



# Schools Forum

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 June, 2025

**Time:** 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Cheam High School, Chatsworth Road, Cheam, Sutton SM3 8PW

**Enquiries:** Matthew Stickley  
londongovernanceltd@gmail.com

To all members of the School Forum:-

Member	Role
<b>Academy Representation (A)</b>	
Bec Allott	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Jamie Bean	Academy Secondary School
James Fisher	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Ben Cloves	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Peter Naudi	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Phillip Hedger	Academy Primary Headteacher
Sharon Roberts	Academy Primary Headteacher
James Kearns	Academy Special School Headteacher
Aaron Tanner	Academy Primary Governor
Emma Bradshaw	Academy Pupil Referral Unit (shared)

<b>Maintained School Representation (B)</b>	
Jenny Sims	Chair; Maintained Primary School Governor
Robert Claxton	Maintained Primary School Headteacher
Emma Walford	Maintained Nursery School Headteacher
Bev Williamson	Sutton Tuition and Reintegration Service (shared)

<b>Other Representation (C)</b>	
Vicki Bell	Early Years Provider
Jason Pemberton-Billing	14-19 Provider
Sue Smith	Sutton Teachers Committee
Andrew Theobald	Vice Chair; Archdiocese of Southwark; Maintained Secondary School Governor
VACANCY	Diocese of Southwark

<b>Observers (D)</b>	
Councillor Rob Beck	Vice Chair of the People Committee
Councillor Jane Pascoe	Opposition Spokesperson for the People Committee

## AGENDA

### 1 **Welcome and Introductions**

### 2 **Apologies for Absence**

### 3 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest which are made by members and officers of the Schools Forum which are not interests created by virtue of the role that member/officer holds.

#### Members

Bec Allott – Non-Executive Director of Cognus LATC, Trustee of Wilson's School, Member of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust

Peter Naudi – Vice Chair of Limes Governing Body, Chair of Vulnerable

Sharon Roberts – Trustee of Cheam Academies Network Trust, CEO of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust

Jenny Sims – Non-Executive Director of Cognus LATC

Andrew Theobald - Chair of Members of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust

#### Officers

Kieran Holliday – Non-Executive Director of Cognus LATC

### 4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2025.

### 5 **Revenue Report** (Pages 9 - 20)

### 6 **Schools Year End Returns Review** (Pages 21 - 32)

### 7 **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan** (Pages 33 - 46)

### 8 **Pupil Premium Funding for Independent Provision** (Pages 47 - 50)

### 9 **Falling Rolls Policy** (Pages 51 - 56)

### 10 **Sherwood Park School Funding** (Pages 57 - 60)

### 11 **Capital Report** (Pages 61 - 70)

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## **PRESENT:**

1. Jenny Sims (Chair)
2. Andrew Theobald (Vice Chair)
3. Bec Allott
4. Jamie Bean
5. Peter Naudi
6. Sharon Roberts
7. James Kearns
8. Aaron Tanner
9. Emma Walford
10. Vicki Bell
11. Sue Smith
12. Alison Day

## **1: Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair, Jenny Sims, welcomed those present, and gave particular welcome to the new Forum member, Aaron Tanner.

## **2: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Nathan Cole, Ben Cloves, and Beverley Williamson.

## **3: Declarations of Interest**

The Forum noted the standing declarations as set out on the agenda.

The Forum noted that a standing declaration would be recorded for Andrew Theobald as Chair of Members of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust.

There were no further declarations of interest.

## **4: Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Forum discussed a previous commitment to receive a verbal update on Pupil Premium funding. In response, officers confirmed that an update would be provided at a future meeting once options had been fully explored.

**RESOLVED:** To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January 2025 as an accurate record.

The Chair advised that she would reorder the agenda to take item nine, then item eight, then the rest of the agenda in the order listed.

## **5: Free School Meals for Pupils Attending Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) Update**

The Strategic Lead for Education introduced the report.

**RESOLVED:** To note the developments against Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility for children in an Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) setting, and the issuing of annual food vouchers to a value of £2.58 daily.

## **6: Revenue Report**

The Strategic Lead for Education introduced the report.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the latest 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Forecast as at Month 10 and the Draft Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget 2025/26 V1, which is unchanged from the previous presentation (Appx A).
2. To note the comparison of School Delegated Budgets 24/25 and 23/24 (Appendix B Exempt).

## **7: Outline Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan**

The Strategic Lead for Education introduced the report.

The Forum noted the range of factors which had led to continued overspend in recent years, including higher demands on services, an increase in the rate of Education, Health and Care Plans being agreed and additional funding for such provision from central government not being provided at a commensurate rate. The Forum discussed whether plans could be better written for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary schools.

The Forum discussed the data collected within the Dedicated Schools Grant management plan, noting that the London Borough of Sutton was close to the average across London in terms of increases in schooling spends but had the second-highest rate of requests for specialist placement of all London local authorities. The Forum noted officers' desire to increase officer attendance at annual reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans and to increase the number of site visits.

The Forum discussed drives in previous years to both reduce and increase specialist school provision and the positive reputation of the London Borough of Sutton in providing specialist education which attracted families to move to the area. The Forum discussed the risks of placing children into specialist base provision in early years, and discussed whether a more flexible approach in early years would be better for pupils and schools.

The Forum noted that the management plan was required to be in place and acted upon by the local authority and schools within the area for discussion with the Department for Education, and that the forecasts for future budgets were especially challenging.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. To endorse the outline DSG management plan and the key workstreams that EOG is recommending to take forward as part of the next phase of the programme.
2. To note the estimated financial benefits of taking forward and the additional work that is still required to produce a final plan and future forecast.
3. To consider any further workstreams that should be considered as part of the plan and the role that schools can play to support the programme.

## **8: Cognus Therapies Service**

The Head of Therapies (Cognus) introduced the report.

The Forum noted that the agreement between Sutton Council and Cognus pooled the risk of overspend on budgets. The Forum discussed the stability of recruitment of therapists in recent years, and the positive impact this had had on budgets.

The Forum noted that growth funding for Cognus had not yet been established and was a live issue within the council, but that it was officers' view that it would be difficult to deliver the service within the budget for 2025-26 financial year. The Forum noted that the Cognus Therapies Service was in higher demand from mainstream schools than specialist schools and that the Therapies Service was supporting schools in pooling Education, Health and Care Plan funding across pupils. The Forum discussed the challenge of delivering on what has been written within Education, Health and Care Plans.

The Forum discussed the universal, targeted, and specialist model of providing support to pupils, noting that support being set within Education, Health and Care Plans led to higher costs and was not always appropriate where a universal model of support was available. The Forum further discussed the challenge of providing services against a year-on-year increase in Education, Health and Care Plans being sought, and the support required for pupils with needs which did not reach the threshold for an Education, Health and Care Plan.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the current year position on the provision of children's therapies in the Borough in FY2024/25.
2. To note the overspend on the therapies budget and that the Cognus Board has agreed to absorb the majority of the pressures on this budget from their reserves in FY2024/25 but that this will not be possible in FY2025/26.
3. To note the expected pressures on the budget in FY2025/26 (£600k) beyond the growth that has already been provided (£600k) in the provision FY2025/26 budget and to discuss local area actions that would enable these pressures to be mitigated in-year.

## **9: Early Years Entitlements Funding Formula for 2025/26**

The Early Intervention Service Manager introduced the report.

**RESOLVED:** To agree to the funding formula for providers.

The meeting ended at 20:07.

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<b>Report Title</b>	Revenue Report
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Carol Worne, Strategic Finance Business Partner, Sutton Council
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) since the last meeting of the Forum.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the outturn position on the DSG for 2024/25
- 2.2. To note the deficit balance of £9.182m to be carried forward to 2025/26
- 2.3. To note and approve the latest budget for 2025/26.
- 2.4. To note the latest outturn position for 2025/26, as at month 2 (May 2025).
- 2.5. To note the review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2025/26

## 3. Background

- 3.1. This report refers to issues that have arisen since the last meeting on 25 February 2025 and provides details of the latest DSG budget for 2025/26.

## 4. DSG Budget 2024/25 - final allocation and outturn

- 4.1. The latest DSG allocation for 2024/25, as at 31st March 2024, is 138.179m, after deductions for academies recoupment, national non-domestic rates and direct funding of high needs places by the DfE.
- 4.2. A further adjustment to Early Years is expected in July, however, the value is uncertain due to the complicated nature of how Early Years funding has been allocated by the DfE and adjusted throughout the financial year for the various age groups. There was a favourable adjustment of £1.069m made in March 2024, it is expected that some of this will be recouped in July.

- 4.3. The DSG in year outturn for 2024/25 is an overspend of £9.182m. The deficit carried forward from 2023/24 was £1.391m, giving an overall deficit carried forward to 2025/26 of £10.573m.

DSG Reserve Movement	£'000
24/25 Opening Reserve	1.391
24/25 Closing Reserve	10.573
<b>Total change</b>	<b>9.182</b>

- 4.4. The overspend is made up of £10.410m overspend in the High Needs Block, £0.171m overspend in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB), £0.057 underspend in the Schools Block and £1.342m underspend in the Early Years block, some of which is related to the allowable contingency that can be held centrally and some of which is related to the post year-end adjustment.
- 4.5. The detailed outturn for 2024/25 is shown at **Appendix A**.
- 4.6. Sutton is not alone in struggling with its high needs budget. In a recent survey, over half of councils that support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have warned they will become insolvent if and when the statutory override is implemented (currently planned for March 2026) with the national deficit expected to reach £5bn by this time.
- 4.7. LAs with cumulative deficits are required to provide the DfE with a DSG management recovery plan over a maximum of 3 years. There is a separate presentation that covers progress made on the development of a DSG Management Plan.

## 5. DSG Budget 2025/26

- 5.1. The latest DSG allocation for Sutton for 2025/26 is £152.480m, after deduction of high needs recoupment (£8.8m) and academy recoupment (including NNDR) (£167.1m).
- 5.2. The draft budget for 2025/26 was agreed at the meeting of the Forum on 14 January 2025. The was set using two different scenarios to highlight the pressures in the High Needs Block. The first scenario looked at no growth in EHCPs added in the year (highly unlikely) with a deficit forecast of £4.1m. The second scenario looked at estimating growth based on current trends which increases the in year deficit to £13.2m. Whilst the DSG was initially set as a balanced budget, given that this is a requirement, it was indicated that a deficit forecast would be estimated from April 2025. The budget has, therefore, been largely using the “no growth” forecast, with some additional adjustments to balance the budget to the High Needs Block funding allocation.
- 5.3. The DSG is currently forecasting an in-year overspend at year end of £12.15m at Month 2, as detailed at **Appendix B**. The forecast cumulative deficit at year end is £22.7m.

- 5.4. Local authorities have a statutory duty to publish their S251 budget statements. The statement is intended to provide a clear picture of the local authority's planned spending on the DSG and children and young people's services. The S251 Budget Statement for 2025/26 was submitted to the DfE on 9th May 2025 but has not yet been authorised. The details of the S251 Budget Statement - DSG will be included in the Revenue Report to be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting in October 2025.

## **6. Scheme for Financing Schools 2025/26**

- 6.1. A full review of the Scheme for Financing Schools is being undertaken through the summer as several areas need to be updated, which involves consultation with other services, such as internal audit. It is expected that a revised Scheme will be brought to the next Schools Forum meeting in October, for approval.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. Since 2018/19 the schools block funding for each local authority has been set by calculating notional allocations for each school according to the National Funding Formula (NFF) and these have then been aggregated and used to calculate a total allocation for each local authority.

## **8. Influence on the Council's Corporate Core Values and Objectives**

- 8.1. One of the core values is partnership working. Setting the budget for the Dedicated Schools Grant, and considering related issues, is an important part of the budget process that fully involves schools as partners and particularly recognises the important role of the Schools' Forum.

