall size of the Notional SEN budget in Norfolk, i.e. not moving to the latest national average position known at the time of consultation¹ of c.11.5% directly in April 2025 but instead continuing the year by year increase we started in April 2024.

¹ After the publication of the consultation, the DfE published the national average for 2024/25, which was 12%

- a preference for aligning the calculation of Notional SEN allocation to the DfE recommended approach in relation to the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN distribution. The strength of this preference varied depending on whether viewed through the lens of number of responses, schools or pupils represented.

Responses from school leaders underscore the complexities and challenges of adjusting SEN funding models and the necessity for careful consideration to ensure that the final solution provides a model that enables support for all schools and pupils and countywide consistency. They highlight the importance of aligning with national standards for consistent and fair funding, while also raising concerns regarding the challenges of high deprivation areas. While there is an understanding of the rationale behind aligning with the DfE recommended approach, there are concerns regarding its impact on infant schools, especially those dealing with unidentified SEND on entry.

Some responses reflected that there appeared to be some misunderstandings regarding why Notional SEN allocations at a school level as a percentage of budget share is different to the overall average percentage quoted for Norfolk.

The responses received represented c. 52% of all pupils in Norfolk across 184 schools.

At the November Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed to move to 9.11% (from 7.61%) for the calculation of Notional SEN in 2025-26, and for the LA to bring a proposal to allow Forum Members to consider aligning Notional SEN allocations to the DfE recommended approach.

In any consideration of Notional SEN (element 2) funding it is important that it is remembered that it is a notional allocation only and does not change actual budget allocations for schools. Instead, it is an identified amount within a maintained school's delegated budget share, or an academy's general annual grant, that is intended to inform school's spending decisions. It is neither a target nor a constraint on a school's duty to use its 'best endeavours' to secure special provision for its pupils with SEND. Therefore, adjusting the notional budget share in Norfolk may change the expectations of the level of funding that schools would ordinarily provide before access to other funding (e.g. Element 3 top-up funding), where a school was not already spending more than the notional allocation on SEND.

Mainstream schools are expected to²:

² [The notional SEN budget for mainstream schools: operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

- meet the costs of special educational provision for pupils identified as having special educational needs within the definition of ‘SEN Support’ (i.e., those pupils with SEND but who do not have an Education Health and Care Plan) in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice (Children & Families Act 2014); and
- contribute towards the costs of special educational provision for pupils with high needs (some of whom have education, health and care (EHC) plans), up to the high needs cost threshold set by the regulations (currently £6,000 per pupil per annum). This cost threshold is calculated by reference to the additional costs of provision, above the costs of the basic provision for all pupils in the school. High needs top-up funding is provided above this threshold on a per-pupil basis by the LA that commissions or agrees the placement.

It is important to note that the Notional SEN budget is not intended to provide £6,000 for every pupil with SEND, as most pupils’ support will cost less than that, if anything directly at all. It should be taken into consideration that no additional provision may be required if inclusive learning environments, curriculum and high-quality teaching are in place. Nor is the Notional SEN budget intended to provide a specific amount per pupil for those with lower additional support costs, even though the LA may make reasonable assumptions about what those costs might be for the purpose of ensuring that their schools’ Notional SEN budget calculation is realistic.

Therefore, it is necessary for all local authorities to consider how to practically implement an approach to Notional SEN based upon the context of their local arrangements. In Norfolk, historically, this meant that due to a relatively low level of Notional SEN funding set out within the Schools Block, schools have sought access to other funding (namely Element 3) for children and young people with EHCPs and SEN support. In principle, the LA have been of the view that investing in Element 3 is the right approach to support schools to increase inclusivity, but it is also necessary for Notional SEN allocations within the Schools Block to be appropriately set.

The 2024/25 total funding available for mainstream schools in 24/25, as a combination of Notional (Element 2) and Element 3 'top-up' funding, is c.£82m following the investment in Element 3 funding and the initial increase in Notional SEN budget, compared to c.£52m three years ago, when we started the consideration of increasing the Notional SEN level. Given this, along with further increases in the Notional SEN budget to bring Norfolk more into line with neighbouring authorities (local and statistical), it is now appropriate, in the Norfolk context, to expect schools to provide all necessary support for both the SEN Support and EHCP cohorts in mainstream schools through the combined Notional and Element 3 funding package. Within a day-to-day context for individual schools, this means that there will be children and young people whose needs can be met fully or partially through ordinarily available provision, or that their additional needs can be supported, in cash terms, through lower than £6k spend (both for those with EHCPs or who have high SEN support needs). There will, of course, be others with needs that require higher spend to meet them. Therefore, the national guidance must be interpreted within this funding context, i.e. a far greater level of funding available than in previous years in addition to an increase in 'free at the point of delivery' services.

It has always been important to achieve consistency across the county for SEND funding and for access to specialist services, and formula funding, locally and nationally, is the mechanism that aims to achieve this in an objective way. However, in addition to the obvious reasons that consistency should be an aim, there are pragmatic reasons that relate to the allocation of additional funding. We need to be certain, for example with the allocation of Element 3 funding, that schools have access to support where this is necessary to ensure the inclusion of children and young people whilst also ensuring that the High Needs Block is not used incorrectly, where individual school budgets can, and should, be the source of funding.

Our approach to Element 3 funding has evolved through our work with schools and is linked to the concept of Notional SEN funding within national DSG guidance and the SEND Code of Practice. Therefore, with the previous publication of operational guidance for Notional SEN funding in mainstream schools from the DfE, it is right that we continue to reflect further on Norfolk's below national average level of Notional SEN, as well as keeping the methodology for its calculation under review.

The Government have published the High needs funding: 2025 to 2026 operational guide just prior to the publication of this report. In due course, the LA will review the guidance to ensure that Norfolk's approach is in line. If any amendments are made, these will be brought to the attention of a future Forum meeting.

2. Current Notional SEN Methodology

Norfolk's current Notional SEN budget is £47.5m for 2024-25, representing 7.61% of Schools Block funding within the funding formula.

Norfolk uses basic entitlement funding, IDACI deprivation data, low prior attainment and part of schools' lump sums to calculate Notional SEN funding.

The table below summaries Norfolk's 2024-25 Notional SEN budget:

Factor	Total Value of Notional SEN 2024-25
Total BPPE	£7,414,096
Primary IDACI	£5,532,207
Secondary IDACI	£6,141,216
Primary LPA	£12,889,332
Secondary LPA	£12,323,087
Total Lump Sum	£3,235,785
Total Notional SEN 2024/25	£47,535,723
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£624,648,132
Notional SEN as a % of SB funding	7.61%

The proportion of factors currently used to calculate Notional SEN in Norfolk are as follows:

Factor	Factor Unit Values	Notional SEN within factor	% of factor relating to Notional SEN
BPPE (Primary)	£3,503.49	£68.68	1.96%
BPPE (KS3)	£4,939.50	£68.68	1.39%
BPPE (KS4)	£5,568.01	£68.68	1.23%
IDACI Pri band F	£231.14	£225.57	97.59%
IDACI Pri band E	£280.32	£270.69	96.56%
IDACI Pri band D	£437.69	£294.84	67.36%
IDACI Pri band C	£477.03	£294.84	61.81%
IDACI Pri band B	£506.54	£294.84	58.21%
IDACI Pri band A	£668.83	£294.84	44.08%
IDACI Sec band F	£334.41	£327.07	97.80%
IDACI Sec band E	£442.61	£439.86	99.38%
IDACI Sec band D	£619.65	£450.14	72.64%
IDACI Sec band C	£678.67	£450.14	66.33%

IDACI Sec band B	£727.84	£450.14	61.85%
IDACI Sec band A	£929.48	£450.14	48.43%
Primary LPA	£1,150.78	£690.47	60.00%
Secondary LPA	£1,745.84	£1,056.23	60.50%
Pri Lump Sum	£132,192.24	£8,097.90	6.13%
Sec Lump Sum	£132,192.24	£8,097.90	6.13%

Norfolk's current arrangements are based on the historic way that School Specific Allocations were made to mainstream schools prior to the 2013 Funding Reform, with the principles for calculation aligned in the best way possible into the National Funding Formula factors.

Inflation to the Notional SEN budget over the years has not kept pace with the national average, with Norfolk's percentage (7.61%) lagging significantly behind the 2024-25 average nationally of 12% (11.5% nationally in 2023-24).

For 2025-26, Schools Forum, at its November 2024 meeting, agreed to Norfolk's Notional SEN budget to be set at 9.11% of total Schools Block funding. This followed the autumn DSG consultation. At the same meeting, the LA indicated the expectation for Norfolk to move to the 2025-26 national average proportion in 2026-27.

The Forum agreed to reconsider the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN allocations with a view to whether it should be aligned with the DfE recommended approach and asked the LA to bring back a detailed proposal to the next Forum meeting.

3. DfE Recommended Methodology

Information previously shared by the DfE showed that most LAs calculate their schools' Notional SEN budget using a combination of funding from the basic entitlement factor, the deprivation factors, and the low prior attainment factors in the local funding formula. There is currently no national approach to the calculation of schools' Notional SEN budget for pupils with SEND through the National Funding Formula, but the DfE have provided a recommended approach stating that they expect the calculation of the Notional SEN budget to include³:

- a small part of the basic entitlement funding;

³ Para 13, [The Notional SEN budget for mainstream schools: operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/750123mainstream.pdf) (www.gov.uk)

- a larger part of deprivation funding, reflecting the higher prevalence of lower-level SEN amongst disadvantaged pupils, and
- the majority or whole of the low prior attainment factor funding, as this is the best proxy we currently have for pupils with low-cost, high incidence SEND.

Other elements of the funding formula may also be used; for example, a proportion of the lump sum could reflect any fixed costs of making SEND provision that would apply to all local schools or diseconomies of scale relevant to small schools (Norfolk currently takes this approach as part of its Notional SEN methodology).

Formula factors used to allocate Notional SEN nationally were as follows in 2024-25 and 2023-24 (number of authorities shown using each):

Factor	2024-25	2023-24
Basic entitlement	126	122
Deprivation	140	152
English as an additional language	42	43
Prior attainment	150	147
Mobility	37	33
Lump sum	34	31
Sparsity	6	6
Split Sites	4	4
MPPL	16	15
MFG	10	10

Prior Attainment was the factor most commonly contributing to Notional SEN with 150 (almost all) local authorities using it in their 2024-25 formulae. This appears pretty consistent compared to 2023-24.