## **9. Appendices**

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Appendix Title</b>
A	DSG outturn 2024/25
B	Latest DSG Budget and Month 2 position 2025/26

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### Appendix X- Revenue Report 20250610 - DSG 2024/25 Budget Summary - Final Outturn

Description	Final Budget £	Final Actuals £	Final Variance £	Commentary
<b>Schools Block</b>				
Primary Maintained Funding	39,957,900	39,940,888	(17,012)	Core funding for maintained primary schools (NFF)
Secondary Maintained Funding	14,333,200	14,333,216	16	Core funding for maintained secondary schools (NFF)
De-delegation	(50,800)	(50,800)	0	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Primary Growth	24,100	24,083	(17)	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Secondary Growth	647,100	648,310	1,210	Growth funding relating to secondary schools and Unplaced Year 11 Funding
Exclusions		(41,399)	(41,399)	
<b>Total - Schools Block</b>	<b>54,911,500</b>	<b>54,854,298</b>	<b>(57,202)</b>	
<b>Central School Services Block</b>				
<b>Historic Commitments</b>				
Contribution to combined budgets	15,000	15,000	0	Contribution to LSCP
Early Retirement Costs (pensions)	396,000	548,290	152,290	Costs of school staff that retired early (historical)
Depreciation of non current assets	218,200	218,178	(22)	Borrowing re: Opportunity Bases in 2012
<b>Ongoing Functions</b>			0	
Admissions Services	386,100	386,034	(66)	Costs of the schools admission service (Cognus)
Schools Forum Costs	16,000	16,000	0	Costs of Schools Forum including meetings, staffing support etc...
Independent School Fees (non SEN)	150,000	150,000	0	Contributions to fees for LAC pupils attending independent schools
Copyright Licenses	234,800	253,953	19,153	Fees set by Copyright Licensing Authority for all schools (paid centrally)
DSG Contribution to LBS Central Provision	619,200	619,200	0	Contribution from the DSG to support central provision in the LA
<b>Total - CSSB</b>	<b>2,035,300</b>	<b>2,206,656</b>	<b>171,356</b>	
<b>High Needs</b>				
Early Years - Place	191,000	191,000	0	Lump sum paid to Thomas Wall for Dragonflies base
Early Years - Top Up	250,000	275,572	25,572	Top up Individual
Portage Service	252,800	252,767	(33)	Playwise Service (a CIC) who provide portage (home-visiting educational services) for pre-school children with SEND and their families.
Autism Parenting Support Officer	37,500	37,500	0	2 year contract
Primary mainstream	4,150,000	4,902,484	752,484	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Primary Bases Maintained - Place	564,000	564,000	0	Place funding for maintained opportunity bases
Primary Base - All Schools	3,350,000	4,488,449	1,138,449	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Primary - OLA	550,000	612,387	62,387	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools

Secondary Mainstream	1,630,000	2,002,373	372,373	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Secondary Bases - Place and Top Up	1,108,600	1,146,086	37,486	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Secondary - OLA	450,000	352,155	(97,845)	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Place	2,034,500	2,034,542	42	Place and pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Top Up	4,670,000	7,083,742	2,413,742	Top up and top up individual funding plus backdated underfunding from previous years (agreed with Schools Forum)
Special Schools - Academies - Pension	384,300	384,257	(43)	Pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Academies	5,720,000	6,773,568	1,053,568	Top up, top up individual and place extra funding
Special Schools - OLA	2,500,000	3,053,950	553,950	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Non maintained Independent Provision	8,770,000	11,891,478	3,121,478	Non maintained or independent fees - including specialist and AP provision and tuition
Independent Tutoring Fees	1,385,000	1,700,554	315,554	Fees paid for Independent Tutoring Services
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Place	1,516,900	1,775,911	259,011	Place, additional place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Individual	854,000	855,499	1,499	Top up Individual
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Place	1,283,800	1,283,848	48	Place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Individual	92,600	92,593	(7)	Top up Individual
Hospital Provision - (STARS)	281,500	281,500	0	Lump sum paid to STARS for children educated in hospital
Schools Team (TYS)	110,000	110,000	0	Exclusions Prevention
Mainstream College	1,156,000	1,183,909	27,909	Placement costs related to mainstream college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Specialist College	2,500,000	2,690,576	190,576	Placement costs related to specialist college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Therapies (Cognus)	3,624,500	3,900,570	276,070	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by Cognus
Therapies (Non-Cognus)	270,000	250,541	(19,459)	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by other suppliers
SEN Travel Assistance	640,000	640,000	0	Contribution to SEN transport including travel training
Graduated Response Funding (Clusters)	429,800	268,271	(161,529)	SenCo Salary costs, Cluster payments and Backfill payments
Other Expenses	85,000	64,090	(20,910)	Cognus Commissioning Agreement
Cognus Ltd - High Needs Services	2,026,100	2,133,962	107,862	
<b>Total - High Needs Block</b>	<b>52,867,900</b>	<b>63,278,136</b>	<b>10,410,236</b>	
<b>Early Years Block</b>				
Early Years - 3 & 4 Year olds	16,962,200	15,442,215	(1,519,985)	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 3 & 4 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - 2 Year olds	6,355,200	5,727,539	(627,661)	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - Under 2 year olds	3,429,100	4,399,809	970,709	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 9mth to 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - Central Expenses	781,200	616,173	(165,027)	Central provision - EYFE Staffing and Predicable Needs funding
Cognus Ltd - Early Years Foundation	593,000	592,608	(392)	Central provision transferred to Cognus to provide EY advisory services
<b>Total - Early Years</b>	<b>28,120,700</b>	<b>26,778,344</b>	<b>(1,342,356)</b>	

	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>137,935,400</b>	<b>147,117,434</b>	<b>9,182,034</b>	
	<b>Total DSG Funding</b>	<b>(137,935,400)</b>	<b>(137,935,459)</b>	<b>(59)</b>	
	<b>Total In Year Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,181,975</b>	<b>9,181,975</b>	
	<b>DSG Reserve Deficit b/f</b>		<b>1,391,037</b>		
	<b>DSG Forecast Year End Deficit (Unusable Reserve)</b>		<b>10,573,012</b>		
	<b>SEN budget</b>				

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## Appendix B - Revenue Report 20250610 - DSG 2025/26 Budget Summary - M02

Description	Latest Budget £	Latest Forecast £	Latest Variance £	Commentary
<b>Schools Block</b>				
Primary Maintained Funding	39,467,324	39,467,324	0	Core funding for maintained primary schools (NFF)
Secondary Maintained Funding	15,392,100	15,392,100	0	Core funding for maintained secondary schools (NFF)
De-delegation	(48,524)	(48,524)	0	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Secondary Growth	868,500	476,100	(392,400)	Growth funding relating to secondary schools and Unplaced Year 11 Funding
<b>Total - Schools Block</b>	<b>55,679,400</b>	<b>55,287,000</b>	<b>(392,400)</b>	
<b>Central School Services Block</b>				
<b>Historic Commitments</b>				
Contribution to combined budgets	15,000	15,000	0	Contribution to LSCP
Early Retirement Costs (pensions)	394,300	519,500	125,200	Costs of school staff that retired early (historical)
Depreciation of non current assets	218,200	218,200	0	Borrowing re: Opportunity Bases in 2012
<b>Ongoing Functions</b>			0	
Admissions Services	393,800	393,800	0	Costs of the schools admission service (Cognus)
Schools Forum Costs	16,000	16,000	0	Costs of Schools Forum including meetings, staffing support etc...
Independent School Fees (non SEN)	150,000	150,000	0	Contributions to fees for LAC pupils attending independent schools
Copyright Licenses	272,000	272,000	0	Fees set by Copyright Licensing Authority for all schools (paid centrally)
DSG Contribution to LBS Central Provision	635,200	635,200	0	Contribution from the DSG to support central provision in the LA
<b>Total - CSSB</b>	<b>2,094,500</b>	<b>2,219,700</b>	<b>125,200</b>	
<b>High Needs</b>				
Early Years - Place	191,000	191,000	0	Lump sum paid to Thomas Wall for Dragonflies base
Early Years - Top Up	275,000	300,000	25,000	Top up Individual
Portage Service	252,800	252,800	0	Playwise Service (a CIC) who provide portage (home-visiting educational services) for pre-school children with SEND and their families.
Autism Parenting Support Officer	37,500	37,500	0	2 year contract
Primary mainstream	4,211,100	5,199,350	988,250	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Primary Bases Maintained - Place	596,000	596,000	0	Place funding for maintained opportunity bases
Primary Base - All Schools	3,435,400	5,194,520	1,759,120	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Primary - OLA	555,400	699,400	144,000	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Secondary Mainstream	1,662,800	2,245,716	582,916	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Secondary Bases - Place and Top Up	1,179,000	1,179,000	0	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Secondary - OLA	343,200	373,400	30,200	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools

Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Place	2,095,900	2,095,900	0	Place and pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Top Up	5,886,500	6,588,633	702,133	Top up and top up individual funding plus backdated underfunding from previous years (agreed with Schools Forum)
Special Schools - Academies - Pension	398,300	398,300	0	Pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Academies	5,764,100	7,518,956	1,754,856	Top up, top up individual and place extra funding
Special Schools - OLA	2,551,100	3,374,700	823,600	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Non maintained Independent Provision	9,048,900	13,929,000	4,880,100	Non maintained or independent fees - including specialist and AP provision and tuition
Independent Tutoring Fees	1,714,100	1,814,100	100,000	Fees paid for Independent Tutoring Services
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Place	1,898,100	1,898,100	0	Place, additional place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Individual	854,000	854,000	0	Top up Individual
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Place	1,283,800	1,283,800	0	Place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Individual	92,600	92,600	0	Top up Individual
Hospital Provision - (STARS)	281,500	281,500	0	Lump sum paid to STARS for children educated in hospital
Schools Team (TYS)	110,000	110,000	0	Exclusions Prevention
Mainstream College	1,479,200	1,609,400	130,200	Placement costs related to mainstream college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Specialist College	2,723,000	3,119,200	396,200	Placement costs related to specialist college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Therapies (Cognus)	4,224,500	4,224,500	0	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by Cognus
Therapies (Non-Cognus)	268,500	268,500	0	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by other suppliers
SEN Travel Assistance	640,000	640,000	0	Contribution to SEN transport including travel training
Graduated Response Funding (Clusters)	429,800	529,800	100,000	SenCo Salary costs, Cluster payments and Backfill payments
Other Expenses	85,000	85,000	0	Cognus Commissioning Agreement
Cognus Ltd - High Needs Services	2,066,600	2,066,600	0	
<b>Total - High Needs Block</b>	<b>56,634,700</b>	<b>69,051,275</b>	<b>12,416,575</b>	
<b>Early Years Block</b>				
Early Years - 3 & 4 Year olds	16,971,600	16,971,600	0	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 3 & 4 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - 2 Year olds	9,009,800	9,009,800	0	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - Under 2 year olds	10,774,300	10,774,300	0	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 9mth to 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - Central Expenses	711,000	711,000	0	Central provision - EYFE Staffing and Predictable Needs funding
Cognus Ltd - Early Years Foundation	604,500	604,500	0	Central provision transferred to Cognus to provide EY advisory services
<b>Total - Early Years</b>	<b>38,071,200</b>	<b>38,071,200</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>152,479,800</b>	<b>164,629,175</b>	<b>12,149,375</b>	

	Total DSG Funding	(152,479,800)	(152,479,800)	0	
	Total In Year Deficit	0	12,149,375	12,149,375	
	DSG Reserve Deficit b/f		10,573,012		
	DSG Forecast Year End Deficit (Unusable Reserve)		22,722,387		

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<b>Report Title</b>	Review of year end process - School Returns
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Carol Worne, Strategic Finance Business Partner
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a review of the year end process undertaken with schools, the requirements set out by the Council to facilitate year end reporting and the capacity of the Schools finance team to support schools in this process.
- 1.2. There were a number of issues related to the returns provided by maintained schools at the end of 2024/25 which caused delays in the closure of school accounts. This report notes those challenges and outlines a way forward to overcome those challenges in future years.

### 1.3. Recommendation(s)

- 1.4. To note the concerns raised and work towards an improved process in 2025/26.

## 2. Background and Key Information

- 2.1. In 2024/25, schools were required, at year end, to send through several reports, which included system generated reports and specific Sutton templates, which feed into the financial reporting system and form part of the Council's statement of accounts, as well as being reported to the DfE, via a Consistent Financial Reporting return.
- 2.2. As well as the year end returns, schools are also required to send, on an annual basis, a completed Schools Financial Standard Valuation template, which has to be reviewed and signed off by the Governing Body.
- 2.3. Due to the limited capacity in the Education Finance team in Sutton, it has always been important that returns are timely and accurate and are completed as per instructions given at Bursar Briefings, emailed to schools or within the Scheme for Financing Schools.

## 3. Year End Returns for Financial Reporting

- 3.1. A presentation was made to school bursars at the February 2025 briefing to go through the year end process and to introduce a new checklist, designed to help schools to translate the system information to the Council templates. New templates are issued every year as there are usually one or two changes required, these are set up with several formulae to import them into the Council systems.

- 3.2. A request was made for all Bursars to attend the meeting as it was important to go through the year end updates. However, not all Bursars did attend, so the powerpoint presentation was forwarded to them to review in their own time. It also provided a reference point to be reminded of the requirements.
- 3.3. The request to schools was to add the report output to the checklist and to then transfer the relevant information to the 25/26 templates, ensure they were balanced, and then send them through.
- 3.4. A large number of schools sent back their returns either with values in the checklist that did not balance, values that were not added correctly or in the wrong place, or not added at all. Some schools also used old templates, and some changed the preset formulae.
- 3.5. This caused several issues:
  - As the Finance team does not have access to school systems, there is no background data to refer to, so when an issue arose for a school, every single report had to be looked at and the year end be recreated to see where the problem was. As most Bursars were then on school holiday they were not contactable, and as closure deadlines were approaching, the Finance Team ended up completing a revised checklist and sending all the corrected templates back to the school to ask for confirmation that they were happy with them. This was extremely time consuming and meant that other year end deadlines were missed.
  - The use of old templates meant that they didn't upload to the system correctly, so the team had to transfer the details to the new template and then re-upload them.
  - Accrual templates had items missing from them or they weren't completed at all. A request was made for LBS accruals to be separated and for evidence to be returned, as these are treated differently to other accruals, but some were sent back with no evidence and minimal detail for the team to identify what they were for.

#### **4. SFVS Return**

- 4.1. As part of the presentation in February, a specific request was made to address Q.26 of the SFVS, which refers to Related Third Party (RTP) transactions. This forms part of the S151 Grant Assurance Return, which is signed off by the S151 Officer and we have to provide assurance that:
  - SFVS has been completed, signed off and returned (all but one school returned an SFVS)
  - That Q.26 has been answered and that confirmation of any RTP transactions have been recorded via the template, or that a Nil return is stated in the SFVS template.
  - Out of 26 schools, only 4 schools returned the template, all had a Nil return, and no other school confirmed the status of their transactions.

#### **5. Looking forward**

- 5.1. At the recent briefing with Bursars, the issues encountered at year end were discussed from both sides (biut not the SFVS). In that briefing it was acknowledged that as the checklist was a new addition and that, whilst some colleagues found it extremely useful and it reduced the time they took to complete year end, other SBMs who may be less experienced found it a challenge. All agreed that with more practice and knowledge it could become a very useful tool.
- 5.2. To reduce administrative burdens on schools, it has been decided that from 2025/26, schools that have a surplus reserve can report their financial position on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly, but the quarterly returns must also include a completed checklist and an A7 Balance Sheet, in addition to the regular reports. This should help identify those schools that are struggling in order for officers to meet with them on an individual basis.
- 5.3. Schools with a deficit reserve will still continue to report on a monthly basis, but the interim months do not require the additional reports. The Council will review the three year budgets in July, and reserves the right to ask any school to revert to monthly reporting, based on the risk profile of the forecast financial position.
- 5.4. Successful completion of returns will be monitored throughout the year, and if issues continue to arise or requirements are not being met, consideration will be given about whether to propose an element of de-delegation in order to provide greater capacity to support schools going forward.

### **SFVS**

- 5.5. The SFVS will again be required by the end of March 2026. Governors need to be aware of the specific requirement as detailed above, and ensure that any RTP transactions are reported on the template or that a clear Nil return is stated.

<b>Appendix Letter</b>	<b>Appendix Title</b>
Appendix A	Copy of Powerpoint Presentation to Bursars - February 2025

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# Bursar Briefing

## 13 February 2025

### Year End Process

# IFRS 16 - Leases

- ❖ Deadline for return of Lease Template – 28/02/25
  - ❖ Further information about IFRS 16 and schools:
    - [Changes to Leasing Agreements for Maintained Schools](#)
    - [The IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024](#)
- Template for completion and return to LA:
- [\(SCHOOL NAME\) Lease Information IFRS16 2024-25.xlsx](#)

# Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

## ❖ 31/3/25 - SFVS due back to LA

- Related Party Transactions:
- Please state clearly in the answer to Q.26 that adequate arrangements are in place and if this is a NIL number of transactions, please state this clearly in the answer or return the template with your return, stating clearly on it that this is a Nil Return.

26 Are there adequate arrangements in place to manage related party transactions and has a complete list of related party transactions been appended to the checklist document (see [template for recording related party transactions](#))

26	Are there adequate arrangements in place to manage related party transactions and has a complete list of related party transactions been appended to the checklist document (see template for recording related party transactions)?	<a href="#">Q26 guidance</a>	Choose an item.	
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# School Returns - File Naming

## Format and Naming of Returns

Please send back your year end and monthly returns in the following format and naming structure

Please NAME each Excel file and PDF you send back with your SCHOOL NAME and a description of the report.

Please add the Month and Financial Year at the end of the file name.

Examples here:

- ❖ Please send back bank statements in separate PDFs - one for each bank account - as these are required for Audit
- ❖ Please send back LA Excel sheets (A3,A5, A7, A8) separately:
  - ABC School - A3 - March 24-25
  - ABC School - A5 - March 24-25
  - ABC School - A7 - March 24-25
  - ABC School - A8 - March 24-25
- ❖ Please send system reports as PDFs separately:
  - ABC School - Bank Reconciliation - March 24-25
  - ABC School - Summary TB - March 24-25
  - ABC School - Balance and Reserves - March 24-25
  - ABC School - Proposed CFR Report - March 24-25
  - ABC School - Cumulative Expense Analysis - March 24-25

# Year End Accounting - Checklist 2024/25

- ❖ Use the **year end reconciliation checklist** template to complete your **February month end** return, as a practice run and also to highlight any potential areas where there are differences.
- ❖ Print out your system reports **after the end of the month, but BEFORE you add any further transactions**, so the system reports agree to your returns. (We are currently receiving STBs that do not agree to A3,5 and 7 reports because the report includes other transactions).
- ❖ Ensure that you have completed the **VAT claim process**
- ❖ Ensure that you have included your **NNDR total**, as per the invoice received, as income in I01 and expenditure in E17.
- ❖ Ensure that you have claimed all applicable reimbursement of capital expenditure from the LA as income and expenditure must match at year end
  - **No LA related capital balance can be carried forward** at year end - if not claimed, you must process an accrual to balance
- ❖ Please add any **relevant commentary to your February & March A3** that will assist in explaining any final variance compared to the budget.
- ❖ Please ensure that you have **fixed your budget** in SIMS FMS so that all reports are generated correctly.

# Year End Checklist 2024/25- CFR Return

## CFR Return 2024/25

- ❖ When the LA agrees with the outturn position and the Proposed CFR Report is correct, you will be notified that the final accounts are now complete.
- Please download and save your **Final CFR Report** in both PDF and XML formats.
- Please **also send back to the LA, both the PDF and XML versions** for our records as we will be required to approve the reports you have uploaded.
- ❖ If you use a system other than SIMS FMS you will need to complete the XML generator, which will be available on the Gov.uk website
- ❖ **From 2024/25 year end**, we are moving to schools being responsible for uploading the XML version of the CFR report to COLLECT, which will then be verified by the LA for submission to the DfE.

# CFR Return - Schools to Upload XML

## Instructions received from the DfE for Schools to get access to Collect to upload Final CFR:

*"The CFR Collection is set up so that the schools can upload their own return*

*If a school needs access to upload their own return a staff member would need to create a DfE sign in account and request access to Collect and CFR which they can do here*

*<https://profile.signin.education.gov.uk/register> .*

*Once they have got an account we can add them as a source user to that school and they will be able to upload"*

**Further details will be sent out when published by the DfE.**

**Please also refer to DfE weekly newsletter as any updates will be added there.**

## A2/A3 - 2025/26

- ❖ We will be reviewing the A3 and will send out the new template by the end of April. We are not expecting any changes to be made.
- ❖ The A2 (Three Year Budget) will need to be completed and returned to us by **20th June 2025**, at the same time as the May month end returns. No return is required for April but if you would prefer to send it to us we will be happy to receive it.  
  
Please copy and “Paste Value” the 24-25 March (outturn) details from the A3 - March 24-25 into the relevant columns within the A2 - 25-26 template, as these are used by us for comparison and review. **If you are having difficulty with this**, please get in touch and we can go through it with you.
- ❖ We will be reviewing the three year budgets and will consider, depending on level of financial risk, whether monthly or quarterly returns are required for 2025/26. All schools can continue to send back monthly returns but we will prioritise the monthly returns for review.
- ❖ Please add as much commentary as possible that would help to explain spend or budget assumptions. It is very difficult for us to understand any budget assumptions / changes through the year if we receive only numbers with no narrative.
- ❖ If you find it helpful, please continue to use the checklist at month end.



<b>Report Title</b>	<b>DSG Management Plan</b>
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Date</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	<b>Lynn Horsfield</b> – SEND Transformation Project Lead <b>Steve Broughton</b> - Finance and Data Analyst - SEND Transformation Project (previously SEN Finance & Data Manager, Cognus)

### Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Introduce the DSG Management Plan template to Schools Forum
- Share projections for pupil numbers and costs in Sutton as identified through completion of the DSG Management Plan
- Share scenarios calculated through the HNB Balanced Budget spreadsheet which identify different ways of reducing the projected deficit

Schools Forum are asked to:

- Note the information provided in this report
- Share feedback as to the different scenarios presented by the HNB Balanced Budget spreadsheet

A presentation will be provided to Schools Forum on the contents of this report which will explain in more detail about how the DSG management plan works and how this relates to the workstreams that were discussed with the Forum in February.

## Contents

1. Background
2. Content of the DSG Management Plan
3. HNB Balanced Budget Calculator spreadsheet
4. Conclusions

### 1. Background

The DSG Management Plan template is a **planning tool** for Local Authorities, created by the DfE which captures information about current expenditure of the DSG broken down by pupil numbers, placement types and other services. The tool then provides a projection on future costs on the basis of current placement, expenditure etc. The template is intended to be a live document. This means we will be constantly updating the plan using the latest data and insights. The screenshots below were taken in April 2025. Management plans should reflect the most current forecast DSG position as they can be requested to be viewed by the DfE during monitoring visits.

### 2. Content of the DSG Management Plan

#### How it works

The DSG Management Plan is an Excel spreadsheet with multiple tabs. Data is input by the LA into specific tabs and the sheet calculates annual and cumulative expenditure, income, surplus/deficits etc. There are also tabs for text entries of narrative explanation around methodologies, data analysis, etc.

This template relies on calculations running automatically as you select your local authority and enter data as it draws data from Section 251 submissions (Local authorities are required under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to annually publish an education and children's social care budget statement).

The template is made up of several individual tabs along the bottom of the screen, which are colour-coded depending on type:



Tab type	Colour	User input
Introduction	Grey	No user input
Summary	White	Some user narrative and data input
Narrative	Light green	User narrative input
Placement type	Red	User data input

Within each tab, sections are coloured to represent the following:

Cell	Colour	Editable or not editable	Requirement
User input cells	Blue	Editable	You will need to enter data
Pre-populated cells	Yellow	Not editable, these are pre-populated	No requirement
Calculation cells	Purple	Not editable	These cells have automatic calculation

### What information do we input?

The numbers of pupils currently attending each of the following eight types of provision (red tabs):

- Mainstream
- Resourced or SEN Units
- Special Schools
- NMSS or Independent
- Hospital Schools or AP
- Post-16 and FE
- Health & Social Care
- Other

### Forecast learner numbers

These are input into the blue cells of the red tabs – essentially these are the forecast numbers, on the basis of local area analysis and projections, of learners in each provision type:

- a) Within age groups (under 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, 16 to 19 and 19 to 25)
- b) Within each Primary Need category.

Example: Number of projected learners in age groups – taken from the Mainstream tab;

Number of EHC plans by age group (with estimated future projections)											
Jan	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Under 5	34	36	49	52	53	57	62	68	74	81	88
Age 5 to 10	378	401	428	454	508	552	599	651	708	772	842
Age 11 to 15	265	281	286	303	339	368	400	434	474	515	562
Age 16 to 19	57	60	62	66	67	73	79	86	93	102	111
Age 20 to 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number by age group	734	778	825	875	967	1,050	1,140	1,239	1,349	1,470	1,603

Example: Number of projected learners in each Primary Need category, taken from the Mainstream tab;

Number of EHC plans by primary need (with estimated future projections)											
Jan	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	248	263	266	282	312	341	374	409	448	491	537
Hearing Impairment	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Moderate Learning Difficulty	105	111	121	128	141	152	164	177	191	206	222
Multi- Sensory Impairment	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Physical Disability	16	17	15	16	18	19	21	21	21	21	21
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	9	9	10	11
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	125	133	141	150	166	191	219	252	290	333	383
Speech, Language and Communications needs	122	129	139	147	162	173	185	197	210	224	238
Severe Learning Difficulty	10	11	10	11	12	12	13	13	13	13	14
Specific Learning Difficulty	23	24	25	27	30	32	33	35	37	40	42
Visual Impairment	11	12	15	16	18	19	19	19	20	20	20
Other Difficulty/Disability	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	16	16	17	17
SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need	41	44	64	68	75	76	76	78	80	82	84
Total number of EHC plans by primary need	733	778	825	876	967	1,050	1,140	1,239	1,349	1,470	1,603

Projections of learner numbers are key to the DSG Management Plan as these determine projected future expenditure. We have projected learner numbers initially by extrapolating current numbers, based on the last several years' growth data. This methodology has been quality assured by PPL consultants working across various projects for LBS.