The majority of local authorities were also assigning a percentage of their basic entitlement and deprivation funding into Notional SEN, though there were a number of authorities who appear to have moved away from utilising deprivation indicators in 2024-25 when compared to 2023-24 (i.e. all LAs had used in 2023-24, but only 140 in 2024-25). This is despite the DfE recommended approach indicating that deprivation should be a key element for the Notional SEN formula.

The previous DfE guidance stated that they expected the majority or whole of the low prior attainment factor funding to be used within the Notional SEN calculation, seeing this as being the best proxy currently available given the correlation with pupils with low-cost, high-incidence SEND.

4. Norfolk Comparison to Nationally Recommended Approach

When comparing Norfolk's method for calculating Notional SEN allocations vs the methodology recommended by the DfE, it has been identified that Norfolk's Notional SEN formula still uses a low percentage weighting of the Low Prior Attainment data for allocation compared to the DfE recommendation.

Review of Notional SEN calculations for 2025-26 should be mindful of previous indications of intentions for the National Funding Formula to become a more direct formula in future years, though an update on this principle is awaited from the new Government. At this stage, it is not clear what this would mean for Notional SEN formulae, but the LA's expectation is that the principles would follow the DfE's current recommendations for calculating Notional SEN.

In the [Notional SEN Technical Paper](#) issued with the autumn DSG consultation, an *illustration* of the 2024-25 Notional SEN uplifted to 9.11% (the level now agreed by Schools Forum for 2025-26) and 11.5% based on the current methodology and some basic alternative methodologies aligned to DfE recommendations. Schools' data from 2024-25 financial year was used in modelling of options because no newer data is currently available to the LA.

There are multiple options for adjusting the methodology whilst still aligning with the DfE recommended approach, depending upon the % factors used for each indicator and, therefore, the final formula would give different outcomes for different schools.

4.1 Neighbouring Authorities Formulae

Prior to considering what options to model for Norfolk, a review of 2024-25 formulae for bordering authorities was undertaken, with the formulae shown in the table below.

The purpose was to consider whether there was any level of consistency that Norfolk may want to mirror, but it is clear that this is not the case. All seem to utilise FSM factors alongside IDACI as indicators of deprivation.

Looking at each formulae compared to the DfE recommended methodology:

- Suffolk's appears closest, though there is no basic entitlement factors used
- Cambridgeshire's has switched around the LPA and deprivation (i.e. the majority of IDACI factors are used, though only a minimal amount of FSM / FSM6, and a smaller proportion of LPA); no lump sum is utilised
- Lincolnshire's approach is different for primary and secondary, with IDACI more important than LPA for secondary but visa versa for primary.

	Suffolk	Cambridgeshire	Lincolnshire
% of Schools Block	11.55%	9.09%	10.97%
Factor	% of factor relating to Notional SEN		
BPPE (Primary)		6.00%	4.72%
BPPE (KS3)		6.00%	4.59%
BPPE (KS4)		6.00%	4.63%
FSM Pri	50.00%	10.00%	14.94%
FSM Sec	50.00%	10.00%	18.68%
FSM Ever 6 Pri	50.00%	10.00%	11.47%
FSM Ever 6 Sec	50.00%	10.00%	14.35%
IDACI Pri band F	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Pri band E	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Pri band D	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Pri band C	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Pri band B	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Pri band A	50.00%	75.00%	61.14%
IDACI Sec band F	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
IDACI Sec band E	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
IDACI Sec band D	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
IDACI Sec band C	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
IDACI Sec band B	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
IDACI Sec band A	50.00%	75.00%	71.06%
Primary LPA	100.00%	45.00%	70.47%
Secondary LPA	100.00%	45.00%	59.26%
Pri Lump Sum	7.44%		8.35%
Sec Lump Sum	7.44%		5.00%

For other work within LFI, Norfolk's good performing statutory neighbours data has been considered and utilised as comparisons. In particular, Cumbria (now split into two LAs: Cumberland and Westmoreland & Furness) and Cornwall. The table below shows their formulae.

These both seem to align with the principles of the recommended approach, with the exception that the LAs that replaced Cumbria do not utilise any lump sum. Like Suffolk, FSM and FSM6 factors are given equal weighting as IDACI.

	Cornwall	Westmoreland and Furness	Cumberland
% of Schools Block	12.03%	12.40%	14.53%
Factor	% of factor relating to Notional SEN		
BPPE (Primary)	3.00%	5.00%	5.00%
BPPE (KS3)	2.10%	5.00%	5.00%
BPPE (KS4)	2.10%	5.00%	5.00%
FSM Pri	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
FSM Sec	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
FSM Ever 6 Pri	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
FSM Ever 6 Sec	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band F	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band E	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band D	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band C	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band B	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Pri band A	42.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band F	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band E	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band D	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band C	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band B	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
IDACI Sec band A	34.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Primary LPA	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Secondary LPA	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Pri Lump Sum	2.10%		
Sec Lump Sum	1.00%		

4.2 Future Considerations

With the exception of Cambridgeshire, also a Safety Valve authority, the other LAs shown have Notional SEN budgets set at a higher proportion of overall budget share in 2024-25 than Norfolk will have in 2025-26. The higher the proportion of overall budget share, the higher the proportions of the key factors used will need to be overall.

When considering the options for Norfolk, it may be helpful to consider what the formula may need to look like for 2026-27, when Norfolk would expect to align closer to the national average, to consider whether the 2025-26 methodology could be a ‘stepping-stone’ towards this point.

For example, *as an illustration*, if Norfolk was to have a Notional SEN budget of 12% of total budget share and a methodology that fitted with the DfE recommended approach, then it could look like this:

Factor	% of factor relating to Notional SEN	Proportion of calculated Notional SEN
Basic Entitlement	2.00%	12.13%
Deprivation (IDACI, FSM and FSM6)	40.00%	28.47%
LPA	98.80%	55.17%
Lump Sum	6.00%	4.23%
		100%

4.3 Modelled Options for Norfolk

Taking into account the feedback received and the review of neighbouring authorities (both physical neighbours and good performing statistical neighbours), some alternative methodologies for distribution of Notional SEN based on 9.11% are provided below. All are intended to align with the DfE’s recommendations.

Option 1 was the option that was included in the DSG consultation technical paper. It should be noted that this option did not include neither Free School Meal factors within deprivation indicators nor any part of the lump sum.

Option 2 is similar to option 1, but with FSM and FSM6 used as deprivation factors alongside IDACI (roughly the same proportion on deprivation but spread across all factors), alongside the use of the lump sum factor.

Option 3 provides a greater overall weighting from deprivation with a corresponding reduction in low prior attainment. The weightings attempt to approximate the weightings within the two factors of the illustration shown in section 4.2 above of what the formulae methodology could look like for a Notional SEN budget of 12% of budget share.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Factor	% of factor relating to Notional SEN		
Basic Entitlement	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Deprivation (FSM)	0.00%	10.00%	27.50%
Deprivation (FSM6)	0.00%	10.00%	27.50%
Deprivation (IDACI)	37.90%	10.00%	27.50%
Low Prior Attainment	100.00%	93.90%	71.60%
Lump Sum	0.00%	6.00%	6.00%
	Proportion of calculated Notional SEN		
Basic Entitlement	15.98%	15.98%	15.98%
Deprivation	10.46%	9.38%	25.79%
LPA	73.56%	69.07%	52.66%
Lump Sum	0.00%	5.57%	5.57%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

4.4 Analysis of Modelled Options

An updated technical paper showing the status quo, plus 3 alternative options (as per table above) is provided in **appendix A**. It is important to note that the modelling has been completed using 2024-25 budget shares and census data, as this is the latest information available to the local authority.

Reviewing the technical papers show that for some schools, there is a significant difference between the illustrative Notional SEN allocation depending upon the methodology chosen, whilst for others there is more minimal difference, i.e.

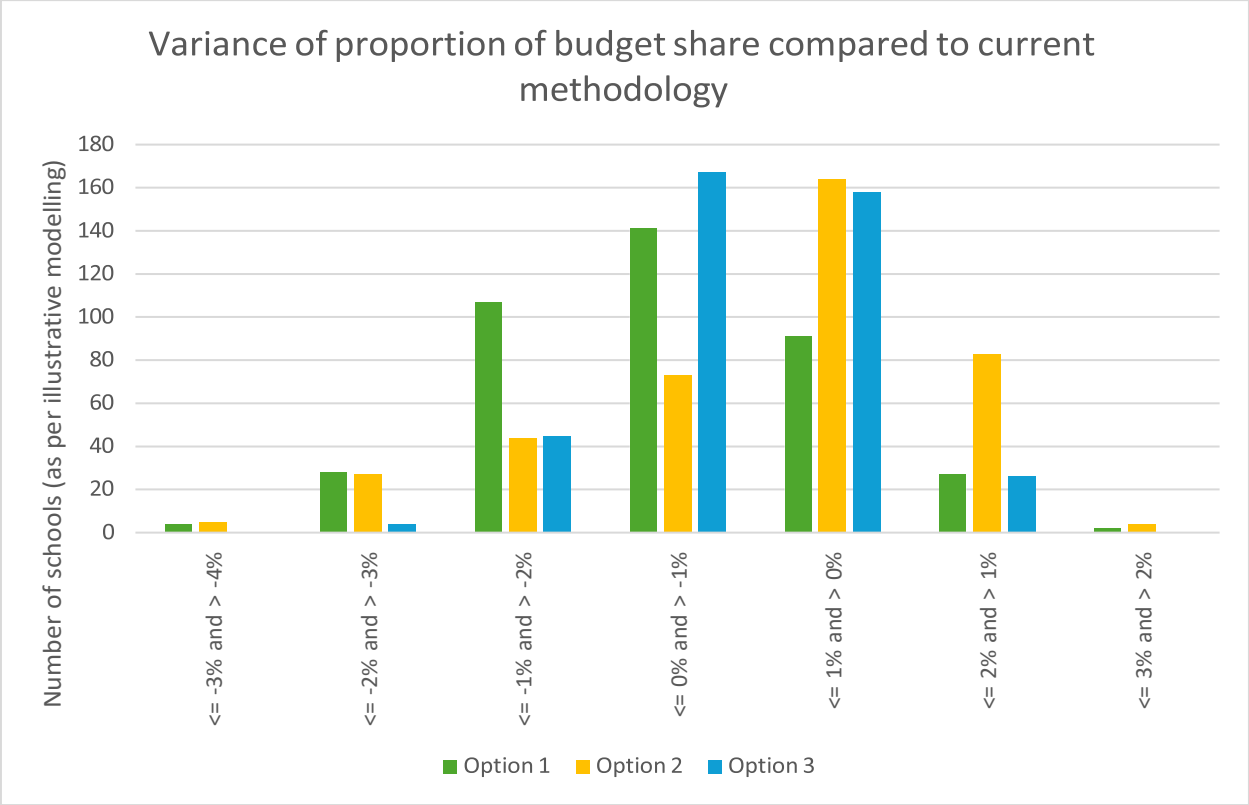
Number of schools (as per illustrative modelling)	Proportion of total budget share identified as Notional SEN
8	Over 3% variance between options
67	Between 2% and 3% variance between options
229	Between 1% and 2% variance between options
96	Less than 1% variance between options

The table below shows level of variance between the modelled options and the modelling of the current methodology of the budget share that is identified as Notional SEN allocations. This shows the option 1 and 2 both have greater spread of variance, i.e. there are a few schools that will see a variation in the proportion of their budget identified as SEN allocations of +/- 3%, as well as significant numbers seeing variances +/-2%).