It is important to understand that the growth in the numbers of EHCPs and associated costs has not been even across all categories of Primary Need or age groups. We have seen higher growth in need areas such as ASD and SEMH compared to low growth for low incidence needs such as

Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty, Hearing Impairment etc. As a consequence, our learner projections are regularly adjusted and will continue to be refined.

**See Annex 1** for examples of pupil number projections which shows an increase in the number of learners with EHCPs to 4224 by 2031/32

### **Estimated costings for placement funding**

The costs for placement funding are based on average costs for all current learners in each setting type, with 3% added for inflation annually.

This is then multiplied by the forecast number of learners in a given year in each setting.

Examples of average costs for learner placements per annum (*as at May 2025*):

- Mainstream Primary (Top-up, above notional budget): £9,434
- Mainstream Secondary (Top-up, above notional budget): £7,057
- Primary Base (Top-up, above notional budget): £15,294
- Secondary Base (Top-up, above notional budget): £12,542
- Maintained or Academy Special: £25,938
- Non-Maintained or Independent Special: £54,539

**See Annex 2** for examples of cost projections.

### **Income**

The income information is based on current income from the DfE with assumed 3% growth in income annually going forward.

### **What does the DSG Management Plan show us?**

Once we input our forecasts for learner numbers and costs, the plan calculates the total expenditures for each financial year going forward and shows in-year deficits and cumulative deficit.

*The table below is a small part of this, as at March 2025*

	Published data (prepopulated)			Outturn	Total projected mitigated expenditure (forecast with savings and				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
<b>Mainstream total expenditure</b>	£10,273,302	£11,877,600	£13,782,306	£16,491,400	£18,319,058	£19,705,151	£21,227,520	£22,921,039	£24,728,789
Year on year change		£1,604,298	£1,904,706	£2,709,094	£1,827,658	£1,386,093	£1,522,369	£1,693,519	£1,807,750
Mainstream total % change year on year		16%	16%	20%	11%	8%	8%	8%	8%
<b>Resourced provision or SEN units total expenditure</b>	£783,451	£806,433	£974,240	£2,643,000	£2,988,000	£3,348,000	£3,708,000	£4,068,000	£4,428,000
Year on year change		£22,982	£167,807	£1,668,760	£345,000	£360,000	£360,000	£360,000	£360,000
Resourced Provision or SEN Units total % change year on year		3%	21%	171%	13%	12%	11%	10%	9%
<b>Maintained special schools or special academies placements total expenditure</b>	£11,263,267	£13,641,871	£15,601,015	£21,859,933	£28,357,300	£29,847,497	£30,698,786	£31,383,346	£32,088,444
Year on year change		£2,378,604	£1,959,144	£6,258,918	£6,497,367	£1,490,197	£851,289	£684,561	£705,097
Maintained special schools or special academies placements total % change year on year		21%	14%	40%	30%	5%	3%	2%	2%
<b>Non maintained special schools or independent (NMSS or independent) placements total expenditure</b>	£9,337,801	£10,180,781	£12,905,175	£13,792,200	£15,214,542	£16,648,988	£23,590,188	£32,394,472	£42,395,904
Year on year change		£842,980	£2,724,394	£887,025	£1,422,342	£1,434,446	£6,941,200	£8,804,284	£10,001,432
NMSS or independent total % change year on year		9%	27%	7%	10%	9%	42%	37%	31%
<b>Hospital schools or alternative provision (AP) placements total expenditure</b>	£3,678,568	£3,793,001	£4,301,525	£6,009,533	£6,432,998	£6,529,301	£6,628,493	£6,730,661	£6,835,894
Year on year change		£114,433	£508,524	£1,708,008	£423,465	£96,303	£99,192	£102,168	£105,233
Hospital Schools or AP placements total % change year on year		3%	13%	40%	7%	1%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Post-16 placements total expenditure</b>	£1,051,135	£1,071,533	£1,155,240	£4,498,100	£4,962,328	£5,541,150	£6,164,370	£6,875,001	£7,693,380
Year on year change		£20,398	£83,707	£3,342,860	£464,228	£578,822	£623,220	£710,631	£818,379
Post 16 placements Total % change year on year		2%	8%	289%	10%	12%	11%	12%	12%

## Mitigations

The DSG Management Plan allows an unmitigated and a parallel mitigated forecast. This means we can input projected data based on planned (or theoretical) mitigations to compare potential financial outcomes. Mitigations could include increasing the number of places in specialist provision to reduce dependence on NMI providers, increasing funding to mainstream schools to support a larger number of SEND learners, reducing the number of EHCPs issued through the use of SSAP, etc.

### 3. HNB Balanced Budget Calculator spreadsheet

This is a simplified DSG Management Plan which we have created internally where we can easily input different scenarios to assess financial impact. Below you can see a section of the Calculator spreadsheet. 'Current Projected' shows the expenditure based on the current placements projected forward. 'Target B' shows the financial effect based on reducing the number of NMI placements by 100 learners (it assumes 100 more learners in Mainstream provision). Learner number changes are indicated in the yellow cells of 2025-26 pupil #. This results in a £5 million reduction in expenditure in the year 2026-27

	CATEGORY	BUDGET CODE	2025-26 PUPIL #	% of all EHCPs	2025-26 AVG PUPIL COST	2025-26 INCOME	2025-26 EXPENDITURE	2026-27 PUPIL #	% of all EHCPs	2026-27 AVG PUPIL COST	2026-27 INCOME	2026-27 EXPENDITURE
<b>1</b>	<b>CURRENT PROJECTED</b>	EARLY YEARS A60033-T40000	58	2.2%	£ 5,970		£ 346,260	63	2.2%	6,149		£ 385,770
		MS PRIMARY A51016-T50000 & A51016-T52000	560	21.5%	£ 9,434		£ 5,283,040	606	21.6%	9,717		£ 5,885,862
		MS SECONDARY A51016-T60000 & A51016-T62000	334	12.8%	£ 7,057		£ 2,357,038	361	12.9%	7,269		£ 2,625,988
		PRIMARY BASE A51016-T51000 plus OLA	300	11.5%	£ 15,294		£ 4,588,200	305	10.9%	15,753		£ 4,804,610
		SECONDARY BASE A51016-T11000 plus OLA	94	3.6%	£ 12,542		£ 1,178,948	99	3.5%	12,918		£ 1,278,908
		MAINTAINED/ACAD SPECIAL A51016-T72000 PLUS SHERWOOD	573	22.0%	£ 25,938		£ 14,862,474	630	22.4%	26,716		£ 16,831,168
		INDEPENDENT SPECIAL A56002-T71000	240	9.2%	£ 54,539		£ 13,089,360	260	9.2%	56,175		£ 14,582,922
		POST-16 A51016-T93000	263	10.1%	£ 5,520		£ 1,451,760	284	10.1%	5,686		£ 1,617,413
		POST-16 SPECIAL A56002-T91000	73	2.8%	£ 43,440		£ 3,171,120	79	2.8%	44,743		£ 3,532,961
		TUITION SERVICES A56129-T71000	65	2.5%	£ 26,371		£ 1,714,115	70	2.5%	27,162		£ 1,909,704
		SSAP	50	1.9%	£ 2,500		£ 125,000	50	1.8%	2,575		£ 128,750
		ASCs A60015-T50000/T60000					£ 80,000					£ 80,000
		THERAPIES A51015-T58000,T68000,T59000,T69000					£ 4,493,000					£ 4,627,790
		PLACE FUNDING					£ 8,094,000					£ 8,724,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2610</b>		<b>£ 23,308</b>	<b>£ 50,834,000</b>	<b>£ 60,834,315</b>	<b>2807</b>		<b>23,874</b>	<b>£ 52,359,020</b>	<b>£ 67,015,846</b>
		<i>Forecast total number of EHCPs</i>	<i>2593</i>			<i>In-year deficit</i>	<i>£ 10,000,315</i>	<i>2800</i>			<i>In-year deficit</i>	<i>£ 14,656,826</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>TARGET B REDUCE NMI BY 100</b>	EARLY YEARS A60033-T40000	58	2.2%	£ 5,970		£ 346,260	63	2.2%	6,149		£ 385,770
		MS PRIMARY A51016-T50000 & A51016-T52000	610	23.4%	£ 9,434		£ 5,754,740	660	23.5%	9,717		£ 6,411,385
		MS SECONDARY A51016-T60000 & A51016-T62000	384	14.7%	£ 7,057		£ 2,709,888	415	14.8%	7,269		£ 3,019,100
		PRIMARY BASE A51016-T51000 plus OLA	300	11.5%	£ 15,294		£ 4,588,200	305	10.9%	15,753		£ 4,804,610
		SECONDARY BASE A51016-T11000 plus OLA	94	3.6%	£ 12,542		£ 1,178,948	99	3.5%	12,918		£ 1,278,908
		MAINTAINED/ACAD SPECIAL A51016-T72000 PLUS SHERWOOD	573	22.0%	£ 25,938		£ 14,862,474	630	22.4%	26,716		£ 16,831,168
		INDEPENDENT SPECIAL A56002-T71000	140	5.4%	£ 54,539		£ 7,635,460	151	5.4%	56,175		£ 8,506,705
		POST-16 A51016-T93000	263	10.1%	£ 5,520		£ 1,451,760	284	10.1%	5,686		£ 1,617,413
		POST-16 SPECIAL A56002-T91000	73	2.8%	£ 43,440		£ 3,171,120	79	2.8%	44,743		£ 3,532,961
		TUITION SERVICES A56129-T71000	65	2.5%	£ 26,371		£ 1,714,115	70	2.5%	27,162		£ 1,909,704
		SSAP	50	1.9%	£ 2,500		£ 125,000	50	1.8%	2,575		£ 128,750
		ASCs A60015-T50000/T60000					£ 80,000					£ 80,000
		THERAPIES A51015-T58000,T68000,T59000,T69000					£ 4,493,000					£ 4,627,790
							£ 8,094,000					£ 8,724,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2610</b>		<b>£ 21,534</b>	<b>£ 50,834,000</b>	<b>£ 56,204,965</b>	<b>2807</b>		<b>22,037</b>	<b>£ 52,359,020</b>	<b>£ 61,858,264</b>
		<i>Pupil Total Variance</i>	<i>0</i>			<i>In-year deficit</i>	<i>£ 5,370,965</i>	<i>2800</i>			<i>In-year deficit</i>	<i>£ 9,499,244</i>



Using this spreadsheet we can model various mitigation strategies with each of these having a different impact on the projected total deficit, for example;

- 1 - Current Projected – estimated projections based on current projected growth and commissioned place numbers
- 2 -Target B – reduce NMI by 100
- 3 –Target C – Reduce NMI by 100 and no EHCP growth
- 4 –Target E – Reduce EHCPs to 2,000 (currently 2610) by 2030, reduce NMIs to 100 by 2030
  - (This is purely hypothetical but has been modelled to assess financial implications)