Option 3 sees the vast majority of schools (92.5%) with variances within +/- 1%, which suggests that change would be more manageable for the whole sector, given that this would be on top of the increase from the average allocation for the whole county. That said, Forum Members should be aware that a small number of schools will see a more significant increase in the proportion of their budget identified (26 schools over 1%) or will see a more significant decrease in the proportion of their budget identified (4 schools over -1%).

Number of schools (as per illustrative modelling)			Variance of proportion of budget share compared to current methodology
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	
4	5		Less than or equal to -3% and greater than -4%
28	27	4	Less than or equal to -2% and greater than -3%
107	44	45	Less than or equal to -1% and greater than -2%
141	73	167	Less than or equal to 0% and greater than -1%
91	164	158	Less than or equal to 1% and greater than 0%
27	83	26	Less than or equal to 2% and greater than 1%
2	4		Less than or equal to 3% and greater than 2%

The spread is illustrated on the graph below:



The table below highlights the key advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternative options, trying to consider the whole system rather than what may be perceived as advantages or disadvantages to any individual school.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple approach that maximises low prior attainment element, which could be viewed as being in line with the guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only uses IDACI as a deprivation indicator, which cover wide geographical areas and may not represent the children on roll, rather than FSM which relates to the actual children on roll • No lump sum factor used, which means that there is not a minimal amount for all schools to reflect any fixed costs of making SEND provision that would apply to all schools • Very heavily weighted to low prior attainment at the expense of deprivation • A significant number of schools (15.3%) would see variances of the proportion of their budget share compared to current methodology of over +/- 2%
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects that FSM / FSM6 may be a more accurate indicator of deprivation for the children on roll rather than the area (IDACI) • Maximises (almost) the low prior attainment element, which could be viewed as being in line with the guidance • Lump sum factor provides for a minimal amount for all schools to reflect any fixed costs of making SEND provision that would apply to all schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very heavily weighted to low prior attainment at the expense of deprivation • A very significant number of schools (29.8%) would see variances of the proportion of their budget share compared to current methodology of over +/- 2%
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to be a more balanced model between the use of deprivation and low prior attainment factors • Would lend itself to amending along similar principles for further increases in the proportion of Norfolk's budget share for Notional SEN • Lump sum factor provides for a minimal amount for all schools to reflect any fixed costs of making SEND provision that would apply to all schools • Only a small number of schools (7.5%) would see variances of the proportion of their budget share compared to current methodology of over +/- 2%, with none over +/-3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be viewed to be meeting the DfE recommendation of '...the majority or whole of the low prior attainment factor funding...'

5. Summary and LA Proposal

Having reviewed the feedback from the consultation, explored the formulae of neighbouring (physical and statistical) authorities and undertaken further modelling, the LA is of the view that it is the right time to move Norfolk away from the legacy formula for Notional SEN towards a formula that fits more closely with the DfE's recommended approach.

In identifying options for consideration, the LA has taken into account:

- Free School Meal factors (FSM / FSM6) as indicators of deprivation are used by all other LAs formulae that have been reviewed, and so have been included in both option 2 and option 3 - they are an indicator of deprivation related to the child on roll rather than the wider area within which they live.
- Lump sums are used in the majority of other formulae reviewed and was a key factor in Norfolk's original formulae to ensure that all schools have a minimal level of Notional SEN identified to reflect any fixed costs of making SEND provision that would apply to all schools. For this reason, a lump sum has been included in all other options in the region of the proportion in Norfolk's current formula.
- Previous engagement has seen differing views expressed as to whether deprivation and / or low prior attainment are appropriate proxy indicators of SEND. The DfE's view is that they are the best proxy indicators that we have at this stage, and that are contained within the formulae, and so the options prepared are based upon this presumption.
- That no formula will ever be perfect, or even good, for all; instead, the intention of this consideration about identifying a 'good enough' approach.

The LA is also aware that there is the potential for unintended consequences by moving locally to any new methodology at the same time as increasing further the amount of Notional SEN. Schools that have high social deprivation indicators and low prior attainment will need to demonstrate using a greater proportion of the overall school budget prior to accessing Element 3 funding within the SEND and inclusion support model. At the same time, some schools may see a reduction in their Notional SEN allocation and may seek increased access to Element 3 funding.

It should also be noted that the final formula will need to be adjusted to fit with the final funding allocations, factor values and pupil data to achieve the agreed 9.11% total Notional SEN budget as a proportion of total budget share. This is regardless of which option is chosen, including if Norfolk remained with the status quo.

Taking all of these considerations into account, the LA proposes that the principles of option 3 are used for Norfolk's 2025-26 Notional SEN formula methodology. This is due to the option aligning with the DfE's recommended approach, has a balance of use of deprivation and low prior attainment factors, appear to minimise the number of schools with significant changes and the extent of the changes, and provides a clear direction of travel for a future methodology as Norfolk continues to head towards the national average.

6. Schools Forum are asked to:

- Consider and recommend to the local authority either (i) the proposal to amend the methodology for the calculation of Notional SEN allocations to the principles of option 3, or (ii) an alternative methodology.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