		2025-26		2025-26		2025-26		2026-27		2026-27		2026-27		2027-28		2027-28		2027-28		2028-29		2028-29		2028-29		2029-30		2029-30		2029-30		2030-31		2030-31		2030-31		2031-32		2031-32		2031-32		2032-33		2032-33		2032-33		2033-34		2033-34		2033-34		2034-35		2034-35		2034-35		2035-36		2035-36		2035-36		2036-37		2036-37		2036-37		2037-38		2037-38		2037-38		2038-39		2038-39		2038-39		2039-40		2039-40		2039-40		2040-41		2040-41		2040-41		2041-42		2041-42		2041-42		2042-43		2042-43		2042-43		2043-44		2043-44		2043-44		2044-45		2044-45		2044-45		2045-46		2045-46		2045-46		2046-47		2046-47		2046-47		2047-48		2047-48		2047-48		2048-49		2048-49		2048-49		2049-50		2049-50		2049-50		2050-51		2050-51		2050-51		2051-52		2051-52		2051-52		2052-53		2052-53		2052-53		2053-54		2053-54		2053-54		2054-55		2054-55		2054-55		2055-56		2055-56		2055-56		2056-57		2056-57		2056-57		2057-58		2057-58		2057-58		2058-59		2058-59		2058-59		2059-60		2059-60		2059-60		2060-61		2060-61		2060-61		2061-62		2061-62		2061-62		2062-63		2062-63		2062-63		2063-64		2063-64		2063-64		2064-65		2064-65		2064-65		2065-66		2065-66		2065-66		2066-67		2066-67		2066-67		2067-68		2067-68		2067-68		2068-69		2068-69		2068-69		2069-70		2069-70		2069-70		2070-71		2070-71		2070-71		2071-72		2071-72		2071-72		2072-73		2072-73		2072-73		2073-74		2073-74		2073-74		2074-75		2074-75		2074-75		2075-76		2075-76		2075-76		2076-77		2076-77		2076-77		2077-78		2077-78		2077-78		2078-79		2078-79		2078-79		2079-80		2079-80		2079-80		2080-81		2080-81		2080-81		2081-82		2081-82		2081-82		2082-83		2082-83		2082-83		2083-84		2083-84		2083-84		2084-85		2084-85		2084-85		2085-86		2085-86		2085-86		2086-87		2086-87		2086-87		2087-88		2087-88		2087-88		2088-89		2088-89		2088-89		2089-90		2089-90		2089-90		2090-91		2090-91		2090-91		2091-92		2091-92		2091-92		2092-93		2092-93		2092-93		2093-94		2093-94		2093-94		2094-95		2094-95		2094-95		2095-96		2095-96		2095-96		2096-97		2096-97		2096-97		2097-98		2097-98		2097-98		2098-99		2098-99		2098-99		2099-00		2099-00		2099-00		2100-01		2100-01		2100-01		2101-02		2101-02		2101-02		2102-03		2102-03		2102-03		2103-04		2103-04		2103-04		2104-05		2104-05		2104-05		2105-06		2105-06		2105-06		2106-07		2106-07		2106-07		2107-08		2107-08		2107-08		2108-09		2108-09		2108-09		2109-10		2109-10		2109-10		2110-11		2110-11		2110-11		2111-12		2111-12		2111-12		2112-13		2112-13		2112-13		2113-14		2113-14		2113-14		2114-15		2114-15		2114-15		2115-16		2115-16		2115-16		2116-17		2116-17		2116-17		2117-18		2117-18		2117-18		2118-19		2118-19		2118-19		2119-20		2119-20		2119-20		2120-21		2120-21		2120-21		2121-22		2121-22		2121-22		2122-23		2122-23		2122-23		2123-24		2123-24		2123-24		2124-25		2124-25		2124-25		2125-26		2125-26		2125-26		2126-27		2126-27		2126-27		2127-28		2127-28		2127-28		2128-29		2128-29		2128-29		2129-30		2129-30		2129-30		2130-31		2130-31		2130-31		2131-32		2131-32		2131-32		2132-33		2132-33		2132-33		2133-34		2133-34		2133-34		2134-35		2134-35		2134-35		2135-36		2135-36		2135-36		2136-37		2136-37		2136-37		2137-38		2137-38		2137-38		2138-39		2138-39		2138-39		2139-40		2139-40		2139-40		2140-41		2140-41		2140-41		2141-42		2141-42		2141-42		2142-43		2142-43		2142-43		2143-44		2143-44		2143-44		2144-45		2144-45		2144-45		2145-46		2145-46		2145-46		2146-47		2146-47		2146-47		2147-48		2147-48		2147-48		2148-49		2148-49		2148-49		2149-50		2149-50		2149-50		2150-51		2150-51		2150-51		2151-52		2151-52		2151-52		2152-53		2152-53		2152-53		2153-54		2153-54		2153-54		2154-55		2154-55		2154-55		2155-56		2155-56		2155-56		2156-57		2156-57		2156-57		2157-58		2157-58		2157-58		2158-59		2158-59		2158-59		2159-60		2159-60		2159-60		2160-61		2160-61		2160-61		2161-62		2161-62		2161-62		2162-63		2162-63		2162-63		2163-64		2163-64		2163-64		2164-65		2164-65		2164-65		2165-66		2165-66		2165-66		2166-67		2166-67		2166-67		2167-68		2167-68		2167-68		2168-69		2168-69		2168-69		2169-70		2169-70		2169-70		2170-71		2170-71		2170-71		2171-72		2171-72		2171-72		2172-73		2172-73		2172-73		2173-74		2173-74		2173-74		2174-75		2174-75		2174-75		2175-76		2175-76		2175-76		2176-77		2176-77		2176-77		2177-78		2177-78		2177-78		2178-79		2178-79		2178-79		2179-80		2179-80		2179-80		2180-81		2180-81		2180-81		2181-82		2181-82		2181-82		2182-83		2182-83		2182-83		2183-84		2183-84		2183-84		2184-85		2184-85		2184-85		2185-86		2185-86		2185-86		2186-87		2186-87		2186-87		2187-88		2187-88		2187-88		2188-89		2188-89		2188-89		2189-90		2189-90		2189-90		2190-91		2190-91		2190-91		2191-92		2191-92		2191-92		2192-93		2192-93		2192-93		2193-94		2193-94		2193-94		2194-95		2194-95		2194-95		2195-96		2195-96		2195-96		2196-97		2196-97		2196-97		2197-98		2197-98		2197-98		2198-99		2198-99		2198-99		2199-00		2199-00		2199-00		2200-01		2200-01		2200-01		2201-02		2201-02		2201-02		2202-03		2202-03		2202-03		2203-04		2203-04		2203-04		2204-05		2204-05		2204-05		2205-06		2205-06		2205-06		2206-07		2206-07		2206-07		2207-08		2207-08		2207-08		2208-09		2208-09		2208-09		2209-10		2209-10		2209-10		221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Below shows a section of the sheet with various mitigation strategies modelled. Potentially, through the implementation of these mitigation strategies, cumulative deficit by the end of financial year 2029-30 could be:

Mitigation	Cumulative deficit projection
Current Projected – estimated projections based on current projected growth and commissioned place numbers	£91.9M
Reduce NMI by 100	£63.3M
Reduce NMI by 100 and no EHCP growth	£41.9M
Reduce EHCPs to 2,000, reduce NMIs to 100 by 2030	£12.1M

These are indicative only to give a sense of what the order of savings would activity would need to be in order to achieve a balanced budget position

#### 4. Conclusions

In summary, a higher number of CYP with SEND educated in mainstream provision results ultimately in reducing the number of learners in high-cost NMI provision, resulting in more effective use of available financial resources. Our budgets are limited and more of this spent on NMI means less funding for in-Borough maintained and Academy provision. Conversely, if more learners' needs are met within mainstream provision there will be significantly more funding available from the HNB to support them.

The current forecast in-year deficit for the DSG for 2025-26 is £12.15 million, with cumulative deficit from 2023-24 and 2024-25 adding a further £10.55 million, meaning a total estimated cumulative deficit of £22.7 million by the end of 2025-26. Continuing on our current trajectories would potentially result in a cumulative deficit in the order of £100 million by the end of 2029-2030.

We are happy to explain any aspect of the DSG Management Plan and our methodologies in more detail as required in the coming weeks and months.

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## Annex 1 – learner number projections

Table 1 – total EHCP projections to 2031-32, based on current trends

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
<b>Total number of EHC plans by primary need</b>	<b>Number of EHC plans by primary need (with estimated future projections)</b>												
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	658	696	741	786	879	932	1,048	1,143	1,254	1,381	1,505	1,632	1,734
Hearing Impairment	22	23	23	25	24	26	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Moderate Learning Difficulty	210	223	235	250	277	293	329	352	374	396	417	440	465
Multi- Sensory Impairment	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Physical Disability	38	40	43	45	40	41	45	49	51	52	53	54	54
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	43	44	48	50	51	53	59	64	64	66	67	68	69
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	196	204	216	230	272	290	327	366	438	523	644	793	902
Speech, Language and Communications needs	289	306	326	346	373	396	431	458	482	504	528	550	576
Severe Learning Difficulty	46	49	52	55	51	54	61	65	66	69	70	71	72
Specific Learning Difficulty	36	39	41	43	50	53	59	62	66	71	75	79	83
Visual Impairment	14	15	15	16	18	19	21	23	23	23	24	24	24
Other Difficulty/Disability	47	49	51	55	44	46	53	56	58	61	62	64	65
support but no specialist assessment of type of need	92	98	102	109	111	117	129	133	134	139	143	147	150
<b>Total number of EHC plans by primary need</b>	<b>1,694</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>2,323</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>4,224</b>

Table 2 – total learners placed in Bases (SEN Unit/Resourced Provision) to 2031-32, based on current commissioned and planned place numbers.

BASES		Number of EHC plans by primary need (with estimated future projections)												
	Jan	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	171	181	194	206	221	234	259	277	280	283	286	286	286
	Hearing Impairment	8	8	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Moderate Learning Difficulty	8	8	8	9	15	16	18	16	16	16	16	16	16
	Multi- Sensory Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Physical Disability	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	8	8	8	9	10	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
	Speech, Language and Communications needs	48	51	55	58	67	72	80	80	82	84	86	86	86
	Severe Learning Difficulty	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Specific Learning Difficulty	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Visual Impairment	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Other Difficulty/Disability	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need	3	4	4	4	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	Total number of EHC plans by primary need	258	272	289	307	341	362	399	418	423	428	433	433	433
						imports		25	25	25	25	25	25	25
								425	444	449	454	459	459	459
						place deficit		1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1

Table 3 – total learners placed in Maintained and Academy Special Schools to 2031-32, based on current commissioned and planned place numbers.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS		Number of EHC plans by primary need (with estimated future projections)												
	Jan	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Autistic Spectrum Disorder		165	175	186	197	212	225	249	273	273	273	273	273	273
Hearing Impairment		3	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Moderate Learning Difficulty		67	71	75	80	73	77	85	93	93	93	93	93	93
Multi- Sensory Impairment		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physical Disability		6	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty		33	34	37	39	38	40	44	48	48	48	48	48	48
Social, Emotional and Mental Health		34	35	37	39	44	47	52	59	59	59	59	59	59
Speech, Language and Communications needs		49	51	54	58	58	62	69	75	75	75	75	75	75
Severe Learning Difficulty		30	32	34	36	31	33	36	39	39	39	39	39	39
Specific Learning Difficulty		3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Visual Impairment		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Difficulty/Disability		14	15	16	17	14	15	17	18	18	18	18	18	18
support but no specialist assessment of type of need		11	12	12	13	23	24	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
<b>Total number of EHC plans by primary need</b>		<b>416</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>648</b>
							imports	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
								666	723	723	723	723	723	723

Table 4 – total learners placed in Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools to 2031-32, based on projected need (current trends) and the number of available places in LA Maintained and Academy Special Schools and Bases.

NMI		Number of EHC plans by primary need (with estimated future projections)										
	Jan	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Autistic Spectrum Disorder		42	44	47	50	88	93	121	134	198	275	343
Hearing Impairment		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moderate Learning Difficulty		3	4	4	4	14	15	22	22	27	29	29
Multi- Sensory Impairment		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Disability		7	7	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Social, Emotional and Mental Health		13	13	14	15	29	31	41	43	81	127	204
Speech, Language and Communications needs		19	21	22	24	22	23	19	22	25	26	26
Severe Learning Difficulty		2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	6	6
Specific Learning Difficulty		3	4	4	4	6	6	7	7	7	9	9
Visual Impairment		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Difficulty/Disability		8	8	8	9	8	8	11	11	11	13	13
support but no specialist assessment of type of need		8	8	8	9	4	4	4	4	4	6	6
<b>Total number of EHC plans by primary need</b>		<b>108</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>648</b>

Note: The necessity to place in NMI provision is dependent on the number of learners with EHCPs whose needs are not met in LA Maintained and Academy provision. More learners' needs being met within mainstream provision will reduce the need for expensive NMI placements which hugely impact LA budgets and expenditure.

## Annex 2 – placement cost and total expenditure projections

Table 1 – NMI Expenditure projections to 2029-30, based on current trends.