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Illustration using 2024-25 budgets/data		2024-25 Pupils on Roll	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Notional SEN Current Methodology		2025-26 Notional SEN Alternative Methodology Option 1			2025-26 Notional SEN Alternative Methodology Option 2			2025-26 Notional SEN Alternative Methodology Option 3			2025-26 Notional SEN								
				9.11% of Formula	% of 2024-25 Budget	9.11% of Formula	Estimated Change	% of 2024-25 Budget	9.11% of Formula	Estimated Change	% of 2024-25 Budget	9.11% of Formula	Estimated Change	% of 2024-25 Budget	9.11% of Formula	Estimated Change	% of 2024-25 Budget	Estimated Minimum Allocation	Estimated Maximum Allocation	Difference between Minimum and Maximum as a Percentage of 2024-25 Budget	Difference between Current Methodology and Option 1 as a Percentage of 2024-25 Budget	Difference between Current Methodology and Option 2 as a Percentage of 2024-25 Budget	Difference between Current Methodology and Option 3 as a Percentage of 2024-25 Budget
0021	Acle Church of England Primary Academy	185	921,557	64,127	7.0%	65,385	1,258	7.1%	76,507	12,379	8.3%	76,503	12,375	8.3%	64,127	76,507	1.3%	0.1%	1.3%	1.3%			
0027	Alburgh With Denton Church of England Primary Academy	102	581,993	46,798	8.0%	44,608	-2,190	7.7%	51,446	4,647	8.8%	46,158	-641	7.9%	44,608	51,446	1.2%	-0.4%	0.8%	-0.1%			
0030	Aldborough Primary School	115	636,699	47,287	7.4%	44,285	-3,002	7.0%	51,982	4,695	8.2%	48,667	1,380	7.6%	44,285	51,982	1.2%	-0.5%	0.7%	0.2%			
0036	Alpington and Bergh Apton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	142	671,139	42,172	6.3%	37,385	-4,787	5.6%	43,851	1,679	6.5%	38,590	-3,582	5.7%	37,385	43,851	1.0%	-0.7%	0.3%	-0.5%			
0039	Antingham and Southrepps Primary School	45	389,725	36,517	9.4%	32,058	-4,459	8.2%	38,512	1,995	9.9%	34,270	-2,247	8.8%	32,058	38,512	1.7%	-1.1%	0.5%	-0.6%			
0042	Ashill Voluntary Controlled Primary School	109	615,601	43,798	7.1%	39,253	-4,546	6.4%	46,414	2,616	7.5%	43,398	-400	7.0%	39,253	46,414	1.2%	-0.7%	0.4%	-0.1%			
0045	Ashwick Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	111	615,435	45,951	7.5%	39,736	-6,214	6.5%	46,437	487	7.5%	44,280	-1,671	7.2%	39,736	46,437	1.1%	-1.0%	0.1%	-0.3%			
0048	Aslacton Primary School	75	495,554	31,527	6.4%	25,805	-5,722	5.2%	33,934	2,407	6.8%	32,510	983	6.6%	25,805	33,934	1.6%	-1.2%	0.5%	0.2%			
0051	Rosecroft Primary School	471	2,279,342	176,627	7.7%	205,263	28,636	9.0%	214,697	38,070	9.4%	198,027	21,401	8.7%	176,627	214,697	1.7%	1.3%	1.7%	0.9%			
0054	Attleborough Primary School	382	1,813,602	136,658	7.5%	154,069	17,411	8.5%	162,166	25,509	8.9%	149,240	12,583	8.2%	136,658	162,166	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%			
0060	John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School	143	736,248	56,253	7.7%	55,842	-680	7.6%	63,094	6,571	8.6%	57,720	1,198	7.8%	55,842	63,094	1.0%	-0.1%	0.9%	0.2%			
0063	St Michael's Church of England VA Primary and Nursery School	142	725,722	64,066	8.8%	64,728	662	8.9%	72,061	7,995	9.9%	66,770	2,704	9.2%	64,066	72,061	1.1%	0.1%	1.1%	0.4%			
0066	Bure Valley School	258	1,225,255	103,657	8.5%	110,881	7,225	9.0%	119,948	16,291	9.8%	115,155	11,498	9.4%	103,657	119,948	1.3%	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%			
0079	Bacton Primary School	59	449,304	31,847	7.1%	27,516	-4,331	6.1%	35,825	3,978	8.0%	33,767	1,921	7.5%	27,516	35,825	1.8%	-1.0%	0.9%	0.4%			
0083	Banham Primary School	100	570,218	39,618	6.9%	35,481	-4,138	6.2%	42,865	3,247	7.5%	39,672	54	7.0%	35,481	42,865	1.3%	-0.7%	0.6%	0.0%			
0085	Barford Primary School	89	551,318	31,746	5.8%	25,104	-6,643	4.6%	32,942	1,195	6.0%	31,580	-167	5.7%	25,104	32,942	1.4%	-1.2%	0.2%	0.0%			
0087	Barnham Broom Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	110	642,537	68,010	10.6%	73,394	5,384	11.4%	79,143	11,133	12.3%	68,343	333	10.6%	68,010	79,143	1.7%	0.8%	1.7%	0.1%			
0092	The Bawburgh School	104	569,628	39,766	7.0%	30,770	-8,997	5.4%	38,199	-1,568	6.7%	39,142	-624	6.9%	30,770	39,766	1.6%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-0.1%			
0095	Bawdeswell Community Primary School	85	536,039	32,728	6.1%	27,415	-5,313	5.1%	36,942	4,214	6.9%	37,403	4,675	7.0%	27,415	37,403	1.9%	-1.0%	0.8%	0.9%			
0101	Beeston Primary School	59	426,557	27,147	6.5%	22,147	-5,727	5.2%	29,882	2,008	7.0%	27,443	-431	6.4%	22,147	29,882	1.8%	-1.3%	0.5%	-0.1%			
0104	St Mary's Community Primary School, Beetley	184	916,137	76,978	8.4%	80,713	3,734	8.8%	88,960	11,982	9.7%	83,567	6,588	9.1%	76,978	88,960	1.3%	0.4%	1.3%	0.7%			
0115	Moorlands CofE Primary Academy	264	1,254,794	114,504	9.1%	121,356	6,852	9.7%	126,820	12,317	10.1%	120,902	6,398	9.6%	114,504	126,820	1.0%	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%			
0122	Blakeney Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	29	323,720	28,300	8.7%	23,680	-4,619	7.3%	31,122	2,822	9.6%	27,945	-355	8.6%	23,680	31,122	2.3%	-1.4%	0.9%	-0.1%			
0128	Blofield Primary School	214	1,008,621	67,292	6.7%	68,783	1,491	6.8%	75,552	8,260	7.5%	67,463	172	6.7%	67,292	75,552	0.8%	0.1%	0.8%	0.0%			
0144	Hillside Primary School	213	1,022,735	91,759	9.0%	93,494	1,735	9.1%	96,995	5,236	9.5%	88,367	-3,392	8.6%	88,367	96,995	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	-0.3%			
0147	Homefield VC CofE Primary School	208	986,660	81,346	8.2%	82,660	1,313	8.4%	88,325	6,978	9.0%	81,068	-279	8.2%	81,068	88,325	0.7%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%			
0150	Woodlands Primary Academy	411	1,903,516	155,355	8.2%	147,489	-7,867	7.7%	143,447	-11,909	7.5%	141,368	-13,987	7.4%	141,368	155,355	0.7%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.7%			
0156	Brancastrer CofE Primary Academy	422	387,209	35,522	9.2%	24,705	-10,817	6.4%	30,774	-4,748	7.9%	31,450	-4,072	8.1%	24,705	35,522	2.8%	-2.8%	-1.2%	-1.1%			
0165	Bressingham Primary School	140	691,160	49,152	7.1%	44,657	-4,495	6.5%	51,498	2,345	7.5%	47,663	-1,489	6.9%	44,657	51,498	1.0%	-0.7%	0.3%	-0.2%			
0171	Brisley Church of England Primary Academy	69	463,404	33,353	7.2%	28,242	-5,111	6.1%	35,282	1,929	7.6%	31,655	-1,698	6.8%	28,242	35,282	1.5%	-1.1%	0.4%	-0.4%			
0180	Brooke Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School	139	744,359	79,255	10.6%	87,983	8,728	11.8%	93,605	14,350	12.6%	80,782	1,527	10.9%	79,255	93,605	1.9%	1.2%	1.9%	0.2%			
0186	Brundall Primary School	300	1,413,976	108,694	7.7%	120,891	12,197	8.5%	127,265	18,571	9.0%	113,439	4,746	8.0%	108,694	127,265	1.3%	0.9%	1.3%	0.3%			
0192	Bunwell Primary School	85	488,134	48,188	9.9%	47,809	-378	9.8%	54,286	6,099	11.1%	47,401	-787	9.7%	47,401	54,286	1.4%	-0.1%	1.2%	-0.2%			
0198	Burnham Market Primary School	94	575,925	46,100	8.0%	38,120	-7,980	6.6%	45,578	-522	7.9%	46,336	236	8.0%	38,120	46,336	1.4%	-1.4%	-0.1%	0.0%			
0201	Burston Community Primary School	40	365,230	30,247	8.3%	25,459	-4,788	7.0%	32,862	2,615	9.0%	29,793	-454	8.2%	25,459	32,862	2.0%	-1.3%	0.7%	-0.1%			
0204	Buxton Primary School	198	922,441	66,180	7.2%	67,038	858	7.3%	75,026	8,846	8.1%	69,797	3,617	7.6%	66,180	75,026	1.0%	0.1%	1.0%	0.4%			
0210	Caister Infant With Nursery School	224	1,179,756	149,777	12.7%	145,949	-3,828	12.4%	140,762	-9,015	11.9%	135,083	-14,694	11.5%	135,083	149,777	1.2%	-0.3%	-0.8%	-1.2%			
0216	Caister Junior School	324	1,597,765	145,694	9.1%	124,729	-20,965	7.8%	125,160	-20,534	7.8%	144,309	-1,385	9.0%	124,729	145,694	1.3%	-1.3%	-0.1%	-0.1%			
0224	Cantley Primary School	53	429,308	31,284	7.3%	27,001	-4,283	6.3%	35,703	4,419	8.3%	34,343	3,059	8.0%	27,001	35,703	2.0%	-1.0%	1.0%	0.7%			
0227	St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary Academy & Nursery	194	979,294	100,273	10.2%	96,800	-3,473	9.9%	97,529	-2,745	10.0%	92,751	-7,522	9.5%	92,751	100,273	0.8%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-0.8%			
0230	Carleton Rode Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	57	420,395	38,115	9.1%	35,563	-2,553	8.5%	42,933	4,818	10.2%	38,650	535	9.2%	35,563	42,933	1.8%	-0.6%	1.1%	0.1%			
0233	Castle Acre Church of England Primary Academy	57	444,383	37,282	8.4%	34,024	-3,258	7.7%	41,710	4,429	9.4%	38,747	1,465	8.7%	34,024	41,710	1.7%	-0.7%	1.0%	0.3%			
0236	Causton Church of England Primary Academy	74	520,575	43,618	8.4%	36,984	-6,635	7.1%	43,687	68	8.4%	43,577	-42	8.4%	36,984	43,687	1.3%	-1.3%	0.0%	0.0%			
0239	Catfield Voluntary Controlled CofE Primary School	69	502,830	38,808	7.7%	29,971	-8,837	6.0%	37,611	-1,197	7.5%	38,938	130	7.7%	29,971	38,938	1.8%	-1.8%	-0.2%	0.0%			
0242	Cawston Church of England Primary Academy	138	721,389	51,654	7.2%	50,143	-1,512	7.0%	60,330	8,676	8.4%	60,226	8,572	8.3%	50,143	60,330	1.4%	-0.2%	1.2%	1.2%			
0248	Clenchwarton Primary School	193	915,018	83,209	9.1%	76,855	-6,354	8.4%	79,959	-3,250	8.7%	74,873	-8,337	8.2%	74,873	83,209	0.9%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.9%			
0257	Colby Primary School	140	717,147	61,096	8.5%	56,929	-4,167	7.9%	61,955	859	8.6%	56,332	-4,764	7.9%	56,332	61,955	0.8%	-0.6%	0.1%	-0.7%			
0260	Colkirk Church of England Primary Academy	63	454,818	32,793	7.2%	28,049	-4,745	6.2%	36,447	3,653	8.0%	34,940	2,146	7.7%	28,049	36,447	1.8%	-1.0%	0.8%	0.5%			
0271	Coltishall Primary School	198	933,988	61,739	6.6%	61,166	-573	6.5%	69,240	7,501	7.4%	64,750	3,011	6.9%	61,166	69,240	0.9%	-0.1%	0.8%	0.3%			
0274	Corpus Primary School	27	307,995	20,484	6.7%	13,473	-7,011	4.4%	21,858	1,374	7.1%	21,304	821	6.9%	13,473	21,858	2.7%	-2.3%	0.4%	0.3%			
0280	Costessey Primary School	536	2,486,559	227,906	9.2%	219,314	-8,592	8.8%	217,813	-10,093	8.8%	228,405	499										