<i>NMI Placement Expenditure</i>		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2029-30
AVE. COS' £	57,000.00	£	57,000.00	£	57,000.00	£	57,000.00
PLACE #	241		262		311		368
IMPORTS	0		0		0		0
SUTTON LEARNERS IN PROVISION	241		262		311		368
<b>SPECIAL</b>							
<b>BELOW ASSUMES PUPIL NUMBER INCREASES AS PER PROJECTIONS AT AVERAGE PLACE COSTS, NO UPLIFTS</b>							
£	13,748,685.00	£	14,958,569.28	£	16,274,923.38	£	17,707,116.63
			8.8%		8.8%		8.8%
£	19,265,342.90	£	20,960,693.07				
<b>SHORTFALL IN NUMBER OF PLACES - ASSUMING NO GROWTH FROM SPECIAL/BASE</b>							
NEEDED BY SUTTON LEARNERS	241		262		311		368
IMPORT	0		0		0		0
AVAILABLE	0		0		0		0
SHORTFALL	241		262		311		368
£	13,748,685	£	14,958,569	£	16,274,923	£	17,707,117
£	19,265,343	£	20,960,693				
<b>SHORTFALL IN NUMBER OF PLACES - ASSUMING OVERSPILL FROM SPECIAL ONLY</b>							
NEEDED BY SUTTON LEARNERS	244		260		340		427
IMPORT	0		0		0		0
AVAILABLE	0		0		0		0
SHORTFALL	244		260		340		427
£	13,884,630	£	14,821,933	£	19,376,632	£	24,332,143
£	29,723,740	£	35,589,797				
<b>SHORTFALL IN NUMBER OF PLACES - ASSUMING OVERSPILL FROM SPECIAL AND BASES</b>							
NEEDED BY SUTTON LEARNERS	244		276		390		513
IMPORT	0		0		0		0
AVAILABLE	0		0		0		0
SHORTFALL	244		276		390		513
£	13,885,200	£	15,726,200	£	22,246,489	£	29,230,212
£	36,946,151	£	45,609,676				

We are forecast to spend around £13.9 million on Independent Special School placements in 2025-26, and this could rise to as much as £45 million per annum if we do not increase the number of SEND CYP whose needs are met within mainstream provision, reducing the reliance on NMI.

<b>Report Title</b>	Pupil Premium funding for independent provision
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Kieran Holliday, Director Education, Integrated Services and Community Safety
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on how the Local Authority intends on making pupil premium funding available for children attending independent provision and how this would apply where that setting hasn't already included this funding in the fees that are charged to the Local Authority.
- 1.2. **Recommendation(s)**
- 1.3. To approve the proposal on how FSM funding for NMI settings will be distributed in the local area.

## 2. Background and Key Information

- 2.1. In October 2024, officers reported to Schools Forum that there were two issues in relation to FSM funding that needed to be addressed:
  - That there was no mechanism for children eligible for free school meals attending education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) to claim that funding.
  - That there were weak systems in place to correctly allocate funding to non-maintained or independent settings (NMI) - other than those settings contacting the Local Authority directly to pass on the funding for pupils that they identify as eligible.
- 2.2. In relation to EOTAS, officers updated the Forum in February on the solution that had been implemented to ensure that children and young people attending Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) Sutton could receive Free School Meals (FSM). A proposal on how to address the second issue remained unresolved.
- 2.3. In that meeting, and on the basis that NMI schools are very likely de facto include the costs of pupil premium provision within the fees that they charge, Schools Forum requested that officers review the conditions of grant and consider the possibility of using FSM funding for NMI provision for centrally funded provision that might have a wider benefit across the local area.



- 2.4. This report sets out the issues arising based on an a review of the conditions of grant and how the Local Authority proposes to proceed in relation to making FSM funding available to NMI settings in the local area.

### **3. Pupil premium for non-maintained special schools (NMSS)**

- 3.1. The Local Authority is estimated to receive £70-80k for 25/26 to support pupils with FSM in non-maintained and independent schools.
- 3.2. The grant is allocated to NMSS based on the number of pupils in year groups reception to year 11, who are:
- recorded as eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (FSM Ever 6)
  - previously looked-after children (PLAC): pupils who were looked after by a local authority or other state care immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority or other state care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).
  - PP grant is also allocated to local authorities based on the number of looked-after children (LAC) supported by the authority, including those who attend NMSS
- 3.3. Officers have reviewed the 'Pupil premium 2024 to 2025: conditions of grant for non-maintained special schools (NMSS)' to see if it would be possible to use the funding to create centrally funded provision that NMI pupils would benefit from (but where there would be a wider local area benefit by making that provision accessible to a wider group of young people). .
- 3.4. The guidance states that Pupil Premium funding grant can be spent on the following:
- *for the benefit of eligible pupils registered at the NMSS who meet the funding criteria*
  - *for the benefit of pupils who meet the funding criteria and are registered at other state funded schools - for example, when hosting summer schools which welcome pupils from other schools*
  - *on community services whose provision furthers the benefit of eligible pupils at the NMSS*
- 3.5. Whilst the above suggests that pupil premium funding can be used on pupils that may be registered at other state funded schools it is clear by the examples that this provision must still be located within the setting in which the funding should be directed. The above does not appear to allow for an arrangement where the provision is centrally commissioned by the Local Authority, or at the very least it would seem to be reasonable to expect that the Local Authority would have to get the agreement of all the settings that are due the funding to agree to such an arrangement. This is considered impractical on the grounds that the NMI settings eligible for the funding would change from one year to the next (making the process by which this agreement would be complicated) and the likelihood of every setting agreeing



is remote.

3.6. There is also the question of fairness. Given that when the LA places a child with an EHCP into an independent setting, the LA does not fund the Independent school a higher rate for a disadvantaged learner, it would seem appropriate for the LA to pass the full disadvantaged pupil premium funding attributable to that child to the independent school, to support with their learning.

3.7. The following is therefore proposed:

- The Local Authority will write to NMI settings at the start of each financial year to provide details of how they can request Pupil Premium Grant funding for eligible pupils attending their settings.
- The Local Authority will use the AP Census data, as well as any other sources of information (including the eligibility checking service), to review requests from schools and to verify entitlement.
- In this letter it will state that any settings that do not claim the funding will be assumed to have included the costs of such provision in the fees that are set for pupils attending their provision and that any remaining monies in the grant will be 'returned' to the High Needs Block on the grounds that this it is this budget that NMI fees are generally paid.

#### 4. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
N/A	N/A

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<b>Report Title</b>	2026/27 Manstream Schools Falling Rolls Policy
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. In July 2023 the Department for Education announced that for 2024 to 2025 funding would be allocated through the schools block national funding formula based on both growth and falling rolls. This was due to the national situation of falling primary rolls.
- 1.2. Historically Local Authorities have had discretion to set falling rolls funding however with the introduction of the national funding formula, there is less ability for Local Authorities to offer that funding as part of the National Funding Formula.
- 1.3. In December 2023, Schools Forum agreed in principle to a Falling Rolls policy for 2024/25 based on additional funding being allocated based on a proportion of the basic entitlement for vacant places below 85% of the PAN for the normal year of entry (reception or year 7) and also for the next year group after entry (year 1 and year 8). Funding would be available for a maximum of 3 years (provided SCAP data shows places are needed in the next 3 to 5 years) after which a school's PAN may be adjusted or other action taken (See December 2203, enclosure 4).
- 1.4. Officers had planned to develop a detailed policy statement for Schools Forum review around this option but this was not finalised following confirmation from the DfE that Sutton's allocation in 2024/25 was nil (there being other priorities).
- 1.5. Whilst Sutton's allocation in 2025/26 is also nil, with falling rolls continuing to increase in the local area, a final policy should be agreed in the local area in case Sutton is allocated falling rolls funding in future but also because it would be possible to distribute falling rolls funding to schools beyond what is provided through the Government allocation (through an adjustment to the NFF). This possibility was not explicitly discussed with Forum in December and an approach on this point should be agreed alongside the policy.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree the proposed falling rolls policy to apply from the 2026/27 financial year, included in Appendix A.

- 2.2. To agree an approach on the the value of the falling rolls fund to be agreed in 2026/27 - Option A or Option B.

### **3. Background and Key Information**

#### Falling Rolls Policy 2026/27

- 3.1. Falling rolls funding is to support schools to remain viable, and to continue to provide a suitable education to its existing learners, during a period where pupil numbers at the school are expected to fall for a brief period, before pupil projections indicate numbers will rise once again to the pupil numbers the school is being protected at, through the growth policy.
- 3.2. It is not intended to support schools that are not viable at their current PAN/ through their current school organisational structure, but where there is no indication within current pupil projections the school will be needed at its protected PAN within the next three years.
- 3.3. The DfE guidance for falling rolls funding can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2025-to-2026/growth-and-falling-rolls-fund-guidance-2025-to-2026>
- 3.4. The proposed local area falling rolls policy is set out in Appendix A and would be compliant with the guidance above.
- 3.5. The policy proposes a methodology for distributing a finite budget in the sense that Schools Forum would agree a budget for falling rolls funding at the start of the year and this funding would be allocated based on the policy until the allocation was exhausted. This appears to be in line with government guidance which states that “*The schools forum should agree both the value of the fund and the criteria for allocation*”, which implies that Forums are expected to agree a finite budget rather than an open ended arrangement.
- 3.6. Schools Forum are requested to approve the policy in Appendix A as to how falling rolls funding would be distributed to schools and on what basis. Note that the policy will exist independently of the value of the failing rolls budget, as the policy will distribute what funding is agreed by Forum (see section below).

#### Value of the Falling Rolls Policy in Sutton

- 3.7. The Government introduced a falling rolls funding factor in the 24/25 Schools Block (DSG) National Funding Formula. The falling rolls allocation for each local authority is based on £141,890 per Medium Super Output Area (MSOA) that sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the two census years being compared. There are 23 MSOA's in Sutton. For 2024/25 Sutton received nil allocation as was the case for 2025/26.
- 3.8. To date Sutton hasn't needed a falling rolls funding policy on the grounds that it hasn't received an allocation (and may still not for some time). However it would be possible for

falling rolls funding to be distributed to schools (even in the event of a nil allocation from Government) by adjusting NFF factors to create a falling rolls fund. Given that this possibility was not explicitly discussed in the December 2023 report, an approach needs to now be agreed alongside the detailed policy statement in Appendix A.

- 3.9. Setting a budget for the falling rolls fund is a decision for Schools Forum and not the Local Authority. Schools Forum are asked to decide on the following two broad options:

**Option 1** - set the falling rolls budget on what the Government allocates to Sutton as part of NFF allocations (which to date have been nil)

- 3.10. If Schools Forum choose option 1 then the policy (if agreed in Appendix A) would only ever apply where Sutton receives an allocation from the DfE. This would in effect be the falling rolls funding budget for the year. In theory the maximum allocation that Sutton could receive based on 23 MSOAs is £3.2m.

**Option 2** - set a falling rolls budget at a given value on top of, or to supplement what is provided by the Government.

- 3.11. In this option, the budget would be set at a value independent of the allocation received by Government. Note that this option would likely involve reducing NFF factors to create headroom in the Schools Block budget to pay the allocation. For example, it could be that a budget of £400k (say) is agreed and that this budget would be set irrespective of how much funding is allocated by the DfE. For example, if the budget was £400k next year and two MSOAs triggered funding from the DfE =  $2 \times £141,890 = £283,780$  then a further £116,220 would need to be found from an adjustment to the Schools Block (reducing individual school budget shares to pay for it). Equally if the budget was set at a rate less than the allocation from the DfE then this would provide some headroom.
- 3.12. No options on the value of the falling rolls budget have been suggested at this stage on the grounds that Schools Forum should first decide which option they would wish to go with.

#### 4. Implications

- 4.1. The Council's capital budgets have been updated to reflect committed expenditure.

#### 5. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
A	Draft Mainstream Schools Falling Rolls Policy for Sutton 2026/27

## Appendix A

# Mainstream Schools Falling Rolls Policy 2026/27

For all Sutton Schools

## 1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1. The policy was developed due to the number of births in Sutton falling since 2012 which has resulted in a growing number of surplus places in primary schools and the expectation is that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.
- 1.2. The Falling Rolls Funding Policy budget will be set according to the allocation Sutton receives through the Falling Rolls funding factor within the schools block of the DSG related to that financial year. For 24/25 and 25/26, this has been £0. Allocation amounts are expected to be confirmed by the DfE mid-December in advance of the financial year it will apply to.
- 1.3. Forecasts (currently available to 2028/29 academic year) suggest that the primary school population will continue to decline, and only a minority schools will be unaffected. In addition, Secondary pupil forecasts show that from 2029/30, Secondary school pupil numbers will fall below the existing 'typical' PAN of secondary schools.
- 1.4. This Policy is to support schools to remain viable during this challenging period until demand increases again..

## 2. The Principles

- 2.1. The principles are as follows:
  - Support for falling rolls not limited to financial claims only
  - Financial support is not an automatic right; the pupil number and financial criteria must be met, and the falling rolls payment affordable from within any established falling rolls budget. Schools experiencing a reduction in numbers will not automatically qualify for financial support.
  - Schools would need to apply in writing prior to 30th November 2026
  - Schools to apply annually for Falling Rolls Funding
  - Maximum award available to schools is 3 academic years
  - Allocation is based on annual budget agreed by Schools Forum

## 3. Criteria for Claims Process for Additional Funding

- 3.1. This policy is aimed at both primary and secondary schools as whilst it is the primary sector that is currently significantly affected as a whole, there is some surplus in the Secondary sector that tends to be poorly distributed across all schools, and this surplus is forecast to grow from September 2029.
- 3.2. Schools may attract falling rolls funding if they meet ALL the following requirements:

- Local planning data demonstrates that numbers at the school are expected to rise again within 3 years (which includes the current year). Pupil number into the main intake year will need to rise to above the 85% threshold, in order to trigger falling rolls funding. This will be determined by the local authority, based on the locally agreed forecasting methodology used for DfE SCAP returns
- Surplus capacity exceeds a minimum number of pupils, or a percentage of the published admission number, which is set out in the Pupil Number Criteria below.
- Formula funding available to the school will not support provision of an appropriate curriculum for the existing cohort
- The school will need to make redundancies to contain spending within its formula budget
- Reduction in numbers on roll (NOR) is not the result of an agreed reduction in PAN i.e. Some schools may have had temporary increased PAN's a few years previously and now that the expansion is coming to the end the PAN is being reduced again back down to what it previously was. These schools are not eligible to claim as they should have been planning staffing reductions accordingly.
- Falling rolls are not the result of bulge classes passing through a school.
- Schools will be expected to have actively managed falling rolls, and approached the LA and reached an agreement with HoPBC, to establish a PAN that will be needed. The school will be expected to reduce PAN, if there is no demand for that sustained level of FE within the next 3 years.

### **Pupil Number Criteria**

- 3.3. Schools need to have met the following criteria to be eligible to apply for support under the Falling Rolls Policy, but this wouldn't necessarily result in financial support being offered:
- Occupied places are below 85% of the PAN for the normal year of entry (reception or year 7, or year 3 for Junior schools). Pupil numbers to be taken from the Autumn census count applicable to that financial year, and will only include pupils on the school mainstream roll (i.e. SRP/ SEN unit pupils will be excluded from this count).

### **Financial Criteria**

- 3.4. Schools would only warrant financial support if they can meet ALL of the following criteria:
- Schools will be expected to cover any temporary funding shortfall from their existing carry forward balances prior to application to the Falling Rolls Funding policy, LA maintained schools and academies must provide their latest forecast outturn report, signed off either by the Head Teacher for LA maintained schools or Trustees for academies.
  - Maintained school's closing reserves should not exceed 8% of their annual budget share. For academy schools full GAG reserve balances for their school budget share will be considered and must not exceed 8% of their annual income. These must be signed off by either the LA maintained school Head Teacher or Trustees of academies. 8% has been determined in line with other area benchmarking, and based on the DfE

considering a vulnerable school as having <5% reserves, whilst a high level of reserves has been identified as >20%.

- In the unlikely event schools are also receiving financial support through the existing growth fund, no funding will be paid where schools are already being supported via this method.
- Schools should submit details of how the funding will be deployed via the headteacher.

#### 4. Methodology for distributing funding

- 4.1. Funding will be awarded using the following formula:

*the shortfall in pupil numbers below 85% PAN for the normal year of entry  
(reception, year 7 or year 3) x the phase relevant Basic Entitlement rate*

+

*the shortfall in pupil numbers below 85% PAN for the next year group after entry  
(year 1, year 8 or year 4) x the phase relevant Basic Entitlement rate*

- 4.2. Where the allocation must be limited to the available budget, should the combined allocations across all schools using this formula would exceed the Falling rolls budget, allocations would be scaled to within the available budget. The following scaling calculation would therefore be applied:

*scaled allocation = individual school allocation/ total allocation x total available budget*

#### 5. Claims Process

- 5.1. The Policy will be reviewed and published on an annual basis on the LBS website.
- 5.2. Schools should apply in writing, with all supporting evidence, to the Pupil Based Commissioning Team before the deadline of 30th November for the subsequent financial year.
- 5.3. Applications should be made, complete with the evidence required, in the first instance, to [jack.cutler@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:jack.cutler@sutton.gov.uk)
- 5.4. Payments for schools to be made on a financial year basis: 7/12ths covering the period September to March; 5/12ths covering the period April to August.

#### 6. Further Information/Queries

- 6.1. Schools should initially direct any queries to the Pupil Based Commissioning Team: [jack.cutler@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:jack.cutler@sutton.gov.uk)
- 6.2. If queries relate to other financial matters, please contact [schoolreturns@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreturns@sutton.gov.uk)



<b>Report Title</b>	Sherwood Park School Funding
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the opening of the new satellite provision of Sherwood Park school, and proposes an approach to supporting the school with startup and diseconomy of scale funding, whilst the school grows into its new facilities.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree the proposed funding arrangements to provide the school with start up funding and diseconomy of scale funding whilst the school grows into its new premises.

## 3. Background and Key Information

- 3.1. In March 2025, the Sutton People Committee agreed to the establishment of a third campus for Sherwood Park school, the Manor Campus, at the old Carew Academy site at Carew Manor.
- 3.2. This campus will open initially for 25 children across 4 classes, within a specific part of the building that will be refurbished to support this provision.
- 3.3. The capital refurbishment project has a value of £460,000, to create 4 additional classrooms, group intervention and therapy, and breakout spaces, a staff room and toilet refurbishments.
- 3.4. In addition to this £60,000 has been allocated to the school for the creation of a sensory room and safe regulation space.
- 3.5. All capital costs associated with the new building will be met by the capital project budget - e.g. all loose furniture, fixtures and equipment. All resources and staffing costs will need to be met by a revenue budget agreed with Schools Forum.
- 3.6. With regard to revenue funding, it has been agreed the school will be funded at £30,000 top-up, alongside £10,000 palace funding, for all learners placed on the Care Manor pathway. In general, these would be learners that would have joined Angel Hill Free School, had it been available.

- 3.7. In addition to this, the school has requested £50,000 funding to support project management from the school aspect to establish the new campus, and to create a Head of Campus role from May to work on setting up the provision from September. This will be met through the capital project budget, under in-house professional services.
- 3.8. Some of the children placed at Sherwood Park Manor campus have similar needs to some of the children at the existing Hill campus, and as such will be funded on one of the U,T and S pathways, already in use for this campus.
- 3.9. The DSG would normally support new school provision in the Borough where a Local Authority considered it necessary to meet basic need - (section 6a of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which requires LAs to seek proposals for a new Academy/Free School). However, where new schools are created through the Central Free Schools route (as Harris Academy Sutton and the Angel Hill Free School have been) pre and post opening funding will be provided directly to these schools from the ESFA to cover costs of resources, leadership and teaching staff.
- 3.10. Whilst the Carew manor building, in effect, creates a new school, in organisational terms it is an expansion on a split site, as it will form a third campus of the existing Sherwood Park school. Special schools no longer receive a separate split site funding allocation, rather this is included in the funding model that determines the top-up funding rate.
- 3.11. The diseconomies of scale in this scenario are therefore more onerous than expansions on existing sites. For example, the costs of running the building in the earlier years, the requirement for additional staff on the additional site (midday supervisors, front of house staff, additional site team requirements, cleaning etc.)
- 3.12. At present the forecast need would be for the Manor campus to grow in the following way:

Year group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	TOTAL
<b>2025</b>	24							24
<b>2026</b>	24	24						48
<b>2027</b>	12	24	24					60
<b>2028</b>	12	12	24	24				72
<b>2029</b>	12	12	12	24	24			84
<b>2030</b>	12	12	12	12	24	24		96
<b>2031</b>	12	12	12	12	12	24	24	108
<b>2032</b>	12	12	12	12	12	12	24	96
<b>2033</b>	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	84

- 3.13. In some respects, the expansion of the school represents a new school proposal as they will have a new building on a new site therefore they will need additional front of house/admin staff, additional caretaking capacity, additional catering staff and so on. In others, it doesn't represent new school provision because there is an existing Head Teacher and Leadership team that will not need to be replicated (though some additional leadership capacity is probably justified). In this sense, the diseconomies of scale funding that brand new schools would normally attract wouldn't apply in the same way in this case.
- 3.14. Post opening funding - resources - a brief review of practice elsewhere (including that which the ESFA provides to new free schools) suggests that for each pupil expected £500 would be provided on an annual basis. It is reasonable that Sherwood Park receives equivalent funding to this given that this funding is unrelated to diseconomies of scale. Therefore a further £500 resources funding per learner has been requested, to establish learning materials.
- 3.15. The school will also be admitting two children onto the Manor campus who have exceptional needs above those supported on the Manor campus funding rate. Additional funding is requested at £11,000 per child, per term, to support with these needs, up to a 1 year period (£66,000 total across this year).
- 3.16. Post opening funding - viability and diseconomies of scale - this funding will generally support schools in the period after opening in view of the fact that the new schools/academies will have empty year grounds and it is not clear how long they will take to build up their numbers - particularly if the school is commissioned in response to housing.
- 3.17. Given the Department for Education provides leadership diseconomy of scale funding as follows: The leadership element for special schools is a fixed-rate payment of £170,000. 50% in the first year, 30% in the second, and 20% in the third, it is proposed a similar approach is taken with Sherwood Park School.
- 3.18. A further complexity is the unknown running costs of a grade I and II listed building for Sherwood Park School. Utility costs were £80,000 annually under Carew Academy, and it is anticipated they will remain at a similar level under Sherwood Park.
- 3.19. It is therefore proposed in addition to the agreed top-up rates, Sherwood Park school will also receive £75,000 diseconomy of scale funding in year 1, to be reviewed 6 months into opening, to establish whether diseconomy of scale funding should also be provided in year 2.
- 3.20. A summary of the proposed revenue funding is provided below:

Revenue stream	Amount	Notes
Place funding/ place	£10,000	All places will attract this

Top up funding: Manor campus/ pupil	£30,000	This rate includes approximately £5,000 to cover higher than typical premises running costs.
Top-up funding: Hill U, T, S	£27,755 - £42,129	These are the same rates as those agreed for pupils at the Hill campus.
Exceptional funding for 2 children, for 1 year	£66,000	This is provided for year 1 only
Diseconomy of scale funding	£75,000	This is provided for year 1 only
Set-up funding	£50,000	Note this is to be funded from the project capital budget
Resources funding	£500 per pupil	This equates to £25k in year 1, £24.5k in year 2, etc.

#### 4. Implications

- 4.1. The Council's capital budgets will be updated to reflect and further committed expenditure.

#### 5. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
N/A	N/A

<b>Report Title</b>	Capital Report
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 June 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	Open

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on capital funding and further information on pupil place planning and any capital implications arising.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the summary of developments against the primary, secondary and special expansion programmes.
- 2.2. Agree the capital maintenance programme for 2025/26 as set out in appendix A (maintained school members only)

## 3. Background and Key Information

### Basic Need Capital

- 3.1. The overall expansion programme costs (below) have been adjusted to reflect the latest position but remain similar to those last reported to Schools Forum in January.

	Previous estimate (Dec '24) £m	Current estimate (May '25) £m
Primary expansions	81.1	81.1
Secondary expansions	99.7	99.7
SEN expansions	17.9	20.1

### Capital Maintenance Programme

#### 24/25 programme.

- 3.2. Sutton's allocation for 2024/25 was £884,714. As such, the available budget for 24/25 was £940k. This programme is intended to address LA maintained school condition needs, and is allocated through the existing annual school bidding process. Schools submitted a total of 29 bids to be evaluated by the Asset Management Panel (AMP) Steering Group which met on 23 January 2024.
- 3.3. The value of the programme of works totals £959k, which leaves no contingency for emergency winter works. Further work is being undertaken with schools that submitted successful projects to value engineer costs, with the intention to release a contingency to fund emergency winter works. The total programme value was £1,069,550, resulting in a carryforward into 2025/26 of -£128,970.

#### 25/26 programme

An application process commenced in October 2024, with the AMP steering group meeting in January to confirm allocations. The agreed programme value was £1,002,987.26. The final DfE allocation to Sutton was £1,186,060. Considering the negative balance brought forwards from 24/25, the contingency for emergency winter works sits at £54,103, which has a risk of a small over-spend, given a winter works programme value in 24/25 had a value of £80,119.

The agreed programme of works for 25/26 is set out in Appendix A.