0490	Garboldisham Church of England Primary Academy	73	485,252	36,393	7.5%	33,085	-3,308	6.8%	40,422	4,029	8.3%	36,130	-264	7.4%	33,085	40,422	1.5%	-0.7%	0.8%	-0.1%
0493	Garvestone Community Primary School	69	475,207	35,451	7.5%	31,975	-3,475	6.7%	39,669	4,218	8.3%	36,097	646	7.6%	31,975	39,669	1.6%	-0.7%	0.9%	0.0%
0496	Gayton Church of England Primary Academy	161	799,380	67,022	8.4%	69,051	2,029	8.6%	77,026	10,004	9.6%	71,789	4,767	9.0%	67,022	77,026	1.3%	0.3%	1.3%	0.6%
0499	Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy	51	386,782	30,845	8.0%	23,991	-6,854	6.2%	31,775	930	8.2%	31,451	605	8.1%	23,991	31,775	2.0%	-1.8%	0.2%	0.2%
0505	Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy	47	387,271	29,854	7.7%	23,738	-6,117	6.1%	30,836	982	8.0%	28,706	-1,148	7.4%	23,738	30,836	1.8%	-1.6%	0.3%	-0.3%
0511	Great Dunham Primary School	52	428,176	32,886	7.7%	27,485	-5,400	6.4%	35,195	2,310	8.2%	33,615	729	7.9%	27,485	35,195	1.8%	-1.3%	0.5%	0.2%
0514	Great Ellingham Primary School	178	847,045	59,972	7.1%	59,059	-913	7.0%	65,746	5,774	7.8%	59,303	-670	7.0%	59,059	65,746	0.8%	-0.1%	0.7%	-0.1%
0517	Great Massingham CofE Primary School	64	457,487	36,932	8.1%	32,833	-4,098	7.2%	40,098	3,167	8.8%	36,617	-315	8.0%	32,833	40,098	1.6%	-0.9%	0.7%	-0.1%
0523	All Saints Church of England CEVA Primary School Part of Flourish Federation	167	854,432	70,211	8.2%	70,562	352	8.3%	78,393	8,182	9.2%	74,550	4,339	8.7%	70,211	78,393	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%
0529	Great Witchingham Church of England Primary Academy	70	494,318	42,415	8.6%	41,346	-1,069	8.4%	48,843	6,428	9.9%	43,846	1,430	8.9%	41,346	48,843	1.5%	-0.2%	1.3%	0.3%
0539	Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy	484	2,310,557	232,806	10.1%	196,984	-35,823	8.5%	181,711	-51,095	7.9%	201,531	-31,275	8.7%	181,711	232,806	2.2%	-1.6%	-2.2%	-1.4%
0551	Cobholm Primary Academy	174	1,025,736	131,254	12.8%	106,985	-24,269	10.4%	96,316	-34,938	9.4%	114,044	-17,210	11.1%	96,316	131,254	3.4%	-2.4%	-3.4%	-1.7%
0559	Edward Worledge Ormiston Academy	298	1,643,104	232,596	14.2%	204,254	-28,343	12.4%	181,934	-50,662	11.1%	205,834	-26,762	12.5%	181,934	232,596	3.1%	-1.7%	-3.1%	-1.6%
0581	Great Yarmouth Primary Academy	374	2,143,409	261,090	12.2%	233,863	-27,227	10.9%	201,616	-59,474	9.4%	263,304	2,214	12.3%	201,616	263,304	2.9%	-1.3%	-2.8%	0.1%
0599	Ormiston Herman Academy	354	1,800,761	217,663	12.1%	179,606	-38,058	10.0%	160,493	-57,170	8.9%	187,010	-30,654	10.4%	160,493	217,663	3.2%	-2.1%	-3.2%	-1.7%
0608	North Denes Primary School and Nursery	356	1,961,461	257,202	13.1%	229,322	-27,880	11.7%	201,573	-55,629	10.3%	235,547	-21,654	12.0%	201,573	257,202	2.8%	-1.4%	-2.8%	-1.1%
0614	Northgate Primary School	415	2,282,283	344,834	15.1%	318,557	-26,277	14.0%	286,994	-57,840	12.6%	309,632	-35,203	13.6%	286,994	344,834	2.5%	-1.2%	-2.5%	-1.5%
0635	Peterhouse CofE Primary Academy	405	2,219,714	313,941	14.1%	285,471	-28,470	12.9%	263,062	-50,879	11.9%	299,531	-14,410	13.5%	263,062	313,941	2.3%	-1.3%	-2.3%	-0.6%
0638	St Nicholas Priory CofE VA Primary School	417	2,311,172	252,501	10.9%	200,358	-52,143	8.7%	170,796	-81,705	7.4%	235,577	-16,924	10.2%	170,796	252,501	3.5%	-2.3%	-3.5%	-0.7%
0644	St George's Primary & Nursery School, Great Yarmouth	207	1,307,118	172,111	13.2%	159,414	-12,697	12.2%	142,984	-29,127	10.9%	171,022	-1,089	13.1%	142,984	172,111	2.2%	-1.0%	-2.2%	-0.1%
0651	St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School	201	1,093,248	135,390	12.4%	113,476	-21,914	10.4%	102,878	-32,512	9.4%	110,899	-24,491	10.1%	102,878	135,390	3.0%	-2.0%	-3.0%	-2.2%
0658	Stradbroke Primary Academy	205	1,096,635	136,604	12.5%	114,573	-22,031	10.4%	109,091	-27,513	9.9%	118,368	-18,236	10.8%	109,091	136,604	2.5%	-2.0%	-2.5%	-1.7%
0664	Wroughton Infant Academy	162	910,392	120,408	13.2%	101,825	-18,583	11.2%	94,022	-16,385	10.3%	101,659	-18,748	11.2%	94,022	120,408	2.9%	-2.0%	-2.9%	-2.1%
0671	Wroughton Junior Academy	320	1,735,426	194,249	11.2%	163,326	-30,922	9.4%	156,179	-38,070	9.0%	195,399	1,151	11.3%	156,179	195,399	2.3%	-1.8%	-2.2%	0.1%
0675	Southtown Primary School	194	1,151,863	157,201	13.6%	138,378	-18,823	12.0%	126,370	-30,832	11.0%	143,324	-13,878	12.4%	126,370	157,201	2.7%	-1.6%	-2.7%	-1.2%
0715	Gresham Village School	177	838,185	62,747	7.5%	59,912	-2,835	7.1%	65,946	3,199	7.9%	60,391	-2,356	7.2%	59,912	65,946	0.7%	-0.3%	0.4%	-0.3%
0730	Holly Meadows School	137	713,839	62,152	8.7%	62,225	73	8.7%	68,023	5,871	9.5%	60,538	-1,614	8.5%	60,538	68,023	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	-0.2%
0733	Hainford VC Primary School	73	503,414	40,054	8.0%	37,747	-2,307	7.5%	45,362	5,308	9.0%	41,373	1,320	8.2%	37,747	45,362	1.5%	-0.5%	1.1%	0.3%
0739	Happisburgh CofE VA Primary School	61	449,494	34,277	7.6%	29,948	-4,329	6.7%	37,270	2,993	8.3%	33,780	-497	7.5%	29,948	37,270	1.6%	-1.0%	0.7%	-0.1%
0742	Hapton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	24	302,774	29,318	9.7%	25,534	-3,784	8.4%	33,299	3,981	11.0%	30,235	917	10.0%	25,534	33,299	2.6%	-1.2%	1.3%	0.3%
0745	Harpley CofE VC Primary School	47	411,247	44,521	10.8%	39,517	-5,004	9.6%	44,792	270	10.9%	40,017	-4,504	9.7%	39,517	44,792	1.3%	-1.2%	0.1%	-1.1%
0748	Heacham Infant and Nursery School	72	434,365	31,928	7.4%	26,249	-5,679	6.0%	34,779	2,851	8.0%	34,276	2,349	7.9%	26,249	34,779	2.0%	-1.3%	0.7%	0.5%
0752	Heacham Junior School	101	568,214	44,237	7.8%	41,206	-3,032	7.3%	50,742	6,775	8.9%	51,012	6,775	9.0%	41,206	51,012	1.7%	-0.5%	1.1%	1.2%
0760	Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School	163	778,154	60,762	7.8%	58,099	-2,663	7.5%	63,149	2,387	8.1%	57,048	-3,713	7.3%	57,048	63,149	0.8%	-0.3%	0.3%	-0.5%
0765	Firsides Junior School	357	1,651,812	111,424	6.7%	106,708	-4,717	6.5%	111,441	17	6.7%	113,941	2,517	6.9%	106,708	113,941	0.4%	-0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
0771	Heather Avenue Infant School	116	636,804	54,774	8.6%	45,277	-9,497	7.1%	49,211	-5,563	7.7%	50,874	-3,899	8.0%	45,277	54,774	1.5%	-1.5%	-0.9%	-0.6%
0779	Kinsale Infant School	126	658,931	37,612	5.7%	27,763	-9,848	4.2%	35,211	-2,401	5.3%	37,431	-180	5.7%	27,763	37,612	1.5%	-1.5%	-0.4%	0.0%
0786	Kinsale Junior School	220	1,034,117	61,881	6.0%	48,788	-13,093	4.7%	55,120	-6,761	5.3%	63,130	1,249	6.1%	48,788	63,130	1.4%	-1.3%	0.1%	-0.7%
0798	Hemblington Primary School	141	698,808	51,867	7.4%	50,895	-972	7.3%	58,790	6,923	8.4%	54,267	2,399	7.8%	50,895	58,790	1.1%	-0.1%	1.0%	0.3%
0801	Hempnall Primary School	145	742,500	48,757	6.6%	46,840	-1,918	6.3%	55,626	6,869	7.5%	52,858	4,101	7.1%	46,840	55,626	1.2%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.6%
0804	Hembsy Primary School	146	759,914	68,455	9.0%	57,910	-10,545	7.6%	61,719	-6,786	8.1%	60,243	-8,212	7.9%	57,910	68,455	1.4%	-1.4%	-0.9%	-1.1%
0807	Hethersett, Woodside Primary & Nursery School	416	1,998,656	179,659	9.0%	203,761	24,102	10.2%	204,925	25,266	10.3%	179,499	-160	9.0%	179,499	204,925	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%
0810	Hethersett VC Primary School	269	1,274,882	95,418	7.5%	94,496	-922	7.4%	98,914	3,496	7.8%	93,217	-2,201	7.3%	93,217	98,914	0.4%	-0.1%	0.3%	-0.2%
0816	Hevingham Primary School	93	551,267	40,787	7.4%	36,853	-3,933	6.7%	44,206	3,420	8.0%	40,648	-139	7.4%	36,853	44,206	1.3%	-0.7%	0.6%	0.0%
0819	Hickling CofE VC Infant School	20	273,105	17,247	6.3%	9,161	-8,086	3.4%	16,689	-558	6.1%	15,244	-2,003	5.6%	9,161	17,247	3.0%	-3.0%	-0.2%	-0.7%
0825	Ten Mile Bank Riverside Academy	28	314,665	22,794	7.2%	14,958	-7,837	4.8%	22,449	-345	7.1%	21,330	-1,464	6.8%	14,958	22,794	2.5%	-2.5%	-0.1%	-0.5%
0828	Hilgay Riverside Academy	53	423,512	33,231	7.8%	28,862	-4,369	6.8%	37,119	3,888	8.8%	35,324	2,093	8.3%	28,862	37,119	1.9%	-1.0%	0.9%	0.5%
0834	Hindringham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	24	298,596	24,407	8.2%	18,081	-6,327	6.1%	25,441	1,033	8.5%	23,130	-1,278	7.7%	18,081	25,441	2.5%	-2.1%	0.3%	-0.4%
0837	Hingham Primary School	170	875,262	84,712	9.7%	77,205	-7,507	8.8%	81,634	-3,078	9.3%	80,923	-3,789	9.2%	77,205	84,712	0.9%	-0.9%	-0.4%	-0.4%
0846	Hockering Church of England Primary Academy	39	357,319	28,975	8.1%	24,145	-4,831	6.8%	31,512	2,536	8.8%	28,344	-631	7.9%	24,145	31,512	2.1%	-1.4%	0.7%	-0.2%
0849	Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery	95	559,242	43,917	7.9%	41,431	-2,486	7.4%	48,313	4,396	8.6%	43,389	-527	7.8%	41,431	48,313	1.2%	-0.4%	0.8%	-0.1%
0858	Holt Community Primary School	188	978,729	82,394	8.4%	90,531	8,137	9.2%	101,861	19,467	10.4%	98,816	16,421	10.1%	82,394	101,861	2.0%	0.8%	2.0%	1.7%
0871	Hopton Church of England Primary Academy	180	874,405	73,061	8.4%	73,824	763	8.4%	80,699	7,637	9.2%	75,731	2,669	8.7%	73,061	80,699	0.9%	0.1%	0.9%	0.3%
0878	Horning Community Primary School	27	314,851	23,712	7.5%	24,187	7,239	5.2%	24,187	475	7.7%	23,103	-609	7.3%	16,473	24,187	2.5%	-2.3%	0.2%	-0.2%
0886	Horsford CofE VA Primary School	940	1,650,618	115,672	7.0%	128,992	13,320	7.8%	138,505	22,833	8.4%	129,247	13,575	7.8%	115,672	138,505	1.4%	0.8%	1.4%	0.8%
0892	St Faiths CofE Primary School	310	549,077	43,898	8.0%	41,883	-2,015	7.6%	49,460	5,562	9.0%	45,403	1,505	8.3%	41,883	49,460	1.4%	-0.4%	1.0%	0.3%
0904	St John's Community Primary School and Nursery	211	1,071,272	114,975	10.7%	106,633	-8,343	10.0%	108,126	-6,850	10.1%	105,810	-9,165	9.9%	105,810	114,975	0.9%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.9%
0910	Hunstanton Primary School	167	972,493	123,634	12.7%	119,885	-3,749	12.3%	119,943	-3,691	12.3%	121,999	-1,636	12.5%	119,885	123,634	0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.2%
0913	Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	130	625,378	39,330	6.3%	39,330	-8,390	4.9%	37,430	-1,900	6.0%	35,389	-3,941	5.7%	30,940	39,330	1.3%	-1.3%	-0.3%	-0.6%
0919	Kelling CE Primary School</																			

1188	Northtrepps Primary School	34	302,413	28,968	9.6%	20,157	-8,812	6.7%	27,110	-1,859	9.0%	26,601	-2,368	8.8%	20,157	28,968	2.9%	-2.9%	-0.6%
1195	North Walsham Infant School	168	899,669	106,514	11.8%	108,553	2,039	12.1%	112,586	6,072	12.5%	105,710	-804	11.7%	105,710	112,586	0.8%	0.2%	-0.1%
1197	North Walsham Junior School	285	1,423,494	138,786	9.7%	129,095	-9,691	9.1%	136,539	-2,248	9.6%	147,485	8,699	10.4%	129,095	147,485	1.3%	-0.7%	-0.2%
1207	Millfield Primary School	277	1,391,227	147,499	10.6%	150,802	3,303	10.8%	154,746	7,247	11.1%	150,077	2,578	10.8%	147,499	154,746	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
1220	The Norman Church of England Primary School, Northwold	88	552,802	40,361	7.3%	37,832	-2,529	6.8%	47,005	6,244	8.5%	45,496	5,135	8.2%	37,832	47,005	1.7%	-0.5%	0.9%
1222	North Wootton Academy	326	1,508,287	113,131	7.5%	118,364	5,233	7.8%	121,097	7,966	8.0%	108,642	-4,489	7.2%	108,642	121,097	0.8%	0.3%	-0.3%
1226	Angel Road Infant School	137	817,191	108,877	13.3%	96,854	-12,023	11.9%	93,395	-15,482	11.4%	94,694	-14,183	11.6%	93,395	108,877	1.9%	-1.5%	-1.7%
1231	Angel Road Junior School	216	1,159,979	144,810	12.5%	127,709	-17,101	11.0%	122,134	-22,676	10.5%	130,210	-14,600	11.2%	122,134	144,810	2.0%	-1.5%	-1.3%
1246	Avenue Junior School	476	2,233,528	177,897	8.0%	164,795	-13,102	7.4%	162,685	-15,212	7.3%	168,193	-9,704	7.5%	162,685	177,897	0.7%	-0.6%	-0.4%
1250	Recreation Road Infant School	337	1,594,283	163,994	10.3%	164,061	67	10.3%	158,032	-5,962	9.9%	143,446	-20,548	9.0%	143,446	164,061	1.3%	0.0%	-1.3%
1262	Bigbold Primary School and Nursery	392	1,988,110	220,703	11.1%	214,173	-6,530	10.8%	207,060	-13,643	10.4%	209,335	-11,368	10.5%	207,060	220,703	0.7%	-0.3%	-0.6%
1275	Bluebell Primary School	207	1,215,451	141,210	11.6%	118,511	-22,698	9.8%	115,612	-25,598	9.5%	132,941	-8,268	10.9%	115,612	141,210	2.1%	-1.9%	-0.7%
1280	Clover Hill VA Infant and Nursery School	149	895,064	88,281	9.9%	66,237	-22,044	7.4%	63,463	-24,818	7.1%	71,604	-16,677	8.0%	63,463	88,281	2.8%	-2.5%	-1.9%
1286	Chapel Break Infant School	168	910,682	101,024	11.1%	89,215	-11,809	9.8%	87,730	-13,294	9.6%	85,415	-15,609	9.4%	85,415	101,024	1.7%	-1.3%	-1.7%
1290	St Michael's VA Junior School	392	1,982,765	227,612	11.5%	206,226	-21,385	10.4%	198,761	-28,851	10.0%	216,612	-11,000	10.9%	198,761	227,612	1.5%	-1.1%	-0.6%
1307	Catton Grove Primary School	574	3,036,766	369,688	12.2%	319,923	-49,765	10.5%	286,488	-83,200	9.4%	339,053	-30,635	11.2%	286,488	369,688	2.7%	-1.6%	-1.0%
1315	Edith Cavell Academy and Nursery	208	1,169,964	139,446	11.9%	112,149	-27,297	9.6%	106,709	-32,737	9.1%	132,232	-7,214	11.3%	106,709	139,446	2.8%	-2.3%	-0.6%
1327	Valley Primary Academy	164	1,015,812	148,465	14.6%	138,305	-10,160	13.6%	130,146	-18,320	12.8%	139,859	-8,607	13.8%	130,146	148,465	1.8%	-1.0%	-0.8%
1335	Colman Infant School	158	883,571	94,031	10.6%	83,067	-10,964	9.4%	83,814	-10,217	9.5%	84,126	-9,905	9.5%	83,067	94,031	1.2%	-1.2%	-1.1%
1340	Colman Junior School	236	1,222,195	114,082	9.3%	95,544	-18,539	7.8%	98,056	-16,026	8.0%	109,941	-4,141	9.0%	95,544	114,082	1.5%	-1.5%	-0.3%
1353	Mile Cross Primary School	420	2,372,935	316,808	13.4%	284,145	-32,662	12.0%	248,085	-68,723	10.5%	279,488	-37,320	11.8%	248,085	316,808	2.9%	-1.4%	-1.6%
1367	Eaton Primary School	403	1,866,984	160,695	8.6%	156,502	-4,193	8.4%	150,586	-10,109	8.1%	141,493	-19,202	7.6%	141,493	160,695	1.0%	-0.2%	-1.0%
1370	George White Junior School	277	1,432,870	177,182	12.4%	164,658	-12,523	11.5%	158,795	-18,387	11.1%	165,601	-11,581	11.5%	158,795	177,182	1.3%	-0.9%	-0.8%
1392	Heartsease Primary Academy	379	1,976,766	246,575	12.5%	212,995	-33,580	10.8%	195,868	-50,706	9.9%	215,055	-31,519	10.9%	195,868	246,575	2.6%	-1.7%	-1.6%
1413	Lakenham Primary School	394	2,161,892	258,586	12.0%	249,146	-9,441	11.5%	235,021	-23,566	10.9%	245,795	-12,791	11.4%	235,021	258,586	1.1%	-0.4%	-0.6%
1426	Norwich Primary Academy	320	1,946,822	241,065	12.4%	221,388	-19,676	11.4%	201,519	-39,545	10.4%	234,875	-6,189	12.1%	201,519	241,065	2.0%	-1.0%	-0.3%
1431	Magdalen Gates Primary School and Nursery	205	1,124,907	138,185	12.3%	125,295	-12,890	11.1%	120,226	-17,959	10.7%	121,756	-16,429	10.8%	120,226	138,185	1.6%	-1.1%	-1.5%
1443	Mousehold Infant & Nursery School	210	1,097,168	125,018	11.4%	112,551	-12,467	10.3%	108,516	-16,502	9.9%	108,454	-16,564	9.9%	108,454	125,018	1.5%	-1.1%	-1.5%
1450	Nelson Infant School	129	788,566	95,508	12.1%	82,714	-12,794	10.5%	84,322	-11,186	10.7%	90,049	-5,459	11.4%	82,714	95,508	1.6%	-1.6%	-0.7%
1466	Henderson Green Primary School	185	1,113,592	151,364	13.6%	133,548	-17,817	12.0%	123,996	-27,368	11.1%	141,302	-10,062	12.7%	123,996	151,364	2.5%	-1.6%	-0.9%
1475	Tuckswood Academy and Nursery	235	1,293,798	176,884	13.7%	150,426	-26,458	11.6%	139,561	-37,323	10.8%	157,239	-19,645	12.2%	139,561	176,884	2.9%	-2.0%	-1.5%
1487	St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	431	2,053,933	269,869	13.1%	277,369	7,500	13.5%	256,289	-13,580	12.5%	230,841	-39,029	11.2%	230,841	277,369	2.3%	0.4%	-1.9%
1499	Lionwood Junior School	259	1,413,259	150,232	10.6%	141,126	-9,106	10.0%	141,258	-7,974	10.1%	152,944	2,712	10.8%	141,126	152,944	0.8%	-0.6%	0.2%
1502	Lionwood Infant and Nursery School	171	915,927	89,162	9.7%	81,356	-7,806	8.9%	83,364	-5,798	9.1%	82,787	-6,375	9.0%	81,356	89,162	0.9%	-0.9%	-0.7%
1517	Wensum Junior School	180	1,017,957	123,528	12.1%	106,649	-16,879	10.5%	106,331	-17,197	10.4%	117,115	-6,413	11.5%	106,331	123,528	1.7%	-1.7%	-0.6%
1525	West Earlham Infant and Nursery School	179	1,164,686	174,540	15.0%	166,699	-7,841	14.3%	153,401	-21,139	13.2%	158,087	-16,453	13.6%	153,401	174,540	1.8%	-0.7%	-1.4%
1530	West Earlham Junior School	241	1,400,416	197,181	14.1%	177,134	-20,047	12.6%	162,081	-35,100	11.6%	182,216	-14,965	13.0%	162,081	197,181	2.5%	-1.4%	-1.1%
1580	Old Buckenham Primary School and Nursery	191	897,885	64,425	7.2%	64,425	144	7.2%	72,252	7,970	8.0%	67,435	3,153	7.5%	64,282	72,252	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
1583	Garrick Green Infant School	132	686,444	60,483	8.8%	53,527	-6,956	7.8%	58,503	-1,979	8.5%	56,367	-4,116	8.2%	53,527	60,483	1.0%	-1.0%	-0.6%
1587	Lodge Lane Infant School	165	803,680	66,752	8.3%	69,544	2,792	8.7%	75,636	8,883	9.4%	66,683	-69	8.3%	66,683	75,636	1.1%	0.3%	1.1%
1591	Old Catton CofE VC Junior School	193	950,209	72,125	7.6%	63,936	-8,189	6.7%	70,179	-1,945	7.4%	71,777	-348	7.6%	63,936	72,125	0.9%	-0.9%	0.0%
1608	Ormesby Village Infant School	99	555,072	47,848	8.6%	43,463	-4,385	7.8%	49,204	1,357	8.9%	44,582	-3,265	8.0%	43,463	49,204	1.0%	-0.8%	0.2%
1611	Ormesby Village Junior School	116	631,547	47,050	7.4%	41,961	-5,089	6.6%	50,290	3,240	8.0%	50,221	3,171	8.0%	41,961	50,290	1.3%	-0.8%	0.5%
1616	Overstrand, the Belfry, Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	139	720,490	76,781	10.7%	67,201	-9,580	9.3%	69,403	-7,378	9.6%	65,612	-11,168	9.1%	65,612	76,781	1.6%	-1.3%	-1.0%
1622	Poringland Primary School	422	1,992,012	139,117	7.0%	156,271	17,154	7.8%	162,493	23,376	8.2%	145,809	6,692	7.3%	139,117	162,493	1.2%	0.9%	0.3%
1631	Pulham Church of England Primary School	122	705,620	67,707	9.6%	71,578	3,871	10.1%	79,134	11,427	11.2%	72,468	4,761	10.3%	67,707	79,134	1.6%	0.5%	0.7%
1637	Rackheath Primary School	210	1,022,284	74,059	7.2%	77,556	3,497	7.6%	86,130	12,072	8.4%	80,622	6,563	7.9%	74,059	86,130	1.2%	0.3%	0.6%
1650	Reedham Primary School	69	515,892	45,889	8.9%	46,081	192	8.9%	54,460	8,571	10.6%	50,448	4,560	9.8%	45,889	54,460	1.7%	0.0%	0.9%
1653	Reepham Primary School	210	972,192	73,833	7.6%	78,059	4,226	8.0%	85,476	11,644	8.8%	77,213	3,380	7.9%	73,833	85,476	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%
1661	Rocklands Community Primary School	69	479,972	36,225	7.5%	32,706	-3,519	6.8%	39,935	3,710	8.3%	35,780	-445	7.5%	32,706	39,935	1.5%	-0.7%	0.8%
1664	Rockland St Mary Primary School	50	364,849	24,328	6.7%	17,725	-6,604	4.9%	25,304	976	6.9%	23,035	-1,294	6.3%	17,725	25,304	2.1%	-1.8%	-0.4%
1667	Rollesby Primary School	111	615,673	52,593	8.5%	50,712	-1,880	8.2%	56,825	4,232	9.2%	50,936	-1,657	8.3%	50,712	56,825	1.0%	-0.3%	0.7%
1672	St. Mary's (Endowed) CofE VA Primary School	82	537,515	34,412	6.4%	27,536	-6,876	5.1%	37,217	2,804	6.9%	39,564	5,152	7.4%	27,536	34,412	2.2%	-1.3%	1.0%
1675	Roydon Primary School	255	1,266,270	108,136	8.5%	111,557	3,420	8.8%	116,625	8,489	9.2%	108,734	598	8.6%	108,136	116,625	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%
1678	Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	48	390,510	34,239	8.8%	28,355	-5,885	7.3%	36,769	2,530	9.4%	36,863	2,623	9.4%	28,355	36,863	2.2%	-1.5%	0.6%
1681	Parker's Church of England Primary Academy	87	529,733	47,633	9.0%	45,270	-2,364	8.5%	51,634	4,001	9.7%	46,694	-939	8.8%	45,270	51,634	1.2%	-0.8%	0.8%
1687	Salhouse CofE Primary School	140	705,570	55,937	7.9%	56,451	514	8.0%	62,704	6,767	8.9%	54,682	-1,256	7.7%	54,682	62,704	1.1%	0.1%	-0.2%
1690	Sandringham and West Newton Church of England Primary Academy	80	511,797	31,805	6.2%	24,556	-7,249	4.8%	32,338	534	6.3%	31,721	-83	6.2%	24,556	32,338	1.5%	-1.4%	0.1%
1693	Saxlingham Nethergate CofE VC Primary School	64	431,272	40,907	9.5%	39,270	-1,638	9.1%	45,417	4,509	10.5%	38,609	-2,299	9.0%	38,609	45,417	1.6%	-0.4%	-0.5%
1696	Scarning Voluntary Controlled Primary School	405	1,919,274	147,821	7.7%	162,262	14,441	8.5%	170,922	23,101	8.9%	162,541	14,720	8.5%	147,821	170,922	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%
1700	Scale Church of England Primary Academy	48	402,118	31,319	7.8%	26,804	-4,515												