### Place Planning - Secondary Programme

- 3.4. September 2024 pupil forecasts are lower than 2023 forecasts, and this is validated in Secondary application data for September 2024. The total number of Sutton applicants has decreased by 63 from September 2023, whilst the total number of 1st preference applications has reduced by 72 in -borough and 54 out of borough (a total reduction of 126). However, numbers are not forecast to reduce back to levels that can be accommodated within current school PANs until 2028/29.
- 3.5. Additional funding has been agreed through an urgency notice issued by the council to increase the budget available for the agreed expansion works at Oaks Park High School to £5.6m (which includes £500k investment in SEND provision from the SPCF), to support the additional 50 places being provided in all years between September 2022 - September 2028.
- 3.6. For September 2025 the following bulge classes were agreed
- Carshalton Boys - 30 places
  - Oaks Park High School - 50 places

**Total - 80 places**

3.7. For September 2026 the following additional bulge class places are available if needed:

- Carshalton Boys - 30 places
- Carshalton Girls - 30 places
- Cheam High - 20 places
- Oaks Park High School - 50 places
- Overton Grange - 30 places

**Total: 160 places**

Not all of these places are expected to now be required; following the latest School Capacity Survey analysis, discussions will take place with Headteachers in September 2025 to agree where additional places will need to be provided. The capital investment has already been made across these schools should the additional places be needed, as agreed in December 2022 as part of the additional places agreements.

Place Planning - Primary Programme

- 3.8. Officers continue to discuss with schools options for permanent reductions in primary places, and school organisation changes, with consideration based on a variety of different factors including where pupils live, where birth rates have fallen most significantly, parental preferences and the location of delivered and planned housing developments.
- 3.9. Regarding Reception admissions for September 2025, offers continue to be lower than in the previous year. The Local Authority will continue to work with schools to manage the increasing surplus places resulting from these falling numbers. Note, the planning area applications data refers to all applications, from children living both in, and outside of , Sutton, whilst the LA level data is for Sutton residents only.
- 3.10. No bulge classes are planned for September 2025, or for the foreseeable future. A school organisation plan, with a focus on managing falling rolls, is currently being developed that will establish clear priorities in Sutton for how falling rolls across the local area are managed.

Place Planning - SEND Programme

- 3.11. Notwithstanding the actions the council has taken to create additional specialist capacity in the borough, as stated above, the demand for specialist places continues to grow and most of the state funded specialist provision in the borough is now largely full. As a result, the council has commissioned places at the following schools for September 2025.
- Oakfield base at Woodfield School - 54 to 60 places
  - Sherwood Park Special School - 180 to 205 places
  - The Limes College - 180 -200 places ( additional 20 (That can support 50 young people concurrently) at risk of exclusion places at a new satellite to operate from Sunningdale Road, to open from April 2025.

- Carew Academy - 254 to 274 places, concurrent with the introduction of a new skills for learning funding pathway
  - Avenue base - additional 2 bulge classes (16) places, into KS1
- 3.12. Some capital funding has been agreed with schools to support these additional places; Expenditure against these projects will be reported against the SEND expansion programme.
- 3.13. In addition to these places, additional post-16 and post-19 provision places have been secured at Orchard Hill College. The provision will be available from September 2025.
- 3.14. Round 8 of the special provision capital fund was agreed through the co-opted Asset Management Plan steering group in June, with a total programme value of up to £2.9m.
- 3.15. The Local area has now received £18.2m between 2018/19 to 2025/26 through Special Provision Capital Funding (SPCF) allocations. The vast majority of this has been distributed to schools and other education settings through an application process overseen through a steering group of school headteachers and local area SEND representatives and officers.
- 3.16. The SPCF round 9 application window is currently open for schools and early years setting to bid for funding through, and the AMP steering group will convene in the summer 2025 term to consider these applications.

#### Place Planning - Free School Programme

- 3.17. There are two ongoing free school proposals in the borough. The first relates to Sutton Free School 2, which has now been named the Angel Hill Special Academy. This project is led by the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver a new 96 place Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) special school on the proposed site of the disused all weather pitch at the Rosehill site - to be run by the Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT). Planning consent for this school was granted on 7 February 2024. The anticipated opening date of the new building has slipped to September 2027.
- 3.18. Sherwood Park school will open a new provision at the Carew Manor site for 25 places in September 2025, at a capital cost currently estimated at £460k. It is expected this provision will open a further 24 places in September 2026, with further expansions to be considered alongside the availability of Angel Hill from September 2027.
- 3.19. The second Free School project relates to the Carew Academy special school and the relocation of this school into a new special school on the Sheen Way site. Similarly, this project is led by the Department for Education (DfE), and the new school opened on 30 April 2025. A grant of £130,000 was agreed against this school project, from SPCF grant, to provide external play equipment for this school, as external play equipment is not within scope of the DfE free school programme.

#### **4. Implications**



4.1. The Council's capital budgets have been updated to reflect committed expenditure.

## 5. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
A	Capital Maintenance programme 2025/26

### Appendix A - Capital Maintenance programme 2025/26

		<b>B/fwd from 2024/25</b>	<b>-£128,970</b>
		<b><u>Confirmed 2025/26 allocation</u></b>	<b>£1,186,060</b>
		<i>Estimated emergency winter works/ reserves contribution to c/fwd to 2025/26</i>	<i>£54,103</i>
Project Reference	School Name	Project Description	Capital Maintenance Grant
CAP2501	Culvers House Primary School	<p>Culvers House Primary School would like to bid for funding from the AMP for the refurbishment of new toilets for our children.</p> <p>We have 10 toilet cubicles, (4 standard size cubicles and 2 large cubicles) in KS1, Reception, Nest-yr 1 &amp; 2 that require urgent attention. We would like to enhance our children's learning environment by ensuring basic hygiene needs are met and our facilities meet the required standard that are conducive to our children's learning needs. We have about 200 children accessing these two toilet blocks. Currently thanks to our very dedicated cleaning staff we are managing to keep the area clean preventing our children from not wanting to use the facilities. Our toilets are in dire need of repair. The toilet bowls move, despite numerous attempts to try and set them fixed to the floor. Numerous attempts have been made to repair and set them in place. The floors are rotting and the screws are rusting from the dampness, the toilets have an unpleasant odour continuously. Cleaning staff do their very best to clean and maintain the cleanliness for the children to use the facilities but despite their best efforts, the toilets are getting worse. These facilities are not hygienic or conducive for the provision of premises facilities for our children at this school. I have included images of the toilets to support this</p>	£46,620.00

		<p>application.</p> <p>We have taken every precaution to heighten sanitation requirements. As the areas have deteriorated, we have within our budget range made great efforts to maintain them. We now are hoping to bid for the funds to refurbish our pupil's toilet facilities. This will improve the provision of our education services for our children.</p> <p>To get the best value, we invited minimum x 3 companies to tender for this project. BRM is the company we have chosen to project manage the works should we be successful with this bid. Please see attached photos, document with the estimated cost, further photos sent via email, of our current school toilet facilities.</p>	
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CAP2502	Culvers House Primary School	<p>Replacement Fire Doors -Culvers House Primary School would like to bid for funding from the AMP for the installation of new fire doors for our school.</p> <p>The school was built in 1998(26 years ago) and our fire doors are the original ones from the point when the school was built. We are on one floor with a long corridor in the middle and classes to the side off the building allowing children and staff access to exit the building safely in an emergency. Unfortunately, the damage overtime to the doors have been causing problems.</p> <p>The corridor divides into 3 sections by fire doors at each section, and we have further fire doors throughout the school. The middle corridor has only 1 part that can be categorized as compartmental (wall on both sides) with double fire doors at both ends. We have a dome shaped very high ceiling. The design we believe necessitated the installation of the sprinkler system, which unfortunately is now impaired and we don't have paperwork to reference the grading of any of the fire doors.</p> <p>The doors are regularly in heavy use, so there is increased wear and damage, there are gaps between doors and frames, damaged seals, hinges. These faults increases' the risk reducing the efficiency, increasing the risk to our children and staff, so we feel is the right time to replace our fire doors.</p> <p>We have maintained them as long as we can. Steps have been taken to evaluate the efficiency, assess the extent of the requirement to replace the doors. We have commissioned a Fire strategy report from FRM (Fire Protection Association) an independent company at the cost absorbed by the school and a number of quotes companies that install fire doors (x 4) with survey and costing proposal from our chosen company for your consideration.</p> <p>We undertake our responsibility very seriously to ensure the safety of our children and staff and feel it's the right time to replace our fire doors to fit in align with current legislations.</p> <p>It is imperative for us to ensure children have flexibility of movement through the school, while staff having the choice if an area needs the doors to be closed to restrict movement, it can be. The option is available, ensuring in a fire the doors are certified and act as a fire prevention from spreading.</p> <p>Fire doors have a big role to play in this, as they form a crucial part of a building's passive fire system. They help to slow down the spread of fire and smoke as</p>	£120,000.00
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		well as creating "fire sterile" areas, giving staff and students time and safe pathways to exit the building in an emergency. Our doors do not have evidence labels identifying the standard rating they are, which was highlighted in our Fire risk assessment.	
CAP2503	High View Primary School	Electrical - remedial works following fixed wire testing	£11,000.00
CAP2504	High View Primary	Create new meeting room in existing independent learning area	£35,000
CAP2505	High View Primary	Year 5 and 6 classrooms (4 rooms) replace existing sink units and refurbish outdated classrooms including new carpet	£30,000.00
CAP2506	High View Primary School	Fire Doors for two Year 4 classrooms	£6,000.00
CAP2507	High View Primary School	Trim Trail is rotting	£24,000
CAP2508	High View Primary	KS2 Climbing Area	£45,000
CAP2509	High View Primary School	Main Playground has no shade	£36,000
CAP2510	High View Primary School	Girls and cabin Toilets need total refurb	£75,000
CAP2511	High View Primary	Netting in KS2 playground	£20,000
CAP2512	High View Primary School	Following new build, current PE sheds will be removed and need to be replaced	£12,000
CAP2513	Muschamp Primary School	We have ceilings that need replacing after years of leaks. The final roof works will be completed by the summer holidays 2025 which means we can now get the ceiling works done as this was not worth doing until the roof works had been completed. We have identified 4 rooms, the main corridor, dining room and sports hall as being in unsightly and unsafe conditions. I have obtained estimates for all separately. The classrooms do have asbestos in the beams so have also included an asbestos survey for these areas.	£91,000.00
CAP2514	Muschamp Primary School	Outside gazebos are in disrepair and need removing and replacing as these are shady areas for the playgrounds which we are very short of.	£20,000.00
CAP2515	Muschamp Primary School	This is to support the fire door upgrades we had last year which were fitted but with no door retainers.	£7,500
CAP2516	Federation of Thomas Wall Nursery and Robin Hood Infant's School	We had DFE Conditional Data Collection programme survey today and they highlighted our Complete entry system is not adequate CCTV and is a safeguarding issue	£15,000.00

CAP2517	Dorchester Primary	Large tree removed due to roots damaging foundations - resulting in inadequate shading for children in Reception Playground	£8,500.00
CAP2518	Dorchester Primary	CCTV system upgrade	£8,185.00
CAP2519	Hackbridge Primary School	"The computer management system will no longer be supported from January 2025. If anything stops working the service company will not be able to make amendments via this system. This operates all the building controls such as lighting, heating and air control."	£10,017.99
CAP2520	Beddington Infants School	Life Expired Windows and Nursery Conservatory	£72,387.00
CAP2521	Beddington Infants School	No safety access protection on school roofs for working at height.	£38,445.00
CAP2522	Beddington Infants School	Security gates do not meet current legislative requirements and are not functioning effectively.	£15,620.00
CAP2523	Beddington Infants School	Lack of soundproofing in Reception Block	£10,995.60
CAP2524	Beddington Infants School	Inadequate rainwater management system due to inefficient soakaways and blocked drains.	£13,300.00
CAP2525	Dorchester Primary School	Lighting system in Reception Teaching Block unserviceable, broken and now providing insufficient lighting for the environment	£15,422.00
CAP2526	Devonshire Primary School	Drainage and Car Park surfacing	£35,000
CAP2527	Devonshire Primary School	Artificial Grass in Playground. We have an area of artificial grass in the playground that is over 15 years old and is now worn, ripped and in poor repair. We have carried out several small repairs but the area now needs to be replaced as it is becoming a trip hazard.	£16,500
CAP2528	Dorchester Primary School	Playground & external premises remedial works	£16,260.00
CAP2529	Beddington Infants School	Playground Replacement	£20,000.00
CAP2530	Beddington Infants School	Nursery Redecoration	£33,118.00
CAP2531	Devonshire Primary School	We have very limited space, since taking a bulge class, for intervention, nurture and SEN groups. We would like to put a wooden cabin on the playground to provide desperately needed additional teaching space. We are currently utilising corridors for teaching groups but this limits the size of the group that can be held.	£30,000

CAP2532	Foresters Primary	Drainage/Trees, Fire safety Detection, Boiler Repairs, Blockages of toilets and drains	£17,897.75
CAP2533	Hackbridge Primary School	We have been experiencing issues with our fire alarm for about a year. It has been repeatedly investigated and "fixed". However the maintenance company are now saying that they cannot trace the latest issue and because the system is so old and has been added to so frequently it now needs to be replaced.	£47,218.92
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,002,987</b>