1967	Admirals Academy	228	1,099,294	91,839	8.4%	92,501	662	8.4%	99,542	7,703	9.1%	97,033	5,194	8.8%	91,839	99,542	0.7%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%
1972	Redcastle Family School	224	1,196,366	115,339	9.6%	92,534	-22,805	7.7%	95,499	-19,840	8.0%	113,285	-2,054	9.5%	92,534	115,339	1.9%	-1.9%	-1.7%	-0.2%
1985	Thompson Primary School	87	522,344	32,162	6.2%	22,748	-9,413	4.4%	29,706	-2,456	5.7%	30,091	-2,071	5.8%	22,748	32,162	1.8%	-1.8%	-0.5%	-0.4%
1992	Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery School, Thorpe	358	1,659,545	96,242	5.8%	94,526	-1,716	5.7%	99,463	3,221	6.0%	94,073	-2,170	5.7%	94,073	99,463	0.3%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%
1995	Dussindale Primary School	345	1,602,021	103,064	6.4%	107,909	4,845	6.7%	114,620	11,557	7.2%	106,251	3,187	6.6%	103,064	114,620	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%
2001	St William's Primary School	414	1,940,284	161,246	8.3%	163,072	1,825	8.4%	160,697	-550	8.3%	149,879	-11,368	7.7%	149,879	163,072	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.6%
2010	Thurilton Primary School	63	429,573	20,834	4.9%	12,470	-8,364	2.9%	20,812	-22	4.8%	20,594	-240	4.8%	12,470	20,834	1.9%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
2013	Thurton Primary School	103	600,741	48,985	8.2%	47,522	-1,463	7.9%	53,800	4,815	9.0%	47,201	-1,784	7.9%	47,201	53,800	1.1%	-0.2%	0.8%	-0.3%
2019	Tilney All Saints CofE Primary School	85	546,992	45,685	8.4%	31,443	-14,242	5.7%	37,335	-8,350	6.8%	41,047	-4,638	7.5%	31,443	45,685	2.6%	-2.6%	-1.5%	-0.8%
2020	The Free School Norwich	185	975,732	94,156	9.6%	79,113	-15,043	8.1%	78,012	-16,144	8.0%	80,172	-13,984	8.2%	78,012	94,156	1.7%	-1.5%	-1.7%	-1.4%
2022	Tilney St Lawrence Community Primary School	89	538,214	56,385	10.5%	47,017	-9,368	8.7%	52,540	-3,845	9.8%	52,626	-3,759	9.8%	47,017	56,385	1.7%	-1.7%	-0.7%	-0.7%
2025	Tivetshall Community Primary School	27	315,544	21,427	6.8%	14,298	-7,129	4.5%	22,772	1,345	7.2%	22,606	1,179	7.2%	14,298	22,772	2.7%	-2.3%	0.4%	0.4%
2028	Glebeland Community Primary School	45	378,109	30,280	8.0%	30,700	-4,580	6.8%	32,957	2,678	8.7%	29,355	-925	7.8%	25,700	32,957	1.9%	-1.2%	0.7%	-0.2%
2031	Trowse Primary School	181	918,168	76,291	8.3%	71,678	-4,613	7.8%	76,429	138	8.3%	74,958	-1,333	8.2%	71,678	76,429	0.5%	-0.5%	0.0%	-0.1%
2034	Tunstead Primary School	83	544,861	48,135	8.8%	46,362	-1,773	8.5%	52,535	4,400	9.6%	46,330	-1,805	8.5%	46,330	52,535	1.1%	-0.3%	0.8%	-0.3%
2040	Upwell Academy	211	1,061,389	106,310	10.0%	101,263	-5,047	9.5%	106,590	281	10.0%	107,081	771	10.1%	101,263	107,081	0.5%	-0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
2043	Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	49	394,069	31,136	7.9%	17,370	-13,766	4.4%	22,990	-8,146	5.8%	24,793	-6,343	6.3%	17,370	31,136	3.5%	-3.5%	-2.1%	-1.6%
2046	Walpole Highway Primary School	49	424,962	45,203	10.6%	36,698	-8,505	8.6%	42,271	-2,932	9.9%	41,109	-4,094	9.7%	36,698	45,203	2.0%	-2.0%	-0.7%	-1.0%
2052	Anthony Curton CofE Primary School	197	946,849	102,557	10.8%	80,634	-21,923	8.5%	77,425	-25,132	8.2%	77,522	-25,035	8.2%	77,425	102,557	2.7%	-2.3%	-2.7%	-2.6%
2054	Walsingham CE VA Primary School	34	350,723	23,225	6.6%	16,618	-6,607	4.7%	25,800	2,575	7.4%	26,531	3,306	7.6%	16,618	26,531	2.8%	-1.9%	0.7%	0.9%
2056	Watlington Community Primary School	170	870,275	75,709	8.7%	80,943	5,234	9.3%	89,707	13,998	10.3%	84,380	8,671	9.7%	75,709	89,707	1.6%	0.6%	1.6%	1.0%
2061	Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School	241	1,254,400	135,981	10.8%	140,031	4,050	11.2%	141,675	5,693	11.3%	135,054	-927	10.8%	135,054	141,675	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	-0.1%
2067	Watton Junior School	284	1,421,626	131,686	9.3%	131,872	185	9.3%	139,393	7,707	9.8%	144,464	12,777	10.2%	131,686	144,464	0.9%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%
2076	Weeting Church of England Primary School	93	579,135	44,353	7.7%	41,727	-2,626	7.2%	50,559	6,206	8.7%	49,232	4,879	8.5%	41,727	50,559	1.5%	-0.5%	1.1%	0.8%
2079	Wells-Next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery School	189	932,050	72,452	7.8%	75,572	3,310	8.1%	85,435	13,173	9.2%	82,460	10,198	8.8%	72,452	85,435	1.4%	0.4%	1.4%	1.1%
2100	West Lynn Primary School	157	830,582	92,102	11.1%	76,517	-15,585	9.2%	77,739	-14,363	9.4%	79,771	-12,331	9.6%	76,517	92,102	1.9%	-1.9%	-1.7%	-1.5%
2112	West Walton Community Primary School	213	1,055,974	110,574	10.5%	92,995	-17,579	8.8%	92,465	-18,109	8.8%	96,126	-14,448	9.1%	92,465	110,574	1.7%	-1.7%	-1.7%	-1.4%
2118	West Winch Primary School	218	1,023,069	57,937	5.7%	51,148	-6,789	5.0%	59,752	1,815	5.8%	60,471	2,534	5.9%	51,148	60,471	0.9%	-0.7%	0.2%	0.2%
2126	Charles Darwin Primary School	406	1,969,613	174,063	8.8%	154,170	-19,893	7.8%	148,828	-25,236	7.6%	155,549	-18,515	7.9%	148,828	174,063	1.3%	-1.0%	-1.3%	-0.9%
2130	Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery	186	878,134	75,903	8.6%	76,822	919	8.7%	81,346	5,442	9.3%	71,617	-4,286	8.2%	71,617	81,346	1.1%	0.1%	0.6%	-0.5%
2133	St Germans Academy	98	590,480	45,449	7.7%	41,820	-3,630	7.1%	48,919	3,470	8.3%	45,505	55	7.7%	41,820	48,919	1.2%	-0.6%	0.6%	0.0%
2136	Magdalen Academy	39	365,576	23,148	6.3%	16,035	-7,112	4.4%	23,914	766	6.5%	22,671	-476	6.2%	16,035	23,914	2.2%	-1.9%	0.2%	-0.1%
2139	Wimbotsam and Stow Academy	102	587,552	50,089	8.5%	42,170	-7,920	7.2%	46,829	-3,261	8.0%	43,020	-7,069	7.3%	42,170	50,089	1.3%	-1.3%	-0.6%	-1.2%
2142	All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Winfarthing	31	321,150	20,282	6.3%	12,587	-7,695	3.9%	20,667	385	6.4%	20,043	-239	6.2%	12,587	20,667	2.5%	-2.4%	0.1%	-0.1%
2145	Winterton Primary School and Nursery	61	417,563	38,011	9.1%	34,192	-3,819	8.2%	42,092	4,081	10.1%	40,012	2,001	9.6%	34,192	42,092	1.9%	-0.9%	1.0%	0.5%
2148	Woodton Primary School	58	444,743	34,030	7.7%	29,287	-4,742	6.6%	37,034	3,005	8.3%	34,666	637	7.8%	29,287	37,034	1.7%	-1.1%	0.7%	0.1%
2154	Worstead Church of England Primary School	108	588,719	45,577	7.7%	43,515	-2,062	7.4%	49,884	4,306	8.5%	43,366	-2,212	7.4%	43,366	49,884	1.1%	-0.4%	0.7%	-0.4%
2157	Wreningham VC Primary School	110	597,735	45,390	7.6%	41,927	-3,463	7.0%	48,328	2,939	8.1%	42,981	-2,408	7.2%	41,927	48,328	1.1%	-0.6%	0.5%	-0.4%
2169	Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery, Wymondham	439	2,097,518	133,442	6.4%	142,910	9,468	6.8%	149,556	16,114	7.1%	138,857	5,415	6.6%	133,442	149,556	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	0.3%
2180	Browick Road Primary and Nursery School	213	1,038,955	93,718	9.0%	92,896	-822	8.9%	97,141	3,423	9.3%	90,289	-3,429	8.7%	90,289	97,141	0.7%	-0.1%	0.3%	-0.3%
2185	Robert Kett Primary School	561	2,597,986	206,825	8.0%	221,698	14,873	8.5%	227,429	20,604	8.8%	218,353	11,528	8.4%	206,825	227,429	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%
2194	Spooner Row Primary School	103	563,861	32,631	5.8%	23,399	-9,232	4.1%	30,874	-1,757	5.5%	30,645	-1,986	5.4%	23,399	32,631	1.6%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-0.4%
2195	Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School	113	700,782	89,055	12.7%	80,478	-8,577	11.5%	81,687	-7,368	11.7%	82,794	-6,261	11.8%	80,478	89,055	1.2%	-1.2%	-0.9%	-0.9%
2199	St. Clements Hill Primary Academy	281	1,373,854	141,368	10.3%	136,384	-4,984	9.9%	134,187	-7,181	9.8%	129,892	-11,476	9.5%	129,892	141,368	0.8%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.8%
2210	Yaxham Church of England Primary Academy	72	458,096	35,601	7.8%	31,334	-4,267	6.8%	40,178	4,576	8.8%	39,243	3,642	8.6%	31,334	40,178	1.9%	-0.9%	1.0%	0.8%
2250	Acle Academy	616	3,882,334	288,494	7.4%	362,671	74,178	9.3%	374,685	86,192	9.7%	353,869	65,375	9.1%	288,494	374,685	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%
2255	Attleborough Academy	792	5,038,798	432,182	8.6%	542,344	110,162	10.8%	543,487	111,305	10.8%	493,216	61,034	9.8%	432,182	543,487	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	1.2%
2260	Aylsham High School	1,133	6,912,200	497,849	7.2%	598,376	100,527	8.7%	597,828	99,979	8.6%	562,980	65,131	8.1%	497,849	598,376	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	0.9%
2265	Caister Academy	680	4,802,276	538,623	11.2%	515,937	-22,686	10.7%	464,709	-73,914	9.7%	518,476	-20,147	10.8%	464,709	538,623	1.5%	-0.5%	-1.5%	-0.4%
2268	Cringeford Prep School	18	152,864	13,039	8.5%	7,708	-5,331	5.0%	11,913	-1,126	7.8%	11,954	-1,085	7.8%	7,708	13,039	3.5%	-3.5%	-0.7%	-0.7%
2270	Ormiston Victory Academy	1,246	8,180,124	784,332	9.6%	789,604	5,272	9.7%	734,116	-50,216	9.0%	767,216	-17,116	9.4%	734,116	789,604	0.7%	0.1%	-0.6%	-0.2%
2275	Cromer Academy	671	4,401,443	441,137	10.0%	474,144	33,007	10.8%	458,705	17,568	10.4%	444,498	3,362	10.1%	441,137	474,144	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.1%
2289	Diss High School	796	5,011,368	382,577	7.6%	451,800	69,223	9.0%	455,880	73,304	9.1%	437,416	54,839	8.7%	382,577	455,880	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.1%
2300	Downham Market Academy	1,197	7,608,084	693,827	9.1%	719,202	25,375	9.5%	693,562	-265	9.1%	704,831	11,005	9.3%	693,562	719,202	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
2309	Dereham Neatherd High School	1,171	7,150,041	484,015	6.8%	577,955	93,940	8.1%	580,931	96,916	8.1%	557,000	72,986	7.8%	484,015	580,931	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%
2315	Northgate High School	863	5,492,124	418,412	7.6%	497,384	78,972	9.1%	505,050	86,638	9.2%	490,778	72,366	8.9%	418,412	505,050	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.3%
2320	Fakenham Academy	660	4,281,000	385,931	9.0%	456,267	70,337	10.7%	456,733	70,803	10.7%	430,695	44,764	10.1%	385,931	456,733	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.0%
2330	Framingham Earl High School	798	4,818,175	314,684	6.5%	383,789	69,106	8.0%	385,596	70,913	8.0%	359,546	44,863	7.5%	314,684	385,596	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	0.9%
2345	Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	822	5,775,572	668,238	11.6%	628,679	-39,559	10.9%	668,802	-101,435	9.8%	632,925	-35,313	11.0%	668,238	668,238	1.			

I – Information & Discussion D- Decision

	Autumn Term			Spring Term			Summer Term	
20/09/24 (Friday) 09:00 – 12:00	September (Cranworth Room CH) Strategic Planning (inc. Local First Inclusion) Provisional DSG Allocations for 2025/26 and Autumn DSG Consultation, including for Mainstream Schools' Formula Early Years Funding Consultation Annual Audit Report (NAS)	I D D I	31/01/25 (Friday) 09:00 – 12:00	January (Cranworth Room CH) Election of Chair/Vice Chair Review Membership Strategic Planning (inc. Local First Inclusion) Proposed DSG Budget and 2025/26 DSG Allocations Pupil variations 2025/26	D D I D I	09/05/25 (Friday) 09:00 – 12:00	May (Cranworth Room CH) Strategic Planning (inc. Local First Inclusion) Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 Outturn Annual Audit Report (Norfolk Audit Service)	I I I
19/11/24 (Tues) 09:00 – 13:00	November (Cranworth Room CH) Strategic Planning (inc.LFI) DSG consultation outcomes and Schools Block transfer EY Budget Grant update De-delegation/Central Schools Services Block Disapplication requests Centrally retained items	I D I D D D	26/03/25 (Wed) 09:00 – 12:00	March (Cranworth Room CH) Next year's plan Strategic Planning (inc. Local First Inclusion) Final pupil variations (only if changed from January)	I I I	02/07/25 (Wednes day) 09:00 – 12:00	July (Cranworth Room CH) Strategic Planning (inc. Local First Inclusion) Updates on Scheme for Financing Schools (Financial Regulations) Dedicated Schools Grant Consultation Preparation	I D I
06/12/24 09:00 – 13:00	December (Cranworth Room CH) Provisional DSG Allocations Element 3 Notional SEN Allocation formula	I D